

Remembering Emmett: MVSU, ETIC mark 70th Anniversary with theater, panels and more

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

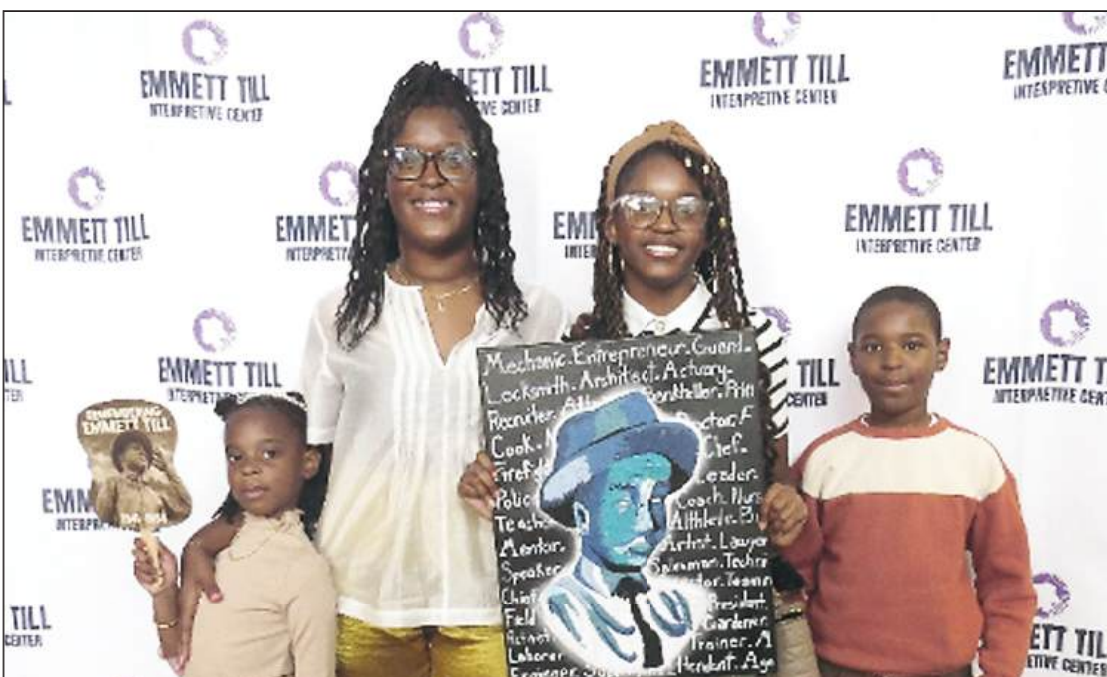
Seventy years after Emmett Till's 1955 murder, the Emmett Till Interpretive Center (ETIC) partnered with Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) for a two-day observance on campus.

The commemoration began Thursday, Aug. 28, with "Take Me Back: A Theatrical Journey of Unsettling Memories," performed by Jackson State University's MADDRAMA troupe. Directed by Dr. Mark Henderson, the production captivated audiences by intertwining the Till story with other civil rights events, including Mamie Till Mobley's cautionary advice to her son Emmett.

Ruchawn Williams, Editor-in-Chief of the Delta Devils Gazette, praised the performance, saying, "It was a great tribute to the amazing historical figures who paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement."

Other performances and presentations during the commemoration included a poem by C. Liegh McInnis and a tribute from Dr. Edelia J. Carthan, a cousin of Mamie Till-Mobley. A Clinton High School student artist, Kynadie Young Batteast, was recognized for her winning creative artwork of Till, featuring a background print of the many professions in life he could have had if he had not been murdered.

Friday's sessions included greetings from MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs and ETIC Executive Director Patrick Weems, followed by panels titled "A Conversation with the Emmett Till Generation," "Legacies of



Accompanied by her mother and siblings, student artist Kynadie Young Batteast displays her creative artwork of Till. PHOTOS BY GAIL H. M. BROWN, PH.D.



Event Coordinator Cynthia Palmer and ETIC Chief Program Officer Dr. Daphne Official

the Till Story," and "Voices of Today's Youth."

Reena Evers-Everett, daughter of Medgar Evers, described the observance as "powerful!" noting her father's involvement



Rev. Dr. Wheeler Parker, Jr., ETIC Special Projects Coordinator Jessie Jaynes-Diming, and ETIC Executive Director Patrick Weems

in Till's investigation: "We are still seeking total justice no matter what," she added. She served on the "Legacies of the Till Story" panel.

Friday evening activities fea-

tured a candlelight vigil at the Emmett Till statue in Greenwood, Miss.

Saturday, Aug. 30, a memorial

Till

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A Candidate's Profile



Kamesha Mumford makes her campaign announcement

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

For the next several weeks, The Mississippi Link will profile candidates running for Senate District 26. For the first time in 32 years this seat became vacant after John Horhn was elected Mayor of the City of Jackson.

This week, we begin with Kamesha Mumford.

Profile: **Kamesha Mumford**
Municipal Judge & Attorney | Wife | Mother | Candidate for Mississippi Senate District 26

Roots in Canton, Mississippi

Hailing from Canton, Mississippi, Kamesha Mumford has forged her path through both personal and civic dedication. A wife and mother, she brings to her campaign a perspective grounded in family values and a lifelong commitment to public service.

Professional Foundations

Mumford serves as a municipal judge and is also a practicing attorney, providing general legal services in areas such as litigation, real estate,

estate planning, contract law, family law, and regulatory matters. She has appeared in nearly every chancery court in Mississippi. Kamesha is also the owner of Mumford Title LLC, offering title and closing services throughout the state of Mississippi. Her dual roles place her at the nexus of legal practice and community justice, enriching her insight into both the law and its real-world impact.

Campaign Launch at the State Capitol

Just last week, Mumford officially launched her campaign for the Mississippi State Senate in District 26 at the state Capitol. The open seat, previously held by Senator John Horhn (who was recently sworn in as Jackson's mayor), triggered a special election scheduled for November 4, 2025. Among seven qualifying candidates vying to represent portions of Hinds and Madison Counties, Mumford stands as one of the most notable contenders.

Anchored in Service — Putting People First

Mumford

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The City of Jackson unites for men's health: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month begins

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

A powerful message echoed through the halls of the Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda this week, as Mayor John Horhn officially proclaimed September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Jackson. Joined by health professionals, advocates, survivors, and community leaders, the mayor's announcement marked the start of a month-long campaign to shine a spotlight on early detection, regular screenings, and prostate health education.

"Raising awareness can save lives," said Horhn. "We encourage all men in Jackson, especially African American men, who are disproportionately affected, to speak with their doctors, get screened, and take charge of their health."

The City of Jackson, in partnership with local health organiza-



Warren Jones, Epidemiologist speaks during conference

tions and community groups, is rolling out a series of events to engage residents and provide vital resources.

Upcoming Events:
September 25th at 6:00 p.m.
Community Awareness Forum
Location: MS Baptist Hospital,

Belhaven Building, 1200 N. State Street, Room 220

This open forum will bring together urologists, survivors, and advocates to discuss the importance of PSA screenings, lifestyle choices, and overcoming stigma around men's health. Attendees

will have the opportunity to ask questions, hear personal stories, and receive guidance on accessing local screening services.

September 28th – Prostate Cancer Awareness Sunday

Cancer

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Mayor John Horhn declares September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Jackson



Inside

Canton High School Class of 1975



Black History & Memoirs



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Stronger than a storm: reflections from ‘Katrina Kids’

Part 2

By **Brittany Dillard**
Katrina Evacuee

(Part 1 of this story appeared in last week’s edition)

There were lessons in Hurricane Katrina. Amos says “Katrina taught us how to survive. If you could survive that and get out of that, you can survive anything. It also taught us that we are strong individuals. We are different. New Orleans is different.” Sanford says “ Nothing lasts forever. Your life can change in the blink of an eye.”

Favorite says “ The wind can blow either way, always be prepared and listen to your parents. It definitely taught us to take all experiences as individual experiences. Never let one experience define another. It taught us to take all weather concerns seriously.”

Favorite added another lesson: “Even in the most unexpected situations, you can find the best in it.” This speaks true for all four of us. In the past 20 years since Hurricane Katrina, each of us continued our education, completing high school as scheduled, earning degrees, starting careers and businesses.



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

COMMENTARY

I completed high school in Mississippi and earned my BA in Mass Communications from Belhaven University. I have worked for publications and have also worked in the school system in Mississippi. I am a proud wife and a proud mother to two sons, ages 9 and 6.,

My oldest son was born in August 2015, almost to the day of the 10 year anniversary of our evacuation. Sanford completed high school in Mississippi and earned his BA from Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida.

He is a proud father to his 11 year old son. Sanford has a talent and passion for music. He is a Digital Marketing Manager and Crypto Day Trader.

Amos was able to continue her high school education at her school in New Orleans. She also attended high school while living in MS. She earned many degrees from Jackson State University. She has worked for the Federal Government for the past 13 years. She is a Credential Specialist. She is a mom to a daughter, an 18 Year old MSU freshman who will be attending school on a \$30,000 scholarship

and was Valedictorian of her 2025 class at her high school.

Favorite completed high school then continued into barber school where he earned his barbers license. He is a proud co business owner of his barber-shop / Salon. It was voted #1 Barbershop/ Salon in 2024 by The Clarion Ledger and made top 3 in 2025. He plays the guitar for youth ministries at his church. He is a father of two, a boy and a girl, ages 6 and 8, and a devoted husband. Gwen Sanford has lived in Richland for the past 20 years .She was an educator in New Orleans and continued her career in Mississippi public schools following hurricane Katrina. She is now retired. She is an outstanding lifelong artist and is currently in the process of publishing her memoir.

So why should people care about Hurricane Katrina 20 years later? Amazing things have happened in the lives of the survivors and of the city. There have been many devastating storms and natural disasters since. Well, let’s not forget the darkest side of the storm. It is important to remember the terror and unjust

treatment some residents went through. It is important to remember how we were labeled and abandoned. Innocent people died on the street covered up by only a sheet, bodies left wet and bloating.

People died in the Superdome, in their homes, in hospitals, in jail, on their rooftops awaiting help. It’s important not to forget that we were labeled as refugees and animals because of the views of some of our countries’ leaders. People trusted the news and therefore did not trust us. We were outcasts in our own country due to bad leadership and prejudice. Those innocent lives should never be forgotten, no matter how much time has passed.

We will never forget. Those people counted. They will forever matter. Currently, there are several Hurricane Katrina memorials in New Orleans and other affected areas. Favorite, Amos, Sanford and myself reflect on the strength of the city and its impact around the US and the world. We have untamed pride in the city that is a huge part of who we are. Like the city, we are still stand-

ing. We celebrate the city’s resilience, the great people, culture And the goodness of God. New Orleans is our heart. Katrina was a scar, but it was just a part of the story. We tend to share a bit of culture everywhere we go.

“The culture of the people of New Orleans is so strong that if we go somewhere else, people tend to gravitate toward it because it’s new and it’s fun, it’s lively.” “For example, I see how it’s influenced music in Florida, culture in Houston, culture in Georgia.. There’s a lot of mixture of New Orleans culture in a lot of states and communities that would have never gotten there if Katrina wouldn’t have happened,” said Stanford. “It made some people. It made some people think about their life. It’s relevant because the city is still standing. It couldn’t break the people. The people are still there, the community is still there. The food is still there, the poboy sandwiches are still there. The seafood is still there. It isn’t going anywhere. We have been through it,” said Amos. “There was nothing like Katrina.”

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



Till

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Dr. Edelia J. Carthan presenting a tribute in memory of her cousin Mamie Till-Mobley.



From left, First Black Tchula Mayor Dr. Eddie J. Carthan, local artist Andrew Withers, Atty. Jak Smith, Juliet Louis wife of Willie Reed, Till Case Witness, Reena Evers-Everette, and panel moderator Waikinya J.S. Clanton, State Director | Southern Poverty Law Center



From left, SNCC Activist Charles McLaurin, panel moderator Pamela D.C. Junior, CORE Activist David "Dave" Dennis, and Retired Sen. David Jordan, a 1959 MVSU alum.



From left, Moderator Dr. Susan Glisson, founder and president of The Glisson Group, LLC, Actor, Singer, and Philanthropy Expert Renee Ombaba, Jermarius "Jay" Rushing, Multimedia Journalist and Motivational Speaker Jaylin R. Smith, and Strategist, Facilitator, and Advocate Treshika Melvin

and wreath-laying occurred at the barn site in Drew, Miss. Till's cousin, Rev. Dr. Wheeler Parker, Jr., who witnessed the abduction in 1955, was also in town for the three-day commemoration.

The ETIC-MVSU partnership also hosted the exhibition "Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See" in MVSU's James Herbert White Library, that will run through Sept. 21. View-

ing is free. Call the library at (662) 254-3500 to schedule a visit.

"We've done events like this here in the Mississippi Delta for a number of years, and this is by far the best," Weems remarked, expressing hope for continued collaborations with MVSU.

In a recent thank-you letter to in-person or online participants, ETIC Chief Program Officer Dr. Daphne Chamberlain shared these

sentiments: "It is with a full heart that I write on behalf of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center to thank each of you for joining us for the 70th anniversary commemoration events held in the Mississippi Delta, August 28-30, 2025. We are extremely grateful to have had you here, and we hope you have returned safely to the many areas of the country..."

Mumford

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Kamesha Mumford surrounded by family and supporters



Rev. Jerry Young of New Hope, Baptist Church prays at campaign announcement

At the heart of Mumford's campaign is a simple yet compelling ethos: people over politics. She emphasizes her commitment to genuine public service, saying clearly that she is "running because she cares" and vows to always prioritize constituents over partisan considerations.

Service-Driven Leadership

Mumford's career as a municipal judge and attorney is rooted in service to her community. Her call to leadership is fueled by empathy, understanding, and a promise to elevate the voices of everyday Mississippians.

Protecting the Retirement System

A key concern driving her candidacy is the threat to the state's retirement system. She has signaled her resolve to defend the financial security of Mississippi's retirees, a vital

issue for countless voters.

People over Politics

Throughout her campaign messaging, she underscores her unwavering belief that public office should be about serving people, not entrenching partisan or political agendas. Her stance reflects a broader push for integrity and focuses on constituents' well-being.

Why Her Candidacy Matters

Balance of Experience & Empathy
Mumford's experience in the courtroom equips her with a deep understanding of policy and justice, while her identity as a mother, wife, and community member grounds her in the realities that many voters face daily.

A Fresh Voice in a Critical Race

With District 26 now open, the race is highly consequential for Hinds and Madi-

son Counties. Mumford brings a vision that combines firm legal expertise with heartfelt public advocacy.

Championing the Underserved

Her focus on protecting vulnerable constituencies; from retirees facing financial uncertainty to families seeking fair justice positions her as a candidate attuned to those often overlooked.

Looking Ahead

As Mississippi voters prepare for the November 4, 2025 special election, Kamesha Mumford's campaign promises a blend of professional competence and compassionate leadership. Her vision is clear: serve the people, uphold systems that support them, and always choose justice over political expediency.



Kamesha Mumford

Cancer

Continued from page 1



Lloyd Ellis speaks



Senator Hillman Frazier speaks

Churches across Jackson will take part in this citywide initiative during morning worship services, with designated male representatives speaking to congregations about early detection and PSA testing. This grassroots effort aims to break the silence and spark conversations about a disease that affects 1 in 8 men in their lifetime.

Wear Blue, Start the Conversation

Throughout the month, residents are encouraged to wear blue in solidarity and use the hashtags #ProstateCancerAwarenessMonth and #JacksonMS to spread awareness online. Local landmarks will also be illuminated in blue as a visual reminder of the city's commitment to men's health.

This initiative reflects more than awareness, it's about action. Through education, open dialogue, and accessible care, Jackson is taking bold steps to fight prostate cancer and support the men and families affected by it.

For more information or to get involved, follow the City of Jackson's official channels or contact your local health department.



Public Dollars, Public Good: As comment window closes, mississippians urge BEAM to deliver affordable, equitable Broadband to children, families

The Mississippi Link newswire

As Mississippi's public comment window for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) draft final proposal closes, The Children's Defense Fund-Southern Regional Office (CDF-SRO) and the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative (SRBWI) are calling on the Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) to strengthen accountability, affordability, and equity in the state's broadband internet rollout, even within the limits set by recent federal rule changes.

"Because these networks are being built with grant dollars that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will not have to repay, it is especially important that families see real benefits in the form of affordable service," said Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald, Regional Director of the Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office and Convener of the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative. "Public dollars must guarantee public good."

CDF and SRBWI applaud BEAM's prioritization of durable, scalable fiber, but



Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald, Regional Director of the Children's Defense Fund, Southern Regional Office

raised concerns about the limited seven-day comment period, the removal of community anchor institutions, and the lack of clarity around what "low-cost" broadband will mean for

families. The organizations stressed that communities—particularly rural, low income, and Black communities—must not be left behind in the rollout.

We encourage BEAM to:

- Engage local residents, especially in rural areas and communities of color, in the execution of broadband projects, ensuring their voices shape how service is rolled out in their communities.
- Support local workforce development by paying fair

wages, partnering with the state on training programs, and creating good jobs in communities where opportunities are scarce.

- Publish transparent county-level maps that clearly show the areas where ISPs will be working, so families, community leaders, local governments, businesses, and institutions can understand what is planned in their area and hold providers accountable.
- Provide regular, plain-language updates on the progress of broadband buildout so communities know how projects are advancing and when service will reach them.

- Closely monitor implementation to ensure the commitments in the Final Draft Proposal are carried out correctly, equitably, and affordably.

"The window is short, but the stakes are high," said Fitzgerald. "Mississippi has a historic opportunity to ensure this \$1.2 billion delivers affordable, reliable, and equitable service. What's at stake is whether every community is truly connected to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity for decades to come."

Meet a remarkable Jackson family

The healing power of God and a made-up mind

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Some things you just have to see to believe. The four Green children, Akillees -18, Jamie-17, Rhenetta – 15, and Maximus – 14, being led into church by their mother, Loletta Perry, in early Spring of this year. A time for new beginnings. March 30th, the congregation at the historic Farish Street Baptist Church watched in rapt attention as all four children were baptized, one after another. All dried off, they were presented with their own individual bibles by the church. To be a witness to that event, well, more than enough to make a grown man cry.

Ms. Perry was born in Detroit, Michigan, and raised in Georgia, Alabama, Ohio, and California. Her mother, Lisa Thomas, and stepfather Earl Thomas were always on the move looking for better opportunities for their family. She settled in Jackson, Mississippi in 2001. She now works at Pats Christian Academy II on Bailey Avenue, as an afterschool teacher, and could soon be floating to teach different age groups. Before that she was at WBF Rainbow Learning Center on West Highland Drive – always involved, always caring for and leading children.

At their home in West Jackson, things are neat as a pin, the children are polite, and the “Wall of Fame” is running out of space for certificates and awards. It wasn’t always like that. She had chosen to divorce



Akillees Green, Maximus Green, Loletta Perry, Jamie Green, and Rhenetta Green after the children were baptized by Reverend Eric Williams at Farish Street Baptist Church on March 30, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAMA PERRY.

COMMENTARY

the father of her children due to a calamitous and irreconcilable marriage. She made attempts to engage in other relationships afterward, only to experience similar outcomes. After self-examination, evaluation, and repentance, she had determined that if nothing changed nothing would change. Her children were in Canton living with their father until she became stable in an environment where she could mother her offspring once again. The only obstacle would be being prevented from leaving the relationship she was in at the time. She made up her mind and went out on faith. “I put all the important documents, social security cards, birth certificates, etc., in my purse and went to work at Simply 10 on Ellis Avenue, just like

it was an ordinary day, and I prayed.”

She prayed through the whole day, culminating in “Father, I’m your daughter and you would not want me to be treated this way. I need you to help me out of this.” After work, instead of going home she went to gas station and started calling people on her phone for help. She got a temporary place to stay with a friend, and soon she was walking down the street with her oldest son, Akillees, and a couple stopped and asked if they needed help. “That is not the kind of neighborhood where that happens, but it happened – it felt like a divine appointment. Not only did they take us to get him enrolled in the new school, but they sat there and waited in case there was any trouble with registering or in case I had to go somewhere else to get

paperwork. They waited, and then they gave us a ride to my friend’s house and connected me with a church friend of hers who worked at Hinds Comprehensive Health. From that came a call from Voice of Calvary Ministries. Ms. Yolanda Sandifer had me come for two days, a couple hours at a time in a span of three weeks. Afterwards, I was ushered into applying for housing. That was almost two years ago.”

The connections didn’t stop with stable housing though. The Metro Jackson Section of National Council of Negro Women assisted in many ways: groceries, transportation, appointments, etc. It was part of NCNW’s Ujima activity - Sister to Sister. “Ms. Ada Miller-Robinson eventually became President. She was interactive. She called to check on us. She



“Wall of Fame” at Perry-Green home in West Jackson. PHOTO: CHRIS YOUNG

asked a lot of questions, and she listened. I needed a church home for my family. I had a lot of church hurt in me. We had been going to church a little bit, but then Ms. Robinson suggested we try her church – Farish Street Baptist Church.”

“At Farish Street, we found it welcoming,” she said. You can feel a tangible presence. You can feel His kindness. You can feel a lot of wisdom there. A lot of caring. You are amongst people that complete their tasks and their professions. You have doctors, lawyers, educators, etc. People are actually doing something with themselves – role models. They don’t make me feel less than. It’s truly motivational for me. Once they became members, Ms. Perry made sure her four children were baptized. They participate in youth activities at the church. She met

Ms. Ann Moore, Chairwoman of the Storehouse for God ministry at The Street, and blessings have continued.

The journey from down and struggling to free and thriving didn’t happen overnight. It began with a made-up mind – I am God’s daughter, and I will not be abused one day longer. Near the end of our interview, oldest son Akilles asked permission for his friend KV to come and spend the night. His mother gave permission, then reached for the phone and called the other mother, making sure everyone was on the same page, just exactly like a mother does. When asked what she looks forward to, she responded, “seeing my Father God keep his promise through his son, Jesus Christ, each new day.” A remarkable woman. A remarkable Jackson family.

Canton High School Class of 1975 celebrates 50 ‘Golden Years’ of progress



Canton High School Class of 1975

PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

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

Last week, time ran away and brought 50 Canton High School alumni together from their youthful days. The 1975 class reunion lasted three days and represented 50 golden years. Getting acquainted while mixing and mingling, sharing many accomplishments, and being held in high esteem by well-wishers occurred at the Canton Multipurpose Complex in the City of Canton, Miss.

It did not take long for an observer to discover from the chats and hugs that excitement filled the air. Discovering what the adult children and their children were doing was a hot topic. Moving on to retirees from the job market expressing their comforts and joys after many hours in the workforce

brought humor mixed with “uh- huh,” “Say that,” “I know what you mean,” etc.

Curtis Harold Esco and Ella Hughes Grant – both 1975 class peers – served as program guides at the banquet. Esco, a Government Contractor and a 26-year United States Army retiree, was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal #2 and Army Good Conduct Medal #3, among many achievements. Grant, on the other hand, has held many jobs, including A Service America Vendor and supplier for McCarty Farms, Colonial Heights daycare teacher for two-year-olds, a sitter for elderly couples in Jackson, Miss., and artist at Gail Pittman Pottery, Inc.

Distinguished guest speakers were Drs. Mary Ann Craton Goliday (Canton native) and Hymethia Washington

Thompson of Jackson, Miss. Goliday is active in the community and has a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Urban Higher Education. Her professional career has spanned over three decades as a science teacher, principal at every school level, college adjunct professor, and consultant for school improvement across the states of Mississippi and Louisiana.

From 1970-1988, Thompson taught English, Speech, and Drama at Canton High School. She has also taught at Jackson Public School District, Jackson State University, Racine Unified School District (Racine, WI), Herzing University (Kenosha, WI) and Tougaloo College. A community uplifter, Thompson enjoys spawning the growth of young people when moments arise.



The Canton High School Class of 1975 worshipped together at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Canton, Miss. Sunday, August 31, 2025 PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

The speakers stood tall while bringing words of inspiration to the 1975 class. They denoted that reminiscing 50 years of vision, hard work, progress, and togetherness lifted the class from trials and tribulations. Those reflective jewels, they charged, however, also proffer advice to the young: “There is no mountain too hard to climb.” Hence, the visionaries made it clear that despite their significant achievements, there was still much work for the 1975 class to do.

Carolyn S. Upkins and Curtis Esco relished the opportunity of rendering a memorial tribute. Their roll call of approximately 87 deceased peers allowed much time for reflection of friends gone and gratitude for peers still alive. One clear message was the need for survivors to deepen the bonds of fellowship and connection.

Entertainment was rendered by MADDRA Performance Troupe under the founding director – Dr. Mark

Henderson of Jackson State University. The thespians took the class and their guests back to the 1960s while mimicking acts of Ike and Tina Turner and The Jackson Five. The troupe’s performance was “a labor of love.”

Dr. Jonathan Phillips, Jr. and his congregation welcomed the 1975 class and their guests for worship. There at Mt. Zion M. B. Church in the City of Canton, attendees were blessed with news from the message: “Transformative Power of God’s Word.” Commending the class for instilling family tradition and pride in their generations to come, the shepherd reminded the flock to “remember the bridge that they crossed over on” – the Lord in His faithfulness. Thus, departing to serve was essential, and the church’s slogan: “Knowing, Growing, and Going for Christ,” is an everlasting reminder.

‘One Mississippi’ event aims to promote community connections in Bay St. Louis

By Simeon Gates
Mississippi Today

A historic community center in coastal Bay St. Louis will hold a free event this fall to help people reach across cultural and political divides by simply having fun together. Organizers say the One Mississippi gathering at 100 Men Hall aims to “show the world what real community looks like.”

The Sept. 28 event will have food, live music and indoor and outdoor activities, including karaoke, storytelling, limbo contests, sack races and tug-o-war.

“We’re calling it ‘where neighbors meet and compete,’ but really it’s where they play together,” said Rachel Dangermond, owner and director of 100 Men Hall.

Bay St. Louis was among the communities hit hard by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Organizers of One Mississippi say they want to promote unity and “not wait for a natural disaster to show our neighbors we’re with them.”

Dangermond said she was inspired by current political and social unrest to unite people across all differences. Though the hall strives to celebrate cultural diversity and inclusivity, One Missississippi is meant to bring in those who don’t normally attend the hall’s concerts or other events.

“We want everyone to feel welcome — we believe that ev-



A 2019 celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at 100 Men Hall in Bay St. Louis, Miss. CREDIT: COURTESY OF LIONEL HAYES

eryone should feel welcome,” she said. “But I think that there is more and more, this division that’s happening in our society, and so a lot of people don’t feel comfortable here. And so we want to have an event that invites everyone in, to do things that everyone can do, that is for everyone.”

100 Men Hall has cultural and historical significance to Bay St. Louis. Bought in 1922 by the One Hundred Members’ Debating Benevolent Association, the hall became a multipurpose space and a popular stop on the Chitlin Circuit, an informal network of entertainment venues for Black performers. Famous blues, jazz and soul entertainers including Etta James, Big Joe

Turner and Ray Charles performed there.

The original One Hundred Members’ Debating Benevolent Association disbanded in 1984, and the hall changed ownership multiple times. Dangermond bought it in 2018, and now runs it as a multipurpose space and cultural center. She also established 100 Women DBA, a nonprofit that supports the 100 Men Hall and provides scholarships and mentorships to local women of color.

“I thought, what we needed to do, most importantly, was to remind everybody in this community about who we are,” Dangermond said.

Dangermond describes Bay St. Louis as a small, artsy town.

It is home to a variety of events, many of which are hosted at 100 Men Hall.

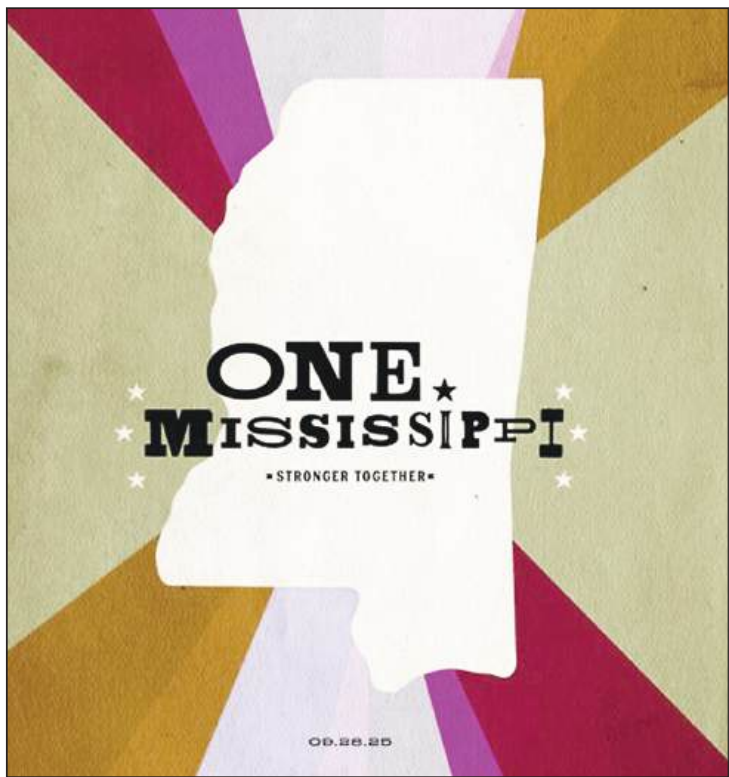
Honey Parker does marketing and advertising for One Mississippi and will host a story slam, where people can share five-minute anecdotes that fit the theme “Only in Mississippi.”

Parker hopes not only to celebrate those in Bay St. Louis, but also to be an example for other places.

“Hopefully, people who come to the event will see what we have here. We have such a fantastic community that is across the spectrum,” Parker said. “It’s to celebrate that, it’s to remind each other that, ‘Yeah, we have a heck of a community.’”



100 Men Hall in Bay St. Louis, Miss. CREDIT: COURTESY OF DAVID LEWIS



“One Mississippi” is a Sept. 28 community gathering in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Credit: Courtesy of Rachel Dangermond

A new era for Greenville and the Mississippi Delta

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor Errick D. Simmons joined U.S. Rep. Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Mississippi Transportation Commission Chairman Willie Simmons, Former Sen. Buck Clark, Carl McGee, President, Washington County Board of Supervisors, other local, regional, and state, officials, along with economic and industry leaders and community stakeholders, in a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the U.S. Highway 82 Greenville Bypass.

“Today we stand on the threshold of a new era for Greenville, Washington County, and the entire Mississippi Delta.

The U.S. 82 Greenville Bypass is more than pavement and bridges—it is a lifeline of safety, a highway of opportunity, and a pathway to prosperity. With this \$216 million investment, we are not only reducing travel times, we are creating jobs, boosting commerce, and positioning Greenville as a gateway for economic development in the Delta.

This bypass is proof that when federal, state, and local leaders work hand in hand with private industry, we can move mountains or in this case, 2.6 million yards of earth—and build a future that is safer, stronger, and brighter for generations to come.”



Ribbon cutting ceremony in Greenville, MS.



Congressman Bennie Thompson



Commissioner Willie Simmons



Mayor Errick D. Simmons

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Who's In Charge?

By April Ryan
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Amid the fight over potentially placing the National Guard in cities with diverse populations where Black mayors lead, the governors have the right to request the deployment of the National Guard.

According to the U.S. Code, Title 32, governors are the commanders-in-chief of the state or territory's militia. Maryland Governor Wes Moore reinforced this by saying, "I am the commander-in-chief!" Maryland's first Black governor said he would only allow presidential National Guard deployment if it is "mission critical" and "mission aligned."

Chicago's Governor, J.B. Pritzker, also resounded "no" to President Trump's threats to deploy the National Guard in Chicago. Title 32 states that Guard members are under the governor's command, but the federal government funds



their duties. However, in this moment of struggle for who controls National Guard deployment, there are concerns about National Guard funding.

Meanwhile, under Title 10, a president can call up the National Guard and put them under federal control, but this is typically done only in specific

circumstances, such as suppressing rebellions. Washington, DC, which is not a state, is under a presidential dictate for the gun-toting National Guard

that is policing and cleaning up trash off the city streets. Trump's Justice Department now controls the D.C. police, as D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser says the police chief reports to her. On the West Coast, in Los Angeles, in June, President Trump deployed the National Guard to Los Angeles in response to anti immigration protests. "This is the federal seizure of power," according to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who emphasizes that the Trump administration has federalized the National Guard, which has seized power from California Governor Gavin Newsom. She says the administration has "taken his ability to manage the National Guard." "The LAPD is definitely not in charge. The first Black woman mayor of the city told this reporter on the Substack show, The Tea With April. However, ICE, the National Guard, Border Patrol, and the Marines

"blend together" policing and arresting Mexicans, Koreans, Iranians, and Haitians in that city. The city of Los Angeles has 3.8 million people, and almost half the residents are Latino, the majority from Mexico.

Los Angeles, a city with a large minority population, has "parts of Los Angeles that are empty because people can't go to work." Bass says, "entire industries in the city of Los Angeles are totally dependent on migrant labor, like the garment district, ethnic restaurants, construction for the housing to rebuild after the fires in the area earlier this year." The mayor reminds us that there has been an instance when the public sees these arrests, some residents perceive it as "kidnappings." The mayor says there was a "bit of a confrontation with the public, ICE, and the LAPD.

Bass says, "It's a mess."

The cost of Trump's authoritarian agenda: Black health and rest



By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

In these punishing times under Donald Trump's authoritarian rule, even rest has become an act of resistance. For Black Americans and other marginalized groups shouldering the weight of Trump's harmful agenda, sleep is more than recovery—it is survival. As protections are stripped away and inequality deepens, the inability to secure restorative rest threatens both health and life itself.

Congressman Bennie Thompson has cautioned that Trump's actions—tearing down the Black Lives Matter Plaza, dismantling diversity programs, slashing HBCU funding, and erasing Black figures from government websites—are a direct attack on Black voices and history. Meanwhile, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has tracked what it calls a "triple threat" to Black households: cuts to food assistance, reductions in Medicaid, and tariffs that destabilize Black-owned businesses. The result is constant financial stress that fuels exhaustion and erodes the chance for healthy sleep.

Science is clear. A review in Nature Reviews Endocrinology found that poor sleep and disrupted body clocks drive obesity and metabolic disease by throwing appetite hormones out of balance. A systematic review in Sleep Medicine Reviews linked sleep quality to self-control, showing how exhaustion weakens decision-making. Research in Metabolism: Clinical and Experimental showed that sleep loss increases

hunger and insulin resistance, pushing people toward type 2 diabetes. Studies in Obesity confirmed the long-term links between chronic sleep deprivation, obesity, heart disease, and cancer. And neuroimaging research in the Journal of Neuroscience revealed that even one night without rest alters brain activity, making high-calorie foods more tempting. According to the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, lack of sleep is now a driver of global epidemics in obesity and diabetes.

For Black communities, the collision between political oppression and health vulnerability is stark. Trump's agenda forces families to choose between food, rent, and medical care. The CBPP reports that in 2023, more than 11 million Black people lived in households receiving food assistance, while 13 million relied on Medicaid or CHIP—programs now under direct attack. The loss of such lifelines doesn't just destabilize finances; it intensifies stress and insomnia, worsening long-term health outcomes.

"Black Americans have worked hard and sacrificed for generations. One man can't silence our voice or erase our legacy," Congressman Thompson said. Yet the erosion of sleep, the most basic pillar of health, shows how deeply Trump's policies cut into the foundation of Black well-being. In today's America, where authoritarian politics threatens both democracy and daily survival, the struggle for rest has become inseparable from the struggle for justice.

Thousands march on Wall Street demanding economic justice and equity

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Sixty-two years to the day after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, thousands poured into Lower Manhattan, linking arms and voices in what was billed as the largest demonstration of its kind since Donald Trump returned to the White House.

Led by Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network, the March on Wall Street drew national civil rights leaders, clergy, activists, and elected officials, all demanding economic justice, equity, and fair opportunity at a time when diversity, equity, and inclusion programs have been dismantled by the Trump administration. The march began at Foley Square, paused at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and wound its way down Broadway to Whitehall Street. Participants spanned generations and professions — labor unions, fraternities and sororities, educators, and teens — all united by the call to defend rights secured in the 1960s and to push back against what they see as the biggest transfer of wealth in U.S. history.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who was arrested earlier this year while protesting ICE, challenged fellow municipal leaders to act. "We are here because our ancestors demand that we be here, because the times demand that we be here, because every mayor in every city in America should be rising up right now as Donald Trump tries to send the National Guard into our communities — we are here as they create the biggest transference of wealth this country has ever seen," Baraka declared. The presence of Martin Luther King III and Andrea Waters King underscored the continuity of the movement. "It's extraordinarily significant, but in the back of my mind, I am thinking about



Boise Kimber and Ben Chavis

how sad this is, that 62 years after dad delivered that dream for our nation and world that we are in the position we are in," King said. "And the goal is to find ways to move this nation forward around economic inequality." King also posted on social media: "We were proud to join @NationalAction and my good friend, @TheRevAl, for the #MarchOnWallStreet. On the 62nd anniversary of the #MarchOnWashington and in the financial capital of the world, we marched for economic justice and fair opportunities for ALL."

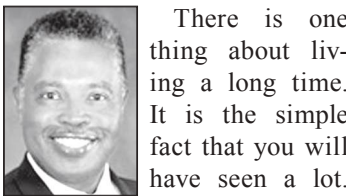
Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, stood with Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., marking the moment's deep historical ties. "It marked 62 years after the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and we continue to march, we continue to speak out, and we continue to demand freedom, justice, equality, and equity," Chavis said. "Thus, we join the Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network in the March on Wall Street. The Rev. Boise Kimber and I stood

together, shoulder to shoulder, at the March on Wall Street. I was pleased to represent the Black Press of America under the auspices of the NNPA. In the words of publisher-leader Frederick Douglass, 'Freedom is a constant struggle.'"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Davis, General Secretary at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., drove home the financial realities confronting communities of faith. "I don't care the size of your church," Davis said. "Whether you have 10,000 members or 10 members, you can't do ministry without money, so we have to be concerned about the economic plight of the people that fill our pews." Among those addressing the crowd were Michael Eric Dyson, Benjamin Crump, Melanie Campbell, Maya Wiley, and others, each pointing to the urgency of resisting what they described as attacks on democracy, workers, and Black communities. "It means we continue the movement 62 years later, marching on Wall Street, raising the issues of income inequity, DEI, and the takeover of cities with Black mayors. The dream is alive," Sharpton told the crowd.

The Tariffs and the daily cost of living have finally caught up with us

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



There is one thing about living a long time. It is the simple fact that you will have seen a lot. You would have experienced some highlights and some low lights, too. We are in a prime position to offer our opinion about the triumphs and the travails of life. During the past several months there has been much to have an opinion about in this world. The news headlines change almost by the hour. Cable news networks have breaking news which has become the new normal because it hap-

pens so frequently. Tariffs have become an everyday topic of discussion in the public square. The new administration started telling us about the benefits of tariffs during their first few weeks in office. History tells us differently. Economists have said tariffs hurt the economy and cause prices to rise. Despite what they say, the new administration continues to mouth the same story. Well, the results of the tariff debate are in, and tariffs do hurt the American economy. That's just the tale of the tape. CBS News reports, "A federal appeals court said that many of the sweeping tariffs imposed by President Trump

on dozens of countries earlier this year are not legally permissible." Despite what the courts are saying, prices are continuing to rise. Walmart CEO, Doug McMillon said, "We've continued to see our costs increase each week which we expect will continue into the third and fourth quarters." Home Depot CEO, Ted Decker believes economic uncertainty is the number one reason consumers are postponing big scale projects. The Democrats are weighing in on the tariffs and the pain they are causing. Rep. Hillary Scholten of Michigan said, "The problem is not the tariffs generally. It's the way Trump is doing them. Trump's tariffs are bad, and the American peo-

ple are suffering. It's a pretty easy message." Rep. Chris Deluzio of Pennsylvania said, "Democrats are pretty uniform, if not entirely uniform in making the case that what's happening right now is really dangerous." Both states are important as the mid-term elections are getting closer. It is my opinion that the Democrats must win these states as they try to regain the advantage in the House of Representatives. Democrats according to those in the know say that they are splintered with no clear direction. We will have to see what happens with them. Right now, they are on a train bound for nowhere. In the meantime, polls show

most Americans are faced with challenging economic issues. Those wanting to purchase a car or a house are finding it arduous because of high interest rates. Going to the grocery store has become an unpleasant experience as goods have increased over the past few months. Americans are in an economic vice. Policies, laws and executive orders have us tense and apprehensive. Will we be able to get out of this spin cycle which is negative and nasty? Recently, the leaders of two countries met to discuss the possibility of a friendship because of this economic roller coaster. Chinese leader, Xi Jinping and India's Narendra Modi met

in Tianjin China. Xi told Modi "The world is swept by once-in-a-century transformations. The international situation is both fluid and chaotic." Modi said, "India was committed to taking their countries' relations forward on the basis of mutual trust and respect. The interests of 2.8 billion people in both our countries are tied to cooperation." This will be an interesting development if it plays out because these countries haven't always been on friendly terms. It can't be overstated that tariffs are causing an unwanted sinkhole in today's world. Remember Marvin Gaye when he sang the lyrics, "panic is spreading, God knows where we're heading".

Democracy's Solution: Prayer, Protest and Votes

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



While the daily media has us focusing on the dismantling of America's institutions, healthcare and services both here and abroad, we see that the issue is not solely Trump, as much as it is those who sit silently and allow his breaking every law and oath he swore to "protect and defend" as President of the United States. The Members of Congress, both the House and the Senate, also took the same Oath of Office as the President, when elected. Clearly their refusal to act as required under the separation of powers provided in the Constitution, makes them complicit with the President in the usurping powers, breaking of laws and the placing of unqualified and destructive people in positions of power being used against the American people.

The solution to all this is prayer. Prayer for and by a Nation that was founded on christian principles; a people who really meant it when we put "In God We Trust" on our currency; a people whose very pledge of alliance" speaks of being "One Nation Under God". We as a nation need to go beyond the National Day of Prayer, which has become a ritual. We need to pull out our bibles, dust them off and read 2 Chronicles 7: 14 which says: "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." We don't need organized daily prayer groups, although that could be powerful if the people are earnest and serious with their prayers. We just need individuals to start praying against the evil of those in power remembering Ephe-

sians 6: 12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." It was prayer that got us through the civil rights struggle. It is prayer that should fuel our protest marches each day against this administration, and against those men and women who swore allegiance to protect and defend the constitution of the United States. It is prayer that will lead us to their replacements in the weeks ahead, but we must not be afraid to speak truth to power. As our Black newspapers print truth as in this editorial, you the reader must not be afraid to respond to this call to prayer as an action against the assault on us and our values. Protect the papers that are not afraid to print this truth. Pray first, then protest and vote. We have so little time and so much to do.

Now I See

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



I was in the fifth grade when I discovered my eye vision struggle. I remember squinching my eyes to see the board and I would often ask my peers to share their notes with me because unknowingly to my nine- and ten-year-old peers- I could not see. Additionally, my teacher noticed my inability to follow along with her as I sat in the mid-section of the classroom, so she advised me to move closer to the front of the class. Although, I moved to the front of the class -my vision was still a little foggy. I eventually went home and informed our mother about my vision issues, and she immediately scheduled an eye appointment with one of the most renowned Optometrist, the late, Dr. Dewey Handy. Handy was patient, gentle, and caring and he reassured us that he was going to go out of his way to determine what was transpiring regarding my vision. Well, after about a twenty-to-thirty-minute eye examination; he discovered that I was nearsighted. Handy informed us that eyeglasses would help me tremendously. I was so excited that I didn't have a major vision issue but at the same time was nervous about wearing eyeglasses - yikes. I thought about all the noise (now it is called bullying) centered around my peers who wore eyeglasses - they were frequently referred to as four eyes, nerds, etc. Anyway, in my deep thoughts as nine- or ten-year-old - Handy's assistant literally had to call my name several times to get my attention so that I could choose and get measured for my eyeglasses. I chose my eyeglasses from a limited section of options (some of you know what the limited section represents) and was told that my new eyeglasses would be ready within the next two weeks - we didn't have the Eye Mart Express option as we do today where your glasses can be ready within an hour. Handy's office soon notified us that my eyeglasses were ready for pick up. My parents immediately took me to get my new eyeglasses. The assistant put my eyeglasses on me, made the necessary adjustments, and I remember exclaiming loudly and proudly, now I see. Like my fifth-grade self - many spouses are squinching, cannot see or choose not to see who God has blessed them with. Why spouses cannot see or choose not to see, understand, and appreciate the spouse God gave them? Many spouses are blind for the following reasons:

- selfishness
- family/friends are all in your ears with junk about your spouse
- not content
- expect a perfect spouse - this one really gets me - why do spouses expect perfection,

- but they aren't perfect themselves?
- don't meet your physical attraction requirements
- doesn't meet your financial appetite
- too stuck on someone from the past
- comparing/contrasting spouse/relationship to others
- Doesn't meet family, friends, social media attraction criteria
- found a counterfeit - turf like Sister Cheeks
- conditional love
- You are blessed if you have a spouse that does the following:
- Has a real loving relationship with God
- loves you for YOU
- helps you grow mentally, emotionally, spiritually, etc.
- holds you accountable
- Communicates - enjoy talking to you regardless of the time, day, etc.
- pray for you
- cleans, cook, or at least make sure you eat
- want to create a home and not just a house
- want to spend quality time with you
- works hard - trying to provide for you or help sustain your finances
- forgives/often asks for forgiveness
- hold themselves accountable for their actions
- is a support system
- wants to enjoy life
- good/present parent
- longsuffering/patient/willing to give you another chance
- faithful despite of...
- willing to be intimate with you any and every time - where there is no touch - the marriage will perish
- not materialistic
- have decided to remain married to you despite your trauma and drama etc. although perhaps they should have ... a long time ago...
- have messed up but is trying to make up for it (only time will tell!)
- willing to pursue Marriage Counseling, etc.
- In conclusion, I know many emotionally blind spouses who no longer have their spouses and are very regretful to this day. Many of you are too blind to see who God has given you. You have been blessed not with a perfect spouse but a spouse who is genuine and loves you unconditionally. If you have a spouse like this - please do not be a fool - fight for him/her and go out your way to show and express your love for them to avoid hearing your spouse one day declare, "Now I See!"
- Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.

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P R E S E R V E D

Who’s Your Daddy... check your DNA

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



For years, some of my guilty pleasures were the judge reality shows like Judge Mathis and Judge Lauren Lakes’ Paternity Court. My reasons for liking those shows varied but I must admit that I loved watching the drama of the paternity tests and their results. I don’t really watch them at all now partially because it was perplexing to me how much information about their personal lives people were willing to share on television. I was also surprised at how hearing the words “You are not the father... or you are the father” could bring such joy or pain. And it all came down to three letters: DNA. In some cases, it was obvious through physical appearance who was the father. In other instances, it

took DNA to prove it.

DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid are the intriguing molecules that prove paternity on these shows. DNA determines the physical characteristics that we inherit from our parents like eye color, height, and body type. Unless you are a twin, you have a unique DNA that no one else on the earth shares. DNA stores information, can pass traits from generation to generation and, most importantly, answers questions about who you are in small pieces of hair, nails, skin, sweat, tears, and blood, etc. It’s only been through the use of modern scientific advances that we’ve learned how useful DNA can be. In some cases, it has set the wrongly convicted free from prison sentences.

For some, our actions and behaviors may make us and others question our spiritual DNA as we do not exemplify Christ. However, our Spirit-

ual DNA involves looking at our (Destiny, Needs, and Authority) and answering questions about who we are in our spiritual lives. Job 23:14 clarifies, “So he will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny.” Have you allowed someone else to determine your destiny? Are you walking in your destiny and do you recognize God’s plan for your life?

Knowing your spiritual DNA also involves asking whose authority you are under. Who do you have authority over and how do you handle it? Have you given your authority away through sin and disobedience? And if you did, how do you get it back? We have to recognize where our authority comes from and what it is to be used for. Romans 1:5 says, “Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so

that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.”

Knowing your spiritual DNA can change your life. It can tell everyone who your spiritual parents are and what traits and behaviors you’ll be passing on to others. Here are some powerful words preached by my late spiritual father Rev. Dr. Jerome E. McNeil that I often think about and apply in my life – “Don’t let what is happening around you distract you from what is happening in you. The miracle isn’t walking on water but who you are walking with.”

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



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Eye on Wellness: Tips to keep your vision in focus

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Our eyes are among the most extraordinary organs in the human body. They allow us to see the world in vivid detail, connect emotionally through expressions and navigate our environment with confidence. Yet, despite their importance, eye health is often overlooked until problems arise. Whether you're an athlete, an older adult or someone simply trying to maintain wellness, caring for your eyes is essential not just for vision, but for overall quality of life.

Our eyes are complex sensory organs that convert light into electrical signals, which are interpreted by the brain as images. Here's a quick breakdown of its key components:

Cornea: The transparent outer layer that helps focus light.

Lens: Adjusts shape to fine-tune focus, especially for near and far objects.

Retina: Contains photoreceptor cells (rods and cones) that detect light and color.

Optic Nerve: Transmits visual information from the retina to the brain.

Macula: A small central area of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision.

Each part plays a vital role in the visual process. But like any finely tuned system, the eyes are vulnerable to wear, disease and environmental stressors.

Common threats to eye health

Understanding what can harm your eyes is the first step toward protecting them. Here are some of the most common threats:

1. **Digital eye strain**-prolonged screen time can lead to symptoms like dryness, blurred vision and headaches. This condition, also known as computer vision syndrome, affects people of all ages.

2. **UV Radiation**-Ultraviolet rays from the sun can damage the cornea and lens, increasing the risk of cataracts and macular degeneration.

3. **Poor Nutrition**-A diet lacking in key nutrients especially antioxidants can accelerate age-related vision loss.

4. **Chronic Conditions**-Diseases like diabetes and hypertension can damage blood vessels in the eyes, leading to dia-



betic retinopathy or hypertensive retinopathy.

5. **Aging-Presbyopia** (difficulty focusing on close objects), cataracts and macular degeneration become more common with age.

6. **Neglecting Eye Exams**
Many eye diseases progress silently. Regular checkups can catch issues early, often before symptoms appear.

Eye care isn't just about avoiding problems it's about actively nurturing your vision. Here's how:

1. **Eat for Eye Health**
Nutrition plays a powerful role in maintaining vision. Focus on foods rich in:

Vitamin A: Found in carrots, sweet potatoes and leafy greens; essential for night vision.

Vitamin C & E: Antioxidants that protect against oxidative damage (berries, citrus, nuts).

Lutein & Zeaxanthin: Found in spinach, kale and corn; help filter harmful light.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Support retinal

health and reduce dry eye symptoms (salmon, flaxseed).

Think of your plate as a palette for protection—colorful, diverse and nutrient-dense.

2. **Practice the 20-20-20 Rule**
To reduce digital eye strain:
Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

This simple habit helps relax the eye muscles and reduce fatigue.

3. **Wear Sunglasses with UV Protection**

Choose sunglasses that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays. Bonus points if they wrap around your face to shield peripheral light.

4. **Stay Hydrated**
Dry eyes can result from dehydration. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially in air-conditioned or heated environments.

5. **Get Enough Sleep**
Sleep allows your eyes to rest and repair. Poor sleep can lead to twitching, dryness, and blurred vision.

6. **Keep Lenses and Screens Clean**

Dirty glasses or screens can strain your eyes. Clean them regularly to reduce glare and improve clarity.

7. **Schedule Regular Eye Exams**
Even if your vision seems fine, routine checkups can detect early signs of glaucoma, cataracts and other conditions. Adults over 40 should be especially vigilant.

As we age, our eyes undergo natural changes. But aging doesn't mean inevitable decline. Here's how older adults can protect their vision:

Monitor for Cataracts: Clouding of the lens can be treated with surgery if needed.

Watch for Macular Degeneration: Early detection and lifestyle changes can slow progression.

Manage Chronic Conditions: Control blood sugar and blood pressure to prevent retinal damage.

Use Adequate Lighting: Bright, non-glare lighting helps reduce strain and prevent falls.

Stay Active: Regular exercise improves circulation, which benefits eye

health.

Empowerment through education is key. Older adults deserve clear, actionable guidance to maintain independence and vitality.

Children's eyes develop rapidly, and early care sets the stage for lifelong vision. Tips for younger populations include:

Limit Screen Time: Encourage outdoor play to reduce myopia risk.

Ensure Proper Lighting: Dim or harsh lighting can strain developing eyes.

Teach Hygiene: Avoid rubbing eyes and share proper contact lens care if applicable.

Schedule Pediatric Eye Exams: Detect issues like lazy eye or refractive errors early.

Vision impacts learning, confidence and social development. Investing in eye care for youth is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

Our eyes do more than see, they connect us to beauty, emotion and meaning. They witness the smiles of loved ones, the colors of nature and the words that inspire change. Caring for them is not just a medical task it's a form of self-respect and empowerment.

Whether you're reading this as a health advocate, a caregiver or someone seeking personal wellness, remember your eye care is a daily practice. It's in the choices you make at the grocery store, the breaks you take from your screen and the appointments you keep with your optometrist. Your eyes are not just tools, they're storytellers, guides and guardians of your experience. Treat them with care, and they'll reward you with a lifetime of clarity, connection and wonder.

Let your vision be a metaphor for your life clear, focused, and full of possibility.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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Catch "Tips to be Fit" on "Good Day Good Health" everyday

Institute staff members visit U.S. Office of Health and Human Services

Mississippi Link Newswire

Maternal and Child Health staff, Latasha Rice and TreKendria Barnes, represented the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health during a site visit at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Rockville, Maryland.

The visit was part of the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) grant program. This grant supports the Institute's work to improve maternal health out-

comes while expanding access to care in rural areas. During the site visit, Rice and Barnes engaged with fellow HHS grantees, shared best practices, and explored strategies to help reduce infant mortality in underserved communities. The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health currently implements the RMOMS program with three clinical sites in the Mississippi Delta.

For more information regarding the Institute's Maternal and Child Health programs,

contact Latasha Rice at lrice@advancingminorityhealth.org.

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



Institute staff members Latasha Rice, Program Manager; and TreKendria Barnes, epidemiologist, recently participated in a site visit with the United States Department of Health and Human Services

Jackson's Thunder:

The 2025 HBCU Battle of the Bands

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Othor Cain
Guest Writer

Sunday, August 31, the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium pulsed with life. As the afternoon sun softened, gates opened at 4:00pm, and the show kicked off at 6:00pm. For the people of Jackson, the event was more than showmanship, it was a homecoming of culture and commerce. The city's hotels, restaurants, and shops brimmed with visitors, fueling a local economic boom and spotlighting Jackson as the new host of an undeniably electric tradition.

The event featured a stellar line up of bands including:

- Jackson State University – Sonic Boom of the South
- Southern University – Human Jukebox
- Grambling State University – World Famed Tiger Marching Band
- Alcorn State University – Sounds of Dyn O Mite
- Mississippi Valley State Uni-

versity – Mean Green Marching Machine

- Alabama A&M University – Marching Maroon & White Band
- Alabama State University – Mighty Marching Hornets
- Langston University – Marching Pride Band
- Talladega College – Great Tornado Band
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff – Musical Machine of the Mid South

The stadium rumbled with cheers as formations shifted like living mosaics, every beat a heartbeat of heritage. The atmosphere crackled with competition, but more so with celebration.

For the first time in the history of the event, it was broadcast live and free on the Urban Edge Network, reaching far beyond Mississippi to honor HBCU marching culture across the globe. It was the proud cadence of HBCU excellence.





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Congratulations to the 2025–2026 Global Citizenship Project Scholars



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is excited to announce this year’s cohort of Global Citizenship Project (GCP) scholars! Throughout the year, scholars will meet virtually once a month on Saturdays with their peers in Ghana to explore each other’s countries, cultures, systems of governance, and the global issues that connect them.

In March 2026, JPS scholars will have the incredible opportunity to travel to Ghana and meet their Ghanaian peers in person.

GCP Scholars
Jakirra Barnes , Provine
Aubrea Caldwell, Lanier
Jamiyah Haralson, Forest Hill
Ayla Hatcher, Jim Hill
Kaitlynn Henderson, Provine
Jolyn Johnson, Provine
Markelen Lee, JTECHS/Murrah
Zamiyah McClendon, Murrah
Preston McDowell, JTECH/Murrah
Elisabeth Stallworth, JTECHS/Murrah
Jayda Taylor , Jim Hill
Amerie Thomas, JTECHS/Murrah
The Jackson Public School’s (JPS) Global Citizenship Project presents an incredible opportunity for eleventh-grade scholars to travel to a partner school in Accra, Ghana.

“Experience Thee Magic of JSU”: Jackson State welcomes new tigers for 2025 Fall Move-In Day

By Jatavian Walker
Jackson State University Communications

Jackson State University (JSU) welcomed over 1,300 incoming freshmen and transfer students to campus for the 2025 fall semester. Students officially arrived during move-in day, held Saturday, Aug. 9, as part of this year’s theme: “Experience Thee Magic of JSU.”

“We’re honored to welcome our newest Tigers to Jackson State,” said Interim JSU President Denise Jones Gregory, Ph.D. “There are so many positive things happening at Jackson State, including our new programs in artificial intelligence and mechanical engineering, and we’re grateful for the energy and interest we’re seeing from prospective students.”

New Tigers began their journey in the Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center at the university’s One Stop Shop. The convenient registration experience provided students with direct access to offices including admissions, housing, business, financial aid, auxiliary services and academic advising.

“The early planning and cross-collaborative efforts of each entity of the campus helped to ensure a seamless plan that catered to the customer, our students and their experience,” said Dr. Jonas Vanderbilt, vice president of student affairs. “With a sprinkle of the JSU magic we have all come to love and adore here at THEE I love, the new tigers are equipped to begin their journey as we make memories for them and get them to the finish line in 2029.”

After students completed their registration, they were greeted by JSU service ambassadors and volun-



teers who made the move-in process efficient and smooth. Naya Chadwick, a senior social work major, is a first-year ambassador and said she values the chance to help new students adjust to campus life — their

new home away from home.

“Volunteering is just something that I value and prioritize, especially in my major as a social worker,” said Chadwick. “We have many students who want to help and serve our cam-

pus and community. As service ambassadors, we help keep everything organized and make sure everyone knows where to go, where to be and what time.”

Kyrie Naylor, a computer science major from Meridian, Mississippi, is a second-generation JSU student. He is part of the Aristocrats STEM and Health Sciences Program, which helps STEM majors navigate their academic load while attending the university.

“I hope to earn my degree and make an impact,” said Naylor. “I like getting to know people and listening when something is wrong or they need someone to talk to.”

Hearing Naylor’s words prompted an emotional response from his mother, Porschia Christien, who left him with a few more gems of wisdom as he begins his next chapter.

“Push forward, no matter what obstacles come,” said Christien. “What’s meant for you will be for you. Put 100 percent behind whatever you’re doing, and it will all come together.”

Egypt Purnell, psychology major from Starkville, Mississippi, transferred to JSU from Alcorn State University. She said her decision was motivated by her ambition to one day pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology.

“There is a clinical psychology doctorate here, so it’ll be an easy transition into graduate studies,” said Purnell. “I have already been in college and know what to expect. That is one perk of being a transfer student.”

JSU’s 2025 Welcome Week ran from August 10 -16 and concluded with the highly anticipated event “The Merge.”

Alcorn student Laila Barnes to study abroad in Scotland

ASU News

Laila Barnes, a senior majoring in biomedical engineering technology from Hattiesburg, Miss., is studying abroad at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the fall 2025 semester. She will attend the university through an opportunity provided by the Alcorn State University Office of Global Programs.

Heriot-Watt University is known for its strong reputation in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business, psychology, and languages.

Through its Study Abroad program for visiting international students, Laila will have the opportunity to earn credits toward her degree while immersing herself in Scotland’s culture and campus life at Heriot-Watt University. For students to participate, they must first be nominated by their home university and then complete the application process.

“I am excited to begin my academic

journey in Edinburgh, Scotland,” said Barnes. “Studying abroad has been a long-held dream of mine, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue it.”

This life-changing experience is something she does not take for granted, crediting others for supporting her along the way.

“I want to thank my family, friends, and sponsors, as well as Alcorn, for providing me with the tools and support I need to take this step with confidence,” Barnes added. “A special thank you goes to Dr. Johnson and Mrs. Lowe for their unwavering support and guidance, helping to turn this dream into a reality. They say the sky’s the limit, but I believe that with faith, anything is possible.”

Dr. Johnson, director of the Alcorn State University Office of Global Programs, said he is thrilled for Barnes to have this experience. His office plays a huge role in creating diverse cultural

opportunities for Alcorn students on and off campus

“I am excited that Laila Barnes is taking full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a semester abroad at the prestigious Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, this fall,” Johnson said. “The Office of Global Programs remains committed to enabling study abroad opportunities for our students and faculty.”

Dr. Jeremiah Billa, chair of the Department of Advanced Technologies, shared that Barnes is an excellent and outgoing student. He is confident she will do well during her time in Scotland.

“Laila Barnes is an excellent and very outgoing student,” Billa said. “She often visits my office seeking internship opportunities, professional development activities, and study abroad programs. I am highly excited for Ms. Barnes for this opportunity to pursue a few courses at Heriot-Watt University in Scotland.”



Barnes



BOOK REVIEW:

BLACK HISTORY & MEMOIRS

BY VARIOUS AUTHORS

C.2025, VARIOUS PUBLISHER

\$28.99 - \$35.00 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Okay, fun’s over. Summer is done, school’s back in session, fall is here, and it’s time to get serious. And guess what? You can still do that, and enjoy reading these great history books...

First off, think about your ancestors and all they did. Now read, “The Black Family Who Built America: The McKissacks, Two Centuries of Daring Pioneers” by Cheryl McKissack Daniel with Nick Chiles (Black Privilege Publishing / Atria, \$28.99). The story starts

in West Africa, when Moses McKissack was captured and enslaved in North Carolina. He became a craftsman and passed his talents down to his children. Ultimately, this inheritance became a powerhouse business of builders and tradespeople who collectively left their mark on some of America’s most iconic buildings, churches, and more. Readers who love architecture will especially love this book.

And if you enjoy that kind of story, then you’ll want “Black Genius: Essays on an American Legacy” by Tre Johnson (Dutton, \$30).

Throughout history, Black Americans have been resilient and adaptive, and have always found ways to celebrate their culture. In this book, Johnson calls attention to the sometimes-unnoticed “brilliance” of Black leaders in stories that are personal, profound, and inspirational. Readers will rejoice.

More brilliance is found in “Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler” by Susana M. Morris (Amistad, \$29.99). The great writer has been gone nearly two decades, but this look at her life will bring her genius back

to the forefront. Morris shows how Butler’s work was shaped, and from where her stories sprang. There were always important lessons inside her tales, and they are more relevant now than ever. Read this biography, then go back and enjoy Butler’s work anew.

Here’s an essential read about someone whose life and death embodied change: “Tell Her Story: Eleanor Bumpurs & The Police Killing that Galvanized New York City” by LaShawn Harris (Beacon Press, \$35) is the story of a much-loved neighborhood grandmother,

and her murder in her own home by white police officers. Harris lived across the street from Bumpurs, and he knew her well when he was a child. This is a personal account of her life and her death, and how it spawned a movement. Yes, this book might make you want to stand up and act.

And finally, try “The Strangers: Five Extraordinary Black Men and the Worlds That Made Them” by Ekow Eshun (Harper, \$25).

What do Black men have to do to stand out, to avoid being categorized as a lone member

of a whole? In this book, Eshun looks at five Black men who did just that – and his representative choices will surprise you. Truly, each biographical profile is fascinating and impressive, and readers will want to think about their own list of “Extraordinary Black Men.”

Want more? Then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help finding the biography or history book you most want to read now. The staff there can show you books to teach, inspire, or that are just plain fun.





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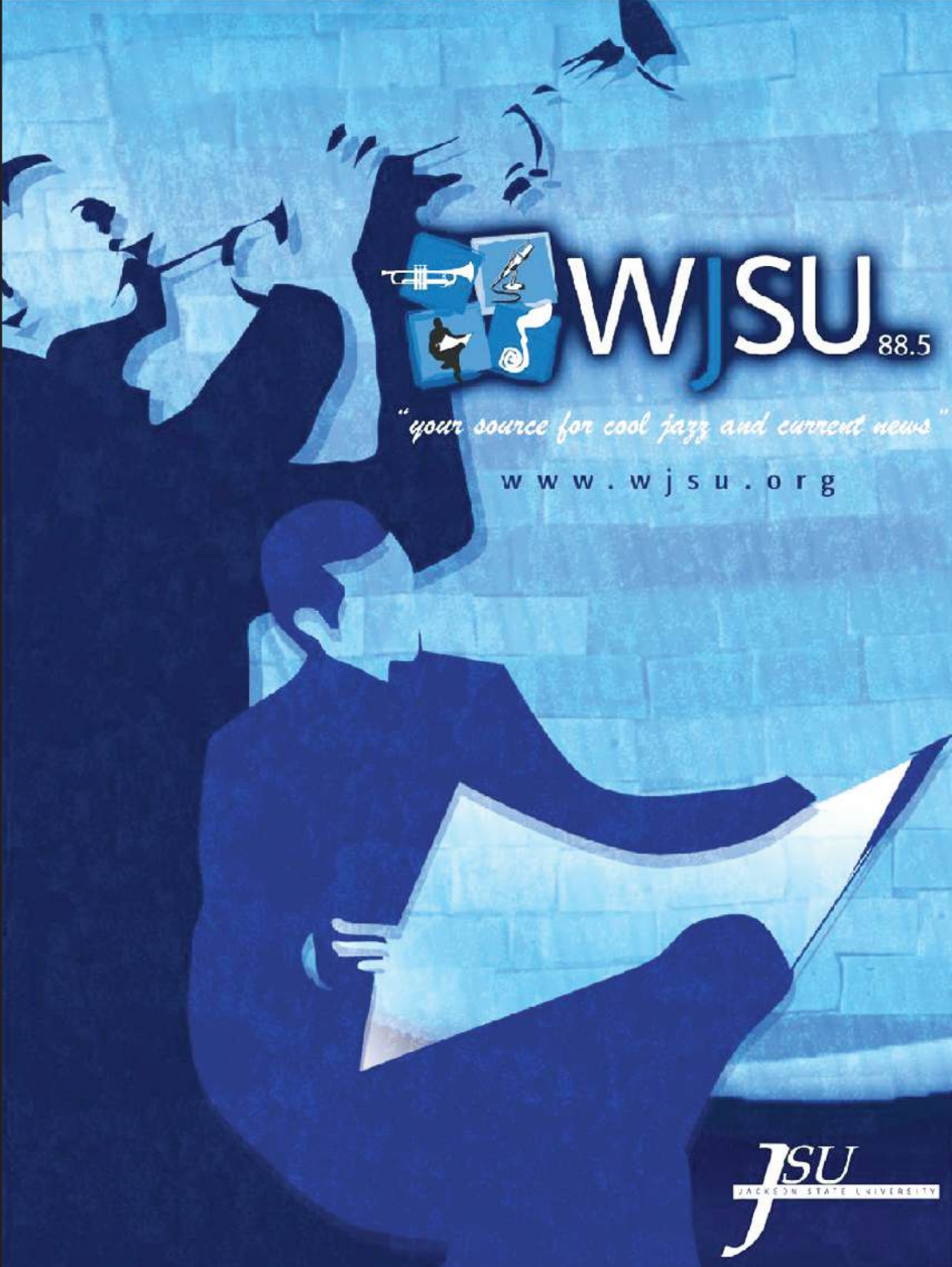
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JSU wins home opener

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

The reigning national champion Jackson State University Tigers started the 2025 season the same way they ended the 2024 season, capturing a trophy. Despite a slow start and trailing early on, Jackson State rallied and kept the lead for good in their 28-14 win over Hampton University. Head Coach TC Taylor was presented with the Hope Labor Day Classic Trophy. Joining Coach Taylor on the field was the offensive player of the game, red-shirt sophomore running back, Ahmad Miller who gained 180 yards on 12 carries with 2 touchdowns. Senior defensive lineman, Quincy Ivory was named defensive player of the game. Ivory had 8 tackles, including 2 sacks and forced a fumble.

Hampton jumped out to an early touchdown lead in the first quarter. Quarterback Isaiah Freeman broke loose for a 63-yard run before being caught inside the 5-yard line. A few plays later, running back, Jaa'Quan Snipes scored from 3 yards out. The extra point was good, Hampton lead Jackson State by 7. JSU would tie the game up with a 2-yard touchdown run by running back Emari Matthews. Early in the second quarter, senior running back, Donerio Davenport would score from 6 yards out. Jackson State almost scored right before halftime, but the clock expired before they could get a timeout. Running back Ahmad Miller took advantage of the Pirates' defense playing a prevent defense. The defense dropped back expecting Jackson State to throw a hailmary. Instead, the Tigers ran a draw play. Miller would scamper through the defense, falling short of the end zone just as the clock expired for the half. Jackson State lead 14 to 7.

3rd quarter action a stalemate. Neither offense would get into the end zone. Early in the 4th quarter, Quarterback Isaiah Freeman connected with wide receiver, MarShawn Ferguson Jr for a 30-yard touchdown. The game was then tied at 14. Quarterback Jacobian Morgan would take JSU down the field 82 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. Ahmad Miller punched it in from 2 yards out. Hampton got the ball back with under 5 minutes to go. The Pirates were driving down the field. Quarterback Freeman over threw his intended receiver. The errant pass landed into the arms of defensive back, Khamauri Rogers. On the ensuing drive, first play of the drive, running back Ahmad Miller took the handoff and raced 76 yards for the touchdown. The crowd erupted. Almost a collective sigh of relief. Jackson State now lead 28 to 14.

Jackson State wins 28 to 14 in the Hope Labor Day Classic. A lot of things to iron out before their game next week in Hattiesburg. 1st game of the season and there were 10 penalties to show for it. Coach Taylor expressed disappointment with the team receiving that many penalties. Quarterback Jacobian Morgan finished the game with 15 of 30 with 147 passing yards. Joanes Fortillien caught 5 passes for 43 yards. JSU was a menace on the ground, rushing for 305 yards on 34 carries and 4 touchdowns. Defensively, the team held Hampton to 14 points despite playing more snaps than Taylor would've liked.

Next game for Jackson State is Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Kickoff is scheduled for 4 pm. USM is coming off a 34 to 13 loss to Mississippi State. The Golden Eagles played well the first half of the game, but MSU rolled to an easy victory in the second half.



Quarterback Jacobian Morgan runs for a few yards



Running Back Ahmad Miller rushed for 180 yards



Defensive MVP Quincy Ivory Offensive MVP Ahmad Miller



JSU Cheerleaders



Head Coach TC Taylor and the national champions

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Express Automotive Group and State Leaders Donate Clear Book Bags to Hinds County School District

To support student safety and meet district guidelines requiring clear book bags, Express Automotive Group, in partnership with Senator David Blount, Representative Ronnie Crudup Jr., and Representative Fabian Nelson, generously donated 288 clear book bags valued at \$1,800 to the Hinds County School District.

These book bags will be available for students in need, particularly those whose bags have become damaged or worn over time. Clear book bags play a crucial role in ensuring transparency and allowing for quick, proper inspections within school premises.

This donation addresses a significant need, especially as clear book bags can be difficult to find in stores at certain times of the year.

We sincerely thank Express Automotive Group and our legislative partners for their continued support and commitment to student safety and success.



Dr. Arthur Jones – Principal of Byram Middle School, Dr. Mitchell Shears – Superintendent of Hinds County School District, Senator David Blount, Mr. Kerry Shelby – Express Automotive Group, Mr. James Shaheen – Owner of Express Automotive Group, Representative – Fabian Nelson, Representative – Ronnie Crudup Jr., Tonie Crisler – Hinds County School District

Precoat Metal Donates School Supplies to Hinds County School District



The Hinds County School District gratefully acknowledges Precoat Metal for their generous donation of school supplies. These supplies will be distributed throughout the district to support students who may not have been able to purchase all the materials needed for the school year. We sincerely appreciate Precoat Metal’s commitment to education and their support of our students’ success.

Thank you for your generosity!

Keesler Federal Credit Union Donates Kindergarten Supplies to Hinds County School District

The Hinds County School District extends its heartfelt thanks to Keesler Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of kindergarten school supplies. These much-needed supplies will support classrooms across the district and help ensure our youngest learners are set up for success.

We sincerely appreciate Keesler Federal Credit Union’s continued commitment to education and community support.

Thank you for making a difference!

