

Mississippi prison killing leaves mother with no answers after 5 years

By Jerry Mitchell
Mississippi Today

This article is part of a reporting collaboration by The Mississippi Link, Mississippi Today, Clarion Ledger, Hattiesburg American and The Marshall Project - Jackson.

During the war, Denorris “Nod” Howell was strangled to death. No one was charged with this killing.

Howell, who grew up near Holly Springs, was one of 42 people who died by homicide in Mississippi prisons over the past decade, a toll uncovered by a reporting team that includes The Mississippi Link, The Marshall Project - Jackson, the Clarion Ledger, Hattiesburg American and Mississippi Today. Total convictions in those cases? Six.

“Oh, my God, there’s something wrong with that picture,” said Howell’s great aunt, Annie Moffitt, who runs Annie’s Home Cooking in Holly Springs, where he once worked.

Parchman’s gang war came after years of neglect by state officials, who slashed millions in funding and allowed conditions at the prison to deteriorate after federal courts ended oversight of the facility in 2011, according to an investigation by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, now a part of Mississippi Today, and ProPublica.

The U.S. Department of Justice later blamed the war and the violence leading up to it on inadequate staffing, cursory investigations, insufficient security measures, unfettered access to contraband and uncontrolled gang activity.

Mississippi Department of Corrections officials said they referred only one of the three homicides in three days to prosecutors. Overall, the agency



Janice Wilkins holds a photograph of her late son, Denorris Howell, at her home in Holly Springs, Miss., in August 2025. PHOTO BY KEVIN WURM FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

referred 15 of the 42 homicides to prosecutors over the past decade, and said in a recent statement that it “remains committed to ensuring the safety of inmates in its custody.”

David Fathi, director of the ACLU National Prison Project, called these numbers inconceivably low. “I can’t imagine any other law enforcement agency failing to refer three-fourths of the homicides under its jurisdiction to prosecutors,” he said. “These victims’ lives are not seen as sufficiently valuable to warrant the effort.”

After the gang war, Gov. Tate Reeves hired the former head of Angola, Louisiana’s most notorious prison, to clean up Parchman and the other prisons. The Mississippi Legislature passed raises for correctional officers.

But the violence that initially declined under Corrections Commissioner Burl Cain’s leadership is now back on the rise. With five killings already, 2025

marks Mississippi’s worst year for prison homicides since 2021.

In 2012, a jury convicted Howell of manslaughter, rejecting his claim of self-defense. He was sentenced to 17 years and began serving that time at Parchman, one of the nation’s most infamous prisons.

After her son began serving his time in Parchman, two hours away, Wilkins began working locally at the Marshall County Correctional Facility, where she taught incarcerated men how to give haircuts.

The whole time there, she thought of her son, she said. “I was praying that he was safe.”

‘Ain’t nothing under control’

In the waning days of 2019, a war between the Vice Lords and the Gangster Disciples spread across Mississippi prisons.

In hopes of preventing the violence from spreading, Parchman officials locked down the men in their cells to prevent their movement.

The Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting received a series of text messages and videos during that war from people in the prisons and their loved ones.

A message sent on Jan. 2 identified a female correctional officer in Unit 29 “giving inmates keys right now, and my brothers have no one to alert.”

A similar message followed on a private Facebook page, accusing the same officer of cutting off lights.

Photos and videos showed men in red-and-white-striped uniforms, reserved for people convicted of the most violent crimes, walking freely through Unit 29, with no correctional officers in sight.

The message from inside Parchman continued: “If MDOC thinks they have control, they are very mistaken.”

In a video recorded during the

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Pain and contradictions reflections on Charlie Kirk and America

God loves us because He is good, not because we are good



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

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Surely God weeps. Thirty-one years old, married, two young children, looked up to by so many Americans and beyond. The White House, in the Trump administrations, had an open-door policy for Mr. Charles James Kirk, a Christian conservative activist - talk about clout! And just a week ago he was murdered on the campus of Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. He was sitting under a tent, emblazoned with the words “American Comeback” and “Prove Me Wrong,” surrounded by young hearts and minds, and plenty of Make America Great Again ballcaps, when the assassin’s bullet took his life. Against the larger backdrop of political violence in America, Kirk’s murder just adds to a growing list.

Let’s recall that Abraham Lincoln (1865), James Garfield (1881), William McKinley (1901), President John F. Kennedy (1963), Medgar Wiley Evers (1963), Malcom X (1965), Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968), and Robert F. Kennedy (1968) were all assassinated. In addition to the four above, thirteen other Presidents survived assassination attempts – Andrew Jackson (1835), Theodore Roosevelt (1912), Herbert Hoover (1928), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933), Harry S. Truman (1947 & 50), Richard Nixon (1974), Gerald R. Ford (twice in 1975), Jimmy Carter (1979), Ronald Reagan (1981), Bill Clinton (3 in 1994 alone), George W. Bush (2005), Barack Obama (numerous 2008-2015), and Donald Trump (numerous 2016 & 2024).

The list of politically motivated assassinations and attempts in the United States is lengthy. It includes Law Officers, Mayors, Judges, State Legislators, Gover-

nors, and members of Congress. Charlie Kirk was none of those. Turning Point USA, the non-profit that Kirk co-founded in 2012, when he was still a teenager, updated their website after Kirk’s murder. “...More than anyone, Charlie believed in the power of argument and good-faith debate to find the truth and guide people towards, if not in agreement, then at least mutual understanding. Charlie was no stranger to threats. He received thousands throughout his life. But he always prioritized reaching as many young Americans as possible over his own personal safety. Now, Charlie has become America’s greatest martyr to the freedom of speech he so adored...” That’s obviously what they believe.

President Trump is intent on bestowing the Presidential Medal of Freedom, posthumously. The nation’s highest civilian honor can be presented to “any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.” Just hours after the assassination he gave a video address from the Oval Office praising Kirk, who he has credited for helping him win the 2024 election, for his activism. He then said what happened to Kirk is a consequence of people demonizing those they disagree with (yes, Trump said those words) “in the most hateful and despicable way possible,” and turned his ire to the political left. “Radical left political violence has hurt too many innocent people and taken too many lives. Tonight, I ask all Americans

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JSU alumnus Tramell Tillman makes history

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson State University (JSU) alumnus Tramell Tillman, ‘08, made history September 14, 2025 at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, becoming the first Black actor to win the Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series.

Tillman earned the award for his role as Seth Milchick in Apple TV+’s acclaimed series ‘Severance.’ His performance has been praised by fans across the globe for its complexity and depth, earning him national recognition and now television’s highest honor.

In his acceptance speech, Tillman reflected on the significance of the moment: “Thank you to the Academy. I am full. I am humbled. I am honored, and as my mama would say, ‘Look at God!’” he said.

JSU’s Interim President Denise Jones Gregory, Ph.D., says the entire university takes pride in Tillman’s success.

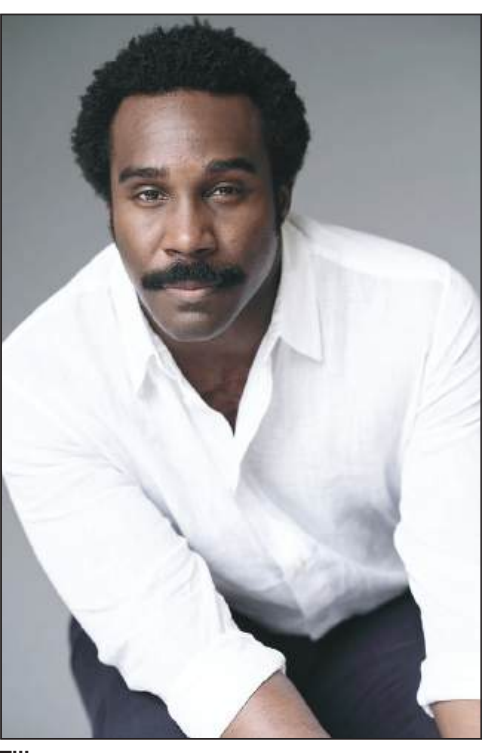
“Tramell Tillman represents the best of Jackson State University. His Emmy win brings pride to our students, alumni and com-

munity, and it shows what is possible when talent and preparation meet opportunity,” said Gregory.

Mark Henderson, Ph.D., interim chair of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre and founder/artistic director of MADDRA Performance Troupe, said Tillman’s path reflects his dedication to the craft.

“Tramell was a gifted student who gave everything to his work on stage. At JSU and through MADDRA, he sharpened the skills that now captivate audiences worldwide. His Emmy win shows the kind of artistic excellence our students can achieve,” said Henderson.

Tillman graduated summa cum laude from Jackson State University with a degree in mass communications before building a successful career in television and film. His Emmy win joins a growing list of alumni achievements that highlight the university’s national impact and inspire the next generation of Tigers.



Tillman



The Mississippi Association of Broadcasters held their annual conference in Biloxi



(L-R) Amanda Fontaine, MAB Executive Director, Hank Price, (leadership award given in his name) Dan Modisett, recipient of the Hank Price Leadership Award; Elayne Hayes Anthony, President of MAB (2023-2025), and Ted Fortenberry, new president of MAB.



Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthorny, outgoing president of MAB received applause from the attendees as she was recognized for her services as president of MAB, 2024-2025.

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Mississippi Association of Broadcasters (MAB) held their annual conference Wednesday, September 10th at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino where WLBT Vice President and General Manager, Ted Fortenberry became president of the MAB (2025-

2027). Dr. Hayes-Anthony, current president of MAB was on hand to pass the gavel. While serving as interim president of Jackson State University in 2023, Hayes-Anthony became the first African- American and African American woman to serve as president of MAB at which time, Fortenberry

became vice president. Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Boswell Townsend of Boswell Media will serve as the incoming vice president of MAB. During the conference, a surprise award was presented to former WLBT General Manager, Dan Modisett. He received the Mississippi Association

of Broadcasters Hank Price Leadership Award. Not only was being the recipient of this new award a surprise to Modisett, it was also a surprise to Hank Price, the name's sake of the award. Fortenberry said he could not think of anyone more deserving to receive the award than Modisett, nor could

he think of anybody more deserving to be named for the award than Hank Price. Both men are known for the strong leadership they have given to broadcast journalism for decades. Hayes-Anthony told The Mississippi Link, "Hank Price was a wonderful manager, and I think it could not have happened to a more deserving person."

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It's good to be blue.



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unrest on a contraband mobile phone, a cell sits in darkness while other parts of the prison are lit.

Loud shouting can be heard as an incarcerated person inside the cell appears to be punching someone. A man can be heard saying, “I’ve got him in a chokehold.”

Another voice cheers him on: “Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. Dead. Oh, yeah. Dead. Deaaaaaad.”

Despite the loud shouting throughout the incident captured on video, no officer can be seen responding.

At 3 a.m. on Jan. 3, an officer called additional staff to the Unit 29 building, where they found Howell’s body in his cell. His cellmate, who had been stabbed repeatedly and whose name was blacked out on the incident report, was taken by ambulance to the hospital. At 4:22 a.m., the coroner pronounced Howell dead.

The coroner ruled that Howell’s cellmate had strangled him to death in self-defense.

Detrick Munford, who was the captain over Unit 29 then and later served as Parchman’s deputy warden, said he heard on the

evening of Jan. 2 about a female officer allegedly sharing her keys with prisoners. He said he confronted her and took her keys.

After that, he opened an investigation into the officer’s actions to determine if she had a relationship with a gang, he said. “When she found out, she quit.”

He sent his findings to the prison’s investigators, he said. “They take it from there.”

No charges were ever brought against the officer, who was never identified in any report. She said in text messages that prisoners lied about her, that she was never investigated by MDOC and that she wasn’t even at work that night.

“I was the one lied on,” she said. “No inmate ever got any keys.”

She confirmed that the deputy warden checked that she had her keys, but said it was after Howell’s death.

Munford, who served as deputy warden at Parchman from 2018 to 2022, said he knows of some cases where correctional officers did favors for gangs. He said he also knows of several cases where correctional officers enabled violence against those behind bars,

but he doesn’t know of any cases where officers were prosecuted.

Munford said officers can cut off the lights to an individual cell.

‘He told me that he feared for his life’

On Jan. 3, 2020, Wilkins got a call from the chaplain that her son was dead. Since then, she has received no other details about his death and no autopsy report.

“I just felt empty,” she said.

She paused. “Sometimes it feels like it just happened yesterday.”

She had just talked to her son the night before, and he sounded nervous, she said. “He told me that he feared for his life.”

She said her son told her that the lights had been turned out and that a guard was letting men out of their cells.

Today, five years after his death, Wilkins continues to have questions. No one from the prison has ever explained what happened to her son, she said.

“Justice needs to be served,” she said. “My son had four children who loved him very dearly.”

Reporter Leonardo Bevilacqua contributed to this report.

Kirk

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to commit themselves to the American values for which Charlie Kirk lived and died,” Trump said, per National Public Radio.

The Pastor of World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, TN, referred to Kirk on Fox News after the murder as “a Christian martyr in America for his biblical worldview and proclaiming biblical truths, and then evoked the phrase, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” from Matthew 25:14-30.

Others viewed Kirk’s life differently. He initially believed in the separation of church and state, but in 2022 changed his mind on that. “I don’t seek to be inclusive, I seek what is best. And the Ten Commandments are what is best.” On the idea of submission, he said, “Women should look for men that have self-control, and men should look for women that are willing to submit, which is basically a non-feminist woman.”

He often criticized the Christian church, “nowhere near as bold or courageous or strong as it should be,” and that pastors should “fight harder and fight stronger in the spiritual battle that we’re in.” He criticized churches that didn’t oppose government shut-downs during Covid-19. Kirk agreed with Trump that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump. At the 2020 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) he celebrated Trump as a president who “understands the seven mountains of cultural influence” – a mandate, spread by charismatic evangelical leaders, saying Christians should lead in society’s seven institutions of influence: religion, family, government, education, media, arts, and business, per USA Today.

Countless internet citations quote Kirk speaking out against LGBTQ people, CRT, The Civil Rights Act, and DEI – even stat-

ing that Kamala Harris and Ketanji Brown-Jackson were diversity hires. It is noted that the Turning Point Board of Directors listed on www.tpusa.org are all white men. Their Advisory Council shows 80 members, predominantly white men, and possibly two African American men. So, there’s that. Kirk was the author of several books, including The MAGA Doctrine (The Only Idea That Will Win the Future), and just last year, Right Wing Revolution (How To Beat The WOKE and Save The West).

What America can never seem to escape from is that those who claim so-called - American values - do not value all Americans at all. And that reality is in direct opposition to the teachings of Jesus Christ. German American social psychologist Erich Fromm once said, “The ultimate choice for a man, in as much as he is given to transcend himself, is to create or destroy, to love or to hate.”

Remembering the four little girls

By April Ryan
Mississippi Today

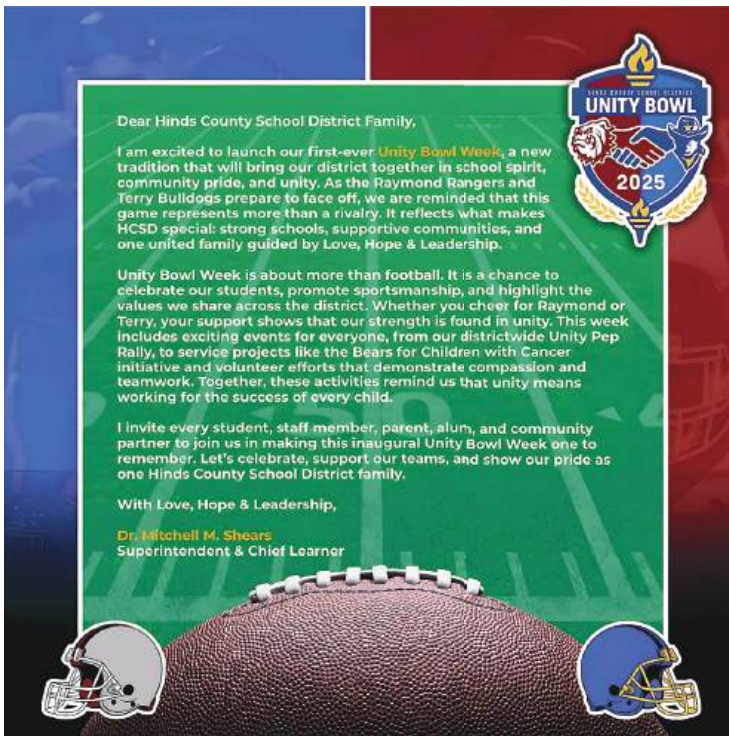
It is 62 years later after the death of the four little girls in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, just weeks after the August 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Democratic, Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell said this anniversary reminds us to reflect on issues our forefathers fought for during the most powerful movement in this nation: civil rights, voting rights, and civil liberties. Twelve years ago, the four little girls received the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously: Addie Mae Collins,

Dennis McNair, Cynthia Wesley, and Carol Robertson. Shavon Arline-Bradley of the National Council of Negro Women says we are commemorating one of the most gruesome acts of violence in our country’s history, where 4 Black girls from Birmingham, AL lost their lives at the hands of white supremacists.” Dr. Amos Brown, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, says of the heinous, deadly bombing that there was “no respect for our humanity,” feeling the crime emphasizes “they don’t see us as being human.”

Bradley also articulated, “Their sacrifice sparked the nation to come to grips with the harsh

realities of what it meant to be Black in America.” The children were in church during the Sunday School hour when, “These innocent young girls sought to learn more about their faith and how to love thy neighbor as themselves,” when the deadly explosion occurred, adds Arline Bradley. She also said, “Today, as we celebrate their contribution to the freedoms we enjoy today, let us be reminded that we shall overcome and victory belongs to those of us that fight for liberty and justice for all.” Meanwhile, there is a fifth survivor, Sara Collins Rudolph, Addie Mae’s sister, who lost her eyes and carries scars from the bombing.





The 11th Annual Mississippi Book Festival 2025 a great time in Downtown Jackson

By James Hampton, III
Contributing Writer

The now famous annual Mississippi Book Festival kicked off the morning of Saturday, September 15th 2025 on the grounds of the Mississippi State Capitol, surrounding streets and nearby Galloway Church. This year it was the 11th anniversary of what founders call the “literary lawn party”. It is an indoor and outdoor event. Panel discussions featuring authors, journalists, musicians, and even an ex-governor took place every hour or so in rooms throughout the capitol building and Galloway Church. There were over fifty panel discussions with topics varying from cookbooks to war, relationships to music, politics to business. The Mississippi Humanities Council narrated one discussion about their 16 prison book clubs operating within various institutions in the state of Mississippi. I personally attended a very impactful writing workshop led by California-born, Boston-based acclaimed author Steve Almond.

The action outside was just as varied and interesting as what was going on inside. Outreach tables for various literature affiliated organizations were set up on the State Capitol lawn. I visited tables for the Friends of the Jackson Libraries, The Margaret Walker Alexander Center, and Big House Books. In addition to what was taking place on the lawn there was Author’s Alley. Author’s Alley took up half of the street right in front of the Capitol, and it was a tented off area where self-published authors could promote and sell their books directly to a reading public. Opposite Author’s Alley on Mississippi Street was Booksellers Row where bibliophiles could purchase books directly from independent bookstores and publishers.

While half of the State Capitol South lawn was dedicated to community organizations



The 11th anniversary Mississippi Book Festival was held on the grounds of the Mississippi State Capitol September 14, 2025. PHOTOS BY JAMES HAMPTON, III



the other half was dedicated to book signing stations where the public can go to meet their favorite authors and have them sign their books. The book signing tent featured authors such as Jackson’s own Angie Thomas (The Hate U Give) and Kiese Laymon (Heavy) as well as other famous authors from all over the nation like Jason Reynolds (Look Both Ways) and Hanif Abdurraquib (There’s Always This Year).

There were plenty of refreshments at the literary lawn party. Food trucks lined the Capitol on both North West Street and North President Street. I bought a decent ten-dollar hamburger from Hal and Mal’s

Grab n’ Go Station set up on Congress Street. But there was plenty of variety in terms of eats and treats, both cool treats to beat the heat and savory food to defeat hunger. There was also plenty of free bottled water to keep everyone hydrated under the Mississippi sun.

The Mississippi Book Festival has something for all ages. The Mississippi Children’s Museum had a tent set up on the lawn full of fun and play for the youth. And there were plenty of stations focused on entertaining the children and introducing them to the literary arts. The Mississippi Library Commission had a “Pop-Up Library” tucked away in a section

off the State Capitol Rotunda where they gave away free books and promoted their free to the public services.

Overall, the festival was a wonderful event. It attracts national attention to Mississippi as it should, given the state’s amazing literary heritage. Think of the names: Wright, Faulkner, Welty, Walker Alexander, Wells, Morris, and the tradition of important literary figures continues today. If you have been to the Mississippi Book Festival, you probably know what a great time it is. If you have never been, I suggest that you put it on your radar for next year. It really is something special.



Rare portraits of enslaved Mississippians displayed together at Mississippi Museum of Art

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

With powerfully haunting eyes and an enigmatic expression, “Portrait of Frederick,” an enslaved man painted circa 1840, stares out at visitors of the Mississippi Museum of Art. A little further into the museum is Delia, a Black woman dressed in red and wearing a headscarf who bears a similarly unknowable expression. The pair of portraits are the only known preemancipation paintings of enslaved people in Mississippi.

Now, for the first time, they hang together for the public to see.

“I was mesmerized by the painting,” museum visitor Staci Williams said. “The colors, the expression. His humanity seemed to jump off of the page.”

The portraits evoke questions about who Frederick and Delia were, why they were



Staci Williams looks at the painting “Portrait of Frederick” at the Mississippi Museum of Art September 13, 2025

painted and what went through their minds as their faces were captured stroke by stroke for generations to see.

“We don’t know, for example, if either of these people had the choice to sit for the portrait. We don’t know if they had the choice of what they were wearing when they were painted,” said Betsy Bradley, the Lau-

rie Hearin McRee director of the museum. “They certainly weren’t allowed to own their own portrait.”

The museum bought “Portrait of Frederick” in partnership with the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. The museums will pass the portrait back and forth, each displaying

it for several years at a time.

Bradley said purchasing the portrait brought up complicated feelings. Until emancipation freed him, Frederick was considered property. Now, more than 150 years later, his portrait is property, bought and sold to the highest bidder.

“If it enables us to have important conversations with each other about the human cost of slavery and why it mustn’t ever happen again, then having it in a public place can be meaningful,” Bradley said.

Since the 1860s, “Portrait of Frederick” has been displayed at Longwood, an antebellum mansion in Natchez, Mississippi, that belonged to the family of his enslavers. There, Frederick’s likeness was used to whitewash history.

According to research by the Neal Auction Company, which sold the painting to the Mississippi Museum of Art, tour guides in the 1970s informed

the public that Frederick had grown up alongside his enslaver Haller Nutt, and the two were best friends. They claimed Nutt freed Frederick and referred to him by the belittling moniker “Uncle Frederick.”

In actuality, Frederick oversaw other slaves on the plantation. He collected data on field production, analyzed growing conditions and acted as a manager. His role was important, and he and his family may have received better living conditions as a result.

Frederick was about 70 when the Civil War ended. He took the surname Baker and became ordained. Prior to emancipation, Black people were not allowed to marry. Frederick married at least 69 couples after it became legal.

Less is known about Delia. Her portrait was painted between 1840 and 1849. She appears to be sewing, which leads some to believe she worked

inside her enslavers’ home. Delia’s portrait was kept by the descendants of her enslavers until the Mississippi Museum of Art bought it 2019.

Both portraits are unique in that Frederick and Delia are the sole subjects of the works. Oftentimes, Black people were painted alongside white people, likely as a way of underscoring the white person’s wealth.

Frederick is dressed in regal garb — something he likely would not have worn in his everyday role on the plantation. Both are depicted in a three-quarters composition, which was used for dignified and important subjects.

Upon looking at “Portrait of Frederick,” Williams said she felt a surprising mixture of pride and sadness.

“I wonder about what he’s thinking,” Williams mused. “He doesn’t seem to give anything away.”

Sundial Solar proposes solar-based economic development to Jackson

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

The President and CEO of Sundial Solar Power Developers, Inc., Will Shirley, met exclusively with The Mississippi Link newspaper Wednesday, September 9, 2025, at Urban Foxes on North Street in Jackson to unveil his proposal for a solar-based economic development strategy for the Capital City — the government, businesses, and residents.

The proposal for a five-year Solar-Based Economic Development (SBED) Plan was mailed to Mayor John Horhn for consideration September 7, 2025. Shirley indicates it was first proposed at the tail-end of the Yarber administration, and again to former mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba. “I heard things like, ‘we will get it done,’ but there was no follow through of effort, costing the city millions over these past eight years.”

Timing is important. Shirley indicates that the MISO — Mid-



Mr. Will Shirley, President & CEO, Sundial Solar. PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL SHIRLEY

continent Independent System Operator — projects a rise in wholesale energy costs, “undermining Jackson’s economic growth, affordability, and municipal resilience. MISO’s rates are expected to quadruple over the next 5-10 years. By implementing solar-based economic development strategies now, the city can hedge against energy price volatility, establish long-term price stability, and redi-

rect millions in savings toward other services that directly improve residents’ lives.”

Shirley stressed that we all know change can be difficult, but the world is moving forward at a brisk pace. He mentioned the massive data centers, not just coming to Mississippi, but all over the country, and how the advancement of technology comes with a price — the need for more energy. Other renewable sources of energy, like wind farms, can be found throughout the United States in over 230 locations - in over twenty states.

Earlier this year, Chicago became the largest U.S. City to power all of its 411 city buildings — including O’Hare, the fifth busiest airport in the country, and Midway airports with renewable energy, a full 70 percent coming from solar, and including economic benefits including an estimated \$100 million in tax revenue for local counties hosting the solar farm and job creation, per www.na-

tionofchange.org. Honolulu, HI, Las Vegas, NV, San Diego, CA, Albuquerque, NM, and San Jose, CA, San Antonio, TX, and Los Angeles, CA, are other cities utilizing enormous solar power capacity.

Other predominantly African American cities committed to shifting to renewable energy sources — mostly solar — include Columbia, South Carolina, Detroit, MI, New Orleans, LA, Houston, TX, and Enfield, North Carolina.

A June 25, 2025, global report from Energy Institute, based in the United Kingdom, indicates that “wind and solar combined grew at a rate of 16 percent in the last two years, nine times faster than overall demand for energy. Demand for fossil fuel energy also grew, but by just 1 percent in 2024.”

It’s really about making up your mind. Entergy has made up its mind about solar. Per their website, they are expanding solar power in Arkansas, New Orleans, Mississippi, and

Texas. In these four states they currently have 22 solar capacity plants, with an additional nine expected to be operational between 2025-2028. Sundial Solar’s proposal would require buy-in from city leaders and Entergy, and an endorsement by Governor Reeves would be prudent, to reach fruition. Getting started the mayor would designate a district — maybe Downtown or South Jackson for example — create a culture of solar buy-in, incentivizing businesses and neighborhoods, and expand from there. Adopting this proposal could make Jackson the Solar/Renewable Energy Hub of the State of Mississippi.

Sundial Solar manages every aspect of the project lifecycle—from initial site assessment through engineering design to permitting with local authorities and final system installation—ensuring a seamless transition to clean energy for clients. Their offerings are backed by robust warranties (12

years on products; 25 years on performance), reflecting confidence in both equipment quality and long-term system output.

One last item that we all want to know about early in the process — upfront costs. Shirley was crystal clear, saying, “the mayor doesn’t need to bring in a penny.” Instead, Sundial Solar would bring in a funding power purchase agreement. “If I get the approval from the city, I won’t have trouble matching investors to the project.” We have excellent resources to work with. We are a Charter/Founding member of Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association, and I’m Vice Chair for Investments of National Association of Blacks in Solar Power, Member of Mississippi Solar Advocates, and the Sierra Club.

As we wait to see if Jackson will move forward with solar energy, any questions can be directed to Sundial Solar Power Developers, Inc. at (844) 278-6342.

The Mississippi Link™
Volume 31 • Number 48
September 18 - 24, 2025
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Sports EditorTim Ward
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:



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

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

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

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,
please call (601) 896-0084.

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The National Center for Civil and Human Rights expands at a critical moment in US history

By Michael Warren
Associated Press

A popular museum in Atlanta is expanding at a critical moment in the United States. And unlike the Smithsonian Institution, the privately funded National Center for Civil and Human Rights is beyond the immediate reach of Trump administration efforts to control what Americans learn about their history.

The monthslong renovation, which cost nearly \$60 million, adds six new galleries as well as classrooms and interactive experiences, changing a relatively static museum into a dynamic place where people are encouraged to take action supporting civil and human rights, racial justice and the future of democracy, said Jill Savitt, the center's president and CEO.

The center has stayed active ahead of its Nov. 8 reopening through K-12 education programs that include more than 300 online lesson plans; a LGBTQ+ Institute; training in diversity, equity and inclusion; human rights training for law enforcement; and its Truth & Transformation Initiative to spread awareness about forced labor, racial terror and other historic injustices.

These are the same aspects of American history, culture and society that the Trump ad-



Jill Savitt, President and CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, leads a hard-hat tour of the expanded museum before its November reopening on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.

AP PHOTO/MICHAEL WARREN

ministration is seeking to dismantle.

Inspiring children to become 'change agents'

Dreamed up by civil rights icons Evelyn Lowery and Andrew Young, the center opened in 2014 on land donated by the Coca-Cola Company, next to the Georgia Aquarium and The World of Coca-Cola, and became a major tourist attraction. But ticket sales declined after the pandemic.

Now the center hopes to attract more repeat visitors with immersive experiences like "Change Agent Adventure," aimed at children under 12. These "change agents" will be

asked to pledge to do something — no matter how small — that "reflects the responsibility of each of us to play a role in the world: To have empathy. To call for justice. To be fair, be kind. And that's the ethos of this gallery," Savitt said. It opens next April.

"I think advocacy and change-making is kind of addictive. It's contagious," Savitt explained. "When you do something, you see the success of it, you really want to do more. And our desire here is to whet the appetite of kids to see that they can be involved. They can do it."

This ethos is sharply different

from the idea that young people can't handle the truth and must be protected from unpleasant challenges but, Savitt said, "the history that we tell here is the most inspirational history."

"In fact, I think it's what makes America great. It is something to be patriotically proud of. The way activists over time have worked together through nonviolence and changed democracy to expand human freedom — there's nothing more American and nothing greater than that. That is the lesson that we teach here," she said.

Encouraging visitors to be hopeful

"Broken Promises," opening in December, includes exhibits from the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, cut short when white mobs sought to brutally reverse advances by formerly enslaved people. "We want to start orienting you in the conversation that we believe we all kind of see, but we don't say it outright: Progress. Backlash. Progress. Backlash. And that pattern that has been in our country since enslavement," said its curator, Kama Pierce.

On display will be a Georgia historical marker from the site of the 1918 lynching of Mary Turner, pockmarked repeatedly with bullets, that Turner descendants donated to keep it

from being vandalized again.

"There are 11 bullet holes and 11 grandchildren living," and the family's words will be incorporated into the exhibit to show their resilience, Pierce said.

Items from the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. collection will have a much more prominent place, in a room that recreates King's home office, with family photos contributed by the center's first guest curator: his daughter, the Rev. Bernice King. "We wanted to lift up King's role as a man, as a human being, not just as an icon," Savitt explained.

Gone are the huge images of the world's most genocidal leaders — Hitler, Stalin and Mao among others — with explanatory text about the millions of people killed under their orders. In their place will be examples of human rights victories by groups working around the world.

"The research says that if you tell people things are really bad and how awful they are, you motivate people for a minute, and then apathy sets in because it's too hard to do anything," Savitt said. "But if you give people something to hope for that's positive, that they can see themselves doing, you're more likely to cultivate a sense of agency in people."

Fostering a healthy democracy

And doubling in capacity is an experience many can't forget: Joining a 1960s sit-in against segregation. Wearing headphones as they take a lunch-counter stool, visitors can both hear and feel an angry, segregationist mob shouting they don't belong. Because this is "heavy content," Savitt says, a new "reflection area" will allow people to pause afterward on a couch, with tissues if they need them, to consider what they've just been through.

The center's expansion was seeded by Home Depot co-founder and Atlanta philanthropist Arthur M. Blank, the Mellon Foundation and many other donors, for which Savitt expressed gratitude: "The corporate community is in a defensive crouch right now — they could get targeted," she said.

But she said donors shared concerns about people's understanding of citizenship, so supporting the teaching of civil and human rights makes a good investment.

"It is the story of democracy — Who gets to participate? Who has a say? Who gets to have a voice?" she said. "So our donors are very interested in a healthy, safe, vibrant, prosperous America, which you need a healthy democracy to have."

Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence face rising barriers to safety and justice

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Immigrant survivors of domestic violence are encountering new obstacles to safety as critical legal and funding protections erode. Survivors applying for U visas — given to victims of violent crime — or VAWA visas — which allow survivors to petition for immigration status separate from an abusive partner — face greater scrutiny and stricter application procedures. Asylum protections for gender-based violence survivors have also been gutted.

New anti-Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) restrictions have been enforced for domestic violence organizations who receive grant funding from federal agencies, including the Office of Violence Against Women, and Housing and Urban Development. The looming specter of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids has created an overwhelming climate of fear in immigrant communities: many survivors of domestic violence are not reporting their abuse. The national briefing this week focused on the additional challenges facing immigrant domestic violence survivors and possible avenues for support.

Carmen McDonald, Executive Director of the Survivor Justice Center, shared that her agency provides free legal services for low-income survivors in Los Angeles County, and has an integrated social work model providing full and holistic services to address know barriers that survivors face. She reported that about 70 percent of clients are immigrants, and that Los Angeles is home to one of the largest immigrant communities in the nation, and that when the ICE raids began, the fear they generated spread far beyond folks that



Panelists Carmen McDonald.
PHOTO: WWW.SURVIVORJUSTICECENTER.ORG.

were targeted — to domestic violence survivors — and silenced survivors. "Our team works every day at Survivor Justice Center with the survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Many of whom are just here trying to seek safety and dignity."

In terms of impact, she stated that after the ICE raids began, complaints of discrimination and hate dropped in LA County by about one-third. And not because incidents were down, but because people were afraid to report — "it keeps people away from the help they need and makes our communities less safe. Non-profit organizations are launching Know Your Rights campaigns to try to reach people that have gone underground, yet people are still afraid."

The Mississippi Link newspaper, one of 80 media outlets on the briefing call, asked, "prior to the current administration, had domestic violence reporting been improving and is there any data on that?" In response, McDonald painted the picture of spotty data today, despite knowing that reporting had dropped



Patima Komolamit. PHOTO: [HTTPS://CPAF.NGO](https://cpaf.ngo).

sharply during COVID, which essentially trapped victims in their homes with abusers. She also noted that when domestic violence is downplayed at the national level, the impact is chilling.

McDonald introduced a victim of domestic violence whose Violence Against Women Act application was approved just a few weeks ago. In part she shared her thanks for the Survivor Justice Center for providing her with the tools and advice to get her status changed. From start to finish it took nearly five years. She indicated that her abuser was her husband, who was an ex-military member who told her no one would ever believe her, and sure enough at times when she called and police came, he would put his uniform on the table for the police to see and no action would be taken. "Thank you for all the people that do the work you do to help people like me."

The next panelist, Morgan Weibel, is Director of Client Advocacy/Legal Services, at the Tahirih Justice Center, which has five offices nationwide pro-



Morgan Weibel. PHOTO: WWW.TAHIRIH.ORG.

viding free legal and social services to immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. "Women who come to the United States seeking safety and protection are brave, powerful, and courageous. They're saving their lives and also their children's lives, as are those who are standing up to violence here in the U.S. In their homes and seeking the protections that they are already entitled to under U.S. Law." She reiterated that more than ever before, survivors are less likely to trust the system because of the government's policies that entangle local law enforcement with federal immigration actions.

"For example, last month we assisted an immigrant survivor who was applying for VAWA relief. As she sought an emergency protective order against her abuser, with whom she was still living — while serving the abuser with that protective order, a local sheriff threatened to report the survivor to immigration officers for deportation. She was terrified and nearly gave up on pursuing a more permanent protective order out

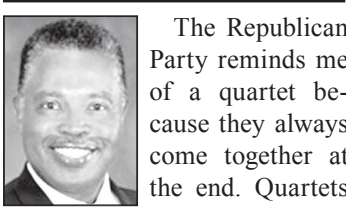
of fear that she might be arrested when she appeared in court." These immigration actions are contravening the 1994 bipartisan Violence Against Women Act and the protections it has afforded. Despite numerous reauthorizations by Congress, current administration policies and executive orders are usurping protections and women and children are suffering.

Patima Komolamit, Executive Director of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, founded in 1978, spoke about funding restrictions. Her center has a 24/7 multilingual crisis hotline that any survivor of domestic and sexual violence can access for free: 1-800-339-3940. In addition to the hotline, staffed by an actual person, they have an emergency shelter and two transitional shelters. Based in Los Angeles, the non-profit has been supported in large measures by federal grants from the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women (which reports to the Department of Justice). For a while funding was cut. Now it has reopened but with restrictions "to align federal funding with the Trump administration policies." The list of twelve restrictions includes banning activities that characterize domestic violence as a social justice issue and restrictions on spending on "illegal DEI" activities, including supporting immigrants and transgender people. It adds up to an inherently vulnerable and marginalized group suffering horrendous abuse under policies that the Trump administration claims have been mandated by voters.

To view the briefing call in its entirety, go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/immigrant-survivors-of-domestic-violence-face-rising-barriers-to-safety-and-justice>.

The Republican Party is in lock step but is it the right step?

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



The Republican Party reminds me of a quartet because they always come together at the end. Quartets have different melodies and harmonies, but the last note is always the same. The GOP has a lot of different opinions that differ yet when the votes are tallied, they are in unison. Over the past several months that has occurred. When the new president was choosing his cabinet team, there were several Republicans who were against the nominees. Do you remember the positions of Secretary of Defense and Sec-

retary of Education? Mr. Hegs-eth and Ms. McMahon were the respective candidates for those positions. Their experiences did not line up well for those jobs however they have them now. The GOP has the political playing field covered with policies that are out of touch with most Americans. Those voters once in the corner of the new administration are slowly but surely moving out of their corner. Slowly but surely means it has taken some people longer to see the light and to realize these ideas are wrong for this nation. Healthcare benefits for many Americans are being cut. As a result, going to the doctor is no longer a given. Co-payments for prescriptions have increased.

Choices are having to be made about what to buy and what to leave on the shelf. Once upon a time there was a true and prideful Republican Party. Where are they now? What happened to the party of Ronald Reagan and George Bush? Now, you don't hear much from Mike Pence, former vice president of the United States of America. There is silence or maybe they have just given up. Who knows? The GOP known for its conservative principles, has gone off the rails of decency. Jobs taken, people taken and standards taken. All taken because one party has succumbed to the storm clouds of my way or get out. Hundreds of men and women

have had to get out because of what is happening in America today. Think about it. All of the farmers who voted one way can't harvest their crops because their workers are afraid to come to work. Keep thinking. The media, once robust with new ideas and innovations has had their budgets compromised and their programs canceled. PBS recently lost 15 percent of its jobs due to the Republican-led Congress. All federal funding will be eliminated October 1st. Reports say that the Public Broadcasting System will have lost 100 jobs. PBS chief executive, Paula Kerger said, "Over the last weeks, we have been working through how best to manage the

impact of loss of federal funding. Just like every single public media organization in the country, we are being forced to make hard choices." Parents and grandparents though can still be happy because the beloved Sesame Street will still be on the air. It will have a new deal with Netflix and PBS. This iconic children's show will be entering its 56th season. Summer is over and Fall is coming. If you are traveling, you may run into National Guard troops at your destination. Our nation's capital has National Guard troops patrolling the avenues and streets. The famous Union train station has many of them. The current administration says they are there for our

protection and safety. Are they making a difference? It depends upon who you ask. I suspect if you ask any Republican, they will say that it is. Civil Rights activist, Reverend Al Sharpton and D.C. Mayor, Muriel Bowser called it an authoritarian push. Meanwhile D.C. Attorney General, Brian L. Schwab has sued, labeling it a military occupation and a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act which restricts the military role in domestic law enforcement. These are his comments. "It is clear that our sensibilities are being stretched. Civility and discernment will ultimately keep our democracy in place. We must simply do our part."

A forgotten chapter of hope: What the readjusters teach us about healing our divided country

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



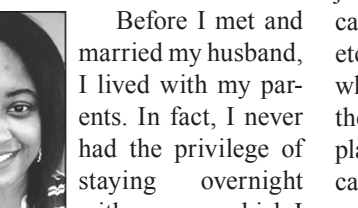
There's a deep sense of despair settling over America. Families are working harder and falling further behind. The cost of raising children grows, while schools, housing, and healthcare remain out of reach for too many. It's no wonder people across this country — rural and urban, Black and white — feel left behind and politically homeless. But our past offers a powerful, largely forgotten story of how people once came together — across race and class — to put their children first. It happened in post-Civil War Virginia, through a political force called the Readjuster Party. The Readjusters emerged in the late 1870s, when Virginia's elites were insisting the state repay its massive pre-war debt in full — even if that meant closing schools and slashing public services. Poor and working-class families, Black and white, saw clearly what was at stake: the future of their children's education. Public schools had been significantly expanded during Reconstruction, and they were now under threat. In response, Black voters and white working people — farmers, laborers, veterans — formed the Readjuster co-

alition. Their message was simple but bold: public debt should be "readjusted" so that education and opportunity for all children could come first. For a brief but impactful time in the 1880s, the Readjusters controlled Virginia's state government. They raised public school funding, protected Black voting rights, and pushed for reforms that served the working class, not just the elite. It was one of the most successful examples of cross-racial, working-class solidarity in American history. One of the leaders of this movement was Edward David Bland, a Black Reconstruction-era legislator from Petersburg. Elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1879, Bland was supported by both Black and white working-class voters — the kind of broad, grassroots coalition our politics rarely sees today. While in office, he championed public education and helped secure funding for Black schools and institutions. But his base was never just "the Black community" — it was the working people of Petersburg, Black and white alike, united by a shared demand for dignity and opportunity. The Readjusters were eventually dismantled by a well-funded and racially charged backlash that ushered in Jim Crow. But the impact of their brief victory endures. Virginia's public school system — now ranked among the stron-

gest in the country — still benefits from the foundational reforms won by that movement. Their story offers urgent lessons for today. Too often, the struggles of poor white families are rendered invisible, while Black poverty is hyper-visible but rarely treated with empathy. Both distortions serve to divide people who might otherwise stand together. In a political environment designed to pit us against each other, the Readjusters remind us that it doesn't have to be this way. We can choose something better. We can build a politics rooted in our shared concern for our children. We can refuse to let race be used to divide the working class, as it so often is, and instead invest in a future where every child — rural or urban, Black or white — gets a real chance at success. The Readjusters weren't perfect, and they weren't permanent. But they proved what's possible when people stop fighting each other and start fighting for each other. If they could do it — in the shadow of the Civil War — then surely, we can find the courage to do it again. *Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania. For more on the Readjuster Party, see his latest book, Never Forget Our People Were Always Free.*

You don't get mail over there

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

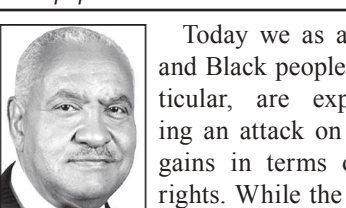


Before I met and married my husband, I lived with my parents. In fact, I never had the privilege of staying overnight with anyone, which I thought was cruel and insane to say the least. However, now that I am grown and have put away childish things — I understand that this was a wise decision that my parents made. And my husband and I agreed that we would rear our future children the precise same. Anyways, I met my future husband, he proposed after two months of knowing each other (it does not take years to know who you want to spend the rest of your life with - God lets you know when you have met your soulmate almost immediately) and me and my mother began planning my dream wedding. I was so elated not just about planning my dream Christmas themed wedding and Winter in the Wonderland themed reception, not just about our honeymoon we were planning to take to the Smokey Mountains, wasn't just excited about preparing for college graduations, and dating each other but I was more thrilled about finally being able to move out my parents' house. My husband and I got married and moved into our first apartment. I could not stop cheering. I was grown, living on my own with my husband and having fun. I enjoyed living the adult lifestyle; buying groceries, cooking, cleaning, husband taking out the trash, and even paying bills, etc. But I was missing one thing in our new residence — mail. I wasn't receiving any mail until I asked our apartment manager — she asked me where had I previously lived and I informed her. She then asked me if I had completed the mailing address change form in the post office and of course, I had not — didn't know I had to. And that's when she expressed you don't get mail over here because the post office is unaware that you live here. Husbands and wives why are you in another house or place with another man or Sister Cheeks - you don't get mail over there! What goes through the minds of spouses when they are on their way over there to cheat— over there refers to that place that doesn't involve cherished family memories. There is the place where spouses forget their prestigious titles of husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, friend, pastor, min-

ister, deacon, mayor, law enforcer, judge, city officials, coaches, educators, professors, nurses, doctors, etc. Furthermore, there is the place where spouses deliberately abandon their marriage vows. There is that place where you receive no mail because it's not your home address. What do husbands and wives think about when they are on the way to cheat? Do you pray? Do you feel bad at all? Do you consider your spouse hearts? Do you think about how hard your husband is working to provide for you? Do you think about your wife's commitment of cooking and cleaning? Do they think about their children? Do they think about the possibility of having a lovechild? Do you hear God say, turn around, don't go? Do you think about the risk of getting STD's? Do they think about how adultery is a crime in states like Mississippi; can pay up to \$500 fine, spend up to six-months in the county jail, and how your spouse can sue your lover based on Alienation of Affection Law? Do you think about how you could lose your job, business, career? Do you think about how you would feel if you knew that your spouse was on the way there? In conclusion, when I realized why I was not getting mail — I went to the post office and gave them my new address because I wanted my mail to be sent where I lived and belonged which was with my husband. God joined you and your spouse together and God emphasizes let no man put asunder (break-up) what God has joined together. If you are having challenges with self, your marriage, etc.— cheating is not the answer, flee, run from the other house/place, seek professional and Godly counsel. Spouses, if you are sneaking around, ducking and dodging, if your spouse can't go with you, hiding, not in your own bed that God gave you with your spouse — you don't belong over there — you are at the wrong house/place. You did not take vows with the other man/woman and you sure as heck don't get mail over there! Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstay-2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

A look at "in spite of instead of because of"

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



Today we as a nation and Black people in particular, are experiencing an attack on all our gains in terms of civil rights. While the attacks clothed in "DEI" and other code words, are aimed at us collectively, most of us are still thinking as individuals and complaining about the impact of cut backs and elimination of programs and services that have been so important to us. The one problem we have is that we are not thinking "collectively" as we once did during "Jim Crow segregation." It was under those circumstances that the NAACP and many of our national organizations were created. We didn't allow racism and segregation to stop us from working together for the common good of all of us as people of color. Let us remember the lunch counter desegregation sit-ins. These were a se-

ries of nonviolent protest that began in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1960 and spread throughout the South. Four African American college students initiated the first sit-in at a Woolworth lunch counter. "This was done "in spite of" the racism. And today we sit where we want to with all the equality that followed with the Civil Rights Act of 1965. We can not allow this Administration, with its usurpation of power, to take our rights and freedoms by cancelling programs and dollars when we, as a people, generate and spend over four trillion dollars a year on just about everything except helping each other. Let it not be said that we were rendered helpless because funding for programs like education were cut when our churches, once upon a time provided the additional education services to our children at no cost. We must harness our resources to grow, protect and safeguard ourselves "in spite" of this president and his agenda. We were achieving because of our abilities and not because of "DEI," race, equality, affirmative action or inclusion.

We excelled because we were prepared and qualified. So what do we do now? We harness our votes and prepare for "any" election that is coming. Remember that in May of 1957, Dr. King gave a speech titled "Give us the ballot". This was done at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. He said "give us the ballot and we will fill legislative halls with men (and women) of good will." The Voting Rights Act solidified his demand, but too many of us have squandered the opportunities granted since then. We must once again become that "collective" that brought us this far. Lets get off our social media addiction to trivia and get engaged in saving our present and our futures. With prayer still being the first order of business, let's start working together "in spite of" what's being thrown against us, and get involved "because of" those who came before us and made everything we enjoy possible." A luta Continua" The Struggle Continues.

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

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

TO: All known and unknown heirs of Wilson F. Dillon, deceased, whose names, resi-
dences, 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 sum-
moned 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 de-
sire. 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 _____,
2025.

Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

9/11/2025, 9/18/2025, 9/25/2025

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)
Funds.

Contractors or General Contractors with demonstrated experience in housing con-
struction/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 under-
stood that the selected Respondent, acting as an individual, partnership, corporation,
or other legal entity, is state-licensed, certified, and capable of providing the specified
services.

Contractors or general Contractors interested in providing these services may so indi-
cate 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 com-
pany submitting forthe RFQ
- 2.A copy of your Privilege License
- 3.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 busi-
ness is in goodstanding
- 6.MSBOC License
- 7.Contractor's Bond
- 8.SAMS Number
- 9.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 com-
pletion) 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 con-
tracting. 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 selec-
tion, 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 com-
ply 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 Op-
portunity 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 busi-
ness 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4302

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City
Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof,
notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that
Whitney Matthews dba Moe's Charity Bingo has filed with the Planning Board for the
City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of
a bingo parlor within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 3028
W. Northside Dr. (Parcel 732-92), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Missis-
sippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 28, North Ridge Subdivision, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof,
which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at
Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 7 at Page 28, reference to which is hereby made in
aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jack-
son Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street
in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at which
time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on
said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning
Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection
thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in
writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing
thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request
is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take
steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/
hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE,
THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC
HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO.
PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE
TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 17, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 29TH day of August 2025.

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

9/4/2025, 9/18/2025

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, Jack-
son, 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 responsi-
bility 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 appli-
cation software. The Contractor shall provide support services and train the appropri-
ate 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 responsi-
bility 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 con-
tracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business op-
portunity 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 en-
suring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initia-
tives, 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 par-
ticipate 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 envel-
ope 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.centralbid-
ding.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any
questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at
225-810-4814.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the
non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under
similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter
383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a non-
resident 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 en-
terprises are solicited to bid on these contracts as prime contractors and are encour-
aged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment,
material and/or supply needs.

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

Christine Welch, Deputy Director
Office of Transportation

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

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Missis-
sippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped
in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at which time said bids will be publicly
opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Cham-
bers) in City Hall for the following:

76583-101425 - Crawler Dozer

76585-101425– Compact Hydraulic Excavator Crawler Mounted

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

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

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

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

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

9/18/2025, 9/25/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING
ZONING CASE NO. 4301

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City
Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof,
notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that
Steven Johnson dba Endless Summer Real Estate and Investments has filed with the
Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1
(Single-Family) Residential District to R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential
District for the property located at 4821 Old Byram Rd. (Parcel 872-100-12) to allow for
the construction of approximately thirty-seven (37) duplex homes in the First Judicial
District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A parcel of land being situated in the West ½ of section 6, Township 4 North, Range 1
East, city of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described
as follows:

Commence at the northeast corner of South ¼ of the north ¼ of the southwest ¼ of
section 6, T4N-R1E, and run thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 56 seconds West
for a distance of 27.8 feet to a set ½" iron pin at a fence corner on the West right-of-
way line of Old Byram Rd (As now laid out and improved); Said point further being the
point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; From said point of beginning
continue thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 56 seconds West along a meandering
wire fence for a distance of 471.00 feet to a found ½" iron pin in a fence line; leaving
said fence line, run thence North 28 degrees 33 minutes 48 seconds east for a distance
of 107.66 feet to a found ½" iron pin in the centerline of a drainage ditch; Run thence
along said centerline of drainage ditch the following bearings and distance: North 18
degrees 04 minutes 19 seconds east for a distance of 114.26 feet to a found ½" iron
pin; run thence North 06 degrees 00 minutes 02 seconds east for a distance of 181.70
feet to a found ½" iron pin; Run thence North 08 degress 55 minutes 58 seconds east
for a distance of 198.19 feet to a found ½" iron pin; Run thence North 03 degrees 38
minutes 05 seconds West for a distance of 242.28 feet to a set ½" iron pin; Run thence
North 16 degrees 12 minutes 18 seconds east for a distance of 284.46 feet to a set ½"
iron pin; thence North 12 degrees 03 minutes 02 seconds East 76.95 feet to a set ½"
iron pin in a fence line; Run thence north (South per record description) 89 degrees 37
minutes 13 seconds east along a meandering wire fence for a distance of 270.15 feet
to an existing ½" iron pin at a fence corner on the aforesaid West right of way line of
old Byram Rd; run thence South 00 degrees 46 minutes 52 seconds West along west
right of way line of Old Byram Road and along a meandering wire fence for a distance
of 1,167.77 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 9.60 acres, more or less.

And also:

A parcel of land being situated in the West ¼ of Section 6, Township 4 North, Range 1
East, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described
as follows:

Commence at the Northeast corner of South ¼ of the North ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of
Section 6, T4N, R1E, and run thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 56 seconds West
for a distance of 27.8 feet to a set ½" iron pin at a fence corner on the West right-of-way
line of Old Byram Road (as now laid out and improved); said point further being the
Point of Beginning; continue thence South 89 degrees 56 Minutes 56 seconds West
for a distance of 471.00 feet to a found ½" iron pin in a fence line; leaving said fence
line, run thence North 28 degrees 33 minutes 48 seconds East for a distance of 107.66
feet to a found ½" iron pin in the centerline of a drainage ditch; run thence along said
centerline of a drainage ditch North 18 degrees 04 Minutes 19 seconds East for a
distance of 114.26 feet to a found ½" iron pin; run thence North 06 degrees 00 minutes
02 seconds East for a distance of 181.70 feet to a found ½" iron pin; run thence North
08 degrees 55 minutes 58 seconds East for a distance of 198.19 feet to a found ½" iron
pin; run thence North 03 degrees 38 minutes 05 seconds West for a distance of
94.49 feet; run thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East for a distance
of 349.49 feet; run thence South 00 degrees 48 minutes 52 seconds West along said
present Western right-of-way line of Old Byram Road for a distance of 673.71 feet to
the Point of Beginning, containing 5.89 acres, more or less.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jack-
son Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street
in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at which
time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said
question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board
can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto
may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing
must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or
consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the
Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accom-
modate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE,
THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC
HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO.
PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE
TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 17, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 29TH day of August 2025.

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

9/4/2025, 9/18/2025

LEGAL

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

IN RE: VALIDATION OF NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000,000 MISSISSIPPI
DEVELOPMENT BANK SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2025
(CITY OF JACKSON, MS INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION TAX
REVENUE BOND PROJECT) (THE "SERIES 2025 BONDS")

NO: 2025-1029 6/2

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

TO: THE TAXPAYERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

You are hereby notified that the matter of the validation of the above-described obligation
will be heard on the 25th day of September, 2025, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., in the First Judicial
District of the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, at the Hinds County Courthouse in the
City of Jackson, Mississippi, at or before which time and date written objections to the validation of
the issuance of said obligation, if any, must be filed.

By order of the Chancellor, this the 11th day of September, 2025.



EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK
HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BY: [Signature], D.C.

NOTE: Mississippi Code Section 31-13-5 (1972) requires that the foregoing notice be
published at least one time in some newspaper published in the County where the case is docketed,
not less than five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) prior to the date set for hearing.
Proof of publication of said notice should be filed as part of the record prior to the date of the
aforesaid hearing.

DEREK R. ARRINGTON
STATE BOND ATTORNEY

9/18/2025

LEGAL

Advertisement for:
Bid 26-3274
Interior Air Filter Replacement Services for JPSD

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, October 13, 2025 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning all listed projects will be held in person at Enochs Administrative Complex, 101 Dr. Dennis Holloway Drive on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

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

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

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

Performance Dates:

• 1st Advertise: 18 September 2025 (Clarion); 18 September 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)

• 2nd Advertise: 26 September 2025 (Clarion); 26 September 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)

• Pre-bid Conference: 29 September 2025 (TEAMS)
• Final Date for Questions: 03 October 2025
• Answers to Questions: 06 October 2025
• Bid Opening Day: 13 October 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

9/18/2025, 9/25/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2025 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

NEW BUSINESS
CASE NO. HPNC-25-29
LOCATION: 1746 MYRTLE ST (PARCEL (9-210-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN
REQUEST: RHAB HOME AND GARAGE.
APPLICANT: TRAVIS HED-RICK

CASE NO. HPNC-25-35
LOCATION: 949 N JEFFERSON ST (PARCEL (20-37)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN HEIGHTS
REQUEST: REHAB HOME AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURE.
APPLICANT: WILLIAM LAKE

CASE NO. HPNC-25-36
LOCATION: 100 W MONUMENT ST (PARCEL (73-10)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET
REQUEST: INSTALL DECORATIVE 4 FT. FENCE AROUND PARKING LOT.
APPLICANT: AMY LANCASTER

CASE NO. HPNC-25-37
LOCATION: 752 N FARISH ST (PARCEL (75-43-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET
REQUEST: CONSTRUCT NEW PARKING LOT.
APPLICANT: KIMBERLY VIVERETTE

CASE NO. HPNC-25-38
LOCATION: 1002 ARLINGTON ST (PARCEL (11-46)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN
REQUEST: INSTALL ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE HOME.
APPLICANT: TYLER AR-CHIE

II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

9/18/2025, 9/25/2025

Growing Mississippi’s
economy—together.

We live and work in the communities we serve, and we’re invested in growing this place we all call home. So we’re always looking to partner with local suppliers and contractors to help us safely deliver affordable and reliable energy to the people of Mississippi.

So if you’re a Mississippi-based supplier or contractor, we’d like to include you on future proposals for projects. Because no one knows how to better serve the people of this state than you.

If you’d like to learn more about our qualification and insurance requirements, bid and contracting processes and other details, reach out to us at Supplier@SpireEnergy.com, or visit us at SpireEnergy.com/Doing-Business-Spire.

At Spire, we’re proud to support Hire Mississippi.



For information about advertising in
The Mississippi Link
please call:
601-896-0084

PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

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

SPORTS MEDICINE

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

CANTON

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

BYRAM

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

VOWELL’S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION

at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

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

UTICA

HUBBARD’S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

Automobiles

WE BUY 8,000 CARS a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-758-1344

For Sale

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. **Call 1-844-316-8630** today to schedule a free quote. It is not just a generator. It is a power move.

Home Improvement

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-764-2473

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-264-5115

SAFE STEP. North America is #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

Home Improvement

SunSetter. America’s Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-888-495-6071

Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-584-8451 or 1-855-177-5555 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress)

Medical Supplies

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-833-641-4206

Miscellaneous

DONATE your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-428-0305 today!

Real Estate

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-601-273-8545.

Services - General

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143



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To order your advertising, call:
Mississippi Press Services
Sue Hicks, 601-981-3060

Week of September 14, 2025

P R E S E R V E D

Nails, Tires and Prayer

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It's funny how something as small as a nail can change your perspective on things. I'm not talking about the nails that were used to crucify Jesus Christ. I'm talking about the nails that severely damage our car tires. A few years ago, my car was the victim of one of those nails and I had to have a tire repaired.

I drove through a construction zone and accidentally ran over a board in the middle of the road. Within minutes, I got a message on my dashboard that my car was losing pressure in one of its tires. Immediately (like within the next 3 highway exits), I took it to a tire shop to repair.

Thankfully, they were able to fix it without much cost.

A few weeks later when I looked at the same tire and saw a nail sticking out, I almost fainted. I checked the tire closely just to make sure that I was not catching a reflection from the bright sun but it was indeed a nail. Because of my job and appointments I had that day, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to get it fixed. However, I didn't want to take the risk of it having a slow leak and leaving me stranded somewhere. I prayed for God to let me make it back to the tire repair shop before it went flat so they could fix it. After making my way to the tire shop the next day, the mechanic quickly went to work on it. He came back within 5 minutes to say that the nail didn't go through the sidewall and

that it was only stuck in the groove of the tire. As a result, there was no real damage done to the tire. I was happy that I didn't have to spend the money but I also marveled at how the situation also had a spiritual lesson.

On the surface, the nail looked like it had done greater damage than in reality it actually had. In much the same way, we sometimes think the issues we are dealing with are worse than they actually are. For example, we avoid going to doctors because we are afraid of what they might tell us about our health. But we get a pleasant surprise when we do go to the doctor and are told that we've actually lost weight and our health has improved.

Sometimes it's past disappointments that keep us fearful that the situation is

actually worse than it is. Philippians 4:7 encourages, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Instead of magnifying the bad that we think may come, this scripture reminds us that we should magnify the good that God has already allowed to happen in our lives

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

Let the world see what they did to my boy

A Tribute to Mamie Elizabeth Carthan Till-Mobley

By Dr. Edelia J. Carthan • August 28, 2025

It wasn't the river that woke the world.

It wasn't the scream in the dark, or the whistle they said was too bold for Black lips. It wasn't the kidnapping. It wasn't the lynching, or the torture, or the bullet through the head, or the barbed wire tied to a cotton gin fan.

It was you, Mamie Elizabeth Carthan Till-Mobley (August 25, 1955) They came in the night for your son.

Emmett Louis Till. He was just a baby. Fourteen Kidnapped from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi. Beaten. Mutilated. Shot. Murdered. Violated. Tossed like trash into the Tallahatchie River.

And when the world wanted you to shut it down, To close the casket, To hide the horror... You said:

"No! Let the world see what they did to my boy."

You stood, straight-backed, grief-heavy, unbroken, unshaken and unmoved. You stood before the casket, before the crowd, before the country, and you told the truth with his face.

America flinched. You lifted the lid, and exposed the lie of "liberty and justice for all." Not with a gun, but with the power of a mother's love,

a mother's rage, a mother's refusal to be silent. (September 23, 1955) They acquitted the killers — Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam — an all-white jury took 67 minutes to declare them "not guilty."

One juror said, "It wouldn't have taken that long if we hadn't stopped to drink soda."

But the devil does not keep secrets for long.

(January 1956 — Look Magazine) They confessed for \$4,000, bragged about the murder,

and still walked free. Because in America, White men cash in on Black death. But your courage didn't die with your son.

It echoed. (December 1, 1955 — Montgomery, Alabama)

"I thought of Emmett Till, and I couldn't go to the back of the bus."

— Rosa Parks You lit the match that burned segregation's house down.

You inspired a movement. A generation. A revolution.

Your grief gave us fire. You became the mother of millions —

And they came, Mamie. Oh, they came:

Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin

Lesley McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown

Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner Wanda Cooper-Jones, mother of

Ahmaud Arbery Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor

They gained strength from your strength.

You paved the way.

You taught us how to fight evil.

Mamie

And today, as we honor you, we pause to

Say their names.

Say his name.

Emmett Louis Till.

You were more than a grieving mother.

You were a mirror to a lying nation.

A wound that refused to scab over.

A teacher, an activist, a prophet in pearls.

You didn't just bury your son.

You birthed a movement.

And for that,

We honor you.

We remember.

We admire you, and

We love you.

We march. We fight. And we carry the torch forward.

Because of you,

We will always...

Let the world see what they did to our babies.

We salute you, Mamie Carthan Till-Mobley for letting the world see what they did to your boy, Emmett Louis Till.



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Diet, which one - Part 1

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Fad diets are popular eating plans that promise quick weight loss. With obesity rates in the U.S. rising to nearly 42 percent between 2017 and 2022, it’s no surprise that about 45 million Americans try dieting each year. Some diets can be healthy, fad diets often claim to have a “quick fix” for losing weight but most lack scientific proof. Some studies even suggest that following these diets for a long time can be harmful.

Experts don’t advise fad diets, but some have some research backing them.

Fad diets are a trendy way of eating that claims to help you lose weight fast and easy. Fad diets often have strict rules, like lists of what to eat and what not to eat. People usually follow these diets for a short time until they reach their goals or get tired of the diet. Fad diets often make several enticing promises to attract followers. Here are some common claims:

Rapid Weight Loss: Many fad diets promise quick and significant weight loss, often within a short period.

Minimal Effort: They often suggest that you can achieve your goals with little effort, sometimes by following simple rules or eating specific foods.

Health Benefits: Some claim to offer additional health benefits, such as improved energy levels, better digestion or detoxification.

Unique or Secret Methods: Fad diets frequently promote themselves as having a unique or newly discovered method that is superior to traditional dieting approaches.

Elimination of Food Groups:



They might advocate for cutting out entire food groups, like carbs or fats, claiming this is the key to success.

While these promises can be appealing, it’s important to approach them with caution. Many fad diets lack scientific backing and can be unsustainable or even harmful in the long run.

1. Mediterranean Diet
Pros:
Heart Health: Rich in healthy fats like olive oil, nuts and fish, which are beneficial for heart health.

Nutrient-Dense: Emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins, providing a

wide range of essential nutrients.

Sustainable: More of a lifestyle change than a restrictive diet, making it easier to maintain long-term.

Cons:
Cost: Can be expensive due to the emphasis on fresh produce and high-quality ingredients.

Preparation Time: Requires time for meal preparation and cooking, which might be challenging for busy individuals.

2. Keto Diet
Pros:
Weight Loss: Effective for rapid weight loss due to the body’s shift to burning fat for

fuel.

Appetite Control: High-fat content can help reduce hunger and cravings.

Blood Sugar Control: Can improve insulin sensitivity and help manage blood sugar levels.

Cons:
Nutrient Deficiency: Restricts many fruits, vegetables and grains, potentially leading to nutrient deficiencies.

Side Effects: Can cause “keto flu,” with symptoms like fatigue, headache and nausea during the initial adaptation phase.

Sustainability: Difficult to maintain long-term due to its restrictive nature.

3. Paleo Diet
Pros:
Whole Foods: Emphasizes whole, unprocessed foods, which can improve overall diet quality.

Weight Loss: Can lead to weight loss and improved metabolic health.

Reduced Inflammation: May help reduce inflammation due to the exclusion of processed foods and sugars.

Cons:
Restrictive: Eliminates entire food groups like dairy, grains and legumes, which can be challenging to sustain

Cost: Expensive due to the focus on high-quality meats and organic produce.

4. Vegan Diet
Pros:
Heart Health: Linked to lower cholesterol levels and reduced risk of heart disease.

Weight Management: Often associated with lower body weight and reduced risk of obesity.

Environmental Impact: More sustainable and environmentally friendly compared to diets high

in animal products.

Cons:
Nutrient Deficiency: Risk of deficiencies in nutrients like vitamin B12, iron, calcium and omega-3 fatty acids.

Social Challenges: Can be difficult to follow in social settings or when dining out.

Preparation: Requires careful planning to ensure a balanced intake of essential nutrients.

5. Intermittent Fasting
Pros:
Weight Loss: Can be effective for weight loss and fat loss.

Metabolic Health: May improve insulin sensitivity and reduce inflammation.

Simplicity: Does not require calorie counting or food restrictions, focusing instead on timing of meals.

Cons:
Hunger: Can be challenging to manage hunger and energy levels during fasting periods.

Social Impact: May be difficult to adhere to in social situations or with irregular schedules.

Potential for Overeating: Risk of overeating during non-fasting periods, which can negate benefits.

6. Low-Carb Diet
Pros:
Weight Loss: Effective for weight loss and reducing abdominal fat.

Blood Sugar Control: Can improve blood sugar levels and insulin sensitivity.

Appetite Control: High protein and fat content can help reduce hunger and cravings.

Cons:
Restrictive: Limits intake of many fruits, vegetables and grains, which can be challenging to maintain.

Nutrient Deficiency: Potential for deficiencies in fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Side Effects: May cause initial side effects like fatigue, headache and irritability.

7. DASH Diet
Pros:
Heart Health: Designed to lower blood pressure and improve heart health.

Nutrient-Dense: Emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins, providing a balanced intake of nutrients.

Sustainable: Focuses on long-term healthy eating habits rather than short-term weight loss.

Cons:
Preparation Time: Requires time for meal planning and preparation.

Cost: Can be expensive due to the emphasis on fresh produce and lean proteins.

Adaptation: May require significant changes to current eating habits, which can be challenging.

8. Atkins Diet
Pros:
Weight Loss: Effective for rapid weight loss, especially in the initial phases.

Blood Sugar Control: Can improve blood sugar levels and insulin sensitivity.

Appetite Control: High protein and fat content can help reduce hunger and cravings.

Cons:
Restrictive: Limits intake of many fruits, vegetables and grains, which can be challenging to maintain.

Nutrient Deficiency: Potential for deficiencies in fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Side Effects: May cause initial side effects like fatigue, headache and irritability.

(Next week “More about diets”.)

Community Water Fluoridation is a popular and proven dental health benefit

StatePoint

In a May 2025 national poll by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association in cooperation with the American Dental Association (ADA), more than 4 out of 5 survey takers said they are familiar with fluoride’s role in oral health and that fluoride is particularly important for children, while more than 2 out of 3 said they are comfortable with fluoride in their tap water.

Fluoride, a mineral that naturally occurs in water sources such as rivers, lakes and oceans, helps prevent tooth decay by making the surface of teeth stronger and more cavity-resistant. It’s often the “active ingredient” in cavity-fighting toothpastes. Adding fluoride to tap water is like adding vitamins and minerals to foods and drinks, helping people access important nutrients for their oral and overall health. So why has it become such a focus of conversation lately?

Misleading data from countries with fluoride levels that can reach 30 times the amount in U.S. public water systems have created a flurry of misinformation, yet still, this survey



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) TARAS GREBINETS / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

shows that people know and trust in fluoride’s power to help prevent tooth decay at optimal levels. If community water fluoridation is being debated in your hometown, here’s what America’s dentists want you to know.

Fluoride in water saves you

pain and money: Cavities are the most common chronic childhood disease, and community water fluoridation is proven to do two important things: reduce tooth decay by 25% in children and adults and reduce the costs and complications of severe cavities. The

ADA Health Policy Institute estimates removing fluoride from all U.S. community water systems would cost \$46 billion over five years because of increased dental care costs.

Estimates aside, present-day proof exists. When Calgary, Alberta; Windsor, Ontario;

and Juneau, Alaska stopped adding fluoride to their water, dental disease and its associated costs rose in children and adults. Five years after the ban in Windsor was implemented, a dental health report found that the rate of children with tooth decay and/or requiring urgent care for untreated dental health issues increased by 51%. Windsor and Calgary have since resumed community water fluoridation.

Bans don’t help fight dental disease: Community water fluoridation is simply the adjustment of naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water to an optimal level to prevent tooth decay. Almost all U.S. water sources naturally contain fluoride, but often not enough to be effective in preventing cavities.

When a state bans fluoridation — as Utah and Florida did recently — communities that were adding fluoride to their water lose access to a proven dental health benefit, while others lose the opportunity to start. While someone who lives in an area with fluoridated public water can easily access water without fluoride if they choose — through purified

bottled water or at-home water filtration — someone who wants fluoridated water where it’s been banned has had their choice taken away without valid alternatives offered. This is especially harmful to rural and low-income communities and those who lack regular access to dental care.

“Fluoridated water is a simple, inexpensive way to strengthen teeth and prevent cavities,” said ADA dentist, Scott L. Tomar, D.M.D., Dr.P.H. “Take away that access, and we know the risk for cavities increases.”

The bottom line is that fluoride is popular and good for your dental health. For more information about fluoride in water, visit MouthHealthy.org/fluoridation and ADA.org/fluoride.

“The freedom to access optimally fluoridated public water and receive its dental health benefits should not be denied because of misinformed policy decisions that ignore community needs and majority support for fluoride,” said Dr. Tomar. “Community water fluoridation is the popular and proven choice.”



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Murrah High School celebrates AP Capstone Diploma recipients



Josannah Clay



Aynecia Gardner



Kaylynn Hundley



Gabrielle Johnson



Sabrea Jordan



Hannah King

The JPS Newswire

Eight Murrah High School students from the Class of 2025 were recently recognized for their achievements in the AP Capstone Program, a two-year program for advanced students that consists of AP Seminar and AP Research. The AP Capstone program helps students develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, and presentation skills that are critical for academic success.

Aynecia Gardner, Sabrea Jordan, and Tracey Robinson were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma™. To earn the AP Capstone Diploma, students must receive a score of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams.

Josannah Clay, Kaylynn Hundley, Gabrielle Johnson, Hannah King, and Alex McLin were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. To earn the certificate, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Unlike traditional AP® subject exams with a single end-of-year assessment, AP Seminar and AP Research assessments are project-based and evaluate skills mastery through group projects, presentations, and individual essays completed throughout the year. Instead of

focusing on one specific academic discipline, AP Seminar and AP Research are interdisciplinary: students are empowered to create research projects based on topics of personal interest. Students are assessed on the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills needed to complete their projects.

Students are increasingly participating in the AP Capstone program worldwide. Jackson Public Schools and Murrah High School have been at the forefront of these relatively new courses, beginning the program in the 2018-2019 school year and graduating their first class with AP Capstone Diplomas in 2022. In 2025, fewer than 100 students in Mississippi were eligible for the AP Capstone Diploma or AP Research and Seminar Certificate.

Murrah's AP Capstone program instructors are Dr. Heather Green, Mrs. Sarah Ballard, and Mr. Micah Everson. "We are so proud of these students not only for conducting their individual research projects, but also for achieving success across the spectrum of AP courses," said Murrah's instructors. "All students who take on the challenge of the AP



Tracey Robinson
*not pictured: Alex McLin

Capstone Program enter their college experience with the advantage of already having performed independent and original research. These eight who earned the AP Capstone Diploma or Certificate, moreover, have shown that they have truly excelled in developing and researching their independent projects and communicating their research through a written paper and oral presentation. The College Board holds those papers and presentations to a high standard for students to earn the certificate and diploma."

Including AP Seminar and Research, Murrah High School offered 20 AP courses in the 2024-2025 school year, with over 160 students taking at least one AP exam.

JSU hosts landmark AI workshop with MAIN and OpenAI Academy



Nearly 500 participants from across Mississippi's education, workforce and government visited JSU for the Open AI Academy. PHOTO BY ARON SMITH/ UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Jackson State University

Jackson State University hosted its first immersive ChatGPT workshop in partnership with the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN) and OpenAI Academy in July 2025. The event brought together nearly 500 participants from across Mississippi's education, workforce and government sectors for a day of practical AI learning and collaboration.

The full-day workshop provided practical and applied training on generative AI, offering participants the opportunity to engage directly with OpenAI Academy instructors and gain hands-on experience using ChatGPT in real-world scenarios.

"As a partner of MAIN, we were excited to collaborate with leaders across the state to host events like this at JSU," said Almeshsa Campbell, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development. Artificial intelligence is reshaping discovery, teaching and workforce development, and it's critical that our faculty, staff and students are not only prepared but positioned to lead and drive innovation. "This hands-on workshop demonstrates JSU's role in advancing applied research and entrepreneurship while ensuring that Mississippi remains competitive in the AI-driven future."

Jackson State University, a proud partner of MAIN, played a central role in hosting the event and showcasing its commitment to advancing innovation and



Almeshsa Campbell, Ph.D., vice president of research and economic development. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

workforce development in Mississippi. Under Campbell's leadership, JSU mobilized teams across campus to deliver a well-executed and impactful experience for participants.

"Mississippi is not waiting on the future. We are building it," said Kollin Napier, Ph.D., director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network. "MAIN is proud to lead this work, and this workshop was more than a milestone. It demonstrated the momentum and unity across our state to equip educators, public officials, and workforce leaders with the tools they need to thrive in the AI era."

This workshop builds on a series of AI and machine learning workforce initiatives at Jackson State University. Earlier this year, it was announced that JSU will receive a \$1.3 million state grant to advance artificial intelligence education, workforce de-

velopment and entrepreneurship across Mississippi. The funding, administered by AccelerateMS, will support JSU's Executive On Roster (XOR) initiative and position the university to lead a statewide effort that engages students, educators and entrepreneurs in emerging technologies and applied learning.

MAIN is the nation's first statewide AI initiative, based at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC). Established in partnership with all public colleges and universities in the state, the initiative is supported by industry leaders such as NVIDIA, AWS, and Intel. Through free, self-paced AI courses and public-facing events, MAIN works to expand digital fluency, accelerate workforce development, and position Mississippi as a national leader in AI education.



BOOK REVIEW:

KIDS BOOKS FOR FALL

BY VARIOUS AUTHORS

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

School’s in session and you like that a lot. You have a nice teacher and you’re making new friends, doing things you’ve never tried before, and you’re learning, which is your job now. But sometimes, you just want something fun to read, so try these great books... Think about your grandma or grandpa. Are they quiet and calm? Or are they more like the grandparents inside “My Grandma and Grandpa ROCK!” by Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo,

illustrated by Tiffany Everett (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$18.99)? Everybody’s grandparents are different. Some “wear funny clothes and have funny hair.” Most like music and they can sing a lot of songs. Ask them about Led Zeppelin or Garth Brooks. Ask them about Tupac. If you’re 4-to-8-years old, ask them to read this book to you. It may be hard for a kid to believe, but we are all made of stars and in “Together, United” by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Scholastic,

\$18.99), will see that we are not as different as we may seem. Even kids ages 4 to 8 can make change. They can be a part of a team because they are talented and capable of making dreams come true. This book helps them understand that and it’s quite empowering, even for grown-ups. If there’s a pet in the house, it’s natural to want to know what they want and in “My Dog Smudge” by Sujean Rim (Atheneum, \$18.99), a little girl asks around. What is Smudge trying to

say? For smaller kids, ages 3-to-5, this interactive book will be a hit, with its open-the-door flaps and nonsense words that you’ll want to sound out, for extra giggles. And the ending...? Sweet as can be. New parents will absolutely want to see “Love Stays Strong” by Paula Schneider, illustrated by Nicole Wong (Philomel, \$18.99) among the shower gifts this fall. It’s a soft, quiet book about love, how it stays, how it grows, and how a child can count on love being around forever. For the littlest reader ages

1-to-3, this book is like wrapping up in a cozy blanket. And finally, if you remember how much fun those “Choose Your Own Adventure” books were back when, look for “The Curiosity Chronicles: Time Machine Trouble” by Chris Ferrie, Byrne Laginestra, and Wade David Fairclough (Sourcebooks Explore, \$14.99). Uh-oh. The possibly-evil Norvax Corporation may be planning to use their secret time machine for nefarious purposes. Can your 8-to-12-year-old and their friends stop them? This

book is part of a series, an update on those choose-your-own books of your childhood, and your preteen will find them just as much fun as they always were. And if these books aren’t enough for your young reader, head to your favorite bookstore or library. The staff at both places will be able to figure out what book is perfect for even the most reluctant reader. They’ll find the next book in a series, or a whole new series to enjoy. They can help make reading something your kid likes a lot.



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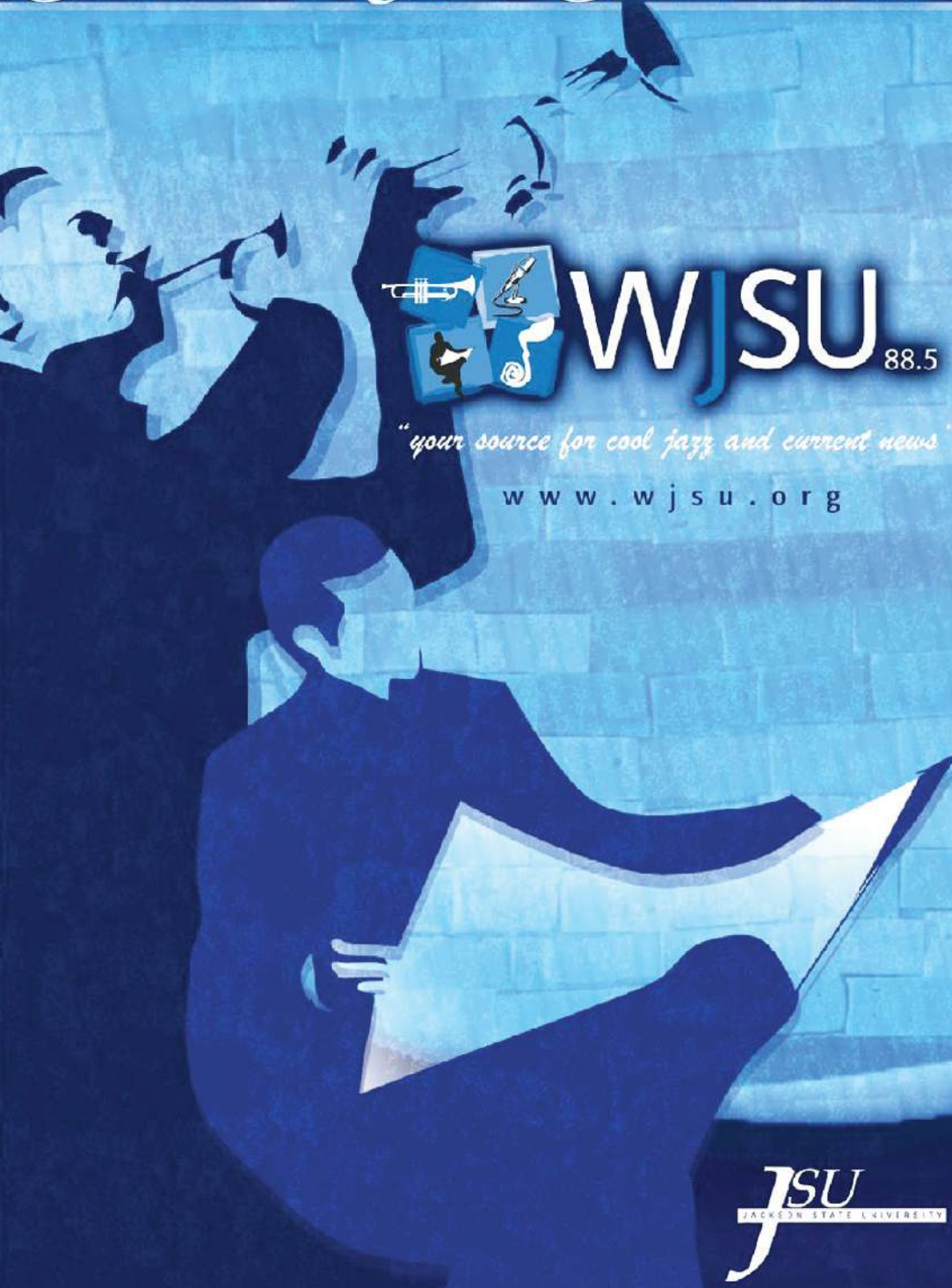
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True freshman restarts JSU's winning streak

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

True freshman, Jared Lockhart, from Charlotte, North Carolina made his first career start this past weekend against Tuskegee. The 6'5" quarterback showcased running ability and accuracy with his passing. Lockhart completed 15 of 21 passes for 254 yards and 1 touchdown. He also threw an interception. It was a fantastic debut. "For a true freshman to go out there and throw the ball around . . . I'm very proud of him." Head Coach TC Taylor said after the game. "A guy that's fresh out of high school going out there and operating the offense the way he did." In his first start, Lockhart guided Jackson State to a 30 to 0 win over Tuskegee.

Jackson State's running game was solid once again. Compiling 286 yards on 50 carries, this running game will be a problem for SWAC opponents. Taylor is also using running backs by committee. Rotating fresh running back in and out of the lineup. Ahmad Miller led the way with 68 yards on 8 attempts. Miller broke loose for a 40 yard run. Done-rio Davenport carried 9 times for 58 yards and the Travis Terrell Jr chipped in 51 rushing yards to go along with his punt return duties.

Kobe Paul lead the receiving corps in catches with 5 for 75 yards. Jameel Gardner Jr lead in yards with 85 on 4 catches. Gardner Jr and Ja'Naylon Dupree both had catches over 40 yards. Quarterback Lockhart wasn't shy about slinging the ball down-field. He connected with Gardner for a 21 yard touchdown pass just before halftime.

The Darkside Defense pitched a shutout this week. John Brown picked up the only sack for the defense, while Quincy Ivory lead the team in tackles with 7. Tuskegee's running game was in effect only gaining 24 yards on 20 carries. Quarterback Raequan Beal was harassed most of the game



Running back Ahmad Miller breaks loose for 40 yards



Saturday was a red out game PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Freshman Quarterback Jared Lockhart makes successful debut

eventhough he was only sacked once. Beal busted 93 yards passing on 9 of 17 pass attempts.

Lockhart was named Offensive MVP for the WC Gorden Classic and teammate J'Cori Hargon was named the Defensive MVP. Hargon made 6 tackles and a tackle

for loss. Lockhart received CO-SWAC Newcomer of the week on Sunday. The other Co-Offensive player of the week is Alabama A&M's Cornelious Brown.

Jackson State has this week off. The tigers will be back in action September 27th in Baton

Rouge versus Southern University. Jackson State enters the game 2-1 and Southern enters the game 1-3. Southern recently made coaching changes, naming former Alcorn State University Head Coach, Fred McNair as the offensive coordinator. Both



Kobe Paul lead JSU in receptions

teams have this week off, giving them two weeks to prepare for each other.

Improvements and adjustments will be the focus for JSU. "With the bye week coming up, we've still got a lot of work to do, so we're looking forward to it,

getting back to work on the football field this week," Taylor said in his weekly SWAC media session Sept. 15.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





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