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The Clinton Massacre of 1875 is commemorated 150 years later

U.S. Rep. **Thompson** applauds awareness efforts to 'resurrect' this history

By Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D. Contributing Writer

Community members, historians, elected officials, and descendants of victims gathered at Mt. Hood Missionary Baptist Church Sept. 6 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Clinton Massacre, a violent turning point in Mississippi's Reconstruction history.

The violence ignited Sept. 4, 1875,

when approximately 1,500 Black Republicans and their families and about 75 White Democrats gathered for a peaceful political rally. Violence erupted when armed white Democrats opened fire, resulting in at least five Black individuals and three white men killed that day, including two white children.

In the days following, white vigilantes killed an estimated 30 to 50 African Americans, marking a turning point in Reconstruction by weakening Black political power through fear. Many Hinds County citizens admitted they had not heard of the Clinton Massacre until later in life or not at all. "I'm from Bolton, and I was out of college and had become Mayor of Bolton before I heard about

> Massacre Continued on page 3



Freedom Trail marker dedicated on Sept. 23, 2021. It is located on Northside Drive across the street from Federation Towers. PHOTO BY GAIL H.M.

Damon Stevenson appointed to newly created Circuit Court Judgeship in **Hinds County by Governor Tate Reeves**

By Othor Cain

In a move aimed at strengthening the judicial system in Mississippi's capital county, Governor Tate Reeves has appointed Damon Stevenson to a newly created circuit court judgeship in Hinds County. Stevenson was officially sworn in this past Friday, marking the beginning of his tenure on the

The new subdistrict, which includes the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID), was created in response to increased case volume and a long-standing backlog in the county's court system. While the seat is tied to the CCID, Stevenson emphasized that the role is designed to serve all of Hinds County.

"The subdistrict is the CCID district, but the judge hears cases from all over the county just like every other judge," Stevenson explained. "So, it will benefit the entire county and help with the backlog."

Stevenson, an experienced attorney and former municipal court judge, brings a reputation for fairness, legal acumen, and community-focused justice to the bench. For him, the new role is not only a career milestone but a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of Hinds County residents.

"Being a circuit judge allows



Stevenson

me to utilize my experience as an attorney and municipal court judge to work with the current judges to strengthen the court system in Hinds County," he said. "My goal is to run a courtroom in an efficient manner that provides justice, promotes respect for the law, and equips people in the criminal justice system with the ability to pay their debt to society while equipping them with the support to turn their life around in a positive manner."

As a circuit court judge, Stevenson will preside over felony criminal cases, civil mat-

ters, and appeals from county court, critical areas that affect thousands of people across the county. His work will be central to moving cases more swiftly through the system while upholding the rights of all parties involved.

Stevenson is one of the youngest, if not the youngest people to serve on the circuit bench in Hinds County. His appointment marks a new chapter of leadership and energy in the county's judicial system. He is already working on building capable staff within the resources provided by the state and county governments. "I just want to make a difference and do right by people," he said. "I am focused on getting my courtroom restored and getting to work for the people in Hinds County."

Looking ahead, Stevenson is focused on collaboration and service. "We have work to do, and I am ready to serve," he

For Hinds County, his appointment represents more than just filling a seat, it's a step forward in addressing justice system challenges with integrity, experience, and a deep commitment to reform.

'Catastrophic Failures': Why dozens of killings in Mississippi prisons go unanswered

By Daja E. Henry The Marshall Project and Mina Copuz Mississippi Today

This story is part of a reporting collaboration with Mississippi Today, the Clarion Ledger, Hattiesburg American and The Mississippi Link.

At least 42 people have been killed inside Mississippi prisons in the past decade, leaving scores of grieving families questioning a system that fails to protect people in its custody or hold anyone accountable.

There are sisters wracked with guilt, mothers with depression, and children struggling to fill the voids in their lives. Former prison employees talk about lying sleepless in bed, replaying the killings they've witnessed but could not



The Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman in April 2023. PHOTO BY ERIC J. SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

In Mississippi, prison homicides are the culmination of longdocumented festering problems: chronic understaffing, lax oversight, gangs that rule by violence and delays in treating life-threatening injuries, an investigation by National Prison Project.

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a statewide reporting team found.

Murders signal "catastrophic failures" of prison administrators, whose number one job is to keep incarcerated people safe, said David Fathi, director of the ACLU

The perpetrators haven't faced justice in most cases. Just six of the 42 homicides have led to convictions

And the killings show no sign of ending. In the first half of this year, there were five homicides in three Mississippi prisons.

Sydney Miller said her family was given almost no details by prison officials after her elder brother, Gregory Emary, was stabbed to death at the Chickasaw County Regional Facility in Houston in 2020.

Over the past five years, they have received no contact from prison investigators or prosecutors about what happened or if someone would be held responsible. Miller did not know Emary's death had been deemed a homi-

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Failures Continued on page 3

Expanding Surveillance of Immigrants – at what cost?

In partnership with American Community **Media - National Briefing Series**

By Christopher Young Contributing Writer

For the past several weeks, The Mississippi Link has partnered with American Community Media to develop a series of stories in the wake of dramatic DOGE and anti-DEI cuts in federal spending.

This week we explore the conversation on immigrant data surveillance and sharing.

The Issue: The U.S. government has steadily expanded its use of surveillance tools, often under the banner of fighting fraud, stopping crime, or detecting undocumented immigrants. But those same tools, from DMV database access and facial recognition to cellphone tracking and data broker contracts, are now building a vast infrastructure that reaches far beyond immigration enforcement. This digital dragnet has the potential to place every American under unprecedented scrutiny. By compiling and cross-linking personal information, the state increases the risk of political targeting, identity theft, and massive data breaches. What starts as surveillance of immigrants can quickly become surveillance of all, eroding the privacy rights of every resi-

Nicole Alvarez, Senior Policy Analyst for Technology Policy at Center for American Progress, was the first panelist and recently published a report, "the Trump administration is using American sensitive data to build a digital watchtower." Alvarez defined the digital watchtower as "a rapidly expanding system of surveillance that threatens not only the immigrant communities currently being targeted by this administration, but the privacy rights of all Americans." When citizens interact with the government, whether applying for benefits, filing taxes, etc., they share information – social security numbers, birthdates, medical information, income and tax information, etc. Her report focused on two major developments: 1) secondary data abuse, and 2) centralization of federal data systems.

She highlighted the Privacy Act of 1974 as the main law that governs how federal agencies handle our personal data and that it should only be used for the intended purpose - known as purpose limitation,



Panelists Nicole Alvarez. PHOTO: WWW.AMERICANPROGRESS.ORG.



Emerald Tse. PHOTO: WWW.LAW.GEORGETOWN.EDU.



Sophia Cope. PHOTO: WWW.EFF.ORG.

yet the law was written prior to the internet and the mass storage of data, which translates to less accountability in today's world. She indicated that "with agencies sharing information, personal data is now able to be used for other than its intended purpose and without your knowledge or

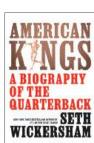
consent." She spoke about the very "little public transparency and oversight around how this is happening in practice and how the IRS commissioner, who was appointed by President Trump earlier in 2025 ended up resigning in protest over privacy concerns." She indicated that "Medicaid enrollment records have been reportedly used to identify immigrants for deportation. "Again, the individuals involved were engaging with these systems in good faith – turning healthcare safety nets

> Surveillance Continued on page 3

USM snaps JSU's 11 game winning streak and their own 11 game losing streak



American **Kings**



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Above and Beyond – Hinds County's Sergeant Jasmine King

By Christopher Young Contributing Writer

Hinds County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jasmine King was raised in North Jackson in a neighborhood behind Veteran's Memorial Stadium. Her parents, Subrince King and Curtis Mays, had seven children and she's the baby. "From the time I was in the third or fourth grade I knew I wanted to help people, I just liked helping, and I knew when I got old enough, I wanted to try to help people, no matter who they were, I wanted to try to make a difference in the world." She attended Bailey Magnet High School, before attending Holmes Community College studying Criminal Justice. She has plans to resume college level studies in January. When we met for the interview at The Mississippi Link newspaper offices, she had just gotten off her night shift but was ready to roll - thoughtfully and humbly answering questions, recalling events and dates. The ability to dig deep may well be her superpower, but that is not what caught my eye about her at the May 4, 2025, Loyalty Day Program at Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post

Along with serval other public safety professionals, she was honored that day. She strode in just before the ceremony started, with her four children in tow, plus a nephew - Princeton. Jada (13), Kelsey (11), Camille (7), and Karter



Former VFW Post 9832 Auxiliary President Deborah Turner, SGT King receiving VFW Post 9832 Community Service Award from Post Commander Patrick Powe.

(6) - they sat through the lengthy ceremony waiting for their mother to be recognized, which came near the end. The children's father was there in support, as well as Pastor Fox and his wife, from her church, Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi. From the dais, she was quite a way from where she had seated the children, but those eyes were on guard the whole time. Twice I briefly heard a little rustling at the children's table, and in a nanosecond that gaze from mom did the



SGT King at the funeral service for former Hinds County Sheriff Malcolm Mamillin, in August 2025.

trick. When I asked King about all that, she just smiled. "My kids know I love them to death, but they also know that I don't play."

She started as a Corrections Officer at the Raymond Detention Center in 2014, then went to the

Canton Police Department, before doing some part-time work for Edwards Police Department, and coming to the Hinds County Sheriff's Office in 2020. She recalled one bad experience, back at the beginning at the Detention Center,

where she just knew her time was up. She was one of just a few women in a facility full of men. She was on the floor, and another female was at the board, and an inmate kept asking for a pen, which was prohibited as contraband. Her intuition kicked in and she saw a look in another prisoner's eye that told her not to go into that room. She kept talking to the inmate seeking a pen as she backed up to the gate and got out. She then watched on video as over twenty men filed out of that room; they were trying to get her into. Close call. "Who knows what would have happened, but I was through with that and working in Canton about two months later."

When asked about the balance between a career in law enforcement and raising four children, she said, "it's simple – structure. My house is structured. How do I do it? I just do it. Their dad helps, and I do what I have to do. My own mom set an example, and she had no help. I won't quit on my kids, even if I'm tired, I find the strength. Without God I'm nothing, and He is always first. Balancing is a real job, but with support from their dad being very active, I get it done." Do you take the children to church in Yazoo every Sunday? "Yes, of course, they love church, and they know God is real. My youngest, my little boy says - 'Don't give up on God, because He won't give up on you,' that little Camille comes right behind him and says, 'that's right, you're sure right, I know God loves me and Mommy loves me and Daddy loves me."

In 2024, Sergeant King was selected as Hinds County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Quarter. In early 2025 she was selected as 2024 Deputy of the Year. A significant achievement considering the number of deputies in Hinds County. As mentioned earlier, she received a VFW Post 9832 Annual Loyalty Award for First Responders and Community Heros. Ten days later she stood before the Governor of Mississippi to receive honors as 2025 Hinds County Top Cop. Deputies are entry-level. Corporals have additional duties. Sergeant's lead a team of deputies. Sergeant King is still months away from turning 35 years old!

As a female law enforcement officer, a mother in an unpredictable world, and a God-fearing Christian – what counsel do you have for others, especially young women, about navigating, priorities, balancing? "The best advice I would give - always put and keep God first, just do the right thing, do right by people, and you will go a long way in life. Using a sports reference – you've got to have that inner dog in you and drive – that is the key." The Mississippi Link newspaper adds its name to the long line of salutes to our very own, Sergeant Jasmine King.



Massacre

Continued from page 1

it,"said U.S. Representative Bennie G. Thompson, who participated in the memorial service. Thompson noted, "It is fitting and proper that 150 years later, we not only correct the record but resurrect it."

Audience member Yvonne Huddleston said, "In this day when our history is being erased or is being misrepresented, our younger people need to know that history repeats itself. If we are not aware of the importance of our ancestors and the sacrifices they made, on our behalf, we have failed."

DeeDee Baldwin, one of the key organizers, emphasized the importance of public memory and truth-telling for healing from historical racial violence. Baldwin is an associate professor from Mississippi

At the memorial, Thompson remarked, "This massacre was meant

to silence our people. But gatherings like this ensure that the silence ends with us. If we fail to remember, we risk repeating the same injustice." Thompson praised the community for reclaiming a narrative long suppressed in history books.

Mississippi State Senator Hillman Frazier attended and presented Mt. Hood with Senate Resolution 120, recognizing the massacre's 150th anniversary. "Too often, this part of our history is overlooked or whitewashed," Fazier said. "But today, we affirm that these lives

James Robinson, a descendant of a victim, shared a photo of his great-great-great-grandmother Sally Lee, an ex-slave who witnessed the violence. "She saw it with her own eyes -- the bloodshed, the chaos, the pain," he said. "And she made sure our family never forgot." He said he had been seeing the photo hanging on the wall of his aunt's house during his childhood. Later in 1961, it appeared in The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in an article about Lee's account of the massacre and other incidents, as she was a cook for General Sherman when he stopped in Clinton. Seeing that article is what sparked Robinson to further 'research' his family's connection to the victims.

Also recognized and invited to come to the podium to say a few words was NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson. He indicated that the Clinton Massacre has been a key study of the NAACP's Leadership Program. Church members Sandra Robinson, Lisa Johnson, Kristiana John-

son, and Barbara Patton were the committee delegated by their pastor to assist Baldwin with the program when she reached out to him concerning it.

"I really appreciate her passion and dedication in wanting to get this recognized and commemorated this year," Robinson said about

Baldwin. "We met via Teams, Zoom, and Webex meetings as well as e-mail and texts to get things organized."

The theme of the service, titled "Remember It When I Am Gone," was dedicated to honoring the lives lost during the Massacre. These were the dying words of Charles Caldwell, a Black state senator from Clinton and a Republican organizer of the rally held September 4, 1875. Caldwell, who tragically lost his life in December of the same year, had called for peace during his final moments. (Melissa Janczewski Jones / September 2015)

The service also included music and a candle lighting in memory of the known and unknown victims.

The organizers express gratitude to Mississippi College, Together for Hope, the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, and the Mt. Hood Missionary Baptist Church for making this week's Clinton Massacre Memorial events possible. Mt. Hood is pastored by Rev. Frederick Williams

Reference:

https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/the-clinton-riot-of-1875-from-riot-to-massacre

See photos on page 4.

Surveillance

Continued from page 1

into a surveillance pipeline, a sharp break from purpose limitation in public data use – undermining public trust," she said.

In the second area, centralization of data, she indicated that "personal information was kept in silos to aid in maintaining privacy, but these silos are now being broken down by the government. The Department of Government Efficiency, which is driving this initiative, is copying or transferring the raw data into one centralized repository,

which creates a single point of access where Doge staff and potentially other agencies can query across all records at once. You can think of this as merging separate filing cabinets into one giant filing cabinet – fundamentally changing the rules of the game."

The next panelist, Emerald Tse, an Associate at the Center for Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law School – a research and advocacy organization that focuses on privacy law and policy and the impact of digital-era surveillance on individuals and communities. The Center has produced two reports, American Dragnet, Data-Driven Deportation in the 21st Century and Rating the genome, how the United States government is abusing its immigration powers to amass DNA for future policing. The reports can be accessed at https://www. law.georgetown.edu/privacy-technology-center/publications.

She shared that the Department of Homeland Security has extensive digital surveillance powers.

In the American Dragnet report mentioned above, "we revealed that ICE uses digital surveillance to monitor the lives of a majority of people in the United States...so when people signed up for water or electricity, the information that they gave to utility companies ended

in the hands of ICE. And similarly, when people applied for driver's licenses, the information that they gave to the DMV also got to ICE." The same is true for collection of DNA, which then can be used by other agencies...DHS Secretary Noem is pushing for more government contracts with private companies to develop surveillance tech-

The final panelist, Sophia Cope, Senior Staff Attorney on Electron-

ic Frontier Foundation's civil liberties team focused on social media surveillance, especially of immigrants. "The first Trump administration State Department succeeded in adding a question to visa applications to obtain social media handles used in the last five years. When consular officials reviewed social media histories it could be used as a determining factor in approving or disapproving the application – a direct affront to the First Amendment. "It started out with non-citizens seeking student Visas, but now we see lawful permanent residents and those with other statuses being looked at...perhaps swept into surveillance and having their data collected and stored."

She also mentioned that "CBP Customs and Border Protection has the ability to search the cell phones, laptops, or other devices of travelers crossing, legally at ports of entry." In our sharply divided society, some may view these surveillance activities as necessary, while others will view them as governmental intrusion of privacy rights. The entire briefing can be viewed at https://americancommunitymedia.org/ media-briefings/expanding-surveillance-of-immigrants-at-what-cost

Failures

Continued from page 1

cide by a medical examiner until a reporter told her. She wonders if her family would have been treated the same way if her brother had been killed on the outside.

"So why is this any different?" Miller asked. "Just because it was committed inside prison walls?"

'No one deserves to die like this'

Uncovering the toll of Mississippi's prison homicides took a team of reporters from five news organizations: The Marshall Project - Jackson, Mississippi Today, the Clarion Ledger, Hattiesburg American and The Mississippi Link. The team scoured thousands of pages of court records, corrections documents, federal and state government death records, and interviewed families, formerly incarcerated people, former guards, attorneys and corrections experts.

The investigation found that the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, which holds about 2,500 people, has had the most killings in the past decade. At least 19 people died in homicides at Parchman from 2015 through 2024.

For most of this time period, the homicide rate among people inside Parchman was five times higher than the state as a whole, which already had the highest rate in the country in 2023.

Lack of consistent and accurate reporting nationw identified three Mississippi homicides that were not listed in federal and state reports.

Most of the 42 killings throughout the state prison system involved beatings or stabbings, sometimes involving multiple assailants. Three in five victims were Black. The age of the victims ranged from 23 to

Mississippi Department of Corrections officials declined multiple requests for an interview about killings across the prison system, but released an emailed statement. "MDOC remains committed to ensuring the safety of inmates in its custody," the agency wrote.

Many of the people who were killed in Mississippi's prisons were sent there after being convicted of offenses that included parole and probation violations, as well as more serious crimes, including robbery and murder. At least a quarter were serving life sentences. Although prison officials have a legal duty to protect all incarcerated people from harm, they could not protect them from death at the hands of cellmates, rival gang members or other incarcerated people.

In one case, a corrections officer pleaded guilty to accessory after the fact in a 2021 murder.

Detrick Munford, who served as deputy warden of Parchman until 2022, said the number of unprosecuted homicides doesn't surprise him.

Mississippi officials didn't install many of the cameras at Parchman ntil after 2020, so in many cases, there was no way to prove who by-state comparison of prison homicides difficult. The reporting team responsible for a death, he said. Anyone who witnessed a killing "is not going to talk," he said, alluding to the prison culture of violent retribution, "because he knows what might happen to him."

MDOC often shares sparse details about prison homicides, if any at all, even with the families of the victims. Nearly all internal investigations into the killings are hidden from the public because the state's open records law exempts all law enforcement investigative files.

Although many of the recent homicides were filmed by security cameras and some of those responsible are known to corrections officials based on internal reports, local prosecutors filed charges against suspects in 36 percent of the homicides in the past decade.

MDOC officials responded in their email that prison officials take "every death of an inmate in its custody seriously. Each suspected homicide is investigated...The remaining investigations that are closed did not support a referral (for prosecution)."

For the incarcerated people who have been killed, their families are left with little, other than despair.

"This (is) an unimaginable pain you all gave me. This grief will last forever," one victim's mother wrote in a court statement for the upcoming trial of the prison murder of her son.

"People talk about justice. They say it's blind. But justice shouldn't be silent. It shouldn't turn away when someone dies in state custody," she wrote. "If the state takes responsibility for a person's life, it should also be held accountable when that life is lost "

Additional reporting contributed by Caleb Bedillion, The Marshall Project - Jackson, Grant McLaughlin, Clarion Ledger, Jerry Mitchell, Mississippi Today, and Christopher Young, The Mississippi Link.

Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore continues its legacy in West Jackson

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

For 51 years, The Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore has been in existence. Those better than five decades have brought location changes, but have not deterred the gallery's purpose: to know and disseminate the truth about Black culture. Called "the Afrikan Cultural Hub for MedgarEversville," the facility's mystique grasps one's thoughts to linger during and after visitation. Whether purchasing artifacts, mentoring youth, listening to speakers, participating in workshops, or stopping by to chat, visitors often return because of their lingering thoughts.

The gallery's new home is in West Jackson at 1036 James Charles Evers Circle, Jackson, MS 39209. The street was renamed from Pecan Park Circle in honor of the late civil rights activist Charles Evers), in 2020. Jean Collier – owner – moved from 800 North Farish Street in Jackson last month. "I love the facility because it's comfortable," she said during an afternoon interview this week.

Collier began working at Afrikan Art Gallery several years before 2001. She noted that she was impressed with the former owner - Baba Nyika Ajanaka (now deceased). "He never claimed that Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore was his store. 'I'm doing it for the people. I want them to know our culture and who they are," she recollected further about Ajanaka.

According to Collier, Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore is the image of everything. She then voiced: "It is impossible for Blacks to know who they are if they have no identification with our ancestors." Hence, Blacks must not leave it up to European perspectives in their search for what is truth. "I am deeply inspired by Baba Nyika Ajanaka. He helped me a lot. We must learn who we are and where we are going,"

Collier asserted that Ajanaka "had great connections worldwide" and knew how to get Afrikan products for the store. When he was available to leave the country, he would go to Ghana and Jamaica to make purchases. When his



Jean Collier, owner of Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore, assists a customer who is visiting from Calif. PHOTO BY JANICE **NEAL-VINCENT.**

schedule did not allow him to travel, his

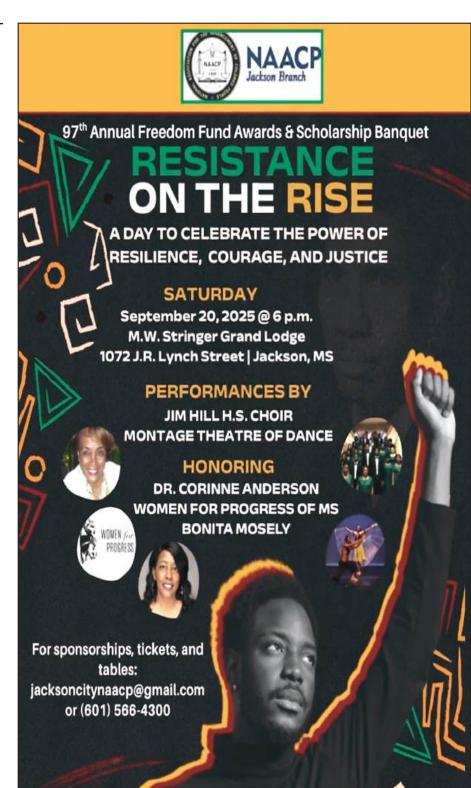
assistants would do so. Whether apparel; jewelry; paintings; luggage; health products; Egyptian and Afrikan artifacts; book bags; T-shirts and caps; Afrikan fabric; event space rental; books and documentaries, care was the objective for customer satisfaction.

On another note, Collier did not hesitate when she stated that Ajanaka refused to put his products in white stores. She added: "Whites can't tell us about our own culture. It's up to us to learn our history, to teach our history, to wear our own clothes, and to wear our natural hair."

Persons who are fascinated with Afrikan Art Gallery & Bookstore spend time there. Asinia Baba Lukata and Eddie James - instrumental enthusiasts - have been providing assistance for a number of years. Lukata works on the computer, does hangings, mentors youth, and works when Collier is away from the gallery. James, on the other hand, loves to hang out at the store and to pitch its significance for the community. "It has everything," he said, "for your Afrikan spiritual growth and development. When people come in the store, they'll have a better appreciation of Africa once they see what's in here."

"I'm from California, and I grew up in California, but I have relatives who live in Jackson. I've been coming to Afrikan Art Gallery since I was a kid. [Recently,] I saw the new location of the store next to WMPR. I like their clothes and other products," said the gentleman who is in Jackson on a

three-week vacation.



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Remembering and Reflecting on the Clinton Massacre of 1875



Singer (Janice McQuirter, Pleasant Green Baptist

Church (Clinton, MS) member

Yvonne Huddleston



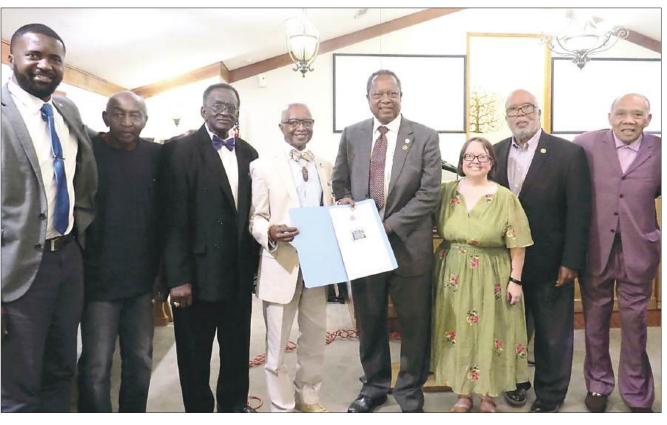
NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson comments on the event.



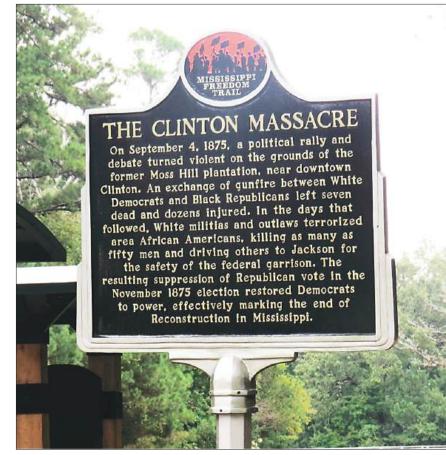
Portrait of Ex-Slave Sally Lee who reportedly witnessed the Clinton OF A VICTIM.



Massacre. PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES S ROBINSON, A CURRENT DESCENDANT



Joining in a photo opportunity after the presentation of the Mississippi Senate Resolution are Clinton Ward 6 Alderman James Lott, Deacon John Robinson, Deacon Chairman Kenneth R. Evans, Sen. Hillman Frazier, Mt. Hood Member and Hinds Co. Supervisor Tony Smith, MSU Associate Professor/Engagement Librarian & Commemoration Organizer Dee Dee Baldwin, U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, and Mt. Hood Associate Minister Larry Thompson.



Above a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker dedicated on Sept. 23, 2021. It is located on Northside Drive across the street from Federation Towers.



Sen. Hillman Frazier, Descendant James Robison, and U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thomp-



From left, Organizing Committee Member Sandra Robinson, Program Guide Ezra Price, and U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson





Members Hinds Co. Supervisor Tony Smith and Kristiana Johnson conduct the candle lighting in memory of the known and unknown Clinton Massacre victims.



Descendent of Massacre and Pleasant Green Baptist Church (Clinton, MS) member Deborah Hulitt Bradford displays various historical pieces.

Democratic prosecutor Scott Colom announces US Senate race in Mississippi

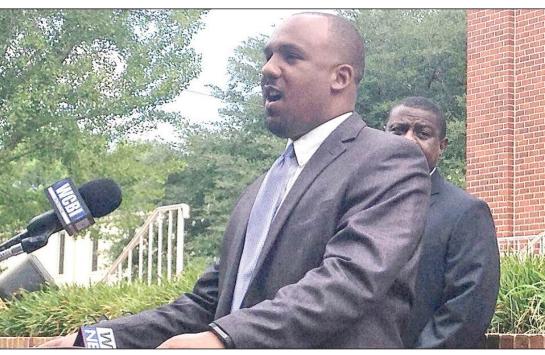
By Sophie Bates Associated Press

Scott Colom, a Democratic district attorney in Mississippi, is running for U.S. Senate, challenging incumbent Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith.

Colom announced his candidacy in a video last week that criticized Hyde-Smith for voting for President Donald Trump's 'big beautiful bill', a sprawling piece of legislation that included Medicaid cuts. tax breaks and new money for national defense and deporta-

"Her last vote is going to run up our debt, kick over 100,000 Mississippians off their healthcare and put our hospitals at risk all so billionaires in California and New York can get a tax break," Colom said of Hyde-Smith in his announcement video. "That's not who I

Colom also said he would fight to eliminate income taxes



for teachers and law enforcement and boost wages for Mis-

Colom joins the race alongside U.S. Army Veteran Ty

Pinkins, a former Democrat to the race and congratulate who announced he would be Senator Chuck Schumer and challenging Hyde-Smith as an national Democrats on their Independent earlier this year.

recruit," Nathan Calvert, the "We welcome Scott Colom communications director for

Hyde-Smith's campaign, said in a statement. "Make no mistake — Mississippians know the difference between conservative values that work and the liberal Biden/Colom policies that have failed us."

It is not the first time Colom and Hyde-Smith have clashed. In 2023, Hyde-Smith blocked President Joe Biden's nomination of Colom to a federal judgeship.

Hyde-Smith cited concerns about Colom's connection to George Soros, a New York billionaire who gave money to Mississippi Safety and Justice, a political action committee that supported Colom's 2015 race for district attorney. Soros did not contribute directly to Colom's campaign.

In an attempt to sway Hyde-Smith, Colom wrote to her that he did not request the funds from Soros and did not know the money would be contributed to his campaign.

She also criticized Colom for opposing "legislation to protect female athletes," after Colom signed a letter in June 2021 condemning efforts to criminalize gender-affirming care for transgender people.

Colom is running to flip a seat in a state where Republicans control all statewide offices and both chambers of the Legislature. Democrats have attempted to gain a foothold in the state in recent years. In 2023, Democrat Brandon Presley was narrowly defeated in a gubernatorial election by Gov. Tate Reeves, who received nearly 51 percent of the vote.

Colom is the district attorney in Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Clay and Noxubee counties. He is the first Black prosecutor in those counties, defeating the longtime incumbent Forrest Allgood in 2015. Colom was unopposed when he won a second term in 2019.

Northern Mississippi residents demand new electrical provider after years of city's negligence

By Alex Rozier Mississippi Today

After five hours in a courtroom where attendees struggled to find standing room, the Mississippi Public Service Commission voted to petition a judge to put the Holly Springs Utility Department into a receivership.

The PSC held the hearing Sept. 4 about a half hour drive west from Holly Springs in New Albany, known as "The Fair and Friendly City." Throughout the proceedings, members of the PSC, its consultants and Holly Springs officials emphasized there was no precedent for what was go-

The city of Holly Springs has provided electricity through a contract with the Tennessee Valley Authority since 1935. It serves about 12,000 customers, most of whom live outside the city limits. While current and past city officials say the utility's issues are a result of financial negligence over many years, the service failures hit a boiling point during a 2023 ice storm where customers saw outages that lasted roughly two weeks as well as power surges that broke their appliances.

Those living in the service area say those issues still occur periodically, in addition to infrequent and inaccurate

"I moved to Marshall County in 2020 as a place for retirement for my husband and I, and it's been a nightmare for five years," customer Monica Wright told the PSC at the hearing. "We've replaced every electronic device we own, every appliance, our well pump and our septic pumps. It has financially broke us.

"We're living on prayers and promises, and we need your help today," she said.

Another customer, Roscoe Sitgger of Michigan City, said he recently received a series of monthly bills between \$500

Following a scathing July report by Silverpoint Consulting that found Holly Springs is "incapable" of running the utility, the three-member PSC voted unanimously Sept. 4 to determine the city isn't providing "reasonably adequate service" to its customers. That language comes from a 2024 state bill that gave the commission authority to investigate the

The bill gives a pathway for temporarily removing the utility's control from the city, allowing the PSC to petition a chancery judge to place the department into the hands of a third party. The PSC voted

unanimously to do just that. The hearing gave the commission its first chance to direct official questions

at Holly Springs representatives. Newly elected Mayor Charles Terry, utility General Manager Wayne Jones and City Attorney John Keith Perry fielded an array of criticism from the PSC. In his rebuttal, Perry suggested that any solution whether a receivership or selling the utility — would take time to implement, and requested 24 months for the city to make incremental improvements. Audience members shouted, "No!" as Perry spoke.

"We are in a crisis now," responded Northern District Public Service Commissioner Chris Brown. "To try to turn the corner in incremental steps is going to be almost impossible."

It's unclear how much it would cost to fix the department's long list of ailments. In 2023, TVPPA — a nonprofit that represents TVA's local partners — estimated Holly Springs needs over \$10 million just to restore its rights-of-way, and as much as \$15 million to fix its substations. The department owes another \$10 million in debt to TVA as well as its contractors,

"The city is holding back the growth of the county," said Republican Sen. Neil Whaley of Potts Camp, who passionately criticized the Holly Springs officials sitting a few feet away. "You've got to do better, you've got to realize you're holding these people hostage, and it's not right and it's not fair... They are being represented by people who do not care about them as long as the bill is paid."

In determining next steps, Silverpoint Principal Stephanie Vavro told the PSC it may be hard to find someone willing to serve as receiver for the utility department, make significant investments and then hand the keys back to the city. The 2024 bill, Vavro said, doesn't limit options to a receivership, and alternatives could include condemning the utility or finding a nearby utility to buy the service

Answering questions from Central District Public Service Commissioner De'Keither Stamps, Vavro said it's unclear how much the department is worth, adding an engineer's study would be needed to come up with a number.

Terry, who reminded the PSC he's only been Holly Springs' mayor for just over 60 days, said there's no way the city can afford the repair costs on its own. The city's median income is about \$47,000, roughly \$8,000 less than the state's as a

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Gun used in Emmett Till's lynching is displayed in a museum 70 years after his murder



By Sophie Bates Associated Press

The gun used in the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till is now on display for the public to see, 70 years after the killing.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History unveiled the .45-caliber pistol and its holster during a news conference, that higlighted the 70th anniversary of Till's murder.

The gun belonged to John William "J.W." Milam who, alongside Roy Bryant, abducted Till from his great-uncle's home Aug. 28, 1955. The white men tortured and killed Till after the teenager was accused of whistling at a white woman in a rural Mississippi grocery store.

Till's body was later found in the Tallahatchie River. Bryant and Milam were charged with Till's murder, but they were acquitted by an all-white-male jury.

Deborah Watts, the co-founder and executive director of the Em-

mett Till Legacy Foundation and Till's cousin, said she has mixed emotions about the weapon being on display.

"It is an emotional day for us, and I just don't think that associating a murder weapon with the 70th anniversary is appropriate at this time," Watts said.

Watts wants Till's story to be preserved. However, she sees the weapon not as an artifact, but as a piece of evidence in a struggle for justice that is still ongoing.

According to a press release from MDAH, Wheeler Parker, another of Till's cousins, who was there when Till was kidnapped, is grateful to see the artifacts in a museum for the public to see.

"I think it's good because it brings closure," Parker was quoted as saying. "I hope you guys can find the ring and cotton gin. Thank you

for doing this." The gun was previously in the possession of a family in the Mississippi Delta, who donated it on the condition of anonymity. It will be displayed in the Emmett Till exhibit at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. The gun was authenticated using the serial number, which matched the one written in FBI re-

ports on Till's murder. Michael Morris, the director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History, said he hopes the anniversary will cause people to reflect on how Till's story has impacted soci-

etal progress. "To me, that's the legacy. It's not just his death. It's the way that he still finds a way to inspire folks to be the change that they want to see in the world," Morris said.

Till's murder was a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Thousands came to his funeral, and his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, insisted on an open casket so the country could see the gruesome state of her son's body.

The Game: What Black city gets the National Guard

By April Ryan Mississippi Today

"I refuse to pretend that any of this is normal," said Governor JB Pritzker (D-II) over the weekend, referring to President Trump's threat to send National Guard Troops to Chicago under what Pritzker called the "fake guise of fighting crime." Large-scale protests with scores of demonstrators took to the streets in cities like Washington, D.C., and Chicago over the weekend in efforts to push back on Trump's plans for National Guard troops in those

Trump is playing in an almost game-like fashion as he seems to determine which city deserves National Guard troops. While Baltimore and Chicago were on his lips earlier last week, New Orleans is



his latest pick. New Orleans Black Mayor LaToya Cantrell was recently indicted by a federal grand jury on charges including lying, conspiracy, and wire fraud. The Big Easy is located in the republican state of Louisiana. There have

been growing concerns that the president has been racially bullying cities with Black mayors with diverse populations in democratic states.

Los Angeles, California, was the first city to receive a convergence of National

Guard troops when the president declared an immigration crisis. A federal judge ruled that the administration's actions were illegal. Needless to say, Los Angeles is a diverse city with a Black mayor in a blue state. That same judge

ruled that the Trump administration violated the Posse Comitatus Act by using military personnel for domestic law enforcement functions, such as security patrols and crowd control.

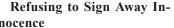
most National Guard troops in L.A., a small contingent has remained deployed, and California's governor continues to protest. Currently, Washington, DC, has troops, and more states are sending reinforcements as the city cooperates with federal efforts. Just thirty miles north, in a city Trump calls a "Hellhole," Baltimore's former mayor Kurt L. Schmoke told this reporter, "There is not a crime emergency in Baltimore." Schmoke, the President of the University of Baltimore, situated in the heart of Baltimore City, says that in the 1980s, when crime was worse, he had considered calling in the National Guard. However, the city's 47th mayor decided against it, considering Baltimore would always carry Since the demobilization of that negative stigma if he did.

'We are not losers yet'; Cosby talks prison life, **NBC**, and media erasure

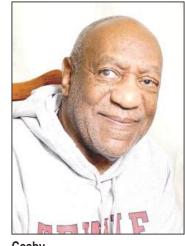
By Stacy M. Brown Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Bill Cosby said his widely criticized admonition that young Black men should "pull their pants up" was less about fashion and more about a system that profits from negative images of African Americans.

"But what was it they used to say? They not only did that, but what got a lot of attention was the shoes, the untied laces, and then the pants down around the crack. And if this is the attention, then it's something put towards you like they would put drugs into the neighborhood. They would lace the marijuana. They are putting us under siege," Cosby said during a candid interview on Black Press USA's "Let It Be Known." He tied those images directly to incarceration. "No prisoners had or were allowed to have their pants around the crack. No prisoners were allowed at Phoenix to go around with untied shoelaces," he said. "So, I just felt this was a move by people who didn't want to be tied up to have a picture. They would rather have a picture of a youth doing nothing, not studying, and having his pants lowered." The remarks came in Cosby's first wide-ranging interview about his prison experience, the long-standing NBC rumor, the media's portrayal of his life, and the erasure of Black history.



Cosby, famously known as "America's Dad," served nearly three years at Pennsylvania's SCI Phoenix following a 2018 conviction on an aggravated indecent assault charge. In June 2021, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that his trial and conviction were illegal, ordered his release, and barred any retrial. He said prosecutors offered him a way out — if he admitted guilt. "My lawyer came to me and said, the district attorney is offering you to sign a paper saying you did it, and that you would be, you wouldn't have to do prison time," Cosby stated. "And I told my lawyer to continue with the trial, don't stop the trial. I wasn't signing any papers or anything." Even in



prison, Cosby said, the same deal was dangled before him. "Sign the paper and go to these classes, and then we will let you go," he said. "Well, my signature would be in a sealed envelope, and nobody could open it. So anyway, it was all set up from way in the begin-

Life at Phoenix

Cosby recalled his first hours inside. "When I entered Phoenix for the first time, I could not see," he said. "And there were regulations such as taking off your clothes and switching to other things, and then the search for some things that you might have." He said he was kept alone at first. "I was by myself except for a guard or two around the area," he said. Later, he was moved onto a unit with "convicts who really and truly had done some things like murder, rape, and et cetera, et cetera." He described the food as barely edible. "It was just that the food was so salty, and it was just that the food appeared from, if you fixed it or it could be written how it's fixed, it wouldn't be healthy for human consumption," he said. Inside, Cosby also became a speaker at peer programs like "Mann Up" and "Men of Valor." Because the men talked so much about their faith and reverence of Jesus Christ, Cosby said, "As you leave this prison, whatever you go out and become... make Jesus smile."

The Release

Cosby described being asleep in his cell when word came. "A resident... said, Mr. Cosby, Mr. Cosby, you have to wake up. You can go home. You can go home," he said. A

white female officer with the rank of major came to push his wheelchair out. "I said, This is not like driving Miss Daisy. And she said, Who's Miss Daisy?" Cosby recalled. He said as he was wheeled down the corridor, he heard applause from two levels of cells. "It was enough to have all of these fellows clapping," he said.

The NBC Rumor

Cosby addressed the decades-old claim that his downfall stemmed from an attempt to buy NBC. "I have no evidence to that effect, and nothing comes up to it," he said. He recounted a Wall Street meeting with financiers that ended in rejection. "The reason for rejecting us for the loan was that they, the people loaning the money, didn't know anything about television," he said. Still, he said, the rumor consumed media attention. "Media was the most egregious because I have never been hassled so much in are you going to buy NBC?" Cosby said. He pointed to an article suggesting he would "hire his friends" if successful. "That gave me an idea of how these people were protecting things from, and I think it was a wink that this fellow was writing about... well, he's going to bring all his Black friends," he said.

Media Erasure and "The

Cosby Show" Cosby said there was a deliberate effort to erase his achievements. "I heard from a source that a person went on TV and said, let nothing good be said about Bill Cosby," he said. "From that point on, every source that I know of in the media only printed negative things." He defended the cultural impact of "The Cosby Show." "Media didn't like the fact that the Huxtables were that," he said. "They said they were rich, which they're not. That's middle income. He's a doctor, she's a lawyer. And they don't have a maid or a butler or anything like that." He recalled a moment when executives considered removing a small set detail. "It just said, abolish Apartheid," he said of the sign on Theo's door. "And somebody said to me, well, they want to take that sign

down. I said, if you do, you can

take the show with it."

The violence Trump claims to fear occurs mostly in red states

By Stacy M. Brown Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Donald Trump continues to attack cities and jurisdictions heavily populated by minorities, often painting them as crimeridden and unsafe despite evidence showing overall declines in many categories of crime. Nowhere is this tension clearer than in Washington, D.C., where residents face relentless scrutiny from Trump while red states — many with far less diversity — quietly struggle with some of the highest murder rates in the nation.

recorded the nation's highest murder rate in 2023 at 39 per 100,000 residents, with 265 murders. Despite local efforts to address violence, Trump routinely depicts the city as unlivable. To many residents, the greater tragedy is not just the crime itself but the reality that the capital of the United States now looks like an occupied third-world country, with National Guard and federal troops visibly stationed throughout the city. Washingtonians, who have already been denied full congressional representation, have become political pawns in Trump's rhetoric. What Trump avoids mentioning is that several Republican-led states top the list of the deadliest places. Loui-



siana had a murder rate of 14.5 per 100,000, recording 663 killings in 2023. New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas — all governed by Republicans The District of Columbia in recent years — also posted murder rates higher than 100,000 residents.

In Missouri, another GOP stronghold, the murder rate stood at 9.1 per 100,000 with 564 murders, disproportionately concentrated in cities like St. Louis and Kansas City. South Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia each ranked high, while Mississippi, often touted by conservatives as a bastion of "traditional values," has at times led the nation in murder rates. Meanwhile, states with larger minority populations that Trump targets — including Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Maryland often have lower murder rates than many of these red states. Illinois, home to Chicago, recorded a rate of 6.56 per 100,000,

below Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Critics argue this is no acci-

dent. Trump's fixation on minority-heavy jurisdictions is part of a long-standing strategy of scapegoating urban areas with large Black and Latino populations, while sidestepping the systemic problems facing states where his support is strongest. "Murders were far more common in [Mississippi] than they were nationwide," the World Population Review reported, with Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas following close behind. The report's numbers show that while Trump fixates on minority-heavy cities, the deadliest conditions are playing out in red states that rarely draw his attention. "Murders are disproportionately concentrated in urban areas, especially in New Orleans and Baton Rouge," the researchers

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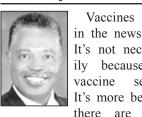
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Vaccines should remain in America's Healthcare System

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



in the news now. It's not necessarily because it's It's more because there are those

who want to take them out of our healthcare delivery system.

People like me who are part of the old school have been taking vaccines since childhood. It was simply a way of life. We called them "shots". We would go to the doctor's office, roll up our sleeves, cringe and have the

Some healthcare professionals would come to our school, and we could have them there

as well. The needles used today are much thinner than those used back in the day.

Upon reflection, the pre-hype about taking them was greater than the experience. I, along with my friends, bought into the angst and apprehension of getting the vaccines.

Getting the vaccines was a part of our school record. You couldn't attend school without them. And of course, that left us with no choice. Our parents certainly weren't going to keep us at home.

During the early days, we received vaccines for polio, tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and smallpox. As we understood it, the vaccines were for our protection. We never questioned our parents' wisdom

and decision-making.

I don't ever remember having any side effects or sickness because of these vaccines. We were always healthy. At most, we had arm soreness but that soon dissipated. There weren't any stories in our neighborhood about health problems and children because of these vaccines.

Another important vaccine was for the influenza virus. Records show that early on, the vaccine was primarily used for military personnel. Subsequently, it was used by everyone.

Each year there is a different vaccine given for this virus commonly referred to as the flu. I know people who take a flu shot every year. These shots are given at healthcare facilities and drug stores as well.

Some folks have chosen not to take a yearly flu shot. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approximately 43.1 percent of adults and 43.7 percent of children took the flu vaccine during the 2024 year and part of the 2025

So, many Americans are not taking this precaution. It is my opinion that people are selfmedicating and staying away from traditional vaccines. It will be interesting to see if this

Much has been said about Covid-19 which happened a few years ago. According to reports, 1 million Americans passed away in this country because of it. We all know someone whose life was cut short because of the

Coronavirus.

A vaccine was created which stemmed the tide of its spread. It was a lifesaver in my opinion. My family took the vaccine and thankfully we didn't suffer from it. Some people decided against taking this vaccine. Some are still with us while others aren't. Immune systems were compromised.

There have been debates about the effectiveness of this vaccine for Covid-19. Personally, I side with those who have a scientific background and can interpret the data.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been at the center of the vaccine discussion. Criticism and conjecture have been at his doorstep. The Secretary of Health and Human Services has been

challenged by both Democrats and Republicans.

Recently, Secretary Kennedy appeared before the Senate Finance Committee to discuss Covid-19. The record shows that he fired all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. He has replaced them with those who are aligned with his philosophies on healthcare and vaccines.

Senator Bill Cassidy, a Republican from Louisiana and member of the committee was troubled by the comments of Kennedy. Senator Cassidy is a medical doctor.

It is my thinking that the American people still want vaccines to be available. We want them and our children need

Chicago's streets still moving to America's historic rhythms

Bv Ben Jealous

People For the American Way



I started out this year, 2025, in Chicago, honored to give the Martin Luther King Day address at Reverend Jesse Jackson's big gathering.

The timing was unforgettable. As I stepped to the podium on the South Side, Donald Trump was taking the oath of office in Washington, D.C. His inaugural speech was a drumbeat for a new era of hostility toward immigrants and people of color. Mine, at that very moment, was a call for Chicago's Black middle class to choose solidarity with recent immigrants in resisting such hatred and violence.

That juxtaposition has stayed with me, and it came back into focus when I returned to Chicago more recently. This city has always been a stage for America's great struggles. From the marchers for labor rights at Haymarket in the 1880s, to the rallies for civil rights in the 1960s, to the immigration raids and protests of this year, Chicago has a way of putting our unfinished business right in front of

Walking its streets in 2025, I was reminded of the 1920s. Then, too, Chicago was alive with both promise and peril. Jazz poured from clubs in Bronzeville, poetry from the pens of the Harlem Renaissance, and industrial might from the stockyards. But alongside all that creativity came the sting of exclusion — Prohibition

raids, gangland violence, and the rise of a Ku Klux Klan that, for a time, had as many members in Indiana as in Mississippi.

A century later, the echoes are unmistakable. Today, Chicago is once again in the headlines as federal agents sweep through immigrant neighborhoods, as protests spill onto Lake Shore Drive, as tensions around race, belonging, and identity bubble to the surface. And just as in the 1920s, the people in the streets are not simply "angry mobs" as the headlines often portray them. They are families fighting to be seen, communities demanding dignity, and young people refusing to inherit a broken

This is part of a longer American rhythm. Our centuries often rhyme decade by decade. The 1820s, for example, saw Andrew Jackson's populist movement rise to power. It promised more democracy for white men, but it also unleashed brutal racism. Jackson's appeal rested on dispossessing Native Americans through forced removal and fanning hostility toward Mexicans and free Black people. That brand of populism was intoxicating for some, but devastating for others. A hundred years later, the 1920s played a similar tune: new cultural freedoms for some, paired with an immigration crackdown and a Klan resurgence. And here we are, in the 2020s, facing our own battles over who truly belongs.

It is tempting to despair — to think the cycle means we are trapped. But

history shows something else. The "20s" are turbulent, but they force the country to face its contradictions. The "30s" bring reckonings, the "40s" wars of ideas and arms, the "50s" fresh anxieties, the "60s" bursts of reform. And the "70s"? Oddly enough, the "70s" tend to be the decades when the nation exhales and reimagines itself.

The 1770s gave us the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights — life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The 1970s saw the end of the Vietnam War, the fall of Jim Crow, and the rise of new movements for women's rights, environmental protection, and inclusion. If the pattern holds, the 2070s could be the moment when our grandchildren inherit a democracy closer to the promise in our founding

Each American century moves to a similar rhythm. The "20s" are always turbulent — testing our patience and our faith. But they also call forth courage, creativity, and the determination to build something better.

As I tell my son, all the rising generations must do is make sure American democracy survives to the 2070s. After all, in America, the "70s" tend to be much better than the "20s."

Ben Jealous is professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP.

Does your house need a renovation?

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



One of me and my husband's favorite networks to watch is HGTV. I know it sounds monotonous. However, it is refreshing to see couples and

families purchase their dream/vacation/forever home, etc. And it is a date night for us! In fact, my husband, Big Daddy records these shows weekly, so that we can view at our convenience and oh how convenient it is to skip the long commercials. Who wants to wait and see what house a couple/ family chooses – I know who doesn't. Anyways back to our HGTV View List - we love watching the following: House Hunters, Forever Home, and last but certainly not least, one of my favorites, 100 Day Dream Home with Brian and Mika Kleinschmidt.

Although, we love all the shows I mentioned above, I believe my absolute favorite HGTV show types are ones that centers around house renovations I am referring to shows like Hometown with the sweet couple, the Napiers of Laurel, MS, Forever Home, Married to Real Estate - Mike and Egypt – yes, I am still grieving about the cancellation of their show, Fixer to Fabulous, Help I Wrecked My House, etc. These shows focus exclusively on couples/families renovating their houses for the following reasons: add value, accommodate the family needs, enhance the appearance, improve efficiency, etc. In other words, they don't choose to buy a new home or move into someone's else's home - they invest in making their home work for

Just like physical renovations of a home - families must work together to renovate their homes spiritually. What do you do when your home need a facelift, whether on the interior or exterior? Do you burn your house down? Do you give your home away? Do you bulldoze your home? Do you move in with someone else like Sister Cheeks (Proverbs states that this strange woman, Sister Cheeks house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death)? Do you abandon your home? Do you ignore the issues and hope they fixed themselves? The obvious answer should be no.

What do you do when your home is emotionally and mentally broken, dysfunctional, chaotic, and disorderly? You ask God who is, the greatest restorer to fix your house and give you strategies on how to spiritually reno-How do you know that your house

needs spiritual renovation? The following are indicators of a house that needs spiritual renovation:

- God is not top priority wealth is, status is, education is, etc. – what does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul?
 - Contention Silence

 Arguments Unresolved hurts & offenses

- Unforgiveness
- · Little to no laughter
- Little to no communication
- · Eating in separate areas at different times - if you can - gather at the family table at least once a week
 - · Sadness/Loneliness (empty house) • Feel drained/hopeless/tormented
 - Dread being at home
 - Sleeping in separate rooms
- for the bag! · Little to no affection/intimacy

• Living separate lives – only in it

- · Get more peace in the grocery
- store than you do at home • It's cold – the thrill is gone! How do you spiritually renovate
- your home? · Acknowledge that your home
- needs spiritual renovation • Have a family meeting(s) – create
- a comfortable, safe, and none judge mental space to communicate -let your spouse and children freely express themselves as needed
- Communicate about what is wrong should start with parents first. One of my favorite scriptures - Confess your faults (individual faults) one to another and pray for one another that you may be healed – healing can't successfully take place without confess-
- · Allow love to cover a multitude of faults
- · Hold each other accountable don't be an enabler - correct the wrong but correct it in a Godly manner
- · Pray without ceasing for your marriage and family
- Pray/attend church together
- · Have fun fellowships with each
- other • Forgive
 - Love

family away!

• Be grateful for the family that God gave you - many are not as blessed to have a family, and many are praying for a good family - don't give your

In conclusion, please don't get me wrong, there are times that the cost of renovating a home can exceed the value of a home, meaning you may need to sell, bulldoze it, etc. I truly believe that God does not want people in miserable marriages but dismantle your marriage the right way legally and spiritually. And sometimes some marriages need to die in order for it to live again; can make for beautiful marriages. Does your house need a renovation? If so, you both must be willing to fight for your marriage and turn your house into a home!

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

Congress should do a discharge petition on RFK., Jr.

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



If the House of Representatives can use the Discharge Petition as a legislative matter to bring the matter of the Epstein papers to the floor of the House

for a recorded vote, then certainly Congress should be able to introduce legislation calling for the removal of RFK. Jr. without the President's permission for the safety of the country.

As in the Epstein case, such a vote would require 218 signatures meaning all the Democrats and some cross over Republicans. This would force Speaker Mike Johnson to bring the matter before the full House for a vote and it would put every member on record in terms of

whether they will finally do their duty as elected representatives of the American people and not just the President whose only allegiance appear as we witness the destruction of the Center For Disease

Control (CDC) where we are reminded of the more than 1.2 million deaths we suffered in this country

under COV 19. We also know how effective the vaccines have been in

saving lives. If we the people can see the harm that Health and Human Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is doing, both here and abroad, surely the members of Congress can see the clear and present danger he has become to healthcare. Even the Kennedy family is calling for his resigna-

Again, it is our job as the Black Press and trusted messenger, to keep the American people not only aware of our options, but to shine a spotlight on the failure of elected representatives to uphold their oath of office.

For every action taken by Donald Trump against the Constitution of the United States, there should be legislation introduced in the Congress by

the Democrats calling for the use of the Discharge Petition to force every member to either sign it and bring the matters before the whole House for a vote or their failure to do so signaling support for Donald Trump's agenda over their sworn oath of office as members of the Congress.

The voting people living in the congressional districts of those who don't sign, should be looking for new people to replace the ones who chose Trump over the people who elected

All of this while we still pray according to 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

If we are going to survive this attack from within our Democracy and our way of life. Let's pray and act on our prayers.

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, October 7, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHED-ULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING PORTION OF NORTHVIEW DRIVE (HART-FIELD STREET TO EAST MAYES STREET) TO "MARTIN L. SHIELDS, JR. MEMO-

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, HONORARY RENAMING THE PORTION OF NORTHVIEW DRIVE FROM HARTFIELD STREET TO EAST MAYES STREET AS "MARTIN L. SHIELDS, JR. MEMORIAL WAY" IN HONOR OF FALLEN DEPUTY SERGEANT MARTIN L. SHIELDS. JR. (PARKINSON)

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Jackson Office of Housing and Community Development is issuing this notice to solicit qualifications from Contractors/General Contractors to create an "Ap-proved Contractor List". The Approved Contractor List will be used to solicit sealed bids for all housing construction/ rehabilitation activities associated with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME)

Contractors or General Contractors with demonstrated experience in housing construction/rehabilitation projects and are interested in making their services available to the City of Jackson are invited to respond to this RFQ. "Respondents" means the companies or individuals that submit proposals in response to this RFQ. It is understood that the selected Respondent, acting as an individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, is state-licensed, certified, and capable of providing the specified

Contractors or general Contractors interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson three (3) copies of a Statement of Qualification Packet, which should consist of the following:

1.License and Certifications for all individual contractors and or members of the company submitting forthe RFQ

2.A copy of your Privilege License

Certificate of Liability

4.A copy of your City Master Trade License (if applicable)

5. A copy of your business information from the Secretary of State showing your business is in goodstanding

6.MSBOC License

7.Contractor's Bond

8.SAMS Number

Must have a City-issued Master License for your Trade

10.A description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies theconsultant for this work; the cost and schedule completion (or actual completion) of this work withproject owners reference contact information.

The City will evaluate the Statements of Qualification based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance. Contractors who satisfactorily meet the criteria will be placed on the Approved Contractors List

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

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

9/11/2025, 9/18/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ES-TABLISHING THE HONORARY RENAMING OF HIGH STREET (FROM PRESIDENT STREET TO WEST STREET) TO SENATOR JOHNNIE E. WALLS, JR. DRIVE.

WHEREAS, a giant endowed with good judgment, veracity and dedication to public service, Senator Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. was born in Clarksdale, MS to parents, Johnnie E. Walls, Sr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Barron Walls; and

WHEREAS, he is a graduate of Jackson State University and the University of MS School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walls was former Bolivar County Circuit Judge from 2011- 2016;

state senator representing District 12, Bolivar and Washington counties, 1992-2011; chair of the state Democratic Party for two terms; and

WHEREAS, according to the Democratic Party, "he served with fairness and distinction" and is "recognized for his fierce advocacy and commitment to the law;" and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Jackson that this distinguished citizen and state leader be honored with this honorary street designation in his honor

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

SECTION 1. That High Street from President Street to West Street be honorary renamed to Senator Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. Drive

SECTION 2. That the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Director of the Mississippi State Highway Department.

SECTION 3: That the City engineer is hereby authorized and directed to make appropriate revision to the official map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to reflect the

official renaming of said street.

SECTION 4: That the City Clerk shall notify the United States Postal Service, Public Safety Communication Division, and other appropriate City departments, and all other

necessary parties of the official renaming of said street.

Vice President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

Yeas – Banks, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lindsay and Stokes. Nays – None.

Absent - None ATTEST:

Angela Harris

Municipal Clerk

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting June 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September,

LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that minority and women business enaged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director Office of Transportation

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

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING THE HONORARY RENAMING OF PILLARS COURT (FROM LUDLOW AVENUE TO PILLARS COURT) TO MRS. OLIVIA **BROACH DRIVE.**

WHEREAS, the vibrant, mature, and neighborhood pillar, Mrs. Olivia Broach, is a lifelong resident of the Georgetown community in Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Broach loyally served for twenty-eight years at the Baptist Medical Center, retiring in 1995; during her tenure she was bestowed the perfect attendance award; she proved to be an industrious, passionate, reliable and responsible em-

WHEREAS, she has six children, ten grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and her furry child, Daisy; there are many for whom she is "Mother"; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Jackson that this distinguished citizen and community resident be honored with this honorary street designation in her honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED: SECTION 1. That Pillars Court from Ludlow Avenue to Pillars Court be honorary

renamed to Mrs. Olivia Broach Drive SECTION 2. That the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Ordinance to

the Director of the Mississippi State Highway Department. SECTION 3: That the City engineer is hereby authorized and directed to make ap-

propriate revision to the official map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to reflect the official renaming of said street. SECTION 4: That the City Clerk shall notify the United States Postal Service, Public

Safety Communication Division, and other appropriate City departments, and all other necessary parties of the official renaming of said street.

Vice President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

Yeas - Banks, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lindsay and Stokes. Navs - None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

Absent - None

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting June 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pg. 637".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 2-36 AND 2-191 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE THE MAYOR AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SALARIES.

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Annotated Section 21-8-21(2) provides, "the salary of the mayor, councilmen and all employees of such municipality shall be paid at such periods as may be fixed by the council, but not less frequently than once a month; however, no salaries or wages shall be paid to any officer or employee of such municipality until after the same shall have been earned. Every officer or employee of the municipality shall receive such a salary of compensation as the council shall by ordinance provide, and the salary compensation of all employees of such municipality shall be fixed by the council from time to time, as occasion may demand;" and

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Annotated Section 21-8-21(1) provides, "any increases or decreases in the salary for the mayor or councilmen may be authorized by the council at any time prior to ninety (90) days before the next general election for the selection of municipal officers. Such increases or decreases shall not become effective until the next elected mayor and council takes office;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson Councilmembers propose to amend the City of Jackson Ordinances as follows:

Sec. 2-191. - Powers and duties; salary.

(a) The mayor of the city shall perform those duties specified by the general laws of the

(b) The salary of the mayor shall be \$60,000.00 per annum.

the next elected mayor takes office in July 2001; the mayor's salary shall increase as follows: The salary of the mayor shall be \$120,000.00 per annum.

(c) From and after the next general election of municipal officers to be in the year 2001 and

(b) From and after the next general election of municipal officers to be in the year 2025 and the next elected mayor takes office in July 2029, the mayor's salary shall increase as follows:

The salary of the mayor shall be \$150,000.00 per annum.

Sec. 2-36. - Members' duties; salary.

(a) Members duties; salaries. Each member of the council is empowered to perform the duties specified by the general laws of the state. The salary of each member of the council shall be \$15,000,00 per annum, except that the council member serving as president of the council shall receive an additional \$2,000.00 per annum, prorated to reflect the length of the

(b) From and after the next general election of municipal officers to be held in the year 2001 and the next elected council takes office in July 2001, each members' shall increase as The salary of each member of the council shall be \$25,000.00 per annum, except that the

council member serving as president of the council shall receive an additional \$2,000.00 per

annum, prorated to reflect the length of the member's term of office.

(b) From and after the next general election of municipal officers to be held in the year 2029 and the next elected council takes office in July 2029, each members' shall increase as

The salary of each member of the council shall be \$40,000.00 per annum, except that the council member serving as president of the council shall receive an additional \$2,000.00 per annum, prorated to reflect the length of the member's term of office.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson members of the Council find good cause, including increases to cost-of-living, inflation, and that the last salary increase was in 2001, to increase the salary of the Mayor to \$150,000.00, per annum; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson members of the Council find good cause, including increases to cost-of-living, inflation, and that the last salary increase was in 2001, to increase the salary of the Council members to \$40,000.00, per annum.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED as follows: That Section 2-191 of the City of Jackson Code

of Ordinances shall increase the Mayor's salary to \$150,000.00 per annum beginning when the next elected mayor takes office in July 2029. FURTHER, BE IT ORDANED as follows: That Section 2-36 of the City of Jackson Code of

Ordinances shall increase each Councilmember's salary to \$40,000.00 per annum beginning when the next elected council takes office in July 2029.

Vice President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded. Yeas - Banks, Clay, Grizzell, Hartley and Lindsay.

Navs - Foote. Abstention - Stokes. Absent - None.

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting June 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 709-712".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

9/11/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING THE HONORARY RENAMING OF THE BLOCK BOUNDED BY CARLISLE WHITWORTH, FORTIFICATION AND MONROE STREETS TO BILL MC-CARTY SQUARE.

WHEREAS, Bill McCarty III has served with dedication and passion as a volunteer for more than 50 years, as a generous donor and as the General Manager, without compensation, of The New Stage Theatre for the past 24 years; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and thriving arts scene and enriching our community through the performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCarty is the top financial donor, has established a \$1.6 million endowment at the Community Foundation for Mississippi, has provided the financial match for multiple grants including the most recent Building Fund Grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, and was instrumental in paying off the mortgage for New Stage Theatre during the 40th anniversary season: and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts have fostered creativity, provided countless opportunities for local youth and adult talent, provided free housing to guest artists and enhanced the cultural landscape of our city; and

WHEREAS, Bill McCarty III's passion for the arts, unwavering dedication and leadership have transformed the New Stage Theatre into a treasured part of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson wishes to express its profound gratitude and admiration for Bill McCarty, III's outstanding contributions. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Jackson City Council hereby designates the

block bounded by Carlisle, Whitworth, Fortification and Monroe Streets to Bill McCarty

Square in honor of Bill McCarty III's remarkable contribution to the arts and the community. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this honorary designation serve as a lasting tribute to Bill McCarty, III.

Vice President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

Yeas - Banks, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lindsay and Stokes.

Nays - None. Absent - None ATTEST:

Angela Harris

9/11/2025

and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting June 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 637-638".

9/11/2025

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th biday of September, 2025

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

9/11/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON MISSISSIPPI PROHIBITING INDIVIDUALS FROM ENTERING, APPEARING IN, OR BEING PRES-ENT IN ANY OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACE WITHIN THE CITY WHILE WEARING A MASK, AS DEFINED IN SECTION (A) OF THE ORDI-NANCE.

WHEREAS, in June 2024, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy declared that gun violence is a public health crisis that has led to loss of life, unimaginable pain. and profound grief in our country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of all its residents and recognizes that gun violence represents an urgent public health crisis affecting our community; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2024 to July 13, 2025, 137 City of Jackson residents have become criminal homicide victims within the City of Jackson limits, the vast majority by firearm; and

WHEREAS, from January 1, 2024 to July 13, 2025, 563 Aggravated Assaults have occurred in the City of Jackson. This number underscores the ongoing and profound impact of gun violence in our community with wide-reaching implications for both public health and our community; and

WHEREAS, as of the calendar year 2023, FBI national statistics state that robbery subsets point to 15-20% of offenders wear masks to avoid cameras and facial rec-

WHEREAS, likewise, the City of Jackson Police Department (JPD) has observed the increasing use of masks by suspects in violent crimes to obscure their identities when committing violent acts against the City's residents; and

WHEREAS, a review of JPD's incident report narratives from April 01, 2025 through July 13, 2025 indicates approximately a 1% use or modus operandi of mask wearing

WHEREAS, JPD officers have reported consistent increases in individuals threatening, attempting to commit violent crimes, and committing violent crimes while wearing masks, masking, or other facial coverings to conceal their identities from the public from JPD and from facial recognition software; and

WHEREAS, violent crime prevention and safety in public spaces are top priorities for JPD, and JPD's public safety strategy to address violence includes increasing ways to identify suspects of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of JPD to provide training on best practices on all policies, including enforcement of a mask ordinance; and

WHEREAS, JPD's documentation of all stops and citations is key to ensuring transparency and oversight; and

WHEREAS, it is also critically important that individuals face no barriers to wearing masks for the protection of their health and the health of others, for purposes of religious expression, or to participate in holiday, cultural or celebratory events at which masks are customarily worn, among other valid purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is dedicated to enforcing this ordinance fairly and equitably such that individuals are not stopped or detained for wearing a mask in the absence of a totality of circumstances that would create a reasonable articulable suspicion of a violation of law

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Prohibition of Wearing of Masks.

(A) Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

MASK. Any face covering mask, device or hood whereby any portion of the face is so hidden or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer.

PUBLIC PLACE. All walks, alleys, boulevards, avenues, lanes, roads, highways or other ways or thoroughfares dedicated to public use or owned or maintained by a public authority; all outdoor grounds and buildings owned, leased by, operated or

maintained by a public authority. (B) Wearing of mask in a public place. No person shall, while wearing any mask as defined in subsection (A) of this section, enter, be present, or appear in any outdoor

(C) Exemptions. The following are exempted from the provisions of subsection (B)

Any person under 14 years of age;

Any person 60 years of age or older;

public place within the City of Jackson

Any person wearing a mask for health and safety reasons, including but not limited to the prevention of illness, protection of respiratory health, protection from environmental hazards including weather, or by order of a public authority;

Any person wearing a mask due to participation in a celebratory, holiday, recreational, or cultural event, including parades, festivals, theatrical productions, and sporting events, where masks are customarily worn;

is worn for the purpose of ensuring the physical safety of the wearer or because of the nature of the occupation, trade or professional or sporting activity

Any person wearing a gas mask in drills, exercises, or emergencies

Any person engaging in an activity such that the wearing of the mask is protected by the Constitution of the State of Mississippi or the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the free exercise of religion.

(D) Limitation on enforcement. Peace officers shall not stop or detain an individual solely on the basis that they are wearing a mask.

(1) Violation of this ordinance is punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or up to ninety (90) days confinement, or both.

(2) If the Court finds that the violator was committing or attempting to commit a crime of violence as defined by the State of Mississippi while in violation of this ordinance, the penalty is increased to a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or up to six (6) months in jail, or both.

SECTION 3. Conflicts.

All ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 4 Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable, and if any section. sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance but they shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

SECTION 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval or otherwise becoming law.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Council Member Brown-Thomas seconded.

Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.

Absent - None

ATTEST: Angela Harris

Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of

records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting August 12, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 1141-1143".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September, 2025.

9/11/2025

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 118-595 OF THE CITY OF JACK-SON CODE OF ORDINANCES, NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROCEDURE.

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Procedure was established to provide a procedure to consider, evaluate, implement and remove traffic calming measures on residential streets in the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, following an amendment to the Ordinance that created the Traffic Calming Committee as a subcommittee of the Planning Board, seven members were appointed to the subcommittee and it has conducted regular monthly meetings, adopted by-laws, familiarized itself with the requirements of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Procedure Ordinance, and authorized one, self-funded, traffic calming proposal to move forward to the stage of collecting signatures for its Petition; and

WHEREAS, in the course of discussing the petition stage of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Procedure, members of the subcommittee questioned the efficacy of requiring that seventy-six percent (76%) of the affected property owners sign the petition for traffic calming; and

where there is a high proportion of rental property, particularly where the property owner lives out-of-state, requiring a threshold of 76% might be unattainable; and WHEREAS, an interested neighborhood leader presented information on the thresh-

WHEREAS, members of the subcommittee express concern that in some instances

old recommended by professionals and regulators, and the threshold adopted in other cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, some information provided to the subcommittee was as follows:

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recommends a two-thirds (66.7%) approval from impacted petition respondents. The Federal Highway Administration encourages localities to tailor thresholds to com-

munity needs but acknowledge that 60% support is common and reasonable. 60% allows for both consensus and equity—ensuring that those most affected have a real voice, without requiring near-unanimity, which can stall safety interventions.

WHEREAS, some of the City's adopting a threshold of sixty percent (60%) to enact

traffic calming were as follows: Des Moines, Iowa; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Joplin, Mis-

souri; Lakesite, Tennessee; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Bristol, Rhode Island; WHEREAS, based on the information it received and discussion of the issue, the subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the Neighbor

Traffic Calm Procedure Ordinance be amended to reduce the threshold for signatures

WHEREAS, based on the unanimous vote of the Traffic Calming Committee, it is proposed that the threshold for the percentage affect property owners be reduced to sixty percent (60%) by amending section 118-595 of the Code of Ordinances as follows:

of affected property owners to sixty percent (60%); and

Sec. 118-595.

A traffic calming study shall be considered upon receipt by the traffic calming committee of a petition signed by the property owners of at least sixty percent (60%) of the dwelling units in the area affected by the requested traffic calming. In the instance that a traffic calming device is proposed at the intersection of two streets, the signature requirement shall apply to all intersecting street blocks. In addition to the required signatures, the petition shall identify the traffic problems to be remedied and goals to be achieved through traffic calming and the suggested traffic calming devices to

THEREFORE. BE IT ORDAINED as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 118-595 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

A traffic calming study shall be considered upon receipt by the traffic calming committee of a petition signed by the property owners of at least sixty percent (60%) of the dwelling units in the area affected by the requested traffic calming. In the instance that a traffic calming device is proposed at the intersection of two streets, the signature requirement shall apply to all intersecting street blocks. In addition to the required signatures, the petition shall identify the traffic problems to be remedied and goals to be achieved through traffic calming and the suggested traffic calming devices to

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after passage.

SECTION 5. The Municipal Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be publish.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Council Member Brown-Thomas seconded.

Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson. Absent - Stokes

ATTEST:

I. Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting July 15, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 938-939"

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September, 2025

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

9/11/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14, DIVISION 5, SECTION 106-178 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING, TO ESTABLISH VEHICLE SEIZURE, MANDATORY JAIL TIME, AND ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson has a vested interest in ensuring the cleanliness and well-being of its environment by addressing issues related to litter and illegal dump-

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson seeks to further deter and eliminate illegal dumping and protect the public health, safety, and environment of its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to implement stronger measures to protect our environment

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson desires to implement stricter penalties, including the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles used in dumping, mandatory jail time, and enhanced enforcement authority to hold offenders accountable and mitigate the costs of envi-

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

Chapter 14, Division 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to include the following in section 106-178:

In addition to any fines, community service requirements, or court-ordered restitution imposed under existing City of Jackson ordinances addressing litter and illegal dumping shall be enforced:

Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture:

Jackson and may be forfeited and liquidated by the City to provide restitution for the environmental damage and costs associated with cleanup and enforcement. Mandatory Jail Time:

Any motor vehicle used in the act of illegal dumping shall be considered prima facie

evidence of the crime. The vehicle shall be subject to immediate seizure by the City of

Any individual found guilty of illegal dumping shall be sentenced to thirty-two (32) days in jail, in addition to any other penalties provided by law. The jail sentence shall not be suspended or reduced, except in cases of proven hardship or upon the order of the municipal court following a formal hearing

Notice and Enforcement:

enforce this section. Officers may impound any vehicle suspected to have been used in the commission of a dumping offense pending investigation and adjudication. All actions shall be in accordance with due process and applicable state law Clerk and Municipal Court Authority:

The Clerk of Court and the Jackson Municipal Court shall be authorized to maintain

a public record of all vehicles seized and forfeited under this ordinance and shall

coordinate with the appropriate city departments to ensure the lawful disposition of

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes

Absent - None ATTEST:

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting August 12, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 1144-1145".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 8th day of September, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

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LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING DITT. INC. — JARVIS ROBERTS A REZONING FROM I-1 (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO 1-2 (HEAVY) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1966 COUNTRY CLUB DR. (PARCEL 807-15) TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION AND GROWTH OF A TOWING AND RECOVERY BUSINESS, CASE NO. 4294.

WHEREAS, DITT, Inc. — Jarvis Roberts has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 1966 Country Club Dr. (Parcel 807-15), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the operation and growth of a towing and recovery business; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the operation and growth of a towing and recovery

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2025 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on June 5, 2025 and June 19, 2025 that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on June 25, 2025, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practices and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON,

SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows

Tract One (from deed in Book 2214 page 454)

A parcel of land situated in the NE IA of Section 24, T6N, R1 W, Hinds County, Mississippi. and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the line between the above mentioned Section 24, T6N, R1 W, and Section 19, T6N, R1 E, with the south right of way line of West Northside Drive; thence run westerly along the south right of way line 1303.8 feet to the intersection of said south right of way line of West Northside Drive and the east right of way line of Country Club Drive; thence turn left 90 degrees 30 minutes 35 seconds and run southerly along the said east right of way line of Country Club Drive, 360.82 feet to the point of beginning, thence leaving said east right of way line turn left 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run easterly 800 feet; thence turn right 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run southerly 435 feet; thence turn right 80 degrees 31 minutes 45 seconds and run westerly 800 feet to a point on the aforementioned east right of way line of Country Club Drive; thence turn right 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run northerly along said east right of way line 435 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract Two (parcel one from deed in Book 2256 Page 547)

A parcel of land situated in the NE 1/4 of Section 24, T6N, R1W, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the line between the above mentioned Section 24, T6N, R1W, and Section 19, T6N, R1E, with the south right of way line of West Northside Drive; thence run westerly along the south right of way line 1303.8 feet to the intersection of said south right of way line of West Northside Drive and the east right of way line of Country Club Drive; thence turn left 90 degrees 30 minutes 35 seconds and run southerly along the said east right of way line of Country Club Drive, 360.82 feet; thence left 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run Easterly 800.0 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue Easterly along last mentioned call 502.3 feet; thence right 89 degrees 22 minutes 57 seconds and run Southerly 436.15 feet; thence right 90 degrees 37 minutes 03 seconds and run Westerly 503.36 feet; thence right 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run Northerly 435.0 feet to the point of beginning, containing 5.03 acres.

Tract three (parcel two from deed in Book 2256 Page 547)

A parcel of land situated in the NE 1/4 of NE 'A of Section 24, T6N, R1W, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

R1W, and Section 19, T6N, R1E, with the south right of way line of West Northside Drive; thence run westerly along the south right of way line 453.8 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue westerly along last mentioned call 50.0 feet; thence left 90 degrees 30 minutes 35 seconds and run southerly 361.55 feet; thence left 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run easterly 50.0 feet; thence left 90 degrees 31 minutes 45 seconds and run northerly 361.61 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.42 acres.

Tract Four (from deed in Book 2238 Page 552)

A parcel of land situated in the NE 1/4 of Section 24, T6N, RIW, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the line between the above mentioned Section 24, T6N, RIW, and Section 19, T6N, R1E, with the south right of way line of West Northside Drive; thence run westerly along the south right of way line 1303.8 feet to the intersection of said south right of way line of West Northside Drive and the east right of way line of Country Club Drive; thence turn left 90 degrees 30 minutes 35 seconds and run southerly along the said east right of way line of Country Club Drive, 795.82 feet to the point of beginning: thence leaving said East right of way line turn left 89 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds and run Easterly 1303.36 feet; thence turn right 89 degrees 22 minutes 57 seconds and run Southerly 14.23 feet to the West right of way of interstate Highway 220; thence right 35 degrees 44 minutes and run Southwesterly along the chord of a curve bearing to the left having a delta angle of 50 degrees 50 minutes and a radius of 3333.10 feet, for a chord distance of 80.27 feet; thence leaving said right of way; thence right 54 degrees 53 minutes 03 seconds and run Westerly 1256.4 feet; thence right 89 degrees 20 minutes 15 seconds and run Northerly along the East right of way of Country Club Drive for a distance of 80.0 feet to the point of beginning, is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 1966 Country Club Dr. (Parcel 807-15) from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to 1-2 (Heavy) Industrial District to allow for the operation and growth of a towing and recovery business. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Parkinson seconded

Yeas — Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson. Nays — None. Absent — Clay and Stokes.

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting July 28 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 955-957"

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 3rd day of September, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

9/11/2025

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO UNKNOWN HEIRS IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILSON F. DILLON, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. 25CH1:25-cv-00830

Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF HINDS

TO: All known and unknown heirs of Wilson F. Dillon, deceased, whose names, residences. and addresses are unknown after diligent inquiry: You have been made Defendants in the suit filed in this Court by the Petitioner, seeking a

judicial determination of the heirs at law of Wilson F. Dillon, deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the Petition filed in this action at 316 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, in the courtroom of the Chancery Court of Hinds County, before the Honorable Chancellor on the 9th day of October, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., to show cause, if any you can, why the relief requested should not be granted.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading, but you may do so if you desire. In case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the ___ day of __

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SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2025

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • 11

Falling in love with laughter

By Shewanda Riley



Before could stop it from happening, I was already on my side on the floor and unable to move for a few minto roll over and get up.

utes. It was actually probably just a few seconds, but the stunned looks on my students' faces made it seem much longer. I left like a California Redwood tree as I was falling and like I should have been yelling, "Timber!" What was the "it?" I fell on my side in front of a college class that I was teaching a number of years ago.

Because I fell on my left side, I couldn't easily maneuver my body so I could sit up. And because the loose strings on my boots kept my feet twisted together, I couldn't even attempt to

stand up. Because my skirt was so long, they didn't know that I couldn't stand up since they couldn't see my legs. My students didn't know if they should help me or if they would get in trouble if they laughed at me. So, they did neither and kept staring at me as I struggled

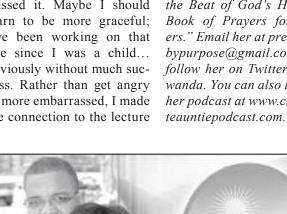
One student got over her shock and quickly assisted me in getting up; she even offered me a chair to sit in so I could finish teaching class without hurting myself. My now wounded body and pride wouldn't let me sit in the chair. By the time class was over, I regretted hastily pushing the chair back into the corner since both my upper arm and back were starting to throb with pain.

From that point until the end of class, every time I moved during the lecture, I could feel the students watching to make sure I didn't fall again. It was a little awkward in the classroom as I tried to finish teaching about learning from examples in our everyday lives. I ended up telling them that it was okay for them to laugh and we had a quick 2-minute laugh break which we all needed.

Finally, we were able to finish class but not before the topic of my fall came up a few more times. As they filed out of the room when the class was over, a few jokingly told me to be careful going home; one male student even apologized for laughing at me.

If there was a deeper spiritual lesson, I may have missed it. Maybe I should learn to be more graceful; I've been working on that one since I was a child... obviously without much success. Rather than get angry or more embarrassed, I made the connection to the lecture topic of learning from reallife examples. Without trying, it seems like I'd given them a real-life example of trying to learn how not to die of embarrassment. As I've gotten older, I have also learned to laugh more at myself and my many failings. Proverbs 17:22 teaches an important lesson that laughter is sometimes the best medicine when it says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine...."

Shewanda Riley (Aunt Wanda), PhD, 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. You can also listen to her podcast at www.chocola-





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Chauncy L. Jordan





Laura Story shares how surrendering to God is a form of worship, and the real secret to joy - a joy that's never threatened by circumstances

By Laura Story **Author**

My first real job—if you don't count a few summer stints in food service—was leading worship in a local church. My church needed a worship leader, and I was naïve enough to think that my brandnew music degree and the four guitar chords I knew might qualify me. I mean, I loved the Lord and I knew music—I could play and sing. Surely that was enough,

It took God no time at all to show me how unprepared I was to truly worship Him, much less to help anyone else do likewise.

Four months into the job, when Martin became ill, I struggled to stand before a congregation of people singing songs of praise to God. How in the world could I lift my voice in joy when our lives seemed to be falling apart? How could I proclaim His faithfulness when my own faith was taking such an awful pounding?

During this season of personal wrestling, my whole concept of worship began to change. I discovered that God wasn't offended if I couldn't "feel it" on a Sunday morning. Instead of worship as a warm and fuzzy, emotional experience, I began to see it as a deeper, conscious choice to praise my always-worthy God.

But getting there wasn't easy.

I began to search the Scriptures for a solid definition of worship, something I could hang my hat on when my feelings didn't automatically inspire me to praise.

It was in the book of Romans that I finally found the answer I was looking for.

When we surrender ourselves to God, we worship Him. Surrendering doesn't lead us into worship; our surrender is our worship.

The first eleven chapters of Romans contain what many theologians agree is the most comprehensive exposition of grace found anywhere in the Bible. After these eleven chapters full of rich truth, it's as if Paul took a deep breath and answered the obvious question now hanging in the air: Considering all that Christ has done for us—making us right

with God by His atoning death, freeing us from the penalty and power of sin, lavishing us with His grace—how should we re-

I wonder if his answer surprised them. It surprised me.

"Therefore," he wrote, "present your bodies as a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1, ESV). In other words, "Surrender your life, body and soul, to God. Give yourself up!" Paul's readers would have un-

derstood the concept of sacrifice. He wrote to the first-century house churches in Rome, made up of Jewish and Roman converts to Christianity. Both groups were familiar with the practice of offering sacrifices in worship—Jewish or pagan-and both would also be reminded of Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf.

One key word in Paul's instruction showed me that he wasn't talking about a martyr's sacrifice: living. He wasn't suggesting that followers of Jesus should all die for their faith; he was asking them all to live for it-with lives of sacrifice that were holy and acceptable to God. This kind of surrendered life, he said, is our true and proper response. Worship is a lived experience.

I've heard worship described through the years in so many ways, as an hour-long service you attend on Sunday morning, or a genre of music played on your local Christian radio station. But I'd never heard it described, like Paul did, as a full-on, lifelong surren-

When we surrender ourselves to God, we worship Him. Surrendering doesn't lead us into worship; our surrender is our worship.

That seemed so profoundly

My first response was relief. In Paul's worship paradigm, surrender outranks emotion. Of course, worship of God engages our emotions, but for Paul, emotion wasn't the main requirement. Surrender was. The proper response of people who have been given everything is to present their very lives to the One who has given them everything. This is our reasonable act of worship.

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Understanding Suicide: A crisis we can't ignore

By Vince Faust Tips to Be Fit

Suicide is one of the most serious public health issues facing our country today. It affects people of all ages, races and backgrounds. Every year, tens of thousands of Americans die by suicide and millions more struggle with suicidal thoughts.

What is suicide? Suicide is when someone ends his or her own life. It's usually the result of deep emotional pain, mental illness or overwhelming stress. People who die by suicide often feel hopeless, trapped or like they're a burden to others. They may believe there's no way out of their problems.

There are also related terms that help us understand the issue

- Suicidal ideation: Thinking about or planning suicide.
- Suicide attempt: Trying to end one's life but surviving.
- · Completed suicide: When

the attempt results in death. The Numbers: How Big Is the

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), thousands of people died by suicide in the United States. There is one death every 11 minutes from suicide. Suicide is now the second leading cause of

death for people ages 10 to 34. Here are some key facts:

with Adults suicidal thoughts 12.8 million

Adults who made a plan 3.7 million

Adults who attempted sui-

cide 1.5 million Male-to-female suicide rate

Most common method Firearms (50%+)

Mississippi has been facing a serious challenge when it comes

to suicide, with numbers that reflect both national trends and unique local concerns. Here's a

breakdown of the most recent

Key Suicide Statistics in Mississippi (2022–2024)

- Total deaths by suicide (2022): Approximately 417 people died by suicide in Mississippi.
- Suicide rate: About 14.0 deaths per 100,000 people, which is 26% higher than the national average during the same
- 20-year trend: The suicide rate in Mississippi has increased by 14.8% over the past two de-
- Highest risk age group: Individuals aged 80-84 had the highest suicide rate in the state, at 25.1 deaths per 100,000 peo-
- Racial disparities: American Indian or Alaska Native individuals in Mississippi experienced the highest suicide rates among racial groups.

Mississippi's suicide prevention efforts include statewide campaigns like Shatter the Silence, which targets youth, adults, law enforcement and other groups B. The state also has a formal suicide prevention plan updated regularly, with training programs for school staff, healthcare professionals and community leaders.

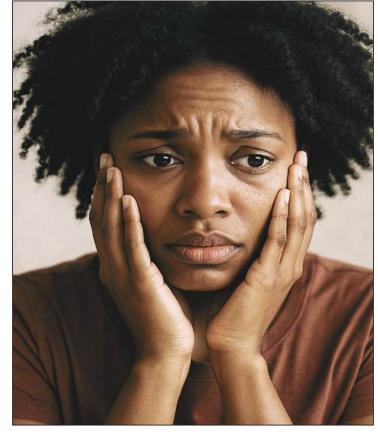
These numbers show that suicide is not rare it's a crisis.

There's no single reason why someone might think about suicide. It's usually caused by a mix of emotional, mental and social problems. Some common causes include:

- 1. Mental Health Disorders
- Depression
- Anxiety
- bipolar disorder

These illnesses can make people feel hopeless or disconnected from others.

2. Trauma and Abuse



People who have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse are at higher risk. Trauma from war, accidents or loss can also lead to suicidal thoughts.

3. Substance Use

Alcohol and drugs can make mental health problems worse. They also lower inhibitions, making it more likely someone will act on suicidal thoughts.

4. Bullying and Social Isola-

Teens and young adults who are bullied or feel alone may think suicide is the only escape.

5. Financial or Legal Problems Losing a job, facing eviction or dealing with legal trouble can

push someone into crisis. Suicide affects everyone, but some groups are more vulner-

Men die by suicide about four times more often than women A. This may be because men are

less likely to seek help and often use more lethal methods.

Young People

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34. Teens may struggle with identity, peer pressure and mental health issues.

Older Adults

People over 85 have the highest suicide rates. Loneliness, illness and loss of independence can contribute. Veterans

Many veterans deal with

PTSD, depression and difficulty adjusting to civilian life.

LGBTQ+ Individuals

Discrimination, rejection, and bullying increase suicide risk among LGBTQ+ youth and adults.

Indigenous and White Ameri

Non-Hispanic American Indian, Alaska Native and White populations have the highest suicide rates.

Methods of Suicide The most common method is firearms, used in over half of all

- suicides. Other methods include: Hanging • Poisoning (including drug
- overdoses) • Jumping from heights
- Drowning
- Access to lethal means in-

creases the risk of death. That's why many experts support "means restriction" making it harder to access dangerous tools during a crisis.

Recognizing the signs of suicidal thoughts can save lives. Some warning signs include:

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself
 - Feeling hopeless or trapped • Withdrawing from friends
- and activities
- Giving away belongings • Sudden mood changes
- Increased use of alcohol or

• Saying things like "Everyone would be better off without

If you notice these signs in someone, don't ignore them. Reach out, listen and encourage them to get help. How Can We Prevent Suicide?

Suicide is preventable. Here are some ways we can help:

1. Talk About It

Open conversations about mental health reduce stigma. Asking someone if they're thinking about suicide won't "put the idea in their head". This shows you care.

2. Get Professional Help Therapists, counselors and

doctors can treat mental health issues. Medications and therapy can make a big difference. 3. Call for Help

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7. You can call or text 988 to talk to someone trained to help.

4. Create Safe Environments

Removing firearms, medications or other dangerous items from the home can reduce risk.

5. Support Each Other

Being kind, checking in and offering support can help someone feel less alone.

Schools and communities play a big role in prevention. Here's how:

- · Mental health education: Teach students about emotions, coping skills and where to get
- Peer support programs: Train students to recognize warning signs and support each other.
- Counseling services: Make sure every school has access to mental health professionals.
- Community outreach: Churches, clubs and local groups can host events and share resources. Schools and communities play a big role in preven-

Suicide is a complex and painful issue, but it's not hopeless. With compassion, education, and action, we can make a difference. Every life matters. Every voice counts. And every one of us has the power to help someone feel seen, heard and

If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988. Help is always available.

Let's keep talking. Let's keep caring. Let's keep saving lives.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

or concern you would like addressed tipstobefit@gmail.com Catch "Tips to be Fit" on

If you have a fitness question

Good Day Good Health" everyday If you've missed an article

of "Tips to be Fit" just search "Vince Faust" "Tips to be Fit"

What parents should know about this common cause of birth defects

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that infects people of all ages and belongs to the same family as other common viruses like the chicken pox virus. When a pregnant woman catches CMV and the growing fetus becomes infected, this is known as congenital CMV (cCMV) and it impacts about 1 in 200 babies.

While most babies born with cCMV do not develop signs of infection, about 1 in 5 will have birth defects or other long-term health problems, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Signs at birth can include rash, jaundice, microcephaly (small head size), low birth weight, enlarged liver and spleen, seizures, and damaged eye retina. Long-term problems can include changes in hearing and vision, developmental and/or motor delay, microcephaly, lack of coordination or weakness, and

Young children with CMV can spread the virus to their parents. This is why the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers these tips to parents, childcare providers, and pregnant women to lower their chance of infection:

 Reduce contact with saliva and urine from babies and young



children.

- Do not share food, utensils, cups or pacifiers with a child.
- · Wash your hands with soap and water after changing diapers or helping a child to use the toilet.

If your newborn is exhibiting signs of cCMV, visit your pediatrician as soon as possible. Testing for cCMV must be done within 2 to 3 weeks after the baby is born. If your baby has cCMV and is exhibiting signs of infection, antivirals can help, though babies who are being treated with these medicines should be closely watched by their doctor for possible side effects.

The AAP offers comprehensive resources for physicians to help them identify cCMV and

support treatment of the virus, as well as resources for families and

"It's important to remember that many of us do not know if we have a CMV infection. Even without symptoms, we can spread the virus through body fluids like urine and saliva. Reducing the spread of the virus to those who are pregnant and others at risk of serious illness, as well as knowing the signs of cCMV, is essential," says Mary T. Caserta, MD, FAAP, professor of pediatrics in infectious diseases at the University of Rochester Medical Center and member of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases.

3 things every older adult should do for their health this fall

StatePoint

For older adults, fall is an important time to focus on health and wellness.

According to Ryan Kocher, who leads Medicare growth for HealthSpring, the new brand for Health Care Service Corporation's Medicare business, formerly owned by the Cigna Group, the following three tasks are essential for seniors to complete as cool weather sets in.

Get a Flu Shot

An influenza vaccine can help prevent serious illness due to flu. As immune defense diminishes with age, older adults are increasingly susceptible to flu complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of higher dose flu vaccines for people 65 years and older. This fall, in advance of flu season, visit your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get the right vaccine for you. This is also a good time to catch up on any other immunizations that your provider recommends.

Review Medicare Coverage

Medicare is the government health insurance program for Americans 65 and older and others who qualify. Many Medicare beneficiaries choose or change their plans during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), which takes place between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7.



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) JLCO - JULIA AMARAL / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

HealthSpring is offering a host of Medicare options for 2026. The company provides these tips for selecting a plan:

- · Check for plan changes: Review your plan every AEP, especially if you've experienced changes to your health, lifestyle or finances. It's especially important to read your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter – delivered every September – to find out about any modifications to your current plan.
- Dig into the details: A good plan is one that includes your favorite providers and specialists and covers the medications you currently take. When reviewing plans, take these factors into consideration. • Consider all your options:

Medicare Advantage plans cov-

er everything Original Medi-

care does, so do your research

to see if these plans will work

· Learn more: Before enrolling in a particular plan, be sure you understand the details. Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE

(1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit the Medicare Plan Finder website at Medicare.gov/plancompare. For local assistance, refer to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program website at www.shiptacenter.org. You can also visit individual Medicare plans' websites for more information. For example, HealthSpring's website is www. healthspring.com. Use Your Health Care Ben-

efits

Annual enrollment also serves as a good reminder to take advantage of all your Medicare benefits. Preventive care and a healthy lifestyle can help you maintain your independence and vitality as you age. Tap into what your plan offers so you can actively engage in your health and well-being. By checking a few important

items off your to-do list during autumn, you can ensure you're well-positioned for a healthy winter and 2026.



Alcorn's STEM MBA program welcomes fifth-generation Alcornite, Voston Heidelberg

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Heidelberg, Voston fifth-generation Alcornite from Riverdale, Ga., has enrolled in the Alcorn State University STEM master of business administration program, joining a long line of family members who have attended the institution. The decision continues a legacy that began with his great-great-greatgrandparents, Herienne and Joseph Dunbar, who were among Alcorn's first students.

Heidelberg's family history at Alcorn dates back to the Dunbar family. His mother, Naundra Lyon-Heidelberg, a 1994 Alcorn graduate and the university's director of student engagement, his father, his great-grandmother, and two brothers also attended the university. His brother, Voshon Heidelberg, recently graduated in 2023, and his other brother, Vonterrius Heidelberg, is currently pursuing his master's degree.

Although Voston chose to attend North Carolina A&T State University for his undergraduate studies, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness with a minor in supply chain management, he knew his educational journey was not complete without experiencing Alcorn.

Voston's connection to the university is rooted in his childhood, as he grew up attending homecomings and football games at the university. "They say the air is a little bit cleaner down there," said Heidelberg. "It's always been in my heart."

Coming from a Mississippi lineage, Voston understands the broad and often overlooked impact of agriculture on daily life. That was what led him to choose his undergraduate degree. "People don't think about it on a daily basis, but agriculture is connected to so many things," Voston said. "The clothes we wear, the food we eat, the products we use. It all comes from agriculture."

His mother, Naundra, a 1994 Alcorn graduate and the university's director of student engagement, was excited when she learned about his decision.

"I am ecstatic that Voston



has chosen Alcorn State University as his secondary education platform," she said. "It warms my heart to know that he has carried the generational legacy, and I can't wait to see his end results."

When she learned of his decision, Mrs. Lyon-Heidelberg said she felt the program was perfectly aligned with his undergraduate studies.

Alcorn's STEM MBA program incorporates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a traditional business curriculum, equipping students with the interdisciplinary skills needed to succeed at the intersection of business and STEM fields. The program's coursework covers areas such as finance, marketing, operations, strategy, and entrepreneurship, with specialized STEM-focused concentrations.

"The ambiance and friendliness of Alcorn are unmatched," said Voston. "It's a family-oriented place, and I knew that if I didn't attend Alcorn for undergrad, it would have to be for something else. I am excited to be a part of the history of this program and to show others that graduating from a STEM MBA program at an HBCU in one year is

Heidelberg chose Alcorn's accelerated STEM MBA program after conversations with Dr. Joyce Buckner-Brown, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Antwon Woods, who both impressed him with their leadership and the program's unique

"The real beauty is coming to an HBCU that your family has gone to, and you meet professors, office workers, and other students who have gone through the same process of generational legacy just as you have," said Naundra. "I just hope that people understand that because you've gone to another university to complete a degree, there's no reason why you cannot continue your legacy at the same universities, especially historical black colleges that your parents, grandparents, or great grandparents have gone

Voston advises future students to be trailblazers and take advantage of all the opportunities and funding available to them. "You can't sit back and expect these things to fall into your lap; you have to be hungry and go get these things," Voston said.

Callaway Assistant Coach honored with WAPT Alyce **Clarke Education Award**

The Mississippi Link Newswire

"C.T." Christopher Taylor, assistant basketball coach and first-year teacher at Callaway High School, has been honored with WAPT's Alyce Clarke Award for his impact on scholars and the community.

The Jackson native was overcome with emotion as he accepted the award. "This is real? Oh wow, this is amazing," he said. "It's a really great feeling to come back and teach the generation behind me, but I also went to school with their moms and dads."

A proud Provine High alum and former Ole Miss basketball player, Taylor returned home after two



decades away, bringing experience in athletics, youth development, and event management, including work at the Rose Bowl Stadium and the Justin Reed Basketball

Academy. Inspired by his late best friend and NBA player Justin Reed, Taylor is committed to mentoring the next generation.

At Callaway, he's already building strong bonds with students. Senior point guard Jonathan Brister shared how Taylor recently ran a final lap on the track with a player, saying, "He pushed him through." Head Coach Skip Harvey described Taylor's return as an answered prayer.

Coach Taylor hopes to help lead Callaway to its ninth championship while continuing to inspire young people in his hometown.

Fresh coat of history: Mural adds color and culture to JSU Post Office

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University (JSU) has unveiled a new mural inside its postal office created by JSU alumni and award-winning contemporary artist Christopher Windfield. The mural, located in the Jacob L. Reddix Hall illustrates the university's rich history and features key civil rights figures.

The project was led by JSU's Auxiliary Enterprises Executive Director Kamesha Hill, Assistant Director Victor Mills and JSU Postal Manager Stephanie Luckett.

"Our goal in Auxiliary Enterprises is to always tell our own story and to partner with alumni or vendors who love Jackson State University as much as we do," Hill said. "We wanted to give students a visual of excellence and create a warm, inviting space. I am grateful that Victor and Stephanie executed the project so well."

"This mural should serve as a daily reminder of the strength, resilience and legacy of Jackson State University," said Mills. "By honoring our alumni, civil rights heroes, we show students, faculty, staff and the community that they, too, can make a difference. It's a beautiful addition to our

campus and a powerful reflec-



tion of our commitment to service through Auxiliary Enter-

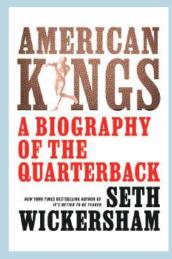
Illustrations of historical figures such as Jackie Robinson, Constance Baker Motley, Joanne Trumpauer, Malcolm X, Booker T. Washington and César E. Chávez cover part of the wall alongside postal stamps and other cultural elements. Another section highlights the first Black women mail carriers for the U.S. Army and a depiction of the 1970 Gibbs-Green tragedy, featuring Philip L. Gibbs and James Earl Green.

"I always feel drawn to do anything for Jackson State," said Windfield. "I love to create art, but when I create something for Jackson State, I definitely try to put my all into it. I think it's so important now that people don't just see the beauty of the art, but also learn the history behind it."

Windfield began the project in June after a call from Mills, a fellow JSU alumnus and former classmate. He completed two phases of the project in August.

"It's all about feeling pride. I hope the students walk through the building and see firsthand the history and stories that have helped make up our university," said Luckett. "We've painted that history with our students in mind so that they can also feel proud to be a part of JSU's history.

The mural project will continue to expand, with upcoming phases highlighting notable JSU alum and a special dedication to JSU's Sonic Boom of



AMERICAN KINGS: A BIOGR OF THE QUARTERBACK H WICKERSHAM HYPERION AVENUE

By Terri Schlichenmeyer Columnist

Snap.

And with that, and a catch that's picture-perfect, your team is on their way to another win. The guy that threw the football sure knows his stuff. He's worth every penny he's paid, and in the new book "American Kings" by Seth Wickersham, you'll see what it took to get there.

Like so many little boys, Seth Wickersham wanted to play pro football when he was growing up; specifically, he wanted to be a quarterback. Unlike most to an extreme, becoming "obsessed" with throwing a football with the best accuracy, hoping to match the skills of the players he

Alas, despite an entire childhood of near-constant practice and a few wins on the field in high school, he didn't make varsity and ended up playing as a receiver.

He knows now that to be a quarterback is to be a star, but it's also "a way of life."

Here, he writes about Archie Manning, "a legend, a folk hero,

other boys, though, he took it a song title... and the beginning of a family franchise..." Wickersham shares the story of Warren Moon, how he stepped up to help his mother when his father died, how domestic violence almost derailed his legacy, and the racism he quarterbacked under for years.

He spent time with Caleb Williams, "the first true professional amateur quarterback" to get money for playing at the college level. He interviewed James Harris, who was prepared to become a teacher "If the league didn't want a Black quarterback..." Wickersham "spent much of 2022 with" Andrew Luck, who "learned quickly that greatness requires an... unlimited selfishness." He writes about how Jack Elway influenced his son's choice of career, what Hollywood had to do with one pro footballer's life, and the post-career of the first player "to throw a consistently beautiful spiral."

Says Wickersham about his subjects, "Anyone could throw a football. Only a quarterback could make people cheer."

Your favorite chair is oiled for smooth reclining and fast slam-downs. The snacks are laid in for at least a week, and beverages are on ice. You know exactly what you're wearing for the game this weekend. All you need is "American Kings" and you're set.

Author Seth Wickersham calls his book "a biography," but it's just as much a history, since he refers often to the earliest days of the game, as well as the etymology of the word "quarterback." That helps to lay a solid background and it adds color to a reader's knowledge about football itself, while explaining

what it takes for men and women to stand out and to achieve gridiron greatness. On that. Wickersham is honest, sometimes calling out his subjects for their attitudes toward teammates and others. Blunt words are used that are unprintable in family newspapers, so beware if you're

Is your team's QB in this book? Maybe, or a past favorite surely is, so check out "American Kings" and see what you find. Football fans and pigskin prognosticators both will love this book in a snap.



ZACK WALLACE Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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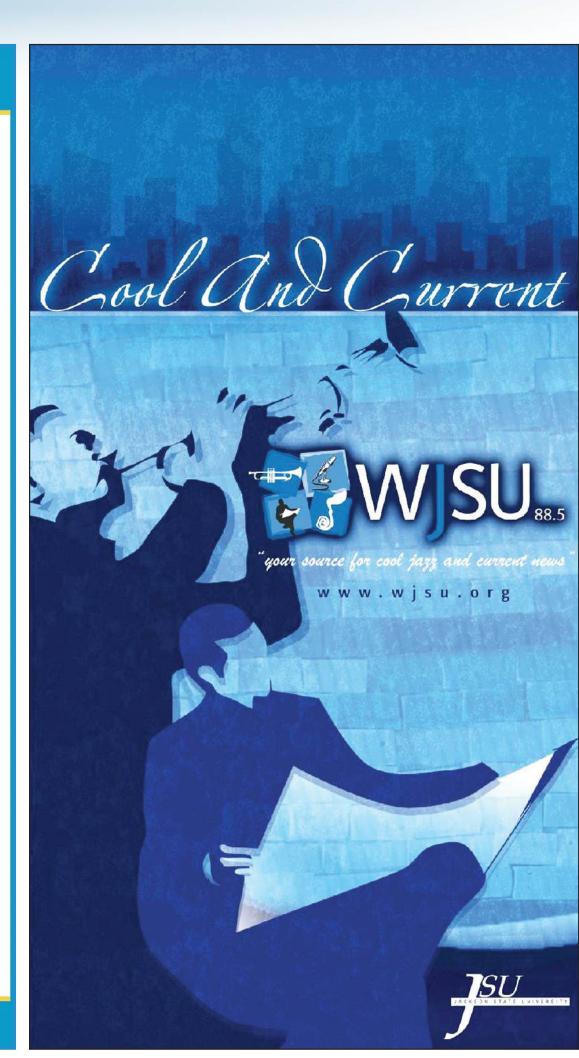
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Website: www.hindscountyms.com Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace



WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON'S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN **SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!**

USM snaps JSU's 11 game winning streak and their own 11 game losing streak

By Tim Ward Sports Writer

A little over 32,000 people packed "The Rock" in Hattiesburg last Saturday on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Jackson State fans travel well, so driving under 2 hours to see the Tigers play was a no brainer for most of Tiger Nation. Coming into the game, many expected to see a close footballl game. For the most part it was, but USM was able to seal the victory in the fourth

The game started rough for JSU. USM blocked Jackson State's punt on their first drive, and scooped and scored a touchdown. Jackson State composed themselves and was able to score on a 46 yard field goal by Gerardo Baeza. Both teams would score again and despite the negative play to start the game, Jackson State trailed by 7 points at halftime. USM 17 JSU 10.

Jackson State's running game was on point for the second week in a row. The tigers rushed 42 times for 191 yards. Travis Terrell Jr gained 80 yards on 10 carries to lead the team in rushing. Quarterback Jacobian Morgan completed 14 of 27 passes for 131 yards. He was also sacked 3 times. USM quarterback, Braylon Braxton completed 20 of 30 passes for 214 yards with 3 touchdown passes. Jefferey Pittman lead the golden eagles in rushing with 71 yards on 10 carries. Defensively, Quincy Ivory registered 10 tackles and B.J. Washington added 9 tackles. Michael Montgomery lead USM with 8 tackles.

USM would go on to win 38 to 20. Jackson State gave USM everything it wanted and more. In the end, a few mistakes lead to points for USM that didn't happen for JSU. Jackson State turns their attention now to Tuskegee this week. The Tigers host the Golden Tigers this week in the W.C. GORDEN CLASSIC. Tuskegee brings a 2-0 record to the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 pm.



Jefferey Pittman is upended by a JSU de-





Coach Javancy Jones fires up the team before kickoff



USM Quarterback Braylon Braxton threw for 214 yards



Sonic Boom

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC EVENT GUIDELINES

In the spirit of Love, Hope, and Leadership, the Hinds County School District is committed to creating a safe, enjoyable, and family-friendly environment at all athletic events. The following procedures will be in effect at all HCSD Athletic Events to ensure a positive game day atmosphere for everyone.



GENERAL PROTOCALS

- . HCSD Athletic Contests | Gates open 90 minutes before kickoff for football, and 60 minutes before all other contests.
- Clear Bag Guidelines | Fans are encouraged not to bring bags inside HCSD athletic facilities during games. However, the following will be allowed: clear bags that meet HCSD's Clear Bag Policy and small clutch bags (with or without handles or straps). Medically necessary items will also be permitted after inspection at a designated gate.
- · Weapons | All weapons are strictly prohibited.
- . Entry/Re-Entry | No re-entry upon exit.
- Loitering | No loitering on sidewalks.



HOME SECTION

· During home football games, the Home Section is designated as the press box side.

FAN MISCONDUCT

- · Fans asked to leave due to misconduct will not be permitted to attend another HCSD sporting event for the remainder of the school year.
- · Admission to HCSD events is subject to compliance with state laws and facility rules. Ticket purchase consents to searches for safety compliance.

FIELD/COURT OF PLAY

· Only authorized HCSD staff members are allowed on the field or court.







HIV Information & Prevention Services

Addressing health inequities by increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and ensuring access to prevention and treatment services.

Rapid HIV Testing: Confidential, same-day results across JHCHC locations.

PrEP Services: Screening, initiation, navigation, and follow-up for patients interested in pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Linkage to Care: Connecting newly diagnosed patients to providers for early initiation of ART and ongoing care.

Prevention Outreach: Condom distribution, risk reduction counseling, and education campaigns in the community.

Re-engagement Services: Supporting individuals who have fallen out of care to return to treatment and remain engaged.