



Prominent Pastor celebrated making Three Scores and Ten

Reverend Hosea James Hines front and center for yet another milestone

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 6-9PM, nearly 300 gathered to celebrate the 70th birthday of Christ Tabernacle Church pastor Hosea James Hines at the Ag Museum's Sparkman Auditorium. Church members, community members, members of the clergy – ministers, deacons, and deaconesses, friends and family, gathered to honor and pay their respects to a pillar of the Jackson community and far beyond.

The program was rich with scripture, blessings, music, performances, tributes and prayer. The royal blue seat covers were adorned with silver sashes, a delicious meal was offered, and staff and volunteers were everywhere ensuring the needs of each guest were provided for. The Bradley Family was responsible for shepherding the overall program and providing a truly memorable evening.

The tone of joy, reverence, honor, and humor that was set early on carried throughout the auspicious event, from the welcome and opening prayer to the final remarks of the evening by Lady Sherian and guest of honor, Hines. At a time when so many are critical of young people, Ryan Bradley stepped to the microphone. Bright, confident, sincere - "I've been attending CTC (Christ Tabernacle Church) since I was seven, I'm now eighteen, and I just wanted to tell you Pastor that I appreciate you and how important you have been in my life. Without further ado, I'm excited to welcome each of you to this very special celebration – our cherished Pastor's 70th Birthday Party. Tonight, we get together not just to mark the years, but to honor a life filled with faith, love, and service. Thank you all for being here to share this mo-



Minister & Lady Sherian T. Hines and Guest of Honor Pastor Hosea J. Hines.



JPD Chief Joseph Wade presents a plaque to Pastor Hines.



GLOW Girls – Growing, Loving, Obedient, Women. PHOTOS BY CHIRS YOUNG

COMMENTARY

ment of joy and gratitude. Your presence means the world to us and our pastor. Oh, and don't worry Pastor, 70 is just the age of 21 with 49 years of experience. So, let's celebrate 70 years young and the man with the heart that continues to bless us. Welcome everybody!"

Easily twenty-five others came on stage to offer tributes to the man born in Jackson, Mississippi, the son of a Baptist minister, who has organized then pastored two churches, and pastored two others including the historic College Hill Missionary Baptist Church for nineteen years, and now Christ Tabernacle Church – 1201 Cooper Road in South Jackson – sixteen years and counting. A new

church with a new mission and vision – Kingdom Witnesses, Kingdom Workers, and Kingdom Worshipers.

Many know of Hines' decades-long affiliation with police departments, often serving as Chaplain, and other times aiding in community policing efforts to promote advocacy for the community, and on this night received a plaque from Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade. More recently, Hines has assumed a national platform, bringing together dedicated clergy from around the country to collectively focus their expertise at problem solving. Top priorities are securing affordable housing, eliminating healthcare disparities, creating economic opportunities, prioritizing holistic education

focusing on home, school, and church, and moving from selective criminal justice to equitable criminal justice. This assembly is referred to as ANCEBA - A New Day Coalition for Equity for Black America – and Hines is the organizations national leader. Their website, <https://anceba.org>, bears his trademark call - "It's About Us, It's About We, It's Not About I and Not About Me."

After musical performances and praise, family members and relatives chimed in. National titles seemed of little importance, they just focused on the man – the man called Hosey or Cousin Hosey by some – who is always there, present in their lives, an example for their families, and

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Senator Hillman Frazier receives the 2025 Thomas B. Murphy Award



Senator Hillman T. Frazier stood with Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter displaying the 2025 Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State Senator Hillman T. Frazier, a member of the Senate Rules Committee, which manages much of the Senate's work, was honored with the 2025 Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award during the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) State Dinner and Closing Reception July 22, 2025, in Birmingham, Ala.

Senator Frazier has served in elected state office since 1979 and was a distinct voice for change during the debate to adopt a new Mississippi flag.

Presented annually by The Council of State Govern-

ments Southern Office (CSG South), the award honors a Southern state legislator who demonstrates extraordinary commitment to public service and has actively participated in the Southern Legislative Conference.

First elected in 1979, Frazier has served for more than four decades in the Mississippi Legislature as a trusted leader, mentor, and advocate. His career includes pivotal roles, such as serving on the Senate Rules Committee in addition to playing a key part in adopting the new state flag.

"Senator Frazier has been

Frazier

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The 60th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and you

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

COMMENTARY

As some of us celebrate the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there are those among us determined to destroy what's left of its significance. The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has been gutted by Donald Trump with senior staff either being fired or quitting. Without the enforcement, which gave the act teeth, we are seeing a Republican led administration moving on the redrawing of electoral districts to ensure that the Democrats do not retake control of the House of Representatives, without which we can not impeach Trump or stop his raid on federal dollars which are being redirected from their legislative intent to the move to wipe out representative government.

When one adds to that our own diminishing interest in

voting, even though those before us died for our right to vote, we as nations are in a crisis, which will require all our participation. That participation can only be exercised with the ballot. Let us not forget that those who are dismantling our government and way of life are fewer than the majority of us, but they both vote and plan ahead to the next election. They know that still too many of us are apathetic about voting. So let's not get excited about the attacks on voting rights without looking at whether we are personally doing our part. We must contact our friends and relatives, wherever they live and demand that they join us in voting against this madness. Lets register, look at who is running against these Republican candidates and get out the vote. Our very lives depend upon it.

Brutal arrest of Black student in Florida shows benefits of recording police from new vantage point

By Jeff Martin
Associated Press

A video that captured the brutal arrest of a Black college student pulled from his car and beaten by officers in Florida has led to an investigation and calls for motorists to consider protecting themselves by placing a camera inside their vehicles.

William McNeil Jr. captured this February traffic stop on his cellphone camera, which was mounted above his dashboard. It offered a unique view, providing the only clear footage of the violence by officers, including punches to his head that can't clearly be seen in officer body camera footage released by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Since McNeil had the foresight to record the encounter

from inside the vehicle, "we got to see firsthand and hear firsthand and put it all in context what driving while Black is in America," said civil rights attorney Ben Crump, one of several lawyers advising McNeil.

"All the young people should be recording these interactions with law enforcement," Crump said. Because what it tells us, just like with George Floyd, if we don't record the video, we only see what they put in the police reports. A video existed with George Floyd."

McNeil was pulled over that day because officers said his headlights should have been on due to bad weather, his lawyers said. His camera shows him asking the officers what he did wrong. Seconds later, an officer smashes his window, strikes

him as he sat in the driver's seat and then pulls him from the car and punches him in the head. After being knocked to the ground, McNeil was punched six more times in his right thigh, a police report states.

The incident reports don't describe the officer punching McNeil in the head. The officer, who pulled McNeil over and then struck him, described the force this way in his report: "Physical force was applied to the suspect and he was taken to the ground."

But after McNeil posted his video online last month and it went viral, the sheriff's office launched an internal investigation, which is ongoing. A sheriff's office spokesperson declined to comment about the case this week, citing pending

litigation, though no lawsuit has been filed over the arrest.

McNeil said the ordeal left him traumatized, with a brain injury, a broken tooth and several stitches in his lip. His attorneys accused the sheriff's office of trying to cover up what really happened.

"On Feb. 19, 2025, Americans saw what America is," said another of McNeil's lawyers, Harry Daniels. "We saw injustice. You saw abuse of police power. But most importantly we saw a young man that had a temperament to control himself in the face of brutality."

The traffic stop, he said, was not only racially motivated but "it was unlawful, and everything that stemmed from that

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Residents in South Jackson community voice their concerns after weekend shootout

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Talk Nice to Me

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Cora Bell Willis Johnson



Cora Bell Willis Johnson
April 12, 1933 - August 1, 2025

J. L. and Cora were a hardworking couple who valued the importance of a strong, loving family. They welcomed three children into their family --- Cynthia (eldest), Catherine Denise (deceased), and their youngest son Jerry. J.L. and Cora created loving memories with their young children, often going swimming, on picnics, to movies, and concerts. They often had Friday night eat-outs at Gus Meyer's restaurant and occasional treasured Sunday family meals at Steven's Kitchen.

Raised by God fearing parents, Cora was a devoted Christian who cherished the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ. She was an active member of Morning Star Baptist Church since childhood participating in the choir and the Baptist Training Union. Also, she began teaching Sunday school at age 12 due to a shortage of teachers at the time. Her talent was recognized, and she continued in this role. Recognizing her gift for working with children, the late sister Alberta Lockett and sister William Etta Harris encouraged Cora to work with the children at Morning Star. This later continued when she left Morning Star to join her father, and Son of the House, the late Reverend G. W. Willis when he was called to pastor Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church.

Cora instilled Christian values in her children and always attended church with them, Her God-given love for children and Christian values made her home warm and welcoming to neigh-

borhood children as they would come to the house with blackberries so that she could cook a Blackberry cobbler. Also, she was known for her famous peanut butter cookies and homemade ice cream. She instilled a good strong work ethic in both of her children overseeing their chores regularly and reiterating to them that whatever one does, he or she should do their best as unto God. Cora continued to share this same faith with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Also, Cora loved having fun with her children. Cynthia and Jerry will always cherish the songs that they created every morning as Cora drove them to school. Every time they passed by Cowboy Maloney on 119 Mayes St., they sang one of their original silly songs. Cora had her children memorized Bible verses, Easter and Christmas speeches. She instilled her love for reading, learning, and public speaking into her children. She made stories come alive. Cynthia was recognized at Morning Star as being a good orator at a young age. Cora spent time preparing Cynthia to recite speeches for church events. She continued this tradition of instilling a love for reading and public speaking into her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well.

For a Black History Month program, her eldest grandson, Derrick, recited Martin Luther King, Jr. I Have a Dream speech at an early age with perfection. Two of her great-grandsons, Sehonam

and Mikael, were reading fluently by the ages of three and two, respectively. Cora was the impetus for both a hard work ethic and great educational strides in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

For the good of the family, Cora and her husband made a decision that she would be at home with the children after school. Therefore, she worked as a maid for private homes. By the grace of God, she was able to complete cleaning, food prep and other duties in the mornings so that she could tend to her own family in the afternoons. Later, Cora attended cosmetology school. Upon graduation, a small hair shop, the size of a modern-day laundry room, was added to her home and she worked as a cosmetologist. Later, Cora worked as a teacher's assistant at Galloway Elementary School. The principal recognized her talent for working with the children and encouraged her to apply to Career Opportunities Program (COP). ...a program for teacher recruitment. She was accepted into the program and began her studies in Early Childhood Education at Jackson State University (tuition free). Coincidentally, she began college one semester prior to her daughter, Cynthia. During this time, she was a wife, mother of a college and a high school student, and later a grandmother to an infant. She attended some classes with her daughter. Cora often helped care for her grandchild, Catherine, telling stories about how she held

her in one arm and a book in the other. Her age and other challenges did not deter her. She graduated in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Later, she also studied at Mississippi State University. Cora went on to work as a teacher. Early on, Cora recognized the value of volunteer work, not only to help those in need, but as a stepping-stone to other opportunities. She volunteered at the American Cancer Society and was later the first African American to be employed at the American Cancer Society in Jackson, MS. She also worked as a reading specialist and coordinator for the Children's Television Workshop (CTW) now known as Sesame Street Workshop. CT W produced educational shows such Sesame Street, The Electric Company and 3-2-1 Contact. Cora was hired as part of their

Preschool Education Program Which assisted preschools by combining television viewing, books, hands on activities and other resources to enrich preschool learning and opportunities for preschoolers. Cora set up several reading workshops across the state of Mississippi to enhance literacy in Pre-K to third through direct student contact and teacher training. Later, she returned to the classroom setting, serving as leader for St. Peter Baptist Church's kindergarten. Under her leadership, the daycare made great strides.

Cora worked for Hinds County Head Start as a teacher at the Mary C Jones and Westside sites. Upon

receiving additional leadership training and earning certification for supervisory positions. She was promoted to Hinds County Head Start Supervisor at the Holy Ghost Head Start site (the location of her alma mater for secondary education). Cora made life-long impacts on her students throughout the years. Many students and their parents returned to her with fond remembrance of their early years and with gratitude for her guidance.

Cora leaves to cherish her memories one daughter, Dr. Cynthia Elaine Johnson-Armstrong and one son, Jerry Lancin Johnson of Jackson, MS; one brother, Rev. Dr. Elbert Willis (Jessie); three granddaughters, Dr. Catherine Danielle Garner-Kuada (Emmanuel) (Hammond, LA), Monica Wells Nichols (Bobby) and Tanga Wells (Jackson, MS) and one son, Derrick Rashad Wells (Pearl, MS); sisters-in-laws Christine Glover (Jackson); Evelyn Johnson (Pocahontas, MS) and Katie (James) William's (Pocahontas, MS); 17 great-grandchildren (three deceased), three great-great-grandchildren; a host of beloved nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Cora's favorite Bible verses were Philippians 4:13- I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me- and Romans 3:23-- For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Her favorite motto "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," based on Matthew 7:12.

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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



Pastor

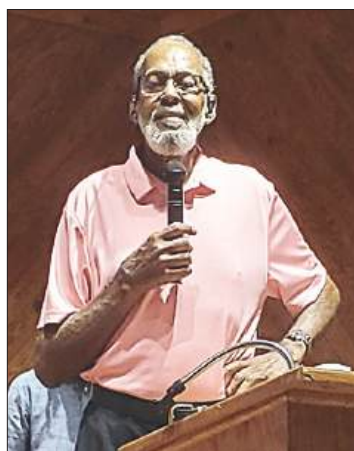
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Gospel great and member of The Mississippi Mass Choir Lillian Lilly.



Attorney Regina May leads a lengthy list paying tribute to Pastor Hines (Richard Bradley, Sr. and son Ryan in background).



Reverend Dr. James C. Shoulder of Rising Sun M.B. Church.



Minister Jackie Johnson and her husband, Minister and Deacon, Alphonso "Bubba" Johnson, Sr.

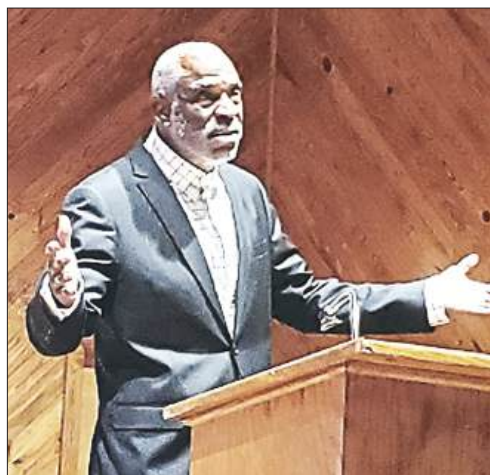


Mrs. Trilonda Bradley, Program Guide. PHOTOS: CHRIS YOUNG

oh so deeply loved by all. The descriptors included honest, dedicated, leader, treasured, respected, important, valued, faithful and honored – it was just like that.

You could have heard a pin drop in the auditorium when Lady Hines spoke of her pastor and husband... "I thank God for you, for the man that you are, not only at the church, but at home and what you do for our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren – the life you reflect is one of God. You pray with me daily, you encourage me when I am down, you inspire me, you're my biggest cheerleader. You are always there for me. You whisper in my ear that you got my back and that means more than anything..."

It was all about the love of God, family, church, and community when the force of nature, Hines closed out the evening with his own remarks. He never stops – it's a distinguishing feature about him – he confessed that he is grateful for three scores and ten but has asked God for a full century. He focused on the concept of being real, as he praised the many people that worked to create this special evening. He reminded the attendees that people don't always know that their actions can be a blessing that will be returned to those who need it most. "I have lived a good life. I've



Pastor Stanley Smith of Crossroads M.B. Church.



Gospel vocalist Mr. Thomas Gee.



GLOW Angels under the direction of Kisha Gaines

had some great challenges in my life. I have been both understood and misunderstood. I have been both talked to and talked about. But the one thing that I can say is that the Lord has always been on

my side." And just like on Sundays, as soon as he said the words, "I Love Ya'll," came the thunderous response, "we love you too pastor!" A truly memorable night for a true man of God.

Frazier

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an icon in the Mississippi Legislature for decades," said Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann. "His election to the Senate Rules Committee, which guides much of the Senate's work, reflects this high regard among his colleagues. His leadership and dedication have made a lasting impact on the state."

Reflecting on his journey, Frazier credited the support of his

parents, teachers, wife, and the generations of Mississippians who shaped his path to public service. "I was elected by many retired schoolteachers who taught during the Jim Crow era," he said. "I think about them every day. I must represent them. I'm here because of their hard work and struggles."

The Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award recognizes a legislative

career defined by leadership, integrity, and lasting impact

"It was a no-brainer to honor Senator Frazier and celebrate his legislative career," said Lindsey Gray, Regional Executive Director of CSG South. "He is very active with our organization and respected by not only Mississippi legislators, but also by legislators beyond the state lines, beyond chambers, and beyond party lines."

Florida

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stop was unlawful."

McNeil is hardly the first Black motorist to record video during a traffic stop that turned violent — Philando Castile's girlfriend livestreamed the bloody aftermath of his death during a 2016 traffic stop near Minneapolis. But McNeil's arrest serves as a reminder of how cellphone video can show a different version of events than what is described in police reports, his lawyers said.

Christopher Mercado, who retired as a lieutenant from the New York Police Department, agreed with McNeil's legal team's suggestion that drivers should record their police interactions and that a camera mounted inside a driver's car could offer a unique point of view.

"Use technology to your advantage," said Mercado, an adjunct assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. "There's nothing nefarious about it. It's actually a smart thing in my opinion."

Rod Brunson, chairman of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, said he thinks it's a good idea for citizens to film encounters with police — as long as doing so doesn't make the situation worse.

"I think that's a form of protection — it's safeguarding them against false claims of criminal behavior or interfering with officers, etc.," Brunson said.

Although the sheriff's office declined to speak to The Associated Press, Sheriff T.K. Waters has spoken publicly about Mc-

Neil's arrest since video of the encounter went viral. He pushed back against some of the allegations made by McNeil's lawyers, noting that McNeil was told more than a half-dozen times to exit the vehicle.

At a news conference last month, Waters also highlighted images of a knife in McNeil's car. The officer who punched him claimed in his police report that McNeil reached toward the floor of the car, where deputies later found the knife.

Crump, though, said McNeil's video shows that he "never reaches for anything," and a second officer wrote in his report that McNeil kept his hands up as the other officer smashed the car window.

A camera inside a motorist's vehicle could make up for some shortcomings of police bodycams, which can have a narrow field of view that becomes more limited the closer an officer gets to the person being filmed, Mercado said.

However, after the police murder of Floyd, some states and cities debated how and when citizens should be able to capture video of police. The Constitution guarantees the right to record police in public, but a point of contention in some states has been whether a civilian's recording might interfere with the ability of officers to do their job. In Louisiana, for example, a new law makes it a crime to approach within 25 feet (7.6 meters) of a police officer in certain situations.

Waters acknowledged those limitations at a news conference

last year, as he narrated video of a wild brawl between officers and a fan in the stands at EverBank Stadium during a football game last year between the universities of Georgia and Florida.

The sheriff showed the officers' bodycam videos during the start of the confrontation near the top of the stadium. But when the officers subdued the suspect and were pressing against him, the bodycam footage didn't capture much, so the sheriff switched to stadium security video shot from a longer distance away.

In McNeil's case, the bodycam video didn't clearly capture the punches thrown. If it had, the case would have been investigated right away, the sheriff said.

For the past 20 years, Brunson has been interviewing young Black men in several U.S. cities about their encounters with law enforcement. When he first began submitting research papers for academic review, many readers didn't believe the men's stories of being brutalized by officers.

"People who live in a civil society don't expect to be treated this way by the police. For them, their police interactions are mostly pleasant, mostly cordial," Brunson said.

"So, it's hard for people who don't have a tenuous relationship with the police to fathom that something like this happens," he said. "And that's where video does play a big part because people can't deny what they see."

FBI concocted a bribery scheme that wasn't, ex-interim Hinds sheriff says in appeal

By Mina Corpuz
Mississippi Today

Former interim Hinds County Sheriff Marshand Crisler is appealing bribery and ammunition charges stemming from his 2021 campaign, arguing that the federal government played on his relationship with a former supporter to entrap him.

Crisler had asked Tonari Moore, who donated to past campaigns, for a financial contribution for the sheriff's race. Moore said he would donate if Crisler helped with several requests. Without the previous relationship, Crisler would not have acted, his attorney argues, and Crisler had no reason to believe he was being bribed. "The government, having concocted a bribery scheme to entrap Crisler, then had to contrive a corresponding quid pro quo to support the scenario with which to entrap him," attorney John Holliman wrote in an appellant brief.

Crisler is asking the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse his conviction and render its own rulings on both counts.



Crisler

He was convicted in federal court in November after a three-day trial and sentenced earlier this year to 2 ½ years in prison. Crisler is serving time in FCI Beckley in West Virginia.

The day before Crisler reached out to

Moore to ask for support for his campaign for sheriff, Drug and Enforcement Administration agents raided Moore's home and found guns and drugs. An FBI agent called to the scene, looked through Moore's phone and saw Crisler had called.

According to the appellant brief, the agent asked Moore what Crisler would do if offered money, and if Moore was bribing him. Moore said he wasn't bribing Crisler, and the agent asked if Moore would do it.

At that time, there weren't reasonable grounds to start a bribery investigation into Crisler, his attorney argues, nor was there reason to believe he was seeking a bribe.

Moore agreed to become an informant for the FBI, in exchange for the government not prosecuting him for the guns and drugs.

The FBI fitted him with a wire to record Crisler during meetings, which began that day. The meetings included one inside Moore's night club and a cigarette lounge in Jackson. Agents provided Moore with the \$9,500 he gave to

Crisler between September and November 2021.

Crisler's 2023 indictment came as he campaigned again for sheriff and months before the primary election. He remained in the race and lost to the incumbent who he faced in 2021.

At trial, the government argued the exchange of money were attempts to bribe because Moore made several requests of Crisler: to move his cousin to a different part of the Hinds County Detention Center, to get him a job in the sheriff's office and for Crisler to let Moore know if law enforcement was looking into his activities.

In closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Kirkham pointed to examples of quid pro quo in recordings, including one where Moore said to Crisler, "You scratch my back, I scratch yours" and Crisler replied "Hello!" in a tone that the government saw as agreement.

The appellant's brief argues that without Moore's requests, the government lacked a way to show quid pro quo, a requirement of bribery charge: that

Crisler committed or agreed to commit an official act in exchange for funds.

Moore also asked Crisler to give him bullets despite being a convicted felon, which is prohibited under federal law. The brief notes how the government directed Moore to come up with a story for needing the bullets and to ask Crisler to give them to him.

In response, Crisler told Moore he could buy bullets at several sporting goods stores. Moore said they ran out, and eventually Crisler gave him bullets.

Crisler also argues that the government prosecuted routine political behavior. Specifically, accepting campaign donations is not illegal, and cannot constitute bribery unless there is an explicit promise to perform or not perform an official act in exchange for money.

"Our political system relies on interactions between citizens and politicians with requests being made for this or that which is within the power of the elected official to do," the brief states. "This does not constitute a bribery scheme. It is the normal working of our political system."

Residents in South Jackson community voice their concerns after weekend shootout

By Maya Miller
Mississippi Today

Valerie Martin-Davis stood in the Willowood Community Center, hand to her chest, pleading with law enforcement to hear her out.

It was just last week that five young men allegedly engaged in a shootout on her street which left one injured, shattered car windows and left bullets lodged in homes.

"I don't want to move to Madison. I don't want to move to Ridgeland. I want to stay right here in Jackson," Martin-Davis said to a round of passionate claps. "I'll be doggone if they make me move. This is home for me. You're not going to mess with my folks."

Martin-Davis has lived in Will-O-Wood for 36 years. In recent years, she said she's seen her neighborhood become overrun with crime and gang activity. She's called the police multiple times and left complaints with an operator about young men walking the streets with guns.

"We've been dealing with this for five years. We see the boys come outside shooting the guns in the air. They're shooting at each other like they've got cap guns, like the guns aren't real," Martin-Davis said in an interview with Mississippi Today.

On this day, dozens of concerned residents packed out the community



Jackson Police Chief Joe Wade, speaks with homeless individuals regarding recent legislation prohibiting squatting, encampments, and panhandling without a permit, at Stewpot, Thursday, July 3, 2025 in Jackson. Credit: Vickie D. King/Mississippi Today

center to hear from Chief Joseph Wade with the Jackson Police Department, Chief Bo Luckey of Capitol Police, and other elected officials, and offer their concerns about crime in their neighborhoods.

Some voiced complaints about long

wait times when calling 911. Assistant Chief of Police Vincent Grizzell, who oversees the 911 system, said that JPD received over 8,000 calls last week.

"We're hoping that things can be more efficient. We're talking to Hinds County and AT&T about our 911 sys-

tem," Wade said.

Officers offered up their personal phone numbers to residents to call if they needed assistance. Wade also laid out plans to increase police presence in the community.

"Not only are we looking at installing some blue light surveillance like we did in Presidential Hills. We're looking at installing some license plate readers in your community, as well, to catch these bad actors coming in and out, and taking photos of them as they come in and out," Wade said. "We're also looking at installing some of our stealth covert cameras where they don't even know that we're there and recording things."

Jackson Mayor John Horhn also spoke to the crowd, pointing to recent statistics that show the murder rates are declining across the city.

"All of our stats right now are trending downward in Jackson," Horhn said. "We had 71 murders this time a year ago. We have 35 now. So we're moving in the right direction, but not fast enough."

Violent crime in Jackson is down 12.35 percent from 2024 to 2025, and property crime is down 17.28 percent in that same time frame, according to data provided by Tommie Brown, JPD's public information officer.

Still, Horhn said that the court systems need to apply a bit more pressure

in trying criminal cases. Some cases take years, he said, which bogs down the system.

"We've got to move those cases forward, and we've got to go ahead and expedite the building of this new jail, but I'm talking it might be 2029," he said.

Horhn also points to creating and investing in mentorship programs and workforce development programs as an alternative for people who are vulnerable to gang activity.

"We're not going to police and jail our way out of this problem. We don't have enough jails. We don't have enough policemen to fight the problem everywhere it's manifesting and showing its face. So we've got to come up with some opportunities to provide an alternative to the criminal element," he said.

Outside after the community meeting, Martin-Davis said she's hopeful that the police will work together with community members to protect their neighborhoods. She doesn't want to leave Jackson, and she said she shouldn't have to.

"I could have moved anywhere. I came back home. This is home for me. We've had a house over here for 36 years," she said. "There is no way anyone is going to make me leave my neighborhood."

Jackson State University appoints Dr. Nicholas J. Hill as Dean of the College of Business

Special to the Mississippi Link

Jackson State University has named Nicholas J. Hill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, effective August 1. A proud JSU alumnus, Hill returns to the university after an accomplished career in higher education. He previously served in several leadership roles at Jackson State and most recently as dean of the School of Business at Claffin University.

"Dr. Hill's homecoming is welcomed by the College of Business," said Preselfannie E. Whitfield McDaniels, Ph.D., interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We are committed to preparing our students for the evolving workforce, building new industry partnerships and driving economic growth for our state. He understands the strengths and aspirations of our community—his leadership will help us reach the next level of academic and professional excellence. We are excited to welcome him back to the Tiger family."

During his tenure at Claffin University, Hill introduced digital marketing and project management degree concentrations and developed professional

certificate programs aligned with market needs. He secured over \$3 million in grant funding, forged key partnerships with regional employers, and co-led the Economic Development Administration University Center focused on entrepreneurship and regional economic growth.

Reflecting on his return, Hill said, "Jackson State is where I discovered my calling as an educator and leader. I know firsthand the power of mentorship, the importance of community and the difference JSU can make in a student's life. I'm eager to build on our legacy of excellence, support our outstanding faculty and create new pathways for our students to succeed in a changing world. There is nowhere I'd rather be now than serving the institution that gave so much to me."

At Jackson State, Hill was instrumental in launching the Center for Research in Economic Education and Financial Literacy, which provided professional development for K-12 educators and advanced economic education across Mississippi. As director of the Ph.D. program in business, he led efforts resulting in a 100 percent placement rate for doctoral graduates. He also served

as interim chair of the Department of Business Administration, collaborated with faculty to develop new curriculum options, and supported student entrepreneurship through initiatives such as the Leadership Institute for Entrepreneurship (LIFE) Summer Program.

Hill's research spans health, labor and urban economics, emphasizing entrepreneurship, economic mobility and education outcomes. He has published peer-reviewed articles, presented at national conferences and served as principal investigator on grant-funded projects supported by the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Commerce.

Hill founded the John Nicholas Consulting Group, LLC, as an economic consultant for city, nonprofit and regional development organizations. He is married to Dr. Mary Margaret Hill and a father of four sons.

The JSU College of Business is accredited by AACSB International, a distinction held by fewer than six percent of business schools worldwide. It is recognized for preparing students for leadership in business, public service and entrepreneurship.



Hill

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Mississippi special legislative primaries: Only one incumbent ousted Tuesday

Donald Hartness defeated incumbent Sen. Robin Robinson in GOP primary in South Mississippi

By Taylor Vance
Mississippi Today

With complete but unofficial numbers, it appeared incumbent Sens. Michael McLendon of Hernando, Chris Johnson of Hattiesburg and Reginald Jackson of Marks, and incumbent Reps. Kabir Karriem of Columbus and Rickey Thompson of Shannon all won their special primaries on Tuesday night.

But incumbent Sen. Robin Robinson of Laurel was soundly defeated in the election, ending her brief tenure in the Senate. Donald Hartness, a retired Ellisville resident backed by former longtime state Sen. Chris McDaniel, captured the GOP nomination with more than 70 percent of the vote. Robinson's Brother, R.J. Robinson also ran, finishing a very distant third with less than 2 percent. The winner of the primary will take the seat because no Democrat qualified to run.

McLendon, a Republican, defeated Jon Stevenson and will go on to compete against Chris Hannah, the Democratic nomi-



Rep. Kabir Karriem



Sen. Reginald Jackson



Donald Hartness

nee, in the November general election.

Johnson, a Republican, defeated challenger Patrick Lott Tuesday and will go on to compete against Shakita Taylor, the Democratic nominee, in November.

Karriem, a Democrat, defeated Pierre Beard, and will win the overall House race because no Republican candidate qualified to run. Thompson defeated Brady Da-

vis in the Democratic primary Tuesday and faces no opponent in November.

In newly drawn Senate District 2, including parts of DeSoto and Tunica counties, Theresa Isom defeated Robert Walker in the Democratic primary Tuesday and will face Republican Charlie Hoots in November.

A federal three-judge panel ordered Mississippi to conduct special elections for 14 legisla-

tive seats this year because the court determined the Legislature diluted Black voting strength when lawmakers redrew legislative districts.

Ten of the 14 seats are contested. Of those 10, seven had a contested primary election Tuesday. After party leaders certify the election results, the Republican and Democratic nominees will compete in the general election Nov. 4.



Brain Drain: Mother understands her daughters' decisions to leave Mississippi

By Julie Liddell Whitehead
Mississippi Today

Back when I was a kid in 1988, my mama and I had an argument about what I wanted to major in at college.

I had dreamed of being a journalist since the age of 8. To me, that meant that I was going to Ole Miss, which had the journalism department.

My mama said I could only go away from home to Ole Miss if I was going to major in law.

So I settled on going to Mississippi State University just down the road and majoring in communication. She told me I should major in engineering since that's what State was known for.

I said, "That's even dumber than me going to law school. I hate math."

"Well, you could at least try," she said.

I said no. Then she told me I was wasting my education and turned her back on me.

I got it. She knew and I knew that I couldn't stay in Choctaw County where I was raised and earn a living with that degree. I would have to go somewhere else — probably to the Jackson metro area and work for Gannett or the Associated Press. Or to Memphis. Or Biloxi. Or even New Orleans. She never really forgave me for moving to the Jackson metro, working in my field and raising her grandchildren so far from her.

After a while, I got used to the pace of life around here. I knew I probably wouldn't ever move anywhere else because I noticed that people who left Mississippi often came back, whether due to family obligations or a realization that "somewhere else" wasn't quite all it was cracked up to be.

I also noticed that a lot of people played up how they were from Mississippi while making a very good living being someplace else. I decided I wanted to prove you could be from Mississippi, live in Mississippi, work in Mississippi and make something of yourself without leaving Mississippi.

But I noticed something else over the years, too. Most of the kids in Brandon dreamed of going off from home to cities like Atlanta, Nashville, Dallas, DC, New York or Orlando. They didn't seem

to have reasons — just a desire to get away from the state as fast as they could.

Then my three daughters and I started having conversations about what they wanted to major in when they went to college. My oldest wanted to be a chef. My middle one was undecided between chemical engineering and landscape architecture. And my youngest was fascinated with roads and bridges.

I was all too aware of what had happened in the job markets in Mississippi since I had come up. Companies closed operations in a globalized economy and fled to cheaper labor markets. The advent of the internet meant employers could hire from all over the world. Longtime business leaders retired and sold out to big corporations that reduced investments in local communities that had supported those businesses for decades and then complained that those towns didn't offer enough amenities for their employees to want to relocate there.

But the reality really set in when my chef daughter chose her first internship — in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

I would never have dreamed of driving that far from home to try out a place to work when I was her age. Then after her senior year, she interned at Walt Disney World and got hired full-time before the internship was over. She was off to live in Orlando where now with her husband and young son she's creating community and loves going to work every day with a pretty enviable benefits package, too, a thing unheard of in the culinary world in Mississippi.

My middle one finally settled on chemical engineering and was picked for a co-op job in her first semester at age 18 at a company in Georgia. When she graduated four years later, we packed her off to Indiana for a research and development job, and she now lives in New Hampshire with her husband, making six figures a year at 26 years old and looking forward to partaking in the cultural offerings in New York City when she can.

The youngest is currently in college for civil engineering, and I'm bracing myself for the inevitable. She doesn't want to work for state government, so she's likely going

out of state as well. Her comment about coming back to Jackson metro was the most damning of all. "There's nothing to do here," she says.

A lot of people ask me questions: How often do you see your daughters? How can you stand being so far from your grandson? Don't they at least come home for Christmas?

The answer to all of those questions is that we do the best we can. We text, we message on Facebook, we talk on the phone at least once a week, every Sunday. We arrange visits; sometimes it's us driving to them while other times they drive to us.

I can't imagine making my children as miserable as my mom made me over my life choices. We are flexible, understanding, and very, very proud of our daughters, who are grappling with enough in their lives without us loading them down with guilt over when they are coming home.

The calculus may change in the future. We may have declines in health and need to move closer to one of our children if we need assistance. Or we may need to be in assisted living care here in Mississippi where such care may be marginally cheaper than wherever our girls land.

But I don't wish our girls had settled for life in Mississippi.

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The calculus may change in the future. We may have declines in health and need to move closer to one of our children if we need assistance. Or we may need to be in assisted living care here in Mississippi where such care may be marginally cheaper than wherever our girls land.

But I don't wish our girls had settled for life in Mississippi.

What I wish is that Mississippi could find a way to live up to its potential — to be a place more worthy of my daughters' loyalty, affections and investment in themselves.

Maybe it will be someday. I hope so, for all of our sakes.

Mississippi Press Foundation

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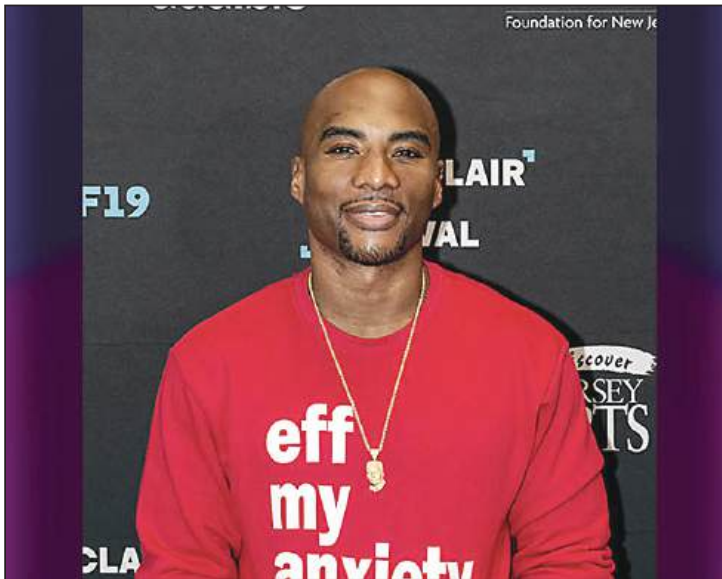
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Trump revives familiar playbook with racist wipe at Charlamagne

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Donald Trump's latest tirade against a prominent Black media figure is drawing fresh scrutiny of his long-documented history of racist behavior. In a Truth Social post, the president called Charlamagne tha God a "racist sleazebag" and "low-IQ individual" after the popular radio host criticized Trump's return to the White House during an interview with Lara Trump on Fox News. "I don't want to say that I think he did a terrible job, but if he's doing a terrible job, I've got to call it like it is," said Charlamagne, whose real name is Lenard McKelvey. "All we want is somebody in those positions that's going to do a good job. I'm not a party person, in no way, shape or form". Trump, clearly enraged, blasted Charlamagne's moniker: "Why is he allowed to use the word 'GOD' when describing himself? Can anyone imagine the uproar there would be if I used that nickname?" He added that the host "has no idea what words are coming out of his mouth



Charlamagne

and knows nothing about me or what I have done". While Trump claims he rebuilt the economy and closed the southern border, data shows core inflation is rising, and Black unemployment has reached its highest level since the pandemic. A decades-long pattern Trump's reaction to Charlamagne follows a pattern of racist attacks stretching back decades. According to PBS

News, Trump has repeatedly used dehumanizing language to describe Black prosecutors, calling Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg a "Soros-backed animal" and referring to New York Attorney General Letitia James as "Racist A.G. Letitia 'Peekabo' James" — a term experts say echoes racist slurs. He also accused Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis of being "racist" and a "rabid par-

tisan," running a campaign ad falsely suggesting she had a romantic relationship with a gang member — an ad she called "derogatory and false". "He's taking that historical racialized language that was offensive and insulting, and the subordinating of Black persons, applying it in a contemporary space," said Dr. Bev-Freda Jackson of American University.

Research confirms Trump's rhetoric has real impact. Trump's language has had measurable consequences. A 2023 peer-reviewed study in current research in Ecological and Social Psychology found that Trump's 2016 election increased dehumanizing views among white Americans who supported him. Trump voters were more likely to rate Black people as less "evolved" after the election than before. The study confirmed what many already suspected: Trump didn't just reflect racism—he amplified it. "Trickle-down racism" became a reality, validating fears expressed by figures like Mitt Romney, who warned Trump's rhetoric would legiti-

mize hate. Systemic efforts to erase Black History Beyond rhetoric, Trump has taken deliberate action to erase and distort Black history. In 2025, the National Park Service attempted to scrub references to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad from exhibits, a move the Trump administration reversed only after public outrage. Around the same time, Trump issued an executive order targeting the National Museum of African American History and Culture as "divisive," prompting director Kevin Young's resignation. He also created the 1776 Commission, an effort to push "patriotic education" that whitewashed America's legacy of slavery and racism. The move was a direct attack on initiatives like the 1619 Project, which Trump called "toxic propaganda". Historians say the goal is clear: to rewrite and sanitize history. "It seems like we're headed in the direction where there's even an attempt to deny that the institution of slavery even existed," one historian told POLITICO

regarding Trump's order targeting the Smithsonian's African American museum. From housing discrimination to Charlottesville Trump's racially charged behavior isn't new. In 1973, he was sued by the U.S. Department of Justice for discriminating against Black renters. During the investigation, Trump allegedly told a DOJ attorney, "You know, you don't want to live with them either". In 1989, he took out full-page newspaper ads calling for the execution of the Central Park Five—five Black and Latino teenagers later exonerated. Even after DNA evidence proved their innocence, Trump maintained they were guilty. His political rise was fueled by the racist "birther" conspiracy against President Barack Obama, and he infamously referred to the white supremacists in Charlottesville as "very fine people". Cliff Albright of Black Voters Matter has previously reminded the world that, "This is who Donald Trump is. He's been this way all his time in public life."

How do you like me now, America?

Imagine if voters had preferred a Black female prosecutor over a White male felon

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Have you had enough time now to evaluate? Seen enough, heard enough, and thought enough about the ultimate impact of the November 5, 2024, Presidential election? As painful as it is, the numbers can't be glossed over. From www.usnews.com:

- Voting eligible population - 244,666,890
- Total votes cast - 152,323,801 (62.26 percent)
- Eligible voters who did not vote - 89,278,948 (36.49 percent)
- Popular votes for Harris 75,019,617 (48.4 percent)
- Popular votes for Trump 79,304,184 (49.9 percent)
- Votes separating Harris and Trump - 2,284,567 (1.5 percent)

PBS tells us that Harris did better than Trump with 18-29-year-olds by 4 percent, with 30-44-year-olds by 3 percent, by 5 percent with voters with a college degree, and by 9 percent of voters with a post-secondary degree. Trump did better with the 45-64-year-olds by 6 percent, and by 4 percent with 65+ aged voters. 84 percent of White voters went with Trump compared with 66 percent for Harris - an 18 percent difference. So how do you like me now, America? Have you seen enough to decide if you did the right thing? And what about those who decided to stay home - 36.49 percent of voters. Did you do the right thing - for you, your family, your state, and your country? As you watch how the will of the voters and non-voters play out in America today, seven months into Trump's second presidency, if you had it to do over again, would you make a different selection or would you elect to participate instead of sitting out?

Central Texas Democrat Lloyd

COMMENTARY

Doggett keeps track of Trump's verbal utterances and has scores of quotes on his congressional website, <https://doggett.house.gov>. From a campaign rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania last August, "Starting the day I take the oath of office, I will rapidly drive prices down and we will make America affordable again." "We're going to get your energy prices down. We're going to get your energy prices down by 50 percent." Is that what you are seeing?

Per <https://usconstitution.net>, here are the groups that benefit from Trump's "One Bill Beautiful Bill" - high income earners and corporations, defense and infrastructure contractors, tipped and overtime workers will no longer pay federal tax on their earnings. Per the Economic Policy Institute, "between Q1 1990 and Q2 2024, the wealth held by the top 1 percent grew from 16.5 percent to 23.3 percent, while the wealth held by the top 2 percent to 20 percent rose from 43.7 percent to 47.4 percent. At the same time, the percent age held by every other group either fell or remained flat." Making his 2017 tax breaks for the wealthy permanent was Trump's biggest goal for his final term, and he has now accomplished it. The very last group that needed tax breaks is now wealthier each and every day.

On the other hand, Kamala Harris embraced raising taxes on the wealthy, including a billionaire minimum tax, raising the 21 percent corporate tax rate to 28 percent and the individual top tax rate from 37 percent to 39.6 percent. She'd also impose a wealth tax on taxpayers with a net worth of at least \$100 million. These taxes would net the U.S.

Treasury \$5 trillion over a decade, all per www.taxpolicycenter.org. Night and day difference. Which would be best for most? And what about the poor? USDA says that 12.3 percent of Americans receive SNAP benefits. In Mississippi the poverty rate is 18.8 percent and 13.1 percent receive SNAP benefits. The wealthiest country in the world has approximately 38 million people living in poverty as the rich get richer. Trump's supporters in Congress - 100 percent white and terrified to cross him - continue to disserve a majority of their constituents. Per www.govfacts.org, The One Big Beautiful Bill adds \$3.3 trillion to the deficit, cuts \$4.5 trillion in taxes, and cuts \$1.2 trillion in spending of which \$1 trillion is in Medicaid. How can they look you in the eye?

This writer wrote to Mississippi Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith begging that she see that a vote for the One Bill Beautiful Bill would be a vote AGAINST Mississippi. She eventually wrote back, "I voted to pass this legislation, because it builds on and makes permanent key provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which will prevent a more than \$4.0 trillion tax hike on American families and small businesses...with its enactment, President Trump and Congressional Republicans have delivered on key promises, marking a major win for working families and the future of American prosperity." A win for working families in Mississippi? God help her. Per www.finance.yahoo.com her net worth in August of 2020 was 4+ million.

Do you suppose Madam Senator got her a pair of Trump's Landslide boots for \$299, or a special inaugural edition of the God Bless the USA Bible (printed in China) for just \$69.99, the



Vice President Kamala Harris in salmon pink at an AKA event in Dallas, July 10, 2024. Photo: www.blackenterprisec.com.



Trump at his "hush money" trial in May 2024, where he became the first former U.S. President ever convicted of felony crimes. Photo: www.cnn.com.

gold low-top sneakers for \$499, or a one-ounce Victory Gold Medallion for \$3,645.47, a thousand-dollar upcharge compared to the price of an ounce of gold. Trump is going crazy with tariff's which he sees as the panacea for America's indebtedness - publicly anyway. Harris called tariff's "a sales tax on American households." How do you like me now, America?

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Keeping bad company can come back to haunt you

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



Old school parents always reminded us to be careful about “the company we keep”. Further they said you will be judged by the companions around you.

Well like most kids, we listened to our parents and followed their advice. Their discernment was always right on and timely.

Looking back, that was one of the HT (home training) rules. It has served me well over the years. If you are in the fourth quarter of your life, you

are probably thankful for that sage piece of wisdom.

Thankfully, most of us were in the right place at the right time. However, let’s just admit the truth and say we had friends no longer with us because they made bad decisions about the company they kept.

Many years ago, there was a record titled, “The In Crowd” sung by Dobie Gray. Some of the lyrics are, “I’m in with the in crowd and I know what the in crowd knows. We get respect from the people we meet. They make way day or night. They know the in crowd is out of sight.” He performed that tune in 1969.

This is 2025 and there is some relevance to that song to-

day. Listen to the entire record and you will see what I mean.

There appears to be a situation in Washington DC, and it doesn’t seem to be going away. Smokescreens and diversions abound, but the Jeffrey Epstein files just won’t go away. They are the talk of the town and the world for that matter.

The new Commander-in-Chief went abroad to play golf recently and still had to answer questions about his relationship with Mr. Epstein. His answers were misleading according to reports.

The Epstein files were an irritant even before he assumed the top office. Now they are a problem.

His supporters, those you

know about and those that don’t want to be identified, are frustrated. They point to his wavering and non-sensical responses to questions.

As we know, Jeffrey Epstein ended his life in jail so he can’t speak for himself. Those who are sleuths are probably wondering what would he be saying right about now? There are lots of people who are glad that he is not around to tell his side of the saga. You can only speculate that he would spill the entire pot of beans.

But hold on, his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell is present and accounted for albeit in jail. Just last week, she was moved from a Florida federal prison to another facility in Texas.

A Bureau of Prisons official said, “We can confirm Ghislaine Maxwell is in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Prison Camp Bryan in Bryan, Texas.” Reports say that this is a minimum-security camp exclusively for women.

We know that she met with Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche to discuss a list of names allegedly in the Epstein files. At this moment, this is all that we know.

Ghislaine Maxwell is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for child sex trafficking. She has made public that she will talk more if certain conditions are met. I suspect she wants a get out of jail free

card for her testimony. She is not going to get it. This is my opinion.

In the meantime, the Republican Party is being tortured and tormented by this sordid affair. They don’t know what to do or what to say. For now, it’s just word salad without the dressing.

House Democratic Leader, Hakeem Jeffries said, “Release the files so that the American people can make a decision on their own. This has nothing to do with a Democratic-led conspiracy theory. And the facts and the chronology make that clear.” The in crowd is now a lost crowd and they don’t want to be identified.

Jackson State University deserves better

By The Reverend Dr. Robert Charles Scott
Senior Pastor, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC



It was American philosopher George Santayana who once said, “Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it.” As members of the culture often say, “Here we go again!”

Jackson State University, Mississippi’s only public urban university, is once again seeking a President/CEO to provide leadership, vision, stability, and hope amid a challenging landscape of political uncertainty and partisan shifts. According to an article in the Clarion Ledger (March 3, 2025), since 2010, Jackson State University has had seven presidents, including interim leaders; with the resignation of the last president, Dr. Marcus Thompson, and the current interim president, Dr. Denise Gregory, that number rises to nine. Over the past 15 years, nine different women and men have held the presidency at Jackson State University, either on an interim basis or as invested leaders. On average, a new leader has stepped in approximately every 18 months. Even as I write this, I am stunned by the level of turnover and the failure to establish a sustainable vision, consistent programming, and meaningful progress for Jackson State University. The collective morale of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community is quite low, because we find ourselves in a preventable situation. It saddens me to think about what is being lost due to this instability at the helm of “THEE I LOVE.”

However, one consistent issue is the Board of Trustees and Commissioners of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) showing ineptness and neglect in overseeing Jackson State University’s past presidential search process. This neglect puts not only Jackson State University at risk but also the City of Jackson and the entire State of Mississippi, due to their failure to allocate meaningful resources, attract capable leadership, and listen carefully to alumni, students, and other stakeholders who deeply care about Jackson State, the city,

and the state. When IHL ignores input from university communities, it undermines collective wisdom and knowledge that could have prevented poor hiring decisions. So, once again, here we go!

The unfortunate truth is that lessons from the past haven’t been learned. Someone once said, “Insanity is the same thing over and over again expecting a different result.” Jackson State University’s legacy is rooted in an African American spiritual connection, beginning as Natchez Seminary. Although Jackson State University is a state-supported institution, our heritage is shaped within the fire of faith, hope, and love, combined with doing the necessary work and trusting God to fill the gaps. Since my beloved alma mater deserves better, I write this op-ed as a call to alumni to organize nationwide and move beyond petty bickering across generations. It is our duty to support Jackson State University through the alumni association by paying dues as well as offering direct financial backing. We must also lobby local, regional, and national politicians and the media, who will advocate for our cause to secure a better, sustainable future.

This is not uncharted territory for those who know our history and love our school. Yet, the relevant question is, why are we here again? While we have overcome racism, inadequate funding, and political disregard through the “powers and principalities in the majority” in the state legislature, we continue to persevere because of the God who watches over us and sustains us. At this critical juncture, this is about more than choosing the right person to fill the seat of the presidency. This is about ensuring our legacy and creating a viable, vibrant future—where we are not engaging in nostalgia but bending our souls with steadfast hope toward the positive destiny of our school and even the state of Mississippi. Jackson State deserves better. Let’s make it a working reality.

The Reverend Dr. Robert Charles Scott, Senior Pastor
St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
Class of 1991
SGA President 1990-91

Divorce Proof your marriage

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



We are living in a society where over fifty percent of marriages are ending in divorce, and this includes Christian Marriages too.

Why do beautiful weddings, even destination weddings like to the Bahamas and Paris, etc. lead to nasty divorces? What are spouses doing or not doing that makes divorce inevitable?

I do not think there are many couples that have not contemplated divorcing at some point during their marriages. It is ONLY by the Grace of God that many marriages are still together today especially after twenty years. Because marriage can be challenging spouses must become intentional about divorce proofing their marriages especially if God joined you together and if you truly love each other.

What warrants a married couple desiring a divorce?

Neglecting to pray together – THIS IS A MUST! According to God seeking Him is more important than eating!

Parenting – A house divided amongst itself shall not stand - one parent shouldn’t bear the responsibility of your children alone

Poor Hygiene like Garlic Breath – No sir, no ma’am – we need a time out for real – BRUSH – BRUSH AWAY - gargle on mint – chew gum, etc.

Unresolved frustrations/hurts
Lack of communication

Social media is replacing your spouse – more time is put into viewing social media stuff than it is your spouse

Finances – this topic needs an article of its own – I just do not understand – if you both want to ball – WORK TOGETHER!

Spouse neglect – putting jobs and everything and everyone else above your spouse

Selfishness – You should have married self if you are not willing to embrace that you are living for more

than self

Emotional/Physical Affairs – if you decide that you want to stay together post infidelity – you will need to call lots of timeouts for healthy strategies

Abuse – we put many emphases on physical abuse as we should, but verbal abuse may possibly cause even deeper wounds – name calling is painful – this also will require lots of timeouts

Not spending quality time with each other

Reduced/no affection

Don’t feel loved/appreciated

Intimacy – what’s that? Exactly! Where there is no touch – the marriage will perish!

Unhealed wounds – if you caused hurt in any way – make up for it every chance you get

Gift giving – please spouses go out your way to fulfill your spouse expectations on those FEW special occasions – as I expressed in February, I do not want a Pot Set for Valentines.

How can you divorce proof your marriage?

Pray together

Attend church together

Seek professional counseling for any unresolved issues

Increase your communication

LISTEN to each other

Eliminate assumptions/judgments

Don’t become defensive/silent

Don’t advise your spouse to find someone who can meet their needs

Empathize

Support each other

Have each other’s back

Don’t be judgmental

Be Patient

Do not expect perfection of your spouse especially because you are not perfect

Go out your way to keep the spark alive in your marriage by dating, planning spontaneous events, etc.

HUSBANDS LIVE WITH YOUR WIVES IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Husbands, please realize there are men who are willing to understand your wife – this is why many married

women cheat – it’s not for the physical – it is mostly for an emotional connection

Wives try not to nag your husbands – Sister Cheeks tends not to nag at least not initially so do not give Sister Cheeks an upper hand – in other words, don’t help push your husbands to the rooftop and he make a David choice... if you don’t know the story of David and Bethsheba – ask your pastor

Have fun together – attend one of our art sessions and paint together – call or text me for additional information

Implement healthy practices – exercise, adhere to a well-balanced diet that will promote heart health and overall good health, physically, mentally, emotionally, etc.

Take short trips/vacations together

Learn and practice each other’s love language

Pray for each other CONSISTENTLY

Forgive

Fight for each other every day in the way you respond, interact, etc. with your spouse

QUICKLY IMPLEMENT

NEEDED POSITIVE CHANGES!

In conclusion, every marriage will not remain together and some simply should not. God hates divorce but He also won’t let you suffer more than you can bare – only you know in your heart if your marriage has died and if it has, if it is worth saving. Marriage is not easy because it’s two people joining together to become one and life often challenges that one concept. However, if you love your spouse – you both MUST go out your way to divorce proof your marriage EVERYDAY!

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4299

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

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

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

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

WITNESS my signature this 31ST day of July 2025.

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

8/7/2025, 8/21/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4300

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

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

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

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

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

WITNESS my signature this 31ST day of July 2025.

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

8/7/2025, 8/21/2025

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN FONDREN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council (the "Governing Body") of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City"), will hold a public hearing on August 12, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the regular meeting place of the Governing Body at the City Hall of the City of Jackson, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on the Tax Increment Financing Plan, Fondren Development Project, City of Jackson, Mississippi, December 2015, as Amended and Restated July 2025 (the "Amended TIF Plan"), for consideration by the Governing Body and requesting that the Amended TIF Plan be approved in compliance with The City of Jackson, Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan, and further, to designate the project described in the Amended TIF Plan as appropriate for development and tax increment financing. The general scope of the Amended TIF Plan is a proposal that the City, acting on behalf of itself and Hinds County, Mississippi (the "County"), will issue tax increment financing bonds (the "TIF Bonds"), in one or more series in an amount not to exceed Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000), in order to provide funds necessary to pay for the cost of acquiring and constructing various Infrastructure Improvements (as defined in the Amended TIF Plan) in connection with and in support of the Project (as defined in the Amended TIF Plan).

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

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

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

The City and the County may exercise their authority under Chapter 45 of Title 21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "Act"), individually or jointly, pursuant to an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as authorized by Sections 21-45-3 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

This hearing is being called and conducted, and the Amended TIF Plan has been prepared as authorized and required by Sections 21-45-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Witness my signature and seal, this the 29th day of July, 2025.

S/ Angela Harris, City Clerk

8/7/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, August 25, 2025, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

76583-082625 - Crawler Dozer

76585-082625- Compact Hydraulic Excavator Crawler Mounted

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV or www.centralbidding.com

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases, where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this effect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Monica Oliver, Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1025

7/31/2025, 8/7/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 175-272, located on Gum Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

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

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

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 175-208, located on Nichols Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

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

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

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

LEGAL

Case: 25CH1:25-pr-00204 Document #: 11 Filed: 07/07/2025 Page 1 of 1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LINDSEY LEWIS, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. 25-pr-204

LEWIS WALKER

PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted on May 22, 2025, by the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, to the Undersigned Lewis Walker, upon the Estate of Lindsey Lewis, deceased, late of Hinds County, Mississippi. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present to Court for probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the date of first publication of this Notice, and by failure to do so they will forever be barred.

This the 7 day of July, 2025.

Lewis Walker
Executor of the Estate
Of Lindsey Lewis, Deceased

PREPARED BY:
TRENT WALKER, COUNSELOR AT LAW, PLLC
5255 KEELE STREET, SUITE A
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39206
TEL. 601-321-9540
FACSIMILE: 601-398-3918
EMAIL: Trent@Trentwalkerlaw.com

7/17/2025, 7/24/2025, 8/7/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 175-277, located on Gum Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

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

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

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY
CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 175-278, located on Gum Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

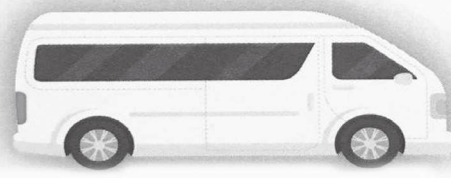
If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

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

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

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

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Sudoku

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

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

© Feature Exchange

Sudoku Solution

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

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PICK UP THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

- BULLY'S RESTAURANT**
3118 Livingston Road
- CASH & CARRY**
Capitol Street and Monument Street
- CITY HALL**
219 S President St
- GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**
2659 Livingston Road
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
2030 N Siwell Rd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
4331 Highway 80W
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
304 Briarwood Dr
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
2855 McDowell Rd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
104 Terry Rd
- J & A FUEL STORES**
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
- LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**
2325 Livingston Rd.
- MCDADDE'S MARKET**
Northside Drive
- MCDADDE'S MARKET #2**
653 Duling Avenue
- PICADILLY CAFETERIA**
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
- SHELL FOOD MART**
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE

- Fortification and I-55
- MURPHY USA**
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
- REVELL ACE HARDWARE**
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
- WALGREENS**
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

- A & I**
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
- B & B**
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
- BOUTIQUE STORE**
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
- BULLY'S STORE**
Church Street - Canton, MS
- COMMUNITY MART**
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
- FRYER LANE GROCERY**
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
- HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY**
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
- K & K ONE STOP**
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
- LACY'S INSURANCE**
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- TRAILER PARK GROCERY**
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

- DOLLAR GENERAL**
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
- HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

- 5777 Terry Road
- CITY HALL**
Terry Road

CLINTON

- DOLLAR GENERAL**
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

- SERVICE STATION**
at Exit 78
- CITY HALL**
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

- HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOME CENTER**
505 E. Main Street
- SUNFLOWER GROCERY**
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS
- LOVE FOOD MART**
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
- RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
- RAYMOND CITY HALL**
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
- RAYMOND COURTHOUSE**

UTICA

- HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP**
Mississippi Hwy 18
- PITT STOP**
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

- BOLTON LIBRARY**
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Services-General

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Week of July 27, 2025

P R E S E R V E D

Back to School Affirmations

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"You is smart. You is kind. You is important." Viola Davis made these words famous

when she played domestic Aibileen Clark in the movie *The Help*. In the movie, Aibileen says these words and makes the little girl she is taking care of repeat them as well. Part of the reason why these words were so powerful was because in their simplicity, they stressed to the child hearing the words and the child repeating those words how important it is to speak encouragement. It's made for a cute meme but in fact, having the little girl repeat the words is an impressive example of the spiritual principles of speak-

ing things into existence (Romans 4:17) and of having life and death in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). This week, I'm sharing a declaration of encouragement that any parent or guardian can say with their child as they head back to school.

"Today, I am blessed and am thankful that you will meet all of my needs. I am surrounded by favor, mercy, and grace. I have the mind of Christ concerning all things. I will reject every thought, imagination, or idea that does not come from God. I reject confusion, discouragement, and distractions. My mind is sharp, and my ears are open to hearing from God. Godly excellence is my standard and divine purpose is my focus. Philippians 4:8 says to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of a

good report. I will have laser focused vision on God's vision and purpose for my life. My mind is open to new ideas as I complete my schoolwork. My mind will grasp even the most difficult concepts and ideas as you God give me deeper understanding.

My body is a temple of the holy spirit. I am a vessel of peace and will be at peace with others. I will be mindful of what I eat and how I treat my physical body. I will strive for balance in eating what is healthy and nourishing. I will not deprive myself of foods that I enjoy but I will eat in moderation. I will be open to insights into what foods are best for my body and what the best physical activities are for me. I am strong and will use my strength to empower others.

My spirit will be in tune

with God's spirit throughout my day. My attitude will reflect a Christ-like character of love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, and grace. I will remain open to receiving your blessings today. I am a child of God and everything about how I treat myself, my fellow classmates, my teachers, and staff at my school will reflect that. I will be kind to others and be a daily example of God's love. Amen!"

Have a fantastic and blessed school year!

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

Church Announcement

Green Pastures Church Revival Services

Revival services will be held at Green Pastures Church, located at 2239 N. Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, MS, August 25 - 27, 2025. The pastor is Dr. Carl Hunt.

Green Pastures is a community-focused church that offers a variety of ministries to serve its ministry.

Revival services will begin each night at 7:00 PM. The guest evangelist will be Elder Joseph Pridgen from the Sweet Rest Church of Christ Holiness, Pearl, MS.

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Homegoing Service
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Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
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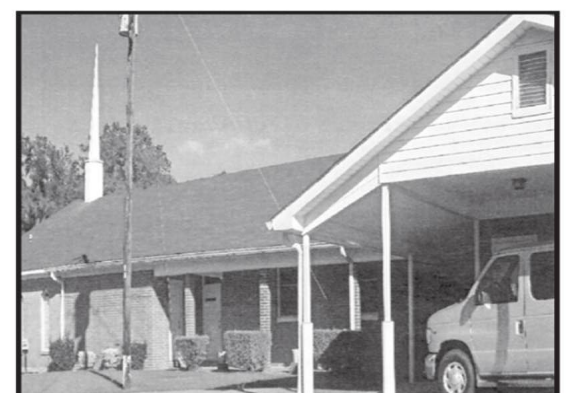
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Medicaid Turns 60 – The Road ahead for Health Care justice

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

It took 60 years for Medicaid to expand health care access to over 70 million Americans with low incomes and/or disabilities. As the U.S. now faces the largest federal subsidy rollback in history, how can Americans keep the struggle for health care justice moving forward — and can California's fight to preserve historic expansions of Medi-Cal, its version of Medicaid, serve as a model for the rest of the country?

Pilar Marrero, journalist and author of American Community Media, served as moderator for this weekly briefing which featured three panelists: Dr. Ilan Shapiro Strygler, SVP, Chief Health Correspondent and Medical Affairs Officer, AltaMed Health Services. Dr. Shapiro was asked by

Mexican-American attorney and U.S. District Court Judge in Northern California, Araceli Martinez Olguin about the impact of cuts to Medicaid on the immigrant population. He indicated that “fear is created which translates to lack of trust and that when people are in survival mode, often times they will choose to not take care of the wellness aspects like diabetes or high blood pressure. More complications will then exist, more chronic disease, possibly even with influenzas in the Fall.”

Hung Doan, Ph.D., a professor at University of California's division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, asked which community in California will be most affected by the cuts immigrant, Latino, or Asian? “The cuts will impact all communities — probably not specific groups.” Elana Kuznetsova asked if there are any state



programs or resources to help those that will most probably lose their Medi-Cal and also, if medical coverage is lost, what are step by step instructions for those people to get help at a reasonable cost and not get robbed? Shapiro indicated “there are many community clinics that will provide services on an as needed basis at a reasonable price. NACHC – National Association of Community Health Centers has a resource list on their website, <https://www.nachc.org>.

Cary Sanders, Senior Policy Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, founded in 1992 following the police beating of Rodney King to bring together groups of people of color and break down divisions and build a movement of racial solidarity

behind a vision of quality healthcare. She shared that Medicaid came as a result of the Civil Rights Movement and that healthcare programs are also anti-poverty programs. States that have not made the choice to expand Medicaid have seen much higher rates of inequities in communities of color. HR1 – the One Big Beautiful Bill is an attack on states that have tried to serve immigrants, low wage workers, and people of color. When asked if this is a hopeless situation, she shared there is no sugarcoating these cuts, but that states do have the ability to mitigate harms. She expressed that in California, most residents' view healthcare as a fundamental right. “In California, using the Affordable Care Act, we are now only six percentage points away

from achieving universal coverage.”

She was asked how much are we at risk of losing the progress we have made? “Nationally it's an enormous amount of money and millions will lose coverage. We do have time to educate and let people know what was in that Bill and hope to change it.” Another participant, Pamela, asked what can grassroots groups do to assist immigrants many of which cannot even work with a sliding scale when faced with fees? “In California there will be some options, including to access emergency medical care. The uninsured may be eligible for financial assistance, and hospitals should be proactively screening people to ensure patients get their care.”

The final panelist was Anthony

Wright, Executive Director, Families USA and formerly head of Health Access California. “This Bill is a disaster. There are estimates that up to 16 million will lose coverage due to eligibility but also due to cost, and escalating premiums. It cuts hospitals and clinics as well – will they decide to cut people, benefits, or rates to providers. It could affect maternity wards, nursing homes, community clinics, rural hospitals will have to scale back or close altogether. What can we do? Hold people accountable for their votes. There are people in DC now that are looking at making further cuts in areas that we were successful in holding off initially. There needs to be federal advocacy related to tax cuts expiring at the end of the year. The Bill extended tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations, but they neglected to extend tax credits that help people afford health care. On September 30th, when Congress has to fund the extension of the government, and that is when we do have a chance for change, but it must start right now. People need to communicate with their members of congress, or some could see an escalation by 75% for their healthcare premiums.”

Although plenty of emphasis was placed on California in this webinar, Mississippi has similar issues. Mississippi's conservative majority in the state legislature has refused to expand Medicaid, and the state is forecasted to lose rural hospitals as a result. This installment of the series can be viewed in its entirety at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/medicaid-turns-60-the-road-ahead-for-health-care-justice>.

Forever Chemicals: Understanding the threat and embracing prevention

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

In recent years, an invisible hazard has emerged at the crossroads of science, public health and consumer safety: forever chemicals. These persistent substances, formally known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), have infiltrated our homes, our bodies and our environment. For older adults in particular, understanding what PFAS are and how to reduce exposure isn't just about staying informed. It's about preserving vitality, protecting immunity and living with intention in a world saturated with unseen risks. These chemicals are nicknamed “forever” because they don't break down easily in the environment or our human body, persisting for years or even decades. PFAS contain strong carbon-fluorine bonds, among the most stable in chemistry. This makes them resistant to heat, water, oil and stains, which is why they're used in many consumer products.

Common uses
PFAS are synthetic compounds originally designed to make everyday items stain-resistant, water-repellent and nonstick. They're found in everything from Teflon pans and microwave popcorn bags to outdoor gear, makeup and even dental floss. The nickname “forever chemicals” isn't just dramatic it's literal. PFAS molecules contain



some of the strongest chemical bonds known to science, making them incredibly resistant to natural breakdown.

PFAS are also found in:
Nonstick cookware
Water-repellent clothing and outdoor gear
Stain-resistant carpets and upholstery
Food packaging (especially fast food wrappers and microwave popcorn bags)
Firefighting foam
Cosmetics and personal care products

Dental floss and contact lenses
Environmental Spread

Unlike other health threats, PFAS aren't confined to industrial plants or far-off pollution zones. Exposure happens quietly often through daily routines. PFAS exposure is nearly universal the CDC estimates that over 98% of Americans have detectable levels in their blood. Here's how it happens:

Drinking Water: Many municipalities have discovered PFAS in their water supplies, particularly near airports, military bases and

manufacturing facilities.

Food & Packaging: Fast food wrappers, frozen meals and microwaveable containers may leach PFAS into meals.

Personal Products: Moisturizers, shaving creams, nail polish and even floss can contain PFAS-based compounds.

Home Goods: Carpets, couches and waterproof clothing often contain PFAS and shed particles into household dust that's inhaled or ingested.

Industrial discharge
Landfills and incineration
Runoff from firefighting foam
Leaching from consumer products

Runoff from firefighting foam
Once absorbed through food, water or skin, PFAS settle into the bloodstream, organs, and tissues, persisting for years. Nearly all Americans, regardless of age, have measurable levels of PFAS in their bodies. And that's where the concern deepens especially for older adults.

Older adults are at greater risk. As our body ages, it becomes more vulnerable to external stressors. Age can weaken our immune systems, compound chronic conditions and slow our recovery time. PFAS exposure adds yet another layer of biological challenges. Studies have linked these chemicals to a range of age-relevant health concerns:

Cancer Risk: PFAS are associated with kidney, testicular and thyroid cancers, as well as non-

Hodgkin lymphoma.

Hormonal Disruption: Thyroid function, which influences metabolism, mood and cardiovascular health, may be compromised.

Immune System Suppression: PFAS can reduce vaccine effectiveness a concern for aging populations relying on immunizations.

Cholesterol and Heart Health: Exposure may raise cholesterol levels and increase the risk of hypertension, especially in older women.

Bone Fragility and Mobility: Some studies suggest PFAS may interfere with bone density, a critical issue for older adults aiming to stay active and independent.

The good news? While PFAS may be pervasive, they are not inevitable. Prevention begins with awareness and continues through smart choices that fit everyday life.

1. Filter Your Water Thoughtfully
Invest in NSF/ANSI-certified water filters that specifically remove PFAS. Reverse osmosis and activated carbon filters tend to be most effective. If affordability is an issue, look into local programs that offer water testing or filtration assistance.
2. Rethink Cookware and Kitchen Practices
Replace aging nonstick pans with PFAS-free alternatives such as cast iron, stainless steel or

ceramic. Be cautious with packaged and microwaved foods prepare meals at home when possible and use glass containers instead of plastic.

3. Choose Safer Personal Products

Read labels and explore apps like Think Dirty or Clearya to identify PFAS-free lotions, cosmetics, and hygiene items. Manufacturers are not always transparent, so it helps to support brands committed to clean formulas.

4. Avoid Stain-Resistant or Waterproof Textiles

Skip furniture, clothing, and bedding labeled as “waterproof,” “stain-resistant” or “nonstick” unless they are explicitly PFAS-free. Opt for natural materials like cotton, wool or linen especially in bedding and clothes that directly touch your skin.

5. Limit Exposure to Takeout Containers and Fast Food Packaging

Bring reusable containers for takeout when dining out. Say no to microwave popcorn unless the packaging is certified PFAS-free. Encourage local establishments to adopt safer packaging alternatives.

6. Be Mindful of Fish Sources
PFAS accumulate in aquatic environments, so choose fish from clean, verified sources. Avoid freshwater fish from contaminated lakes or rivers, especially in areas with known PFAS issues.

Decade of daring: McMullan young writers make 10th workshop special

By Maeve Rigney
Mississippi Today

Teenagers sit in inflatable chairs in a dorm lobby, holding cups of fruit punch and trading laptops that are open to short stories and fantasy novels. Before lights out at this summer camp, students co-write haikus, poems limited to 17 syllables.

The McMullan Young Writers Workshop at Millsaps College in Jackson gives aspiring authors a chance to sharpen and share their work.

Fifty high school and 12 middle school students participated in themed workshops taught by published authors. The students submitted short stories, poems and novel excerpts to their instructors and peers for feedback.

Courtlandt Willingham, a Jackson native and rising junior at Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven, described the workshop process as, “listen, ask questions and write.”

Willingham attended a workshop themed around folklore and mythmaking, and that provided inspiration for his poetry.

He said folklore means different things depending on the person.

“Folklore, to me, is a collection of ideas about being a Mississippian — especially a Black



McMullan

Mississippian,” Willingham said.

The residential workshop took place June 9-13. One day, campers attended a private craft talk and keynote speech by Jack Davis, who won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for history

for his book, “The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea.”

Keynote speakers in previous years included acclaimed authors Kiese Laymon, Joyce Carol Oates and Angie Thomas.

“These young people will ask

keynote authors questions that are not the standard, boring questions that adults ask,” said Jamie Dickson, a workshop instructor. He said the visiting writers are not condescending to young people.

“Someone who is truly in-

vested in literature really understands that there’s a lot of truth to the cliché: “This is the next generation of writers,” Dickson said.

Students attended lectures on screenwriting techniques, the Afrofuturism genre and the connection between artmaking and political life.

They spent an afternoon touring the Eudora Welty House and Garden.

“I’ve been in the garden before,” said Hannah King, a rising freshman at Belhaven University. “I went into the garden and wrote a poem about it. I hadn’t been able to finish it. But when I went back there, I was able to finish it — because I was touring the house.”

Instructors took students to other Jackson cultural sites, including the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Mississippi Museum of Art, Lemuria book store and the COFO Civil Rights Education Center at Jackson State University.

Campers at Millsaps cheered and drumrolled as their instructors went up to the podium to read in front of a handwritten poster proclaiming “Open Mic Night.”

“I think Open Mic is everyone’s favorite night,” said Syd Clay, a rising sophomore

at Northwest Rankin High School.

“It’s just fun being able to have a community that you can share things with,” Clay said. “My class this year was mainly first-years, and they were all really nervous about the Open Mic. But, at the end of the night, they all loved it.”

The majority of students receive merit-based scholarships, funded by donors including Margaret McMullan, a Mississippi native who has published novels, essays and short stories and whose family foundation is a financial supporter of Millsaps. Any student who wins a Gold Key at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards can attend the camp at no cost, and Silver Key winners and Honorable Mentions receive deeply discounted rates. The camp also gives scholarships based on financial need.

Liz Egan, who heads the Center for Writers at Millsaps, coordinates the McMullan Young Writers Workshop.

“Students who could barely look you in the eye at the beginning of the week are the ones at the stage, at the mic, telling you what they’ve been up to all week,” Egan said. “We’ve helped, but it’s really [the students]. They’ve made this program what it is.”

The Institute supports families facing diaper insecurity

Mississippi Link Newswire

As families across the Metro Jackson area prepare for the back-to-school season, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is addressing a critical yet often overlooked public health issue, diaper insecurity.

Diaper insecurity, the lack of a sufficient supply of clean diapers, is a growing but often overlooked public health issue. According to the National Diaper Network, one in three U.S. families struggles to afford enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy. Babies typically need 8 to 12 diapers per day, totaling more than 300 diapers per month. Diaper insecurity can have serious consequences for a child’s health and a parent’s ability to attend work or school.

Through its Baby Depot Program, the Institute distributes free diapers, wipes, and infant formula to ease the burden for families who are low-resourced or are experiencing financial hardship. To access Baby Depot, parents must be Medicaid-eligible and live in Central Mississippi. Items are distributed quarterly on a first-come, first-served basis.

Individuals or community organizations can help reduce diaper insecurity by making tax-deductible or in-kind donations to the Baby Depot at www.minority-institute.org/donations. For more information or to receive support from the Baby Depot, visit www.minority-institute.org/babydepot.



LaTrice Ramsey-Ellis of Mom.Me is presented with baby care items by Mya Hayes of the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health



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BOOK REVIEW: TALK TO ME NICE: THE SEVEN TRUST LANGUAGES FOR A BETTER WORKPLACE

BY MINDA HARTS
C.2025, FLATIRON BOOKS
\$27.99 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Raise? What raise?

Your employees have been hinting for a few weeks now that they'd like a little more in their paycheck and you can surely understand their wishes. You also wish they'd understand that now's not the time for it. And so, you avoid all conversations about money and hope there's no turnover because you can't afford that, either but read "Talk to Me Nice" by Minda Harts, and you'll know what to say and how to

say it.

Five years ago, Minda Harts had what was, to her, a dream job. She was basically autonomous, the only East Coast employee of a West Coast firm, taking care of her job and any clients who might visit the Big Apple. Harts knew she was trusted; her employers wholeheartedly indicated it, but they didn't tell her much else and when she asked to take her career to the next level with better wages or a promotion, they gave her a big fat sort-of-maybe.

She was only looking for what she felt she was due. They glossed over her concerns.

And she turned in her resignation.

So if you can't pony up more moola or a corner office, what can you offer?

Trust, says Harts. Pure and simple, employees want trust. And the way to gain their trust is to use "the seven workplace trust languages."

Especially if you've got Black or LGBTQ employees, they want your sensitivity to the unique issues they face at

work. In good times and bad, speaking to them with as much transparency as possible goes a long way. Security helps your employees feel safe on the job, both physically and mentally. Act, don't just talk, to demonstrate your words. Be willing to give positive and negative feedback on a regular basis. Offer acknowledgment for a job well-done, a work-iversary, or for a hard task completed. Finally, follow through to make sure your employees can feel confident that you're on this.

And then, says Harts, "watch



trust grow!"

This should feel pretty commonsensical, shouldn't it? Yes, but author Minda Harts suggests in a huge way that it's not, and that businesses from the top down need to relearn how to put trust back into the workplace. In "Talk to Me Nice," she explains how.

Never mind the kerfuffle about DEI, the fact is that today's workplaces can still be quite diverse and that plays big in this book as Harts shows why trust is key for happy employees and for healthy reten-

tion, and how it matters in every kind of workplace. Though her stories are a bit scattershot, they're all-encompassing and she uses real-life examples to show trust-making in action and what happens if it's lacking. That can be helpful and cautionary.

This is an excellent book for C-Suiters, managers, and supervisors, but it's also a good book for an up-and-coming company star. Read "Talk to Me Nice" and get ready to raise the roof.

ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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SWAC TV debuts with MVSU vs. Southern matchup

MVSU Marketing and Communications

Southwestern Athletic Conference announced its 2025 SWAC TV Football schedule with the inaugural slate set to include a total of 45 football games.

Mississippi Valley State will host the first SWAC TV broadcast of the season when the Delta Devils welcome defending SWAC West Division champion Southern to Itta Bena on Saturday, August 30 at 4 p.m. CST.

"The debut of SWAC TV is undoubtedly a gamechanger for the Southwestern Athletic Conference," said SWAC Commissioner Dr. Charles McClelland. "For the first time in history our fans and supporters will have a high quality, technologically advanced streaming platform solely dedicated to broadcasting live events and delivering high-definition on-demand league content."

SWAC TV will officially be available for download on Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, Google Play, and Android TV. The free platform will feature pre-season, regular season and post-season live events across 18 league sponsored sports while also featuring unique feature content, sports talk shows and podcast.

"With over a century of profound history and even brighter days ahead we look forward to effectively utilizing SWAC TV as a catalyst to tell the impactful stories and legacies both past and present that have helped shape the SWAC into what it is today, which

is one of the premiere athletic associations in the nation," said McClelland.

The schedule of SWAC games is highlighted by several Classic match-ups, including the Labor Day Classic (Texas Southern vs. Prairie View A&M), the Shreveport Classic (Langston vs. Grambling State), the W.C. Gordon Classic (Tuskegee at Jackson State), and the State Fair Classic (Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M).

The 2025 Turkey Day Classic featuring Tuskegee at Alabama State will conclude SWAC TV coverage on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. CST.

About SWAC TV

SWAC TV is the exclusive sports streaming platform of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, serving students, alumni, and fans in the U.S. with exclusive access to live league sports events each year, an unmatched library of on-demand replays and acclaimed original content, along with premium postseason events. Fans can download SWAC TV for free on Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, Google Play, and Android TV. SWAC TV is also available online at SWAC TV.

About the SWAC

The Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) is considered one of the premier HBCU conferences in the country and currently ranks among the elite in the nation in terms of HBCU alumni playing with professional sports teams.

Jalen Smith looking to make noise in maroon

Georgia native Bulldog linebacker sees Mississippi as a second home

By Joel Coleman
Senior Writer

Take a look at Jalen Smith's online bio. You'll notice the Mississippi State linebacker is a Georgia native who played the last two seasons at Tennessee. What the words on the screen won't tell you is this: his Mississippi roots are strong.

"This is kind of like a second home for me," Smith explained. "I was over here a bunch growing up, seeing relatives. I even got some training sessions in on some back roads and running up hills. It was fun."

In a way, it's as though Smith was meant to wear Maroon. His father is from Tylertown. Smith has also had grandparents and other relatives – from both sides of his family – that call or called Mississippi home.

"I enjoy representing them and I'm enjoying myself here," Smith said. "I'm loving it."

For Bulldogs everywhere, the feeling should soon be mutual as Smith shows what he can do in Starkville. He's young, but experienced. He's learning, but also proven.

Smith has already made a splash in the Southeastern Conference and is eyeing making even more noise now that he's at State. Others certainly believe it can happen. He was recently named to the Butkus Award watch list. The accolade is given annually to the nation's top linebacker.

"I'm somebody that's going to work and compete every single Saturday and every single practice day," Smith said. "I want to make sure that I'm also leading the right way. Some guys are older



Smith

than me, but I want to lead as well. I want to lead us in the right direction and be a part of a group here at Mississippi State that's going to come out fighting every time we're on the field."

The last two seasons have certainly prepared Smith for this moment. After getting his college football feet wet with five games in a redshirt season at Tennessee in 2023, Smith was thrown into the fire with the Volunteers last season.

He responded by becoming a key piece of the Vols' College Football Play-

off team. Smith finished the year with 34 tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss, earning an SEC All-Freshman Team honor in the process.

Following the season, Smith was looking for a new opportunity. Past relationships – both from his own bloodline and otherwise – led Smith to the Magnolia State.

"My family is from here, and I knew [defensive coordinator Coleman Hutzler] from being recruited when I was in high school," Smith said. "He's just a great guy and a great coach, and he gave me this opportunity."

"This was just the right staff for me. Both Coach Hutzler and [head coach Jeff Leiby] are great guys, and I'm grateful to Coach Leiby for letting me be a part of his team. This was the right decision for me."

Smith is driven to make his arrival the right call for all involved. He, along with the other newcomers and returners on the State defense, are determined to make their side of the football a strength for the Dawgs.

"Everybody is striving for a winning season," Smith said. "Everybody's hungry for that. You can see it in everyone's eyes and how they work. I know I definitely have a chip on my shoulder coming into this program and wanting to be a part of it and contributing to it."

Once Smith starts getting a few tackles under his belt, Mississippi is sure to feel more like a home than ever.

"I'm so excited to hear those cowbells and see what it's like on a game day inside our stadium," Smith said. "I can't wait."

Booth and Bothwell named to Doak Walker Award watch list

By Kelly Shipp
Associate Director/Communications

Mississippi State running backs Davon Booth and Fluff Bothwell have been named to the 2025 Doak Walker Award preseason watch list, the PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced Tuesday. The award is presented annually to the nation's top college running back.

Booth and Bothwell are two of just a handful of teammates to appear on the prestigious list, highlighting the strength and depth of the Bulldogs' backfield heading into the 2025 season.

Booth led the Bulldogs in rushing in 2024 with 759 yards, ninth best mark in the SEC, while adding five touchdowns. On 152 attempts he averaged 5.0 yards per carry. He surpassed the century mark twice last season, with 125 yards at Tennessee and 124 against Missouri. His 125 yards against Tennessee were

the most rushing yards the nation's sixth ranked defense allowed all season. Booth was also one of just two running backs to eclipse 100 yards against the Volunteers in 2024.

Bothwell, a transfer from South Alabama, was one of the top running backs in America in 2024 as a true freshman, rushing for 834 yards on 112 carries with 13 rushing touchdowns. For his efforts he was named Second Team All-Sun Belt. As a true freshman he led the Sun Belt Conference in rushing touchdowns and finished seventh in yards.

The Doak Walker Award, named after 1948 Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker, recognizes the nation's premier running back for his accomplishments on the field, academic achievements, and citizenship.

The winner will be announced in December at The Home Depot College Football Awards on ESPN.



Mayor John Horhn announces restoration of Jackson's Civil Service Commission

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor John Horhn announced the relaunch of the Jackson Civil Service Commission, a move aimed at strengthening public trust and fairness in city government. After a period of inactivity, the Commission is set to resume its role in ensuring city employees are managed based on merit, efficiency, and integrity.

"The Civil Service Commission is key to preserving the principles of fairness and opportunity in city employment," said Horhn. "We are determined that Jackson's residents see true accountability and transparency reflected in every city department, starting with how we hire, promote, and retain our public servants."

Horhn added, "As mayor, I am committed to building a city government that works for every citizen, regardless of background. Restoring the Commission is the first of many steps toward a more responsive, efficient, and fair administration."

The Civil Service Commission safeguards an orderly, merit-driven system for city employees, providing every qualified citizen with a fair chance at public service and strengthening the quality of municipal departments. The Commission oversees recruiting, evaluating, and promoting employees strictly on the basis of performance and qualifications, while upholding a comprehensive Code of Rules and Regula-

tions in line with the Civil Service Acts.

Chairperson Onetta Whitley expressed optimism about the Commission's renewed mission: "Our main goal is to ensure all hiring and promotions in Jackson's city government are based solely on merit and ability. We stand ready to help increase the effectiveness and morale of our entire city workforce."

Board member nominee Dr. Ronald K. Moore echoed his commitment: "Being nominated to serve on the Civil Service Commission is both an honor and a responsibility. The work we will do shapes a culture of excellence and fairness that every city employee and resident deserves."

Monthly public meetings of the Civil Service Commission are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Andrew Jackson Conference Room in the Hood Building.

"We're committed to listening to employees and residents alike as the commission moves forward," said board member nominee Peyton Prospere. "Our focus will be on creating lasting positive change that benefits both city workers and the people of Jackson."

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office of Communications at (601) 960-0462 or visit the commission's website.

<https://jacksonms.gov/civil-service-commission/>



Horhn

Hinds County School District 2025-2026 School Year Calendar



First Teacher Day	Thursday, July 31, 2025
Convocation	Friday, August 1, 2025
Parent Conferences	Tuesday, August 5, 2025
First Semester Begins	Wednesday, August 6, 2025
First Day for Students	Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Labor Day Holiday (Schools and Central Office Closed).....	Monday, September 1, 2025
Distance Learning Day (No students/ Staff PD)	Wednesday, September 10, 2025
First Term Test Window.....	Monday, Oct. 6 - Thur., Oct. 9, 2025
First Term Ends	Thursday, October 9, 2025
Fall Break for Students/ Staff PD Day (Student Holiday).....	Friday, October 10, 2025
Fall Break /Columbus Day (Teacher and Student Holiday).....	Monday, October 13, 2025
Second Term Begins	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Distance Learning Day (No students/ Staff PD)	Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Thanksgiving Break (Teacher and Student Holiday)	Monday, Nov. 24-Fri., Nov. 28, 2025
Thanksgiving Break (Central Office Closed)	Wednesday, Nov. 26-Fri., Nov. 28, 2025
Distance Learning Day (No students/ Staff PD)	Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Second Term Test Window.....	Monday, Dec. 15- Fri., Dec. 19, 2025
Last Day of Class for Students (60% Day for Students).....	Friday, December 19, 2025
Second Term Ends	Friday, December 19, 2025
Winter Holidays (Schools/Central Office Closed)	Monday, Dec. 22-Fri., Jan. 2, 2026
Winter Holiday Continued for Students (No students/ Staff PD)	Monday, January 5, 2026
Second Semester Begins	Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (Schools/Central Office Closed)	Monday, January 19, 2026
Winter Break (Student Holiday/ Staff PD Day)	Monday, February 16, 2026
Third Term Test Window.....	Monday, March 2- Friday, March 6, 2026
Third Term Ends	Friday, March 6, 2026
Spring Break (Schools and Central Office Closed).....	Monday, March 9-Friday, March 13, 2026
Fourth Term Begins	Monday, March 16, 2026
Easter Break (Schools and Central Office Closed).....	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Break (Schools and Central Office Closed).....	Monday, April 6, 2026
Distance Learning Day (No students/ Staff PD).....	Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Fourth Term Test Window.....	Monday, May 18 - Thur., May 22, 2026
Graduation	Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Last Day for Students (60% Day for Students)	Friday, May 22, 2026
Fourth Term Ends	Friday, May 22, 2026
Last Day for Teachers	Friday, May 22, 2026
Memorial Day (Schools and Central Office Closed)	Monday, May 25, 2026

*Monday, February 16th, Friday, April 3rd, and Monday, April 6th may be used as inclement weather days, if needed. If more inclement weather days are needed, the calendar may be extended for the necessary number of days. Please plan family vacations based on this calendar.

****Schools will dismiss at 12:00/1:30 p.m. on the following 60% days: December 19th and May 22nd.**

School Board Approved January 16, 2025)