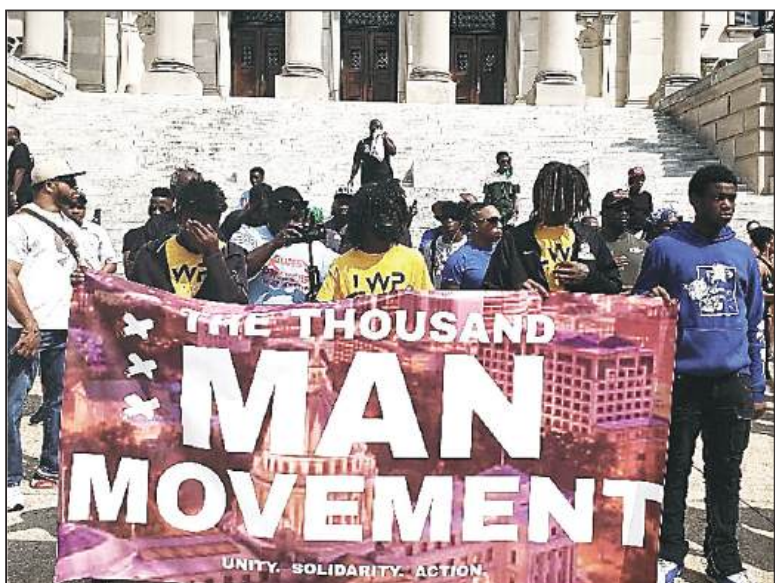


The Thousand Man March in Jackson

Unity, Solidarity, Action – Breaking the chains in our Capital City and across Mississippi



Marchers arriving at MS Capitol Saturday, September 20, 20225.



March Banner displayed by young members of Living With Purpose.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Under sweltering heat, upwards of three hundred men, women, and children marched to the Mississippi State Capitol for The Thousand Man March, part of the broader Thousand Man Movement headquartered in Jackson. The march was organized by prominent musician, media personality, motivational speaker, and founder of Jackson Indie Music Week – Brad “Kamikaze” Franklin – along with Living with Purpose Founder and credible messenger, John Knight, as well as longtime broadcaster, podcaster, television news anchor, and former management team member of the Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi

– Othor Cain.

Representative Chris Bell highlighted that in the upcoming legislative session “the leaders have been very clear that they will be talking about school choice. So that means taking tax dollars that you have worked so hard for to go to students in other school districts. Our school system here has been doing great things under the leadership of Dr. Errick Greene. We have gone from a system grade of “F” to a “C” and coming up on a “B” – we are certainly improving. It’s not feasible to think about taking our tax dollars for other districts. Jackson has a large school budget and many of the contracts involved are with minority vendors – taking the tax dollars away will

hurt the system but also will affect jobs and families.”

Bell encouraged community participation and making your voices heard. He promised to publicize the bills as they are presented, to make as many people as possible aware of what is going on inside the Capitol. “Contact us, let us hear from you, we need unity.”

Living with Purpose – Where every young life is valued and empowered – has a mission statement that reads, “At Living with Purpose, we are on a mission to empower at-risk youth and young adults impacted by poverty and the criminal justice system. Our goal is to nurture responsible, contributing members of society by providing mentor-

ship and comprehensive life skill development.” The founder, John Knight, said he starts each day telling young people – I love you – “the truth is that not all of our children are hearing that, and they need to hear it. We all need to start somewhere. This march is just the start, just the beginning. Do not let this be the last event that you are part of.”

Brad Franklin began his remarks with his classic call and response – Black Power, Every Hour.

“We are at a critical point in our city and in our state. It’s time to let people understand that we know as Black folks that racism is not an opinion. Racism is a

March
Continued on page 3

Calls for transparency grow after death of Delta State Student Trey Reed ruled suicide



Demartravion Reed, a Delta State University student, was found hanging near the pickleball court on campus. PHOTO - FACEBOOK

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer

The death of 21-year-old Demartravion “Trey” Reed, a student at Delta State University, continues to raise urgent questions after authorities ruled his death a suicide. Reed was discovered hanging from a tree near the campus pickleball court just after 7:00 a.m. Monday, September 15, sending shockwaves through the university community and beyond.

The Discovery and Initial Findings

Police say Reed’s body was found shortly after 7:00 a.m. near the athletic facilities on Delta State’s Cleveland, Mis-

issippi campus. The Bolivar County Coroner reported no signs of foul play at the scene.

Wednesday, September 17, the Mississippi State Medical Examiner’s Office conducted an autopsy, ruling Reed’s death a suicide by hanging. However, toxicology results remain pending and are expected to take up to four weeks.

Despite the incomplete findings, authorities announced the suicide ruling within days. For Reed’s grieving family, the speed of the conclusion felt premature—and deeply unsettling given the painful racial history of Black men found

Reed
Continued on page 3

A History of Bias: Who Gets Deported in the United States?

The roots and realities of U.S. deportation policies. Deportation to achieve racial banishment

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

Until now, no one had fully detailed or mapped who gets deported in the U.S. We often hear numbers from administrations eager to prove how tough they are on “enforcing immigration laws.” But what really determines who gets targeted?

Three scholars at UCLA’s Center for Immigration Law and Policy and the Million Dollar Hoods Project have spent years gathering and analyzing deportation data, producing maps and visualizations that trace policies back to 1895. Their work unmasks patterns of deportation that explain where we are today, and why.

Panelist Kelly Lytle Hernández, the Thomas E. Lifka Endowed Chair in History at UCLA and founding director of Million Dollar Hoods, a website five years in the making,



Dr. Kelley Lytle Hernandez.
PHOTO PER: WWW.HISTORY.UCLE.EDU.

spoke first. She discussed the “unpeopling of America,” with data organized into five distinct periods to unmask the history of racism in U.S. Immigration Enforcement. The periods are: 1) 1790-1876: The Roots of Immigration Control, 2) 1877-1929: The Whites-Only Regime, 3) 1930-1954: Consolidate and Carry Forward, 4) 1955-1990:

Amend and Enforce, 5) 1991-Now: Deportation Nation.

Panelist Mariah Tso, Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) Specialist with Million Dollar Hoods at UCLA, took the lead on creating the maps which are a must-see at the link below. “There have been well over 8 million deportation orders since 1895, totaling over 50 million



Mariah Tso. PHOTO PER: HTTPS://MILLIONDOLLARHOODS.PRE.SS.UCLA.EDU/.

people and the number continues to increase every day. The pattern is that over 96 percent of deportation orders have been issued to people from predominantly non-white countries – racial banishment. And this isn’t random. It’s a reflection of policies steeped in racism. We’ve collected the data from 1895 – 2022, and so much is revealed.”



Ahilan Arulanantham.
PHOTO PER: HTTPS://NEWSROOM.UCLA.EDU.

The maps are built with publicly available data from federal authorities that map immigration statistics.

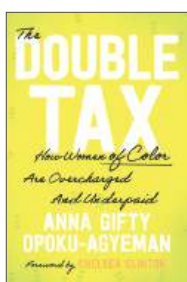
Reviewing the maps associated timelines and data, the U.S. Government, regardless of political party, and the U.S. Supreme Court have enacted and/or made rulings eighty-one times in the period from 1790

through 2022 to acquire land and deport people it finds undesirable. The goal is always, and remains, making the United States as white as possible.

The third panelist, Ahilan Arulanantham, Faculty Co-Director, the Center for Immigration Law and Policy (CILP) at the UCLA School of Law, is a litigator, for nearly twenty-five years, in federal court challenging government policies on behalf of immigrants. He spoke to a host of impacts over time from deportation policies and that the clear majority are to Mexico, with a somewhat lesser number to Central American countries. He came to the Million Dollar Hoods project after the murder of George Floyd and the nationwide protests.

“I was struck by how stark the race discrimination cases against the federal government involving immigration policy were. Then came the Muslim

Bias
Continued on page 3



A Church on the Move

By LaShanda Calvert
Contributing Writer

Turning Point Mission Center Church is doing just that— they are turning people’s lives around for the better in South Jackson and across Hinds County. On Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 10:00am to 1:30pm, Co-Founder and Pastor Arnette Owen and the Turning Point Mission Center Church Family hosted its’s first outside community health conference for the local community which was centered on a day of wellness, connection, and community fun for all ages.

This community health conference was more than a movement and a divine vision; it was also a celebration effort. Arnette, expressed, “We hosted this conference to celebrate our 26th Church Anniversary. Instead of celebrating with a structured church program we wanted to celebrate with the community by empowering the community with knowledge about the importance of committing to healthcare routines and health care preventative measures.”

Arnette believes that if you want to build lasting relationships it first begins with prioritizing one’s health and well-being. Arnette exclaimed, “We know



Pastor Arnette of Turning Point Center Church and journalist Dr. LaShanda Calvert



Area Healthcare workers



Chris Fields founder of H.E.A.L. Mississippi



Officer Bernard Moore and area youth

that the first step to being healthy is centered around what you eat and exercise. And the Word also confirms that God is concerned about us having good health.” Third John 2 states: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou

mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers.”

The love, passion, and care of the Turning Point Center Church Family was also evident in the parking lot. In other words, several organizations and health

professionals like Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, Well Senior Primary Care, and the H.E.A.L Mississippi Organization shared similar sentiments as Arnette for helping the community. They were grateful

to offer health screenings for glucose checks, RSV, covid, flu, and blood pressure checks, etc. to the community. Chris Fields, founder of H.E.A.L. Mississippi stated, “I am glad that we can be here today to help provide health

screenings because the first step one can take in improving their health is by knowing their numbers.” The local citizens were hopeful and intrigued by gaining understanding about their health.

Additionally, there were breakout sessions for youth, centered on discussions with law enforcement on gang violence, social media safety, bullying prevention and more. The youth not only learned about the importance of consuming water and exercise they were also given life lessons by Officer Bernard Moore III of the Hinds County Sheriff Office. Moore shared, “I am more than eager to share with the youth because lowering the crime rate starts by reaching the youth at an early age.” Each child appeared to be engaged and motivated to commit to being a productive citizen.

In conclusion, Elder Monica Surrell stated, “Our ultimate goal as a church family is to try curb hate and spread the love of Christ.” All in all, Turning Point Center Church is on the move for continuing to turn people’s lives around for pursuing good health, love, and spiritual prosperity. What better way to celebrate twenty-six years of ministry.

At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

we’re not just about providing health insurance. We’re creating a strong, supportive community that empowers every Mississippian to live their healthiest life. We make managing your health easier by empowering you with the tools and support you need to take proactive steps toward maintaining and improving your health. Working together, we’re ensuring quality healthcare and wellness opportunities are within reach for all. Because when you are at your best, Mississippi is too.

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

It’s good to be blue.

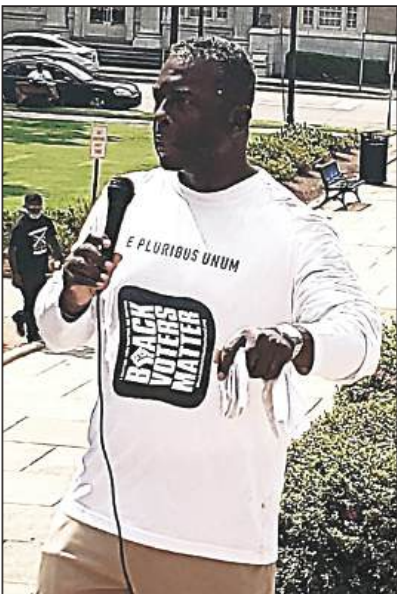


MISSISSIPPI



March

Continued from page 1



Mississippi State Representative Christopher Bell (D-65).



Rally Emcee Othor Cain and Living with Purpose Founder John Knight. PHOTOS: CHRIS YOUNG

choice that you make. Fascism is not an opinion. It is not an ideology. It is a choice that you make. There is no other group of people that exist on this planet that has been more maligned than all my beautiful Black folk that are out here today. This week, from every angle, all I see is Black folks getting blamed for stuff that had nothing to do with us at all whatsoever...talking about Black on Black crime as if white on white crime is not at 85 percent...when a white man kills a white man and the next day HBCU’s are on lockdown, it ain’t got a damn thing to do with us...we have a gubernatorial election coming up and I need people to understand that most of the problems Black people have in this city and state come out of this building right here...your vote matters, sitting home has not worked...”

Past Jackson mayor, and current Director of Schools for Mid-town Charter Schools, Tony Yarber, engaged the crowd having people speak to one another – turn to your neighbor and say, I can’t make it without you. “You’ve heard the political charge, and you’ve heard the social charge, but

there is a book I read daily that says we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities...when you oppress a people...some people need a ministry that does not include

Reed

Continued from page 1

hanging in Mississippi.

Family Raises Concerns Over Communication

Tuesday, September 16, the family, who lives in Grenada County, held a press conference with their attorney Vanessa J. Jones of the Jones Law Firm. At that time, Jones said the family had received conflicting reports from the Delta State University Police and the Grenada County Sheriff’s Office and were not initially told the truth about the circumstances.

Jones further stated that the head of Delta State University had not contacted the family directly. The family expressed frustration that much of their information came at the same time as the public, through social media and news reports, instead of from the university itself.

Press Conference: Authorities Admit to Video Evidence

During a press conference Friday, September 19, campus police and investigators confirmed the existence of video footage connected to Reed’s death. Officials did not release details about what the footage shows or when it was recorded.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, now representing Reed’s family alongside Jones, immediately called for transparency:

“If there is video evidence, the family has a right to see it. Peace will only come when every truth is revealed.”

Crump also announced that Reed’s family will pursue a second, independent autopsy funded by the Colin Kaepernick “Know Your Rights Camp.”

“Trey’s death evoked the collective memory of a community that has suffered a historic wound over many, many years and many, many deaths,” Crump said. “Peace will come only by getting to the truth. We thank Colin Kaepernick for supporting this grieving family and the cause of justice and truth.”

Community Raises Questions

Community activist Marquell Bridges also spoke out on

social media, questioning the speed of the investigation and the circumstances of Reed’s death:

“If you want my opinion, if you want to know what I think solely, just my personal perspective, I believe Trey Reed was murdered,” Bridges wrote. “He was killed and placed on that tree based on the facts: the autopsy report said he had no marks or bruising around his neck. Strange for a hanging death, and more commonly seen in a manual strangulation death.”

Statements from Officials

Cleveland Police Chief Travis Tribble said the investigation remains open pending toxicology results, but stood by the preliminary ruling:

“Our thoughts and prayers remain with Reed’s family and friends during this very difficult time. We want to encourage anyone who is struggling to reach out for help.”

Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell condemned “rumors” circulating online, defending the work of investigators and Delta State leadership.

Governor Tate Reeves released a statement calling Reed’s death “a tragedy” and highlighted the candlelight vigil where hundreds of students, faculty, and community members—Black and white—gathered in unity. But Reeves criticized the skepticism voiced online:

“It represents a sad state of affairs in today’s social media-driven world... but it doesn’t represent today’s Mississippi.”

What Comes Next

The FBI and U.S. Attorney’s Office have been given access to investigative materials, and the family is awaiting results from the independent autopsy. Attorneys Jones and Crump insist that transparency—including showing the family the video footage—is essential for justice.

For Reed’s loved ones, unanswered questions remain. The community’s demand is clear: no conclusion without complete truth.

Bias

Continued from page 1

ban, then the litigation over temporary protected status. I’m still working on that now and it impacts well over one million people, a lot of them from Venezuela and Haiti, but Central American countries and other countries as well. Even during the Biden administration, the racial discrimination in immigration policy was evident. It very easy to trace the racist origins of the law and policies we see today.

Arulanantham continued, “Just to give one example, the application of the Title 42 program.

Excluding people from the country on the basis of COVID was applied very harshly to Haitians and to, you know, other people from Central America. And then, just like that, virtually all Ukrainians were exempt from the program, and allowed to come in.”

GIS Specialist Mariah Tso provided an overview of the sixteen maps, each depicting deportation in various points of history and for various reasons – all resulting in maintaining the United States as a white-centric nation. All of the maps are interactive and can be viewed and studied here: <https://mappingdeportations.com>.<https://milliondollarhoods.pre.ss.ucla.edu/our-work> “How does America First create a distorted view of the world? Who is racialized and how? Who is criminalized, who is banned, barred, and capped?”

With over eighty media outlets on the Zoom call, American Community Me-

dia’s Pilar Marrero, serving as moderator extraordinaire, managed to field about thirty questions for the panelists, including a question from The Mississippi Link newspaper – “Mississippi is known as the largest incarcerator in the world, per World Population Review. Is this just a freakish outcome of the last state to let go of their Confederate States of America moniker, or a more deeply ingrained component of racial banishment?” Dr. Hernandez answered, saying, “I don’t know if I have an answer to that. I mean, you can look at all different kinds of data points. Oklahoma often has the highest rate of incarceration. Mississippi might have the highest numbers, but these are all legacies of enslavement and removal with Black and Indigenous folks facing the highest rates of incarceration across the country. I’ll just add Louisiana has the highest number of immigration detention centers now, which is striking, given how small it is, and we have a visualization which shows the connection of mass incarceration and deportation. It’s amazing. It’s like, they go exactly almost in lockstep...and the South has the most 287(g) agreements.” 287(g) agreements allow local law enforcement to perform certain duties alongside Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

This week’s entire briefing, can be viewed here: <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/a-history-of-bias-who-gets-deported-in-the-united-states>.

Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Prison Ministry pricks hearts and fetches souls



Deacon Clarence Finley



Justin Moore being baptized
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLARENCE FINLEY

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

Moving beyond the walls of the church into the community is an essential dimension of Christianity. Greater Bethlehem Temple Church Prison Ministry recognizes that demonstrating faith through action is critical for reaching out to the souls of others. The ministry adheres to Jesus’ parable of the great banquet in Luke 14:23, “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

God did a miraculous work through the prison ministry at East Mississippi Correctional Facility (a facility that houses male prisoners) in Meridian, Miss. from September 18th 20th, 2025. Services included worship, songs, preaching, teaching, and prison baptism. The ministry conducted these three-day worship services that included more than 700 male pris-

oners and prison staff members. The one element that held those in attendance captive was “God in Motion.”

“This was a move of God for so many men to genuinely turn to [Him] for salvation. On the last day, the Prison Ministry team baptized 69 men, and seven received the Holy Spirit in their lives. Many other signs and wonders were done. One particular man who had requested help with drug addiction stated afterwards that he felt like a new person and no longer desired drugs, but only wanted a good meal,” said Deacon Clarence Finley (GBTC Prison Ministry leader).

Finley went on to state that people of all faiths acknowledged that Jesus Christ has the power to meet whatever their needs may be. “Even some of the prison’s officers requested that they be allowed to be baptized. These officers also received the powerful healing touch of God. Several members of

the ministry team and I plan to return next month to baptize them,” added the spokesperson.

The gentleman gave God the glory for His mighty power. He is still working throughout the land. He is working “even in prisons, where [many] people will not go.”

Finley shared that he is an ordained deacon, and he has been doing prison ministry approximately 20 years. Additionally, he claimed that he never had intentions of ministering in prisons. His faith, however, has taught him to care for people and “to go out and share the gospel of Christ in a unique way.”

Greater Bethlehem Temple Church is pastored by Bishop Robert N. Fortson, Sr. This pillar in the City of Jackson is located at 1505 Robinson Rd, Jackson, MS 39203. The pastor and members serve communities throughout Mississippi and communities at large.

NEW LOCATION!NEW DATE!

Jackson’s Original Music Festival

October 4, 2025

Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum

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Children’s Area | Vendors’ Village

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Family Friendly Event

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

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

SBA Mississippi hosts “Meet the Lenders” in Jackson to connect entrepreneurs with capital

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer

Small business owners from across Mississippi gathered at the Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University for the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) “Meet the Lenders” event. The half-day matchmaking session, held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., provided entrepreneurs with direct access to lenders, resource partners, and SBA representatives eager to help Mississippi businesses grow and thrive. The event brought together banks, credit unions, community development financial institutions, and SBA microlenders. Participants had the opportunity to engage in one-on-one sessions, learning about funding programs as SBA 7(a) loans, 504 loans, and microloans, as well as specialized resources for veterans, women-owned businesses, and minority entrepreneurs. District Director Janita R. Stewart welcomed attendees with an encouraging message about the power of partnerships in driving small business success. “Events like this remove barriers for Mississippi entrepreneurs,” Stewart said. “Our goal is to ensure that business owners understand the variety of financing options available to them and know that SBA and our lending partners are here to support their journey from startup to expansion.”

Throughout the day, resource partners such as SCORE, the Small Business Development Center, the Women’s Business Outreach Center, and the Veterans Business Outreach Center provided additional guidance. Banks including Trustmark, Regions, Renaissance, and Southern Bancorp joined community lenders like Hope Federal Credit Union and Communities Unlimited to discuss real-world financing opportunities.

One attendee, Katrina Head, who runs a nonprofit from Tchula, MS, shared how the event provided clarity on next steps: “I’ve been researching funding online for months, but today I finally got to sit across from lenders and ask direct questions about what my business needs,” she said. “Leaving here, I feel more confident and equipped to move forward.”

The program also highlighted



SBA staff greet guests as they enter “Meet the Lender” event.



A lot of networking was happening at “SBA Meet the Lenders” event.

local success stories. Dr. Andrew Clark of Northtown Pharmacy shared his journey of growing his practice with SBA support, inspiring participants to see themselves in similar paths of sustainable growth. The “Meet the Lenders” event reinforced SBA Mississippi’s mission to connect small business borrowers with the right lenders and resources. By bridging the gap between entrepreneurs and financing institutions, the SBA continues to strengthen the state’s small business ecosystem.

Meet the Lenders event is held across the state in different cities throughout the year. For more information about SBA programs, resources, and upcoming events, visit www.sba.gov/district/mississippi.

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Entrepreneurs meet with lenders at the SBA Meet the Lenders event Friday, September 19 at the Mississippi e-Center. PHOTOS - DR. JAY



Mississippi sets execution date for man who killed a college student in 1993



Crawford

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

The Mississippi Supreme Court set an Oct. 15 execution date for the man convicted of kidnapping and killing a college student in 1993. Charles Ray Crawford, 59, has been on death row for more than 30 years. Crawford was sentenced to death for fatally stabbing 20-year-old community college student Kristy Ray after abducting her from her parents’ home in northern Mississippi’s Tippah County. Crawford told officers he had blacked out and did not recall killing her. Crawford has also been convicted of assaulting a woman by hitting her over the head with a hammer and raping a 17-year-old girl. The two victims were friends and were at the same place during the attacks. In those trials, Crawford also said he experienced blackouts and did not recall committing either the rape or hammer attack. Crawford’s execution comes several months after the execution of Mississippi’s longest-serving death row inmate in June. In announcing the execution date, the court also denied Crawford’s third attempt for post-conviction relief. Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch filed papers last year asking the state Supreme Court to set a date for Crawford’s execution by lethal injection, writing that “he has exhausted all state and federal remedies.”

Field grows in Mississippi’s 2026 US Senate Race

By Michael Goldberg
Associated Press/Report for America

Several new candidates have entered Mississippi’s 2026 U.S. Senate race in recent weeks. The general election is more than 13 months away, but the deadline to file paperwork to run for federal offices is Dec. 26, according to the secretary of state’s office. Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith is running for a second full term in office. She is favored to defend her seat from Democrats, who haven’t elected a U.S. senator in Mississippi since John Stennis in 1982. Facing a Senate map that many analysts say favors Republicans, Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York has said he’s looking for ways to break the GOP’s ironclad grip on Mississippi in 2026. Democrats have long believed the U.S. Senate was designed to over-represent small states, leading to a structural advantage for Republicans. That and President Donald Trump’s return to power has sparked renewed discussion in Democratic politics about how the party can become competitive in Republican-led states. This could prompt the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the National

Republican Senate Committee to spend millions on the race in the Magnolia State. At the end of June, Hyde-Smith’s campaign committee had just over \$1.4 million in cash on hand. Hyde-Smith has also attracted two Republican primary challengers, neither of whom has held elected office. Party primaries are March 10, and the general election is Nov. 3, 2026. Here is an updated look at the field and the candidates’ backgrounds. Republican Primary Cindy Hyde-Smith — The Brookhaven native is the first woman elected to represent Mississippi in Congress. She served in the Mississippi Senate and as state agriculture commissioner before moving to the statewide post. In early 2018, then-Gov. Phil Bryant appointed her to the U.S. Senate to replace Republican Thad Cochran, who opted to retire. She won a special election later in 2018 to serve the remaining two years on the term Cochran started, and she won a full, six-year term in 2020. Hyde-Smith is “100% MAGA”, according to Trump, who has already endorsed her. She launched her reelection campaign in late August by highlighting her advocacy for Mississippi farmers, her fight to restrict abortion rights

and her close ties to the White House. “I can send a text to President Trump, and he responds,” Hyde-Smith said at her campaign launch. In 2018 and 2020, Hyde-Smith defeated Democrat Mike Espy, an attorney and former congressman who served as U.S. secretary of agriculture during President Bill Clinton’s administration. Sarah Adlakha — A physician from Ocean Springs, Adlakha said in her campaign announcement that she was running to “stand with President Trump to secure our border, stop reckless spending, and fight for Mississippi families.” Adlakha also told Mississippi Today she would work across the aisle to improve access to health care in Mississippi. “I feel like not enough is being done from our representatives. I think we need people who are more effective and ready to actually go in there and work and legislate,” Adlakha said. “It’s not so much that I disagree with (Hyde-Smith’s) policies. I just feel like she could be doing so much more in the Senate to help our state.” In one of her first public events last week, Adlakha called a press conference to urge Trump to send National Guard troops to Jackson, as he did in Washing-

ton and Memphis. Standing before a podium emblazoned with a “MAKE JACKSON SAFE AGAIN” sign, Adlakha said such a move would combat violent crime. Andrew Scott Smith — The Florence resident owns a pork rinds business and calls himself the “Pigskin Politician.” He announced his bid for the U.S. Senate just hours before Hyde-Smith’s campaign launch event. He unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson in 2024. Smith said he was challenging Hyde-Smith because she has become disconnected from her constituents. Smith said he considers himself a monopoly-busting conservative in the mold of Teddy Roosevelt, and he hopes to address consolidation in the American economy through index funds. He also wants to focus on the “fiscal future” of the country by phasing out Social Security and federalizing the national debt. Democratic Primary Scott Colom — A native of Columbus, Colom is the elected district attorney of the 16th Circuit Court District in north Mississippi. He is the first Black person elected as the top prosecutor for the district. Then-President

Joe Biden in 2023 nominated Colom to a vacant federal judicial seat in northern Mississippi, but Hyde-Smith thwarted the nomination. In an interview with Mississippi Today, Colom said Hyde-Smith’s voting record shows she has prioritized “D.C. politics” instead of hard-working Mississippians, including her vote for Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill” that slashed social safety net programs and provided tax cuts for the wealthy. If elected, Colom said he would push for legislation that raises the nation’s minimum wage and exempts law enforcement officers and public school teachers from paying federal income taxes. Mississippi Today reached out to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the National Republican Senate Committee for comment on the race. Colom is “handpicked by Chuck Schumer and George Soros to push Democrats’ radical agenda on Mississippians,” said NRSC regional press secretary Samantha Cantrell. The Democratic committee did not respond to a request for comment. Priscilla Williams-Till — The civil rights activist and relative of Emmett Till said on her cam-

paign website that she’s running to enact laws that “will address historical and ongoing inequalities, while representing marginalized communities that work towards an equitable society.” “Even the election of former President Barack Obama, immigration controversy, and economic situation, it has become nearly impossible to keep track of hate organizations and the shocking rise in brutal attacks directed against individuals because they are Black, Latino, Asian, Disabled, Gay, or Women,” said Williams-Till, who grew up in Jackson. Independent Ty Pinkins — The unsuccessful Democratic candidate for secretary of state in 2023 and U.S. senator in 2024 has declared he’s also running for the Senate again in 2026 as an independent. Pinkins will be on the general election ballot without going through a primary. Pinkins, a lawyer who lives in Vicksburg, announced his departure from the Democratic Party in June and attributed a lack of support from the state Democratic Party as part of the reason for his poor performance in past elections. Pinkins wrote that certain party leaders were “gatekeepers” who attempted to block him from advancing in politics.

The Pot calling the kettle evil

Rabid hypocrisy - Trump tries to silence free speech and dissent that he doesn’t like

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Fresh off a second state-visit to Great Britain, the first with Queen Elizabeth II, and now with her son, King Charles III, the United States President mostly stayed true to form – rattling the foundations of our democracy even from Europe, where he was met by protestors, and continuing to demonize anyone and everyone who questions his policies or contradictions, all while vast swaths of the American population suffer – just eight months into his final term. Perhaps the invite by the King was akin to a perceived insurance policy – hedging that as the aspiring King dispatches pain around the globe that Great Britain will be spared.

The BBC reported that upon his arrival in central London, Trump was met by 5,000 protesters marching in the streets, with some carrying signs that said - No to racism, No to Trump, as the massive Trump Baby blimp floated above the crowd. The night before he arrived activists projected an image of Trump and Jeffrey Epstein onto the outside of Windsor Castle until they were arrested.

Trump’s latest assault is on the freedom of speech, the one regarded by Americans as the most fundamental of all freedoms. There is no doubt that the First Amendment has always been one of the most controversial and has been challenged by the government,

Sinclair Group, <https://sbgi.net/tv-stations/>, has 39 affiliate stations that it says will preempt the show.

The Illinois Governor, J.B. Pritzker, shared on X a 2023 post by Brendan Carr in which the now-FCC chair, who threatened ABC’s license, said: “Free speech is the counterweight—it is the check on government control. That is why censorship is the authoritarian’s dream,” per Newsweek.

The New York Times wrote in March 2025, that “Trump wants journalists to parrot his views and face consequences if they don’t. He has spent years demonizing the press. He popularized the phrase ‘fake news’ and branded journalists the ‘enemy of the people.’ He frequently sues news outlets. His administration is now investigating broadcasters.” They also wrote on September 19, 2025, that while aboard Air Force One returning to Washington from London, “Trump said that news reporters who cover his administration negatively have broken the law, a significant broadening of his attacks on journalists and their First Amendment right to critique the government.”

A president, employing the full power of the federal government against anyone who doesn’t exalt him. Protesting, speaking truth to power is a core fundamental value. Trump’s assault on free speech once again lays bare that he will put himself over our long-held values any day of the week.

With Trump, it’s always about ‘he,’ never about we. As the lawlessness of Trump’s retribution campaign continues, we have to ask if the 49.8 percent of voters who elected Trump are approving of his performance. Last week Economist and YouGov polling indicated a new low in approval ratings in his final term – 39 percent, per www.newsweek.com.

Sage businessman and former publisher of The Mississippi Link newspaper, Mr. Socrates Garrett, was asked - “Once again in our Nation’s history, our government is strong-arming dissent at many levels. Please speak to the impacts and what is the path forward?” His response, “The ability to silence your critics can only happen when the resistance is absent and afraid of retribution. Fake news and propaganda are tactics that have risen in this country over the last ten years. Not to say that it had not been used during the colonization of America. The suppression of one’s ability to know the truth has been a weapon that created the Slave Trade industry, and many countries have deployed this tactic mainly to access assets of another group or Nation.

The path forward is tricky with AI and social media playing a major role in how we receive information, The powerful will write the scenario as they wish, and the gullible will follow to the end of time unless they speak up louder and more frequently.”



COMMENTARY

businesses, and individuals throughout history. The First Amendment does protect citizens from government censorship, but American history includes many instances where the government tried to circumvent or evade the First Amendment to suppress information or silence its citizens.

Last week when American Broadcasting Company (ABC) indefinitely suspended the Jimmy Kimmel LIVE show, our American president was quick to celebrate. Kimmel said in his Monday, September 15, 2025, opening monologue, “We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they

can to score political points from it.”

Two days later, the corporation - owned by Disney - pulled the show just hours after Trump- appointed Federal Communications Commission Chair, Brendan Carr, went on the right-wing Benny Johnson podcast, and called Kimmel’s remarks, “the sickest conduct possible,” then added that they have a case holding ABC and Kimmel accountable, with talk of revoking broadcast licenses. Not a legal case against ABC or Kimmel, who has been a spur in Trump’s bones for ten years now – but a clear threat by a government official, applauded by Trump. ABC’s response to the threat was to capitulate, pulling the show. Does that sound more like a democracy or an autocracy? ABC eventually reversed course and has announced Kimmel’s show will return September 23rd, but

The Reed Family wants the video linked to Tracey Reeds hanging death

By April Ryan
BlackPressUSA.com

There is allegedly a video of something related to the hanging death of Trey Reed, the 21-year-old freshman of Delta State University. Civil Rights attorney Ben Crump says local law enforcement and the school have indicated there is video footage they’re investigating. Crump is demanding that “Trey” Reed’s death be shown to the family.” Crump and the family are concerned over the conflicting reports surrounding the death of the Black freshman at the school, as BlackPress USA reported. Sources close to the families fight for information are fearful that they will not receive the recording of what is expected to be associated with the hanging death until after the local and state authorities’ investigation. This reporter has obtained the press release from Attorney Crump over the family’s request for the video related to Reed’s death.

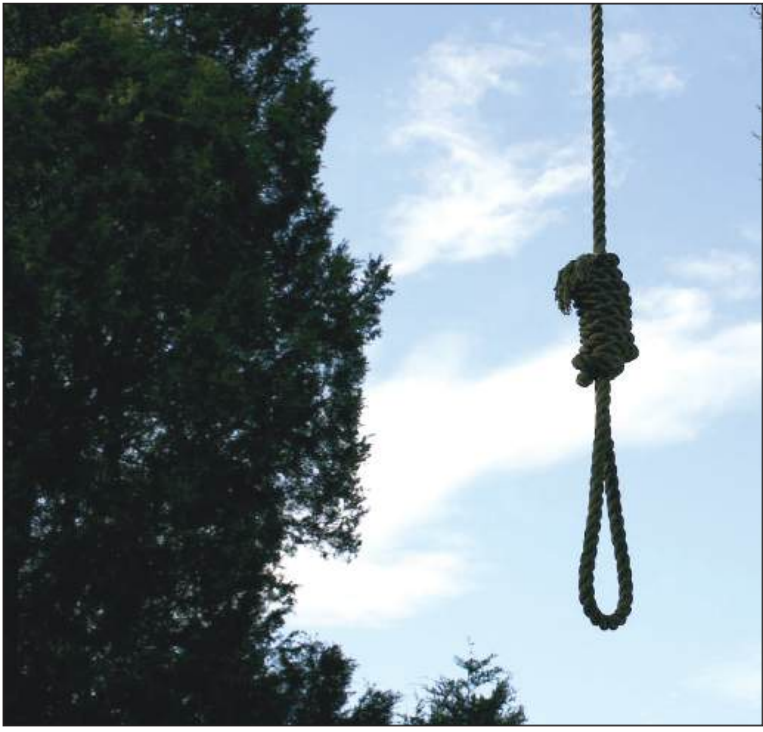
CLEVELAND, Miss. (September 17, 2025) – Nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump has issued a statement to demand all video footage in the investigation of Demartravion “Trey” Reed’s death be shown to his family. The 21-year-old Delta State University student was found deceased on campus earlier this week.

At a press conference today, university officials and local law enforcement indicated that there is video footage they’re investigating and that preliminary findings suggest no evidence of foul play. However, Trey’s family has raised serious concerns after receiving conflicting accounts and incomplete information about the circumstances of his death.

Attorney Crump, the family, and their civil rights partners will also commission a separate, independent autopsy to verify the findings of the state medical examiner and ensure no question goes unanswered.

Attorney Crump released the following statement:

“Trey’s family deserves answers they can trust. We cannot accept rushed conclusions when the stakes are this high. By demanding the family be allowed to view any video and commissioning an independent autopsy, we are taking every step to uncover the truth about what happened to Trey. Every student deserves to feel safe where they live and learn. That is why it is so important to get to the bottom of this tragedy.”



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I can only imagine what will happen next In The United States of America

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



Where do we begin with the meanness and hate that is occurring in our great republic? We are experiencing so much hurt and suffering that our emotions are raw.

We see in plain view the lives of people being taken from us. There aren't any excuses for us treating each other in this vile way. It must stop.

Our good senses have taken leave of us. We bring hurt and harm to those around us. Gun shots ring out in our cities al-

most as if it was second nature.

Our disagreements should not lead to violence and death. It is a sad fact however we are living in dangerous and unstable times. You and I see the statistics, so we don't have to go over them in this space.

Stress is upon us daily. It hangs like a cloud over our heads. We are nervous and on edge when we leave our homes. Our workplaces, in too many instances, have unhappy people in them. The least little thing sets them off.

Remember the old expression, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me". Well, that is not true in today's world. Folks are

troubled by what is said and how it is said.

Back in my day, scuffles did not happen at the drop of a hat. People just didn't lose their cool like they do today. Do you like going to work? Are you afraid to speak up because you fear retaliation? If you are working in a good and healthy work environment, then you should be thankful each day.

During my professional life, I was blessed to have worked in some emotionally fulfilling places. I loved going to work because of the people that I was interacting with daily.

Well, when you finish your workday, you will probably go to the grocery store. The first

thing you will see is the long lines. The second thing will be the high prices.

The long lines are attributable to employers not hiring more staff. Trying to do more with less seems to be the corporate mantra these days. Everyone can agree the prices are higher. Business leaders have acknowledged that fact.

The frustration with increased pricing is that they will be with us for the foreseeable future. The tariffs which are aligned with the price hikes aren't going to be lifted so we are stuck with them. If you are a part of the boomer generation, you are trying to juggle grocery prices and prescription medica-

tions.

You must couple that with many hospitals, especially in rural areas, shutting down some of their services. These are challenging times for those in the 4th quarter and in overtime.

All of this is happening as legislators are at odds with one another. They are hurling insults across the aisle thinking that's winning them some brownie points with the American people. Well, it's not. We are looking for answers from them, not acrimony and dissent. Right now, we are headed down the wrong road. It's an unpaved road with potholes.

In a reflective moment recently, I imagined that it wasn't that

way. I can only imagine what if danger wasn't lurking outside of our door each day. I can only imagine what if our communities were safe and that our children and grandchildren could play outside.

I can only imagine what if our jobs were happy places to be. I can only imagine what if food prices were such that we could purchase all that we needed and some of what we wanted.

I can only imagine what if older Americans didn't have to worry about making ends meet. And I can only imagine what if lawmakers passed laws and policies for the American people.

I can only imagine.

The Parole System was never built for second chances

By Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO of the NNPA



In her autobiography, my long-term personal friend, civil rights leader, and scholar Angela Davis wrote that "Jails and prisons are designed to break human beings, to convert the population into specimens in a zoo – obedient to our keepers, but dangerous to each other."

That "zoo" is the United States. Despite being the wealthiest and most developed nation in the world, America cages more people than any other country. In fact, nearly two million people are currently behind bars and another almost 4 million are on parole or probation.

Over the last few decades, reforms at both the state and federal level have chipped away at these injustices. Sentencing guidelines have been updated, drug laws reformed, and there has been a renewed focus on rehabilitation programs. Yet the fact remains: the justice system is fundamentally broken and was never designed to provide second chances.

The result is a system defined by racial inequity. Black and Latino people, for example, make up roughly 30 percent of the total U.S. population yet account for 56 percent of the country's inmates. And when comparing incarceration rates to the country's white population, the numbers are even starker. Black men are incarcerated at nearly seven times the rate of their white counterparts and Latino men at nearly three times the rate of white males.

And those disparities persist well beyond prison walls. While probation and parole in theory provide pathways back to work, school, and

the community – in practice they function as a trap. It is an ouroboros where people are sent right back to prison for missing an appointment with a parole officer, failing to maintain a steady job, or just staying out past curfew.

As Michael Rubin, the CEO of Fanatics and one of the founders of the Reform Alliance, told the Philadelphia Citizen: "I think it's conservative to say there are a million people caught up in the revolving door parole and probation system. They're in for a minimal amount of drugs and can't get out. They miss an appointment or make an illegal u-turn, and back they go. Jail should be for murderers and rapists. Why are we putting someone who smoked weed behind bars?"

Few cases illustrate this systemic abuse better than that of Meek Mill, the Philadelphia hip hop artist and criminal justice reform advocate who was repeatedly incarcerated over technical probation violations like failed drug tests, popping a wheelie on a motorcycle, and unapproved travel. His ordeal highlights the absurdity of a system that punishes mistakes with prison cells and makes freedom contingent on perfection.

Meek – who joined Rubin and Jay-Z in the founding of the Reform Alliance – wrote in a 2018 essay for the New York Times, "The system causes a vicious cycle, feeding upon itself – sons and daughters grow up with their parents in and out of prison, and then become far more likely to become tied up in the arrest-jail-probation cycle. This is bad for families and our society as a whole."

The rapper was one of the lucky few. Pennsylvania's Superior Court overturned his 2008 conviction, and the charges were formally dropped

later that year. And his work with Rubin and the Reform Alliance has helped catalyze a broader reform movement and has been pivotal in securing a number of prison and parole reform victories – from Pennsylvania's 2023 probation reform law to Virginia passing a similar piece of legislation this April.

These successes show what is possible when advocacy, business leadership, and public policy align. But still, the system remains far from fixed.

On a federal level, parole was abolished in 1987 and there is bipartisan support to reverse the move with the First Step Act Earned Time Credits serving a model. At the same time, access to parole varies wildly state-by-state, with some being nearly nonexistent or riddled with opaque, politicized processes.

If rehabilitation truly is the goal of the justice system, then parole must become a true off-ramp for individuals – not a revolving door. This means ending punitive technical violations, building transparent and proportional systems, and recognizing that instability isn't criminal.

Progress is possible, but fragile. Until we replace the zoo Angela Davis described with a system rooted in dignity and second chances, the cycle will grind on – costing families, propping up systemic problems and racial inequities, and destroying futures for individuals and communities.

Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV Network nationwide, and can be reached at dr.bchavis@NNPA.org.

Two hearts, yet one heartbeat

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



When one meets their God given spouse – it is life changing. The God given spouse captures your heart, and your thoughts; constantly thinks about them. Additionally, one finds themselves being able to talk to their God given spouse about everything and anything – nothing is off limits, and time is not of the essence. Further, he/she makes you want to change for the better mentally, spiritually, physically, etc. Furthermore, he/she rescues you from the troubles of the world – in other words, in their presence – everything seems right. Also, when one meets their God given spouse, they typically entertain one question which is where has he or she been my whole life? Lastly, you marry each other because you have no doubt that this is who you want to spend the rest of their lives with. However, what happens that causes the breakdown in a marriage that God joined together?

If spouses admit, marriage can be arduous because it's two hearts that are growing into becoming one heartbeat. Therefore, many seek answers on how to coddle one's healthy heartbeat. Some spend vast amounts on professional counseling, some spend countless hours reading books about marriages and relationships, some search the web (hmmmm... a web) for answers, some unnerve their pastors (many of them suffer from hypertension because of these counseling sessions – you owe your pastor – get him/her something special) many talk to all kinds of people because you truly desire to be married until death do you part.

What are married couples doing wrong even when they think they are doing everything right? Well, according to Marriage Counselor Allen, the answer to having a loving, healthy, and happy marriage is so simple yet many fail to do it; they have never done it in fact. Furthermore, Allen expressed that if every couple realized what is needed for having a long, healthy, happy, and loving marriage, perhaps there would be less separations, declining roommate arrangements, and little to no divorce. According to Allen, having a loving and happy marriage warrants both spouses exchanging hearts with each other. What does this mean? You give your spouse your heart and your spouse give you their heart and let the love you have for each other be your one heartbeat. In exchanging hearts – you are holding each other accountable for taking good care of each other hearts. If spouses truly exchanged hearts with each other, in other words, put themselves in their spouses' mind, heart, body, and soul, it would probably result

in less or none of the following:

- Physical, mental, emotional and verbal abuse
- Less derogatory language/profanity
- Financial infidelity
- Emotional and Physical Affairs
- Gas lighting
- Disrespect
- Dishonor
- Secrets
- Manipulation
- Control
- Constant nagging
- Depriving your spouse of intimacy
- Ungratefulness
- Secrets
- Little to no communication
- Everything and anything that could directly and personally hurt your spouse

Would you deliberately hurt your heart? Would you want a broken heart (it's hard to mend a broken heart – ask Bishop AL Green)? Would you deliberately offend your heart? Would you take your own heart for granted? No, you would not. Therefore, don't hurt the heart of your God given spouse that trusted and loved you and who you promised to love for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part.

In conclusion, please let me clarify there is nothing wrong with unique proposals, opulent weddings, exchanging traditional/nontraditional marriage vows, lavish trips and vacations, gifted the newest technology, a big bag (money), big home, fancy cars, boogey wardrobe, fine education, flowers and candy, adhering to healthy diets, and even woo, woo, woo. However, these things do not sustain healthy, loving, and happy marriages for long. A healthy, happy, and loving marriage requires two people who are willing to fight for their marriage and truly exchange hearts. When you exchange hearts – you will have a better insight on how to treat your spouse – it reflects do what you want your spouse to do unto you. If you want a change in your marriage and if you desire a long, healthy, happy, and loving marriage I challenge you to exchange hearts and if you have broken your spouse's heart – go out your way to help heal it because you will have two heartbeats and two hearts instead of two hearts with one heartbeat.

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: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528.

GET YOUR CURRENT NEWS AND WATCH AP VIDEOS ONLINE AT:

www.mississippilink.com

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, residences, and addresses are unknown after diligent inquiry:

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

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

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

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

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

76583-101425 - 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 business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

Legal Notice
Change in location

We the members of Parshwa, LLC intend to make application for a change in location of a Package retailer's permit under the provisions of the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws 67-1-1 et. Seq., Mississippi Code of 1972. If granted a change from Parshwa, LLC doing business as Vick's Wine & Spirits, now operating at 6351 I-55 North Frontage Road, Suite 105, Jackson, MS 39213 of Hinds County, we propose to operate under the tradename of Vick's Wine and spirits at 6351 I-55 North Frontage Road, Suite 101 of Hinds County, Vaishali Patel, Owner.

If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit, a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within fifteen (15) days from the first date this notice was published.

Requests shall be sent to: Chief Counsel, Legal Division Mississippi Department of Revenue P.O. Box 22828 Jackson, MS 39225
Date of First Publication: 09/25/25

9/25/2025, 10/2/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, October 21, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING PORTION OF PEARL STREET FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO FRANK MELTON DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, RENAMING PEARL STREET FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO FRANK MELTON DRIVE. (STOKES)

9/25/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, October 21, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING PORTION OF THE PEARL STREET BRIDGE FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO THE FRANK MELTON BRIDGE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, RENAMING THE PEARL STREET BRIDGE FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO THE FRANK MELTON BRIDGE. (STOKES)

9/25/2025

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Jackson, Mississippi is considering Amendment Number 2 to its 2017 One-Year Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan by:

Modifying goal number ten (10), from the construction of 2 housing units to the construction of 8 housing units.

This amendment is necessary to ensure that funding is expended in a timely manner and to provide resources for the development of affordable housing to low and moderate-income people in the City of Jackson.

If anyone would like to ask questions or make comments on these proposed amendments, they should email them to OHCD@jacksonms.gov. The City is required to provide a 30-day comment period on all proposed amendments to our one-year action plans, therefore, comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 25, 2025.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, unless there are objections from the general public, this Amendment will be considered adopted, however, if there are any objections from the public, these objections will be presented to the City Council for consideration prior to the adoption of the Amendment.

9/25/2025

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 APPLICANT: TRAVIS HEDRICK
REQUEST: RHAB HOME AND GARAGE.

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

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

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

CASE NO. HPNC-25-38
LOCATION: 1002 ARLINGTON ST (PARCEL (11-46)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: TYLER ARCHIE

REQUEST: INSTALL ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE HOME.

II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

9/18/2025, 9/25/2025

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6347-0125

Sudoku

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

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

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

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ACROSS

1. Choose
4. Rushes
10. Fashion
11. Foretaste
12. Accountant
13. Frail
14. People from Asia
16. MGM's Lion
17. Orange peel
18. Military policeman (abbr.)
20. Mythical city
22. Ardor
26. Pack
29. Timely (2 wds.)
31. Puzzle
33. Rival
34. Cleans thoroughly
35. Terminate
36. Inguinal ____
37. Distress call

DOWN

1. Award
2. Cola
3. Author Mark
4. Bridge
5. Rainbow maker
6. Snake like fish
7. Diabolic
8. Natural sand pile
9. Seg0 lily's bulb
15. Hoopla
19. Touch an animal
21. The living dead
23. What a cat has nine of
24. Type of acid
25. Warts
26. Tulle
27. One time
28. Vigor
30. Space ship builders
32. Bullet shooter

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LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Jessica Carr Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Jesse Earl Carr, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock *a*.m., on the 20th day of October, 2025, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Crystal Wise-Martin, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 15th day of September, 2025.



EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

BY: K. Howard

9/18/2025, 9/25/2025, 10/2/2025

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Abraham Lincoln

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			D																						

N Z S P N B P I P Y Z Z G E D N Z O Y B S D S Z W K

 E S E S S

 V Z R D P T O F F D I I H O C C X P W



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Crossword Solution

O	P	T		S	P	E	E	D	S
S	E	W		P	R	E	V	U	E
C	P	A		A	I	L	I	N	G
A	S	I	A	N	S		L	E	O
R	I	N	D		M	P			
			O	Z		E	L	A	N
M	O	B		O	N	T	I	M	E
E	N	I	G	M	A		V	I	E
S	C	R	U	B	S		E	N	D
H	E	R	N	I	A		S	O	S

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Sudoku

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

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

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Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
P	R	F	G	D	H	Y	B	X	U	T	C	S	N	Z	A	E	W	I	V	O	L	J	M	K	Q

N O M A N H A S A G O O D E N O U G H M E M O R Y

N Z S P N B P I P Y Z Z G D N Z O Y B S D S Z W K

 T O B E A S U C C E S S F U L L I A R

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DOLLAR GENERAL
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DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
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P R E S E R V E D

The Paddle Boat Blessing

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Several years ago, I was blessed to take a cruise that made a stop in the Cayman Islands. When our cruise ship first arrived at the Cayman Islands beach, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the blue water. Since this was my first time there, I'd decided that I was going to soak up as much sun and fun while on the beach. After spending an hour picking up seashells, I wanted to do something a little more adventurous. I then saw a couple looking like they were having a great time on a paddle boat that looked like an oversized big tire, The 14-year-old daughter of a fellow vacationer from the cruise ship agreed that it looked like fun. Her

mother agreed that she could ride the paddle boat with me. At first, it was fun. We marveled at how the boat seemed to "ride the waves" and waved at our friends at the shore while they took pictures of us. After about 20 minutes, we decided to head back to the shore. We paddled and steered right but the boat kept moving to the left. After we went in circles about three times, we started to get a little frustrated because our legs were getting tired. We then thought that maybe the reason we were going left was because I weighed more than her and we needed to switch sides on the boat to balance things out. We started to get worried when even after we did this, the boat still went to the left. Not only were we going in circles, but we were also being pushed further away from the shore by each wave. It was strange but

it seemed like the harder we tried to go right, the more the boat went left. At this point, I was panicked but tried not to let the young lady see how nervous I was becoming. I just kept paddling harder to get us back to the shore. "Mom...get help!" was what the 14-year-old yelled after 5 more minutes of going around in circles. I also wished I could yell for my mom but tried to remain calm as our friends on the shore finally realized that we weren't just waving for fun...we really needed help. Silently, I prayed for God to do something! It took the equipment rental associate the longest 5 minutes to rescue us. When he reached us and looked at the boat, he said that one of the paddle boat wheels was filling up with water because a plug came out. He also said that our paddling was mak-

ing it worse. When I thought about it later, I saw how this mirrored the words found in Romans 9: 16: "It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." I then began to see how this nerve-racking experience reemphasized how sometimes the smallest things can change your course. However, instead of trying to fix things, it's best to respond with peaceful trust in God and not panicky control. Oh...I also learned to stick to finding seashells while at the beach 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

PASTOR MARK THORNTON
PART 1

Ex-Bronco a volunteer chaplain on the Blue

By Steve Bertel
Special to The Mississippi Link

Editor's note: This is the first installment of a two-part article. In a world where hunky young men built like refrigerators purposely crash into each other along the scrimmage line many times during a four-hour period ... and where anger and frustration and profanity are pretty much the norm ... Mark Thornton is a voice of peace and reassurance.

As the volunteer chaplain of the Boise State University football team, many know Mark is a guiding light of sorts for those in the school's sports program who are not only long-time followers of Jesus, but those who are also new to the faith. But few know of his dark past. His father was a pastor. "So I basically grew up in church," Mark said. However, there was never any indication he was going to follow in his father's footsteps. Because Mark had his sights set on playing football. Graduating from high school in Sacramento and attending junior college in Monterey, he moved to Boise in 1984 and continued his education at Boise State, while his immediate family continued living in California. "I had football in my blood," he stated. "So I came to Boise State thinking I was going to do big things as far as impacting the sports program. But, back then, I was not living for the Lord. I was living the wild life." In fact, it wasn't long before "I got into, well, a bit of legal trouble, and washed out. I didn't finish my time as a player very well."

A few years later, more legal trouble – much more – which led to him facing a possible 25-years-to-life prison sentence. At the time, he owned and managed a Boise bar, what he calls a "combination pub and deli." One day, while dutifully overseeing the business' routine operations, he facilitated a clandestine cocaine deal out of his back office. Little did he know, the police had used a



Thornton

confidential informant to set it up. To compound his troubles, he lost two close family members only months apart. In January, 1992, his oldest sister passed away, the first in his immediate family to do so. Because of so many sad memories, "My mother didn't want to be home for Mother's Day. So my family – my mother, father, nieces, and nephews – all came up here to Boise," Mark recalled. But "while my parents and family were here, I was wrestling with not only the loss of my sister, but with this felony drug charge and potential prison sentence. What's more, I knew I couldn't let any of my family members know what was going on because they were already grieving the death of my sister." On the day his family was leaving to return home to California, Mark took his father on a tour of his business, the "pub and deli." Afterward, his father looked him straight in the eyes and said, "Son, I'm proud of you." But it bewildered Mark. "Was he proud of me because I owned a bar? Was he proud because I owned a business? At that time, I wasn't really tracking with what he meant. So I just let it go." At the time, Mark didn't understand that his father's comments were actually a prophetic blessing. "He knew before I deserved it," he said. Later, as the family was driving through Winnemucca on its way back home, his father suffered a sudden heart attack and died. "So I lost my sister in January, got arrested in February, and lost my dad in May," said Mark.



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A few more diets: What works, what doesn't what honors health and heritage

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

In the black community, food is more than fuel, it's memory, medicine and connection. From Sunday dinners to cookouts, our plates tell stories. But when it comes to health, we're often handed one-size-fits-all diets that ignore our traditions and realities. This guide breaks down popular diets—what they promise, what they miss, and how we can adapt them to protect our health without losing our roots.

1. Cabbage Soup Diet What It Is: Eat mostly cabbage soup for a week, with a few low-calorie extras. Pros: Quick weight loss. Cons: Too restrictive, lacks nutrients and gets boring fast. Community Note: Not sustainable and doesn't reflect our food traditions or nutritional

needs. 2. Military Diet What It Is: A 3-day plan with specific foods (hot dogs, ice cream, eggs), followed by 4 days of regular eating. Pros: Simple and short-term. Cons: Not balanced and weight loss is often temporary. Community Note: May appeal for its structure, but it lacks cultural flexibility and long-term benefits. 3. South Beach Diet What It Is: Low-carb, high-protein diet in



three phases. Pros: Encourages healthier habits and food variety. Cons: First phase is restrictive and hard to maintain. Community Note: Can be adapted using familiar foods like grilled fish, leafy greens and legumes. 4. Juice Cleanse What It Is: Only fruit and vegetable juices for several days. Pros: High in vitamins and antioxidants. Cons: Lacks protein and fiber, may cause blood sugar spikes. Community

Note: Not ideal for older adults or those managing diabetes.

5. Whole30 What It Is: 30 days without sugar, alcohol, grains, legumes, soy or dairy. Pros: Promotes whole foods and helps identify sensitivities. Cons: Very restrictive and hard to follow. Community Note: Can be culturally limiting. Many traditional dishes include grains and legumes. 6. Raw Food Diet What It Is: Focuses on uncooked,

unprocessed foods. Pros: High in fruits and vegetables. Cons: Hard to get enough protein and calories. Community Note: Some traditional foods are healthier when cooked—balance is key. 7. Carnivore Diet What It Is: Only animal products—meat, fish, eggs. Pros: Simple and may lead to weight loss. Cons: No fiber, lacks plant nutrients and may raise heart disease risk. Community Note: Doesn't reflect the plant-rich legacy of African and Southern cuisines. 8. HCG Diet What It Is: Combines a very low-calorie diet with hormone injections of human

chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) hormone. Pros: Rapid weight loss. Cons: Not scientifically supported, potentially dangerous. Community Note: Avoid unless under strict medical supervision. 9. Alkaline Diet What It Is: Focuses on eating foods that supposedly affect the body's pH balance, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds.

PROS: Encourages healthy eating. CONS: The body's pH is tightly regulated and not significantly affected by diet, making the premise of the diet questionable. Foods often include: • fruits: apples, bananas, cherries,

pineapple, avocado • vegetables: collards, cabbage, carrots, garlic • nuts/seeds: almonds, pumpkin seeds • legumes: kidney beans, white beans, tofu • beverages: herbal teas, mineral water Community Note: Many of these foods are already staples in our kitchens. This diet can be adapted easily. 10. Blood Type Diet What it is: suggests that people should eat according to their blood type (A, B, AB or O).

PROS: 1. Personalized Approach: The diet offers a tailored eating plan based on your blood type, which some people find appealing.

2. Encourages Healthy Eating: It promotes the consumption of whole foods, fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins, which are generally healthy choices. 3. Potential Weight Loss: Some followers report weight loss and improved energy levels, likely due to the structured eating plan and healthier food choices.

CONS: 1. Lack of Scientific Evidence: There is little scientific evidence to support the claims that the diet can improve health based on blood type. 2. Restrictive: The diet can be quite restrictive, eliminating certain food groups based on blood type,

which may lead to nutritional deficiencies if not carefully managed.

3. Complexity: Following the diet can be complicated and challenging to maintain long-term due to its specific guidelines.

There isn't a one-size-fits-all diet that perfectly combines all aspects of a balanced

diet plan. We shouldn't think about losing weight, gaining weight or fitting into the next size down. When we think about a diet, we should think a plan that we can live with for life.

Each diet has its unique benefits and drawbacks, and what works best can vary greatly from person to person. It's important to consider personal health goals, lifestyle and any underlying health conditions when choosing a diet. When choosing a diet, consider: • Your health goals and conditions • Your cultural food preferences • Your access to fresh, affordable ingredients • Your ability to sustain the plan long-term Our health journey is personal, but it's also collective. When we eat better, we live longer. Let's choose diets that honor our heritage and empower our future.

Unresolved Respiratory Symptoms? Get the right tests and care

StatePoint

Each year, 500 to 1,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a rare lung disease that can be fatal if left untreated.

To encourage earlier diagnosis of PAH, the American Lung Association, with support from Johnson & Johnson, is sharing information about the disease, its symptoms, and the importance of testing and proper treatment. Here's what the Lung Association wants you to know:

What is PAH? PAH is a rare, progressive lung disease caused when the tiny arteries in your lungs become thickened and narrowed. This blocks blood flow through your lungs, causing the blood pressure in your lungs to rise. The heart has to work harder to pump blood through the narrowed arteries. Over time, your heart has difficulty effectively pumping blood through your body.

What are the symptoms of



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Super Scout / iStock via Getty Images Plus

PAH? In the early stages, you may not notice symptoms. As PAH progresses, common symptoms include shortness of breath, especially with activities like walking up the stairs or long distances, fatigue, edema (swelling of the feet, legs and eventually the abdomen and neck), dizziness and fainting spells, chest pain, heart pal-

pitations, and lips and fingers turning blue. Contact your healthcare provider if you're experiencing these or any worrisome symptoms.

Who is most at risk? While anyone can get PAH, those most at risk are women ages 30-60, and Black and Hispanic women.

Why is PAH difficult to diagnose? Because symptoms of

PAH are similar to other diseases, the average time it takes to get a diagnosis is about 3 years. This delay can be frustrating for patients and their families, and can result in poorer health outcomes. Unfortunately, health disparities exist due to a wide-range of factors, like lack of access to healthcare, health insurance coverage, transportation to specialists, and health literacy, and can exacerbate these delays. Increasing awareness of this rare disease can help patients get a quicker diagnosis so they can get the treatment they need.

Elva V., a mom and nurse, has been living with PAH since she was 23. She shares that getting the correct diagnosis and treatment plan has been a "game changer," helping her "feel well enough to do the things I enjoy and live a good life with my daughters."

How can the path to diagnosis be shortened? Your provider may order several tests to help

with diagnosis:

- A simple blood test, the BNP test (also called B-type natriuretic peptide test) or NT-proBNP test, can help determine if your heart is working harder than it should, a sign that you may have PAH. Getting this test done early can help speed the path to diagnosis.
- Electrocardiogram to show the electrical activity of your heart.
- Echocardiogram to check the size and condition of your heart.
- Lung function tests.
- A right heart catheterization to confirm PAH, once your provider suspects it.

How is PAH treated? PAH-specific medications come in multiple forms: oral, inhaled and subcutaneous. Some allow blood to flow more easily through the arteries of your lungs. Others improve heart and lung function. PAH medications help slow how quickly your disease worsens. For op-

timal health outcomes when dealing with a rare disease like PAH, it's best to see a specialist.

"When seen by a specialist, you'll receive the latest treatment and resources to help you live your best life," says Dr. Michael Cuttica, a pulmonary hypertension specialist.

That is certainly the case for Lindsay T., who has been living with PAH since her early twenties and works with her doctor to manage her care. "My BNP has been within a normal range since I alerted my specialist that my symptoms were getting worse and he adjusted my medications," she says.

If you have unresolved respiratory symptoms that are not improving with your current treatment, learn more about PAH at Lung.org/pah.

A PAH diagnosis doesn't have to be delayed. With the right tests and care from a specialist, you can get on the path to the treatment you need.

How to get a COVID-19 shot and ensure it's covered by your insurance

By Tom Murphy
AP Health Writer

Drugstores are ready to deliver updated COVID-19 vaccines this fall and insurers plan to pay for them, even though the shots no longer come recommended by an important government committee.

On Friday, vaccine advisers picked by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. declined to specifically recommend the shots but said people could make individual decisions on whether to get them.

The recommendations from the advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention require sign-off by the agency's director, but they are almost always adopted.

Those recommendations normally trigger several layers of insurance coverage and allow drugstores in many states to

deliver the shots. But insurers and government officials have said coverage will continue, and several states have allowed for vaccine access through pharmacies, the most common place to get shots.

Many people start seeking vaccinations in the late summer or early fall to get protection against any winter surges in cases.

Here's a closer look at the issue.

Will insurers cover these shots?

Many are expected to do so, but you still may want to check with yours.

The Department of Health and Human Services said Friday that the committee vote "provides for immunization coverage through all payment mechanisms." An HHS spokesperson said that includes Med-

icaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, commercial coverage sold through health insurance marketplaces and the federal Vaccines for Children program, which pays for roughly half of childhood vaccinations in the U.S. each year.

The VFC program normally automatically covers any vaccines recommended by the CDC committee.

The trade group America's Health Insurance Plans said earlier this week that its members will continue to cover the shots at no cost to patients through 2026.

That group includes every major insurer except UnitedHealthcare. And that insurer has said it will continue covering the vaccine at no cost for its standard commercial coverage, which includes plans offered for individuals and through

small businesses.

One caveat: Large employers that offer coverage will make their own decisions on the vaccines.

They may be motivated to continue coverage: The vaccines can help ward off expensive hospital bills from people who develop a bad case of COVID-19.

Where people can get vaccinations

About two-thirds of adults get COVID-19 shots at pharmacies, and around 30% receive them at doctors' offices, according to CDC data.

Access to the shots has grown after a clunky start to vaccine season that saw some people travel to nearby states when they couldn't make appointments at pharmacies closer to home.

Drugstore chains like CVS

say their locations are stocked with the latest vaccines, and they now are able to deliver vaccinations in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Prescriptions are required in D.C. and a handful of states, including Florida and Georgia, CVS Health spokeswoman Amy Thibault said.

Walgreens also requires prescriptions in a few states, a company spokesperson said.

Who can get the shot

Until now, the U.S. has recommended yearly COVID-19 shots for everyone age 6 months and older.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved the shots for all people age 65 and older, and for younger adults and children with conditions that put them at high risk for catching a bad case of COVID-19.

The CDC maintains a long list of conditions that would put someone at high risk, including asthma, cancer, heart or lung problems, obesity, depression and a history of smoking. It also includes those who are physically inactive, and the agency notes that this list is not conclusive.

Patients can consult with their doctor or care provider to decide whether they are high risk if they don't have a condition on that list.

Both CVS and Walgreens representatives say their companies will ask patients under age 65 if they have any of these factors. They won't require proof.

"In simplest terms, if a patient says they're eligible, they will get the vaccine," said Thibault, the CVS Health spokeswoman.

The Mississippi Children’s Museum holds ribbon cutting for the reopening of the World at Work gallery

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) was thrilled to announce the reopening of the World at Work gallery, now featuring six all-new experiences, including an all-electric vehicle, donated by Nissan, and the Design Studio, made possible by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Since the museum’s inception, Nissan has been an advocate, supporting programs, exhibits, and the annual Mississippi Science Festival. MCM has proudly featured two Nissan Altima vehicles, assembled in Canton, MS. Now, the museum introduces the Nissan ARIYA offering children the unique opportunity to sit in the driver’s seat and explore how electric vehicles work. This hands-on experience not only sparks learning through role play but also educates children about the latest advancements in the automotive industry. “Nissan believes that investing in STEM education is investing in the future,” said Victor Taylor, Vice President of Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. “By supporting MCM, we’re helping young minds explore innovation, creativity, and the real-world applications of science and technology. We’re proud to be part of a community that values education and empowers the next generation of thinkers and makers.”

This exhibit space features another unique addition from the Canton Nissan plant, called “Nikki the Cobot.” A “Cobot” is short for collaborative robot and assists in production and safety during the manufacturing process. In this experience, guests can test their skills against Nikki, moving their wand along the racing rod to see if they can match her precision and speed with the slow, medium and fast settings.

The Mississippi Children’s Museum’s talented Exhibits Team worked alongside visionary partners on this project, including Kraemer Design & Production who helped bring the ideas of the Design Studio to life, weaving the specific themes behind creative careers throughout the entire experience. Other collaborators included Scott Wolfram and Mike Murphy of Working Studio, who originally fabricated the museum’s first Nissan Altima, and were instrumental in retrofitting the newest vehicle exhibit at the museum. Additionally, Nomad Design Shop engineered and adapted many elements within this gallery, including the new test



tracks, light table, cobot enclosure and more.

More updates include the “Test Track Challenge,” where young designers will consider size, shape, weight, and materials when building a vehicle to meet different challenges on the road. Visitors are invited to choose a vehicle model and put its speed and strength to the test on one of the six new tracks.

Alongside these technology-centered exhibits, guests can also explore their creative side through our “Design Studio.” The Design Studio introduces the design process, offering visitors prompts where they are asked to think like a designer to solve a problem. From prompts encouraging them to illustrate their best day to designing a dinner menu, this station fosters creativity and teaches children about the design process through artistic challenges. This interactive space also features “Material World,” which gives children a hands-on approach to selecting the right material in product design challenges. Additionally, our well-loved “House



Build” structure has been updated with a fresh new look, complete with new design elements, such as a siding pieces, brick, windows, and more.

“Our team modeled the very process we are exhibiting in Design Studio with many of these exhibits,” shared MCM Exhibits Director, Rachel Myers. “We were inspired by the design challenges, like how high could we raise the test track, how heavy the cars would need to be, and more. We’re excited for visitors

to put our ideas to the test and learn how important the design process is in so many aspects of work across our state.”

The World at Work gallery area now proudly features an art installation titled “Ideas in the Sky” by Cecelia Moseley. This vibrant acrylic installation sparks children’s imagination through art, design, and innovation. Suspended forms of rockets, robots, pencils, and tools create an immersive, floating landscape that encourages young



minds to think creatively, like artists, engineers, and inventors. Moseley is a mixed-media artist from Meridian, and currently houses a permanent sculpture at the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Meridian, MS.

Portions of the updated gallery were made possible by the generous support of the Mississippi Arts Commission. Their funding helped bring to life key elements of the space, including the Design Studio containing an 8-foot illuminated drafting table, Material World, House Building, and Art Installation. We are grateful for their commitment to fostering creativity and the arts in Mississippi.

“The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is proud to support the update of the gallery through the Building Fund for the Arts grant,” said David Lewis, executive director of the MAC. “The Mississippi Children’s Museum received a generous grant to help redesign these exhibits.

As a design graduate, I’m personally excited for these exhibits that inspire the next generation to create and think like a working artist. We are grateful to the Mississippi Legislature for supporting this grant, which helped make this project possible.”

About the Mississippi Children’s Museum The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. MCM’s two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage.

Learn more: www.mschildrensmuseum.org MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN’S MUSEUM • PRESS RELEASE

John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation celebrates 65 years of transformation during Sapphire Jubilee Weekend

Mississippi Link Newswire

The John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation (JVMPF) is proud to announce an unforgettable weekend of inspiration, celebration, and community connection with its 65th Anniversary Sapphire Jubilee Weekend Gala and Community Cookout. The weekend kicks off Friday, October 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the Gala at the Jackson State University Student Center, featuring Dr. Derwin Gray as guest speaker.

A former NFL defensive back turned dynamic pastor, Gray is the founder and lead pastor of Transformation Church in

Charlotte, NC, and the author of seven acclaimed books, including The Good Life and How to Heal the Racial Divide. His story of faith, leadership, and reconciliation continues to inspire audiences nationwide.

Guiding the evening will be beloved journalist and longtime WLBT news anchor Maggie Wade. Known for her powerful voice, grace, and commitment to community, Wade brings decades of experience and deep ties to Mississippi audiences, making her the perfect host for this evening of transformation and hope.

Then Saturday, October 4,

2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the celebration continues with the Community Cookout at the Perkins Foundation Campus (1831 Robinson Street, Jackson, MS). The cookout will offer a taste of Southern charm with sizzling BBQ, live bands, meaningful conversations, and the warmth of Mississippi hospitality. It’s a time to enjoy good food, laughter, and fellowship in the spirit of unity.

“Within each of us is the power to carry our legacy forward. As the world shifts, our mission grows more urgent: to raise up leaders, heal divides, and equip young people for the challenges

and opportunities of tomorrow,” said Elizabeth Perkins, JVMPF Director. “This weekend reflects the heart of our mission to build stronger communities through faith, love, and action. Together, we can ensure the next 65 years are even more transformative than the last.”

Proceeds from the Gala and Cookout will support the Foundation’s ongoing programs, which advance leadership, education, and community development inspired by the legacy of Dr. John M. Perkins. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit jvmpf.org/gala.



Derwin Gray



John & Vera Mae Perkins



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Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

Hinds CC hosting I2PA graduation with AWS, state workforce



Photos are from a class on how to bend pipe

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds Community College graduated its first Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) class during a ceremony at Tuesday, Sept. 16th 2:30 p.m. at the Alexander Hall auditorium on the Jackson Campus.

The I2PA program is an Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship. As part of the program, the apprentices attended the program for four weeks and were paid for 30 hours each week. The goal was for them to enter careers that build, connect, power and operate the infrastructure that powers the information economy, either at AWS or with AWS contractors.

Attending the ceremony for the 20 Hinds apprentices were a number of AWS officials and state workforce leaders including Executive Director of Accelerate MS, Courtney Taylor, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District Workforce Director, Dr. Robin Parker and AWS Director of Workforce Development and Education Christopher Affrunti and VP of Economic Development at AWS, Roger Wehner.

"I2PA is a highly valuable program because it exposes learners and others who are looking to transition in their careers or upskill to find new job opportunities. The broad spectrum of the jobs associated with our data centers afford a wide variety of opportunities," Wehner said.

"These jobs include construction and the skilled trades, fiber optics, and operations and main-

tenance of our critical infrastructure. They can sample all of those new opportunities, see what they like, what they gravitate to, and then continue on with their training journey or get hired immediately after the program," he said.

Angela Crain, MS Reconnect & STEP Project Manager for the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, said the Hinds apprentices are a high-quality group that will serve employers well.

"It's a diverse and talented group — several are continuing their education in electrical, construction, HVAC or fiber, while others are actively seeking employment opportunities. There are truly some outstanding candidates in this cohort," she said.

Crain said this is the third Mississippi I2PA training. "What makes this group especially unique is that the I2PA team selected the participants from over 1,300 applications. Narrowing it down ... was no small task, but the process worked — and it worked well," she said. "This is also the first time the training has been delivered entirely by Mississippi-based instructors."

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.



Jackson Public Schools and Jackson State University strengthen partnership with Dual Enrollment Program



The JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) and Jackson State University (JSU) are expanding their partnership to create greater opportunities for high school scholars. Through dual enrollment programs, JPS scholars can take college-level courses while still in high school, earning credits that not only give them a head start on their college journey but also reduce the overall cost of higher education.

By entering college with credits already completed, scholars gain a significant advantage—shortening the time needed to earn a degree, reducing tuition costs, and developing the confidence to succeed in a university environment. This partnership equips JPS



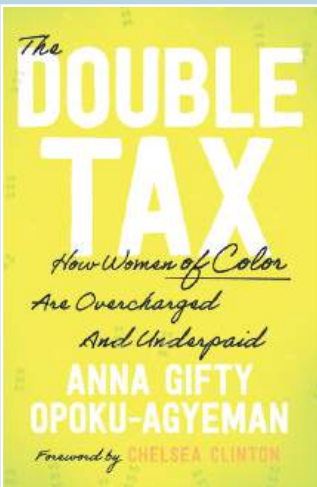
scholars with both academic and financial benefits as they prepare for life after graduation.

"Jackson State University is proud to partner with Jackson Public Schools to help prepare

affordable and accessible for families in our community," Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene emphasized the depth and importance of this long-standing partnership. "JPS and JSU go together—it's like a marriage," Dr. Greene said. "Almost everyone in Jackson has a connection to both the Jackson Public School District and Jackson State University. This partnership is not only essential for our scholars, but also for the success of the city of Jackson, the state of Mississippi, the Southeast region, and the United States."

Together, JPS and JSU are preparing scholars to pursue their dreams while building a stronger educational pipeline that will impact the community for generations to come.





BOOK REVIEW:

THE DOUBLE TAX:
HOW WOMEN OF COLOR ARE
OVERCHARGED AND UNDERPAID

BY ANNA GIFTY OPOKU-AGYEMAN, FOREWORD BY CHELSEA CLINTON

C.2025, PORTFOLIO

\$29.00 • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your favorite Uncle will want to hear from you in about six months, maybe sooner. He'll want to talk about your wallet, first and foremost. He'll be interested in your home and your workplace and he'll check your memory and your math skills. Nice guy, he'll probably ask after your family, too. You can't avoid Uncle Sam's inquisitiveness but with "The Double Tax" by Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman, you'll see how to stop the "pink tax" from being

worse if you're black. When she was a young child, Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman noticed that when it was time to leave for church, the women in her family struggled to get ready on time. Hair, make-up, dressing, it all took more effort for her mother and sisters than it did for the menfolk. Generally speaking, women have social requirements they must follow that manufacturers have seized upon, leading to "pink taxes," or extra costs placed on things for women that are identical to products made

for men. Unfair, yes, and in the case of Black women and life, she says, there's often a double-tax. Take, for instance, hair. Studies show that a woman's looks are linked to her check-book, and hair and beauty products matter. Products marketed to women cost more than that which is marketed to men, and the cost is even higher for Black women's products. That's if they can find them nearby. Women go up against gender stereotypes when applying for jobs; Black women go up

against stereotypes of gender and race – which can also lead to "tokenism" and wage gaps. Women get stuck in lower-paying jobs and are often discouraged from reaching for STEM-related careers, but studies show that Black women suffer higher rates of this discrimination. So what can be done? Fund minority businesses, Opoku-Agyeman says. Change how your business uses resumes. Support better access to education for Black women. Be transparent in your organization's pay scale. Revisit your

company's policy on motherhood. Finally, identify gaps in the system and close them. Doing so will help now, and later. Sometimes, it seems like life is all uphill. And that may be twice as apt for women of color, as you'll see in "The Double Tax." But is this a book you need? Read a little, think about its first few pages, and you may decide that author Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman isn't talking to you. If you're a woman of color, what's here is old news; instead, she seems to be talking

more to male supervisors, bosses, and CEOs of all races with personal stories that underscore her points. That doesn't mean white woman won't learn a few things – raising another woman up is always a good action - but men who don't pay the pink tax will surely get more from it. Although what you'll find here is a bit broad, this book will open eyes to what's hidden in plain sight and you'll find ideas for change that can affect the status quo. For that, "The Double Tax" is a singularly helpful book.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

VOTER INFORMATION

Verify/Update your Registration Today

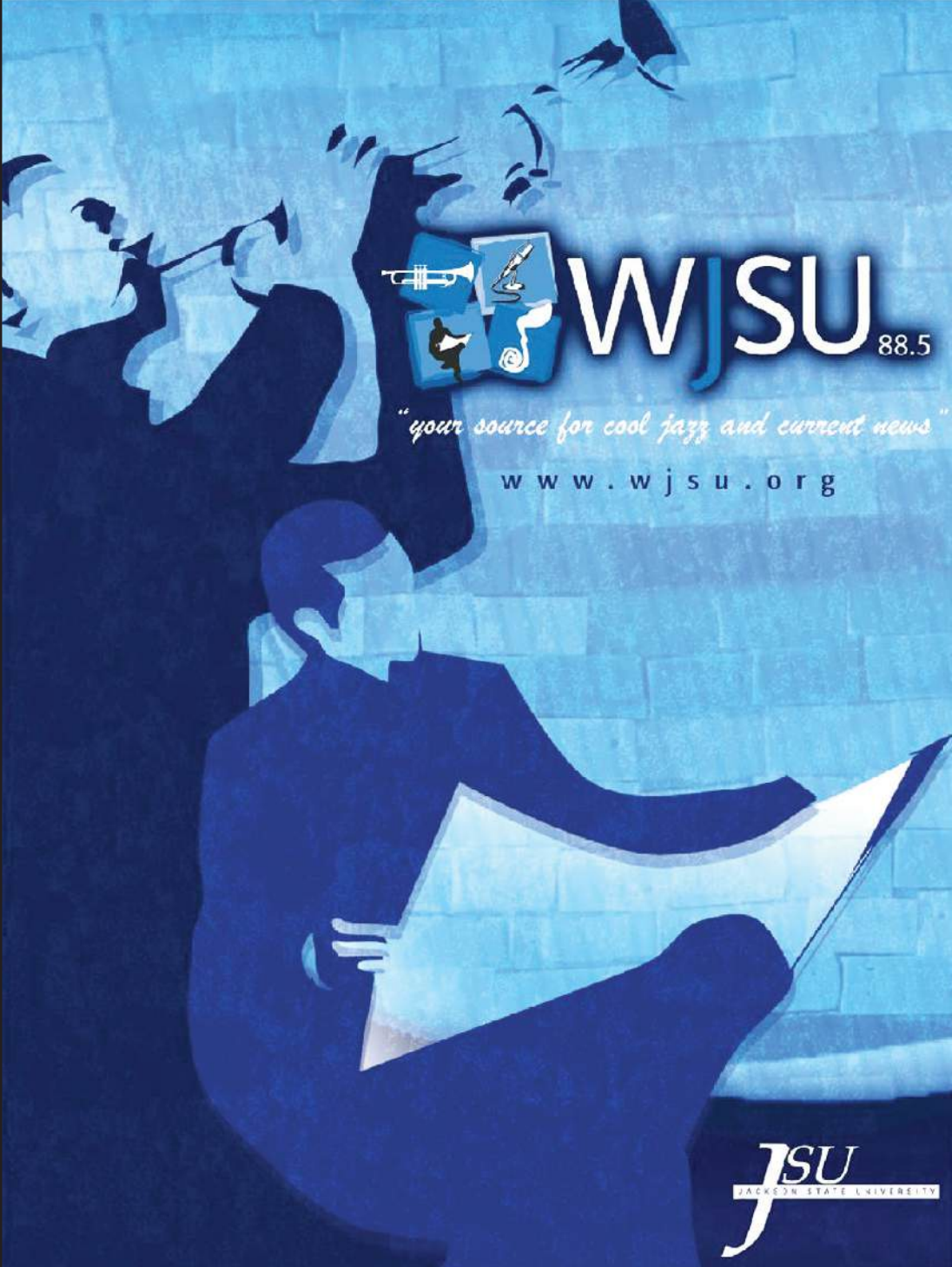
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

Website: www.hindscountymys.com
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An evening with Jamal Roberts

Friday, September 19, 2025 • The Jackson Convention Center

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

An evening with Jamal Roberts brought together friends, family, alumni and so many others, to benefit the Athletic Department at Alcorn State University. The atmosphere was memorable, filled with purpose and celebration.

Roberts, the season 23 winner of the popular singing competition, 'American Idol', delivered through song performances and inspiring messages.

The event highlighted the achievements of the university and showcased its impact on the community, the state and the world. With an emphasis on education and empowerment, the evening fostered a strong sense of unity and pride for Alcorn State University.

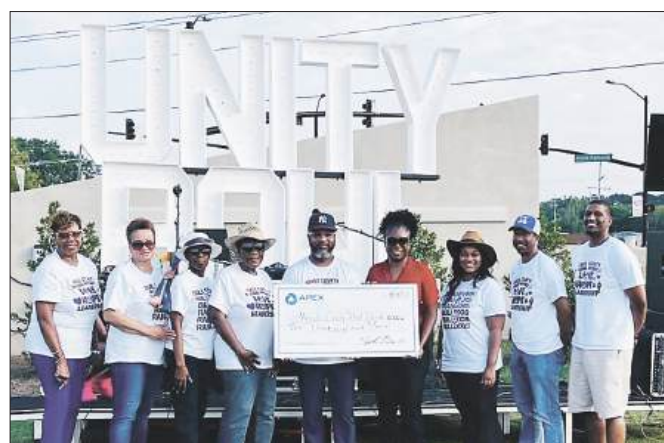


Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Unity Bowl Pep Rally

The Unity Bowl Pep Rally brought our community together in a big way! This celebration highlighted the energy of the band, the spirit of the cheerleaders, and the pride of our football teams. It also reflected the strong support of our board members, mayors, and legislators, making it a true display of unity and excellence across Hinds County.





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THAN AN SUV
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STATEMENT**

