

Mississippi school homecoming celebrations turn deadly as 8 people are killed in separate shootings



Police vehicles are parked after a deadly shooting Friday night in downtown Leland, Miss., on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. AP PHOTO/KATIE ADKINS

By Katie Adkins and Jeff Martin
Associated Press

High school homecoming celebrations in Mississippi ended in gunfire, with two separate shootings on opposite sides of the state Friday night that left at least eight people dead and many more injured, authorities said.

Six were killed in downtown Leland after a high school football homecoming game in the Mississippi Delta region on the state’s western edge, according to the county coroner. On the east side of the state, a pregnant woman was among the dead, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said.

About 20 people hurt in Delta region shooting

In Leland, four people were killed and two died later at a hospital, according to a statement from Washington County Coroner La’Quesha Watkins.

Some 20 people were injured in the gunfire after people gathered in the downtown area following the game, State Sen. Derrick Simmons said. Of those, four were in critical

condition and were flown from a hospital in nearby Greenville to a larger medical center in the state capital, Jackson, Simmons told The Associated Press. He was being updated on developments from law enforcement authorities in the Delta.

On Saturday, pieces of tattered, yellow crime scene tape were wrapped around a pole in the city’s tiny downtown area. The police tape could also be seen in front of a boarded-up storefront, tangled up at the base of a sign commemorating the late soul singer Tyrone Davis, who was born nearby.

The crime scene is not far from City Hall, where family members gathered to seek answers. The media was not allowed inside.

“People were just congregating and having a good time in the downtown of Leland,” Simmons said of the town with a population of fewer than 4,000 people.

He was told that after the gunfire, the scene was “very chaotic,” as police, sheriff’s deputies and ambulances “re-

sponded from all over.”

“It’s just senseless gun violence,” he said. “What we are experiencing now is just a proliferation of guns just being in circulation.”

At press time 5 people had been arrested.

One witness, Camish Hopkins, described seeing people wounded and bleeding from various parts of their bodies and four people lying dead on the ground.

“It was the most horrific scene I’d ever seen,” Hopkins told The Associated Press after the meeting at City Hall.

Police shouted at people to keep behind crime-scene tape in the chaos, Hopkins added.

“No one was trying to really help,” Hopkins said. “Leland failed Leland yesterday, but I know that we can do better because this isn’t Leland.”

A separate shooting in eastern Mississippi killed 2

Meanwhile, police in the small Mississippi town of Heidelberg in the eastern part of the state are investigating a shooting during that communi-

ty’s homecoming weekend that left two people dead.

Both of them were killed on the school campus Friday night, Heidelberg Police Chief Cornell White said. He declined to say whether the victims were students or provide other information about the crimes.

An 18-year-old man was being sought for questioning in the Heidelberg shooting, the Jasper County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement. The sheriff asked that anyone with information contact the police chief or sheriff’s office.

At press time 6 people had been arrested in connection with this shooting.

The shooting in Heidelberg happened on the school campus where the Heidelberg Oilers were playing their homecoming football game Friday night. The town of about 640 residents is about 85 miles (137 kilometers) southeast of Jackson, Mississippi.

It wasn’t clear exactly when the gunfire occurred or how

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Two suspicious Mayoral Elections being challenged

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Hearing dates are set to challenge the June 3, 2025, mayoral election results in Kosciusko and Mount Olive, Mississippi.

COMMENTARY

In the City of Kosciusko, Marvin K. Myles, Jr., was declared the winner, beating out incumbent mayor Tim Kyle, by 31 votes. The next day the city clerk announced that not all ballots had been tabulated properly – calling it human error – and the race was handed to Tim Kyle, the white incumbent. Votes, including absentee and affidavit ballots, were reviewed again June 11, 2025, by the Municipal Election Resolution Board, and results were sent to the Office of the Secretary of State – 691 for the incumbent, 665 for the African American challenger – 26 votes separating the two. The trial at the Attala County Circuit Court will be presided over by Special Judge Jeff Weill, Sr., November 12-14, 2025. Attorney Lisa Ross will represent Myles and attorney Mark C. Baker will represent Kyle.

Ninety-five miles south of Kosciusko, in Mount Olive, Mississippi, the white incumbent, James Kelley, III beat out former Alderman Marcia Hull, an African American woman, veteran, and business owner, 169 to 126 – just 43 votes separating the two, per the Mississippi Secretary of State website www.sos.ms.gov. Hull is challenging

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Challenger Marvin K. Myles, Jr., PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM



Incumbent Kosciusko Mayor Tim Kyle, PHOTO COURTESY OF LINKEDIN.COM



Challenger Marcia Craft Hull, PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LITTLE WEB DESIGN SHOP, LLC



Incumbent Mount Olive Mayor James “Cliff” KELLY, PHOTO COURTESY OF WDAM.COM

American Heart Association celebrates the opening of the Tougaloo College Community Pantry, named in honor of Robert Smith, M.D

The Mississippi Link Newswire

On September 25, 2025, the American Heart Association celebrated the opening of the “Robert Smith, M.D. Center of Excellence Pantry” located on the campus of Tougaloo College.

Sponsored by Atmos Energy, the community pantry is named in honor of Robert Smith, M.D. and is a new initiative at Tougaloo College to combat food insecurity and support the local community.

Smith is a distinguished alumnus, civil rights activist, and a pioneer in community health, having founded Central Mississippi Health Services (CMHS) and co-founded America’s first rural community health center, Delta Health



Tougaloo College students visit the new food pantry

Center in Mound Bayou, MS. He helped institutionalize Tougaloo’s Pre-Health Program and was honored as a Tougaloo “Living Legend” for his lifetime of work improving health-

care access and food insecurity, particularly for underserved communities.

“We know that Mississippi is the hungriest state in the nation, and we are committed



MS Heart Association board members along with Dr. Smith; (5th from left) and Morgan Stanley, SGA President & Tougaloo President, Dr. Lee (Far Right)

to ensuring that the Tougaloo community have access to the resources they need to live healthier lives,” said Jennifer Hopping, executive director of the American Heart Association, Jackson.

“Atmos Energy is committed to fueling safe and thriving communities in which we serve. We are happy to partner with the American Heart Association,

of Jackson to offer this food pantry to the community and students of Tougaloo,” said Lauren Ann Cobb, Manager of Public Affairs, Atmos Energy. “Access to pantries such as this one will fuel the futures of our neighbors and address the prevalent issue of food insecurity.”

“We are excited to open our doors to the community and provide essential resources to those in need,” said Donavon Coley, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services, Tougaloo College. “This pantry is not just about food—it’s about dignity, support, and building stronger connections between our stu-

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Family and friends celebrate Elder Ira K. Jefferson’s 90th Birthday with love and appreciation

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

Elder Ira K. Jefferson, a native of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, grew up in the home of his parents (the Rev. Louis Lenton and Sis. Jane Creola Allen Jefferson). It was there and First Baptist Church of West Mifflin where he began growing in knowledge and understanding of the Lord. Surrounded by people in various walks of life like the Alleghany Public

Schools, Moody Bible Institute, Belhaven University, and seminars within the Church of Christ (Holiness), he learned the art of humbleness and how to relate to people.

While at Moody Bible Institute he met his wife – Anita Christine Bingham Jefferson – and they were married “59 years and 359 days”- prior to her death. Communities and the couple’s four children: Trevor, Anita, Dr. Myah, and Bryan, respected and admired them as “the ideal couple.” There was something about the way they carried themselves that caused people to adore them.

Not only did Elder Jefferson



Elder Ira K. Jefferson, long time man of God and community activist, (Seated in center, bottom row along with his family.)

serve his own flocks, but he actively served many other churches. Labeling himself as “Watchman, What of the Night,” the elder is a member of the Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A. and has pastored for five decades at First Church Starkville, Pleasant Green at Edwards, Leland, Mt. Olive, Sweet Home at Pelahatchie, Marl Grove and Crystal Springs with his wife’s and their children’s participation.

Elder Jefferson is the prose,

the poetry, and the drama of his life. He takes to heart what he says and what he does. God blessed him with “a photostatic memory” and “a feisty deliverance.” When he speaks, others stop what they are doing and listen.

Hence, the time came for family and friends to surround the 90-year-old birthday man at his place of worship – Sweet Rest Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. in Pearl, Miss. on Sun-

day, October 12th (2:30-4:00). Who could not pour out the love? One by one, family and friends took to the podium and shared their experiences about the honoree.

Many speakers talked about the patience that Jefferson had while working with the young. They regarded him as their “first commander”

and “a community investor.” He was “insightful.” The visionary inspired them to live abun-

dant lives.

Bradley Thomas, Jefferson’s grandson, recalled the years with his granddad. “My grandad has always been present in my life. I thank you granddad for enduring a long period of time.”

“I appreciate the legacy you left behind and that you continue to leave behind. I’m proud to be your son. You are a positive mentor, and I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to grow up with you as my dad,” voiced

Bryan Jefferson, Sr.

Dr. Myah Jefferson Lane shared having been disrespected and mistreated by someone. That put her in a place of discomfort. The speaker mentioned that she made it known to the person that she was being disrespectful by reflecting on her parents’ teachings. “My parents taught us how to be kind and respectful. I thank you dad, for being a positive mentor.”

“I remember when I was looking up to my dad when I was a child. I’m still looking up to him. I applaud my dad for continuing to stay strong in the Lord. I hope to see that he has many more years,” said Trevor.

Elder Jefferson listened to all who talked. He then stood before his family and friends and thanked them wholeheartedly for sharing that significant moment with him. “I wasn’t expecting you to be here, but I’m glad to see you. By the way, the chocolate cake goes well with my stomach,” he chuckled. Although his birthday is Friday, October 18th, the honoree consented to be available this past Sunday.

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It’s good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



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close it was to the stadium. White said he was at the scene Saturday investigating, and that more information might be released in coming days.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is helping local and federal law enforcement agencies in investigating, the governor said.

“Our state is praying for the victims and their families, as well as the entire Heidelberg and Leland communities,” Reeves said in a social media post. “Those responsible will be brought to justice.”

A third shooting under investigation, sheriff says

In Sharkey County, Mississippi, also in the Mississippi Delta region, the local sheriff was investigating yet another shooting after a high school football game in the area, authorities said.

Two people have been arrested in that shooting, which happened at a local school after its game Friday night, Sharkey County Sheriff Herbert Ceaser Sr. said in a statement.

The statement did not include any information on possible injuries, but said: “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim’s family during this incredibly difficult time.” The sheriff could not immediately be reached for more information.

Associated Press writer Mead Gruver in Fort Collins, Colorado, contributed.

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the results, and the trial has been scheduled for November 25, 2025, at the Covington County Circuit Court, with Special Judge Lamar Pickard presiding. Some of the issues contained in the complaint include absentee ballots being cast after the deadline for absentee ballots, double-voting by some people (absentee and in-person), systemic concerns, election security and ballot box protocols not being followed. Per the complaint, petitioner Hull is represented by Scherrie L. Prince, Esq. The compliant was published and can be found at <https://www.wdam.com/2025/06/19/marcia-hull-contests-mt-olive-mayoral-general-election-sues-city-leaders/>. Kelly is represented by J. Larry Buffington.

Census reports tell us that Kosciusko has a 60 percent African American population among its 6,684 residents, yet somehow somehow, the white incumbent mayor gets reelected by 26 votes. Mount Olive has a 70 percent plus African American population among its 895 residents, yet somehow somehow, the white incumbent mayor gets reelected to a third term by 43 votes. Both towns, at least at the time of these elections, had majority white election commissioners. Can we think of any majority-white populated towns that have African American mayors?

Mississippi has a painful track record with equality and fair representation. Painful beyond words. Even today, with the state’s minority population hovering near 40 percent, you can only find one of the nine justices on the Mississippi Supreme Court that is a person of color – 11.11 percent representation. There are 130 state agencies in our state of three million people. At last count just six of those agencies were headed by African Americans. In fiscal year 2024, our state awarded \$4 billion in contracts to support those agencies and 99.37 percent of the taxpayer expenditures went to white people. The pain continues. Would anyone be shocked if it’s discovered that there were irregularities or illegalities in the Kosciusko and Mount Olive mayoral elections in 2025?

Spending time in Mount Olive last week, attending the Board of Alderman meeting October 7th, then again two days later, October 9th, for a Concerned Citizens gathering at the Town Hall, focusing on sky-high water bills, was mystifying – right up until the time it became crystal clear. Small towns can be like closed societies, and not just in

the Deep South. Easily half the people encountered were warm and welcoming, the rest not so much. When asking the question – can you help me understand how a majority African American town keeps re-electing a white mayor – elicited concerning responses. One black female resident said, “I don’t have any problem with it. He had the most votes so that’s the end of it.” She went on to indicate all this is being stirred up because the challenger, also an African American woman, didn’t get her way. She even suggested that maybe there weren’t any African Americans qualified to be mayor. Several other residents claimed a system of favors – quid pro quo. “The mayor does favors for Black people, that’s why they vote for him. If you go against how they want things, there will find some way to get retribution on you, and everyone knows it,” said a white male resident.

When asked about the so-called favors, responses included using city resources to keep the grass cut on certain properties, free ditch work, meter problems fixed, and water bills being zeroed out for some residents. Another issue, brought up several times, was making legal charges go away – town ordinances, traffic, child support, even certain drug charges. Mississippi Circuit Court District 13 covers Covington, Jasper, Simpson, and Smith counties. Their website explains the different levels – Chancery, Circuit, Justice, and Youth Courts – the names of the judges, clerks, contact info, etc. While still trying to process the convoluted void of leadership in the town of Mount Olive, another discovery was made. On the official Mississippi government website – a court website no less – there is a listing of upcoming holidays where the courts will be closed. In 2026, on April 27th they will be closed for “CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY,” yes that’s the way it’s spelled. And for January 19th – the Federal Holiday honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they instead list “BLK DAY,” <http://www.msccircuit13.com/judges/holiday>.

Minorities endlessly marginalized, their voices extinguished – sanctioned by the state government and manifested in communities - in lives of human beings that don’t have white skin - the very people who built the state.

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cents and our neighbors.”

“Mississippi Food Network fights hunger and feeds hope daily for neighbors in our community,” said Stacey Jordan, Director of Development at the Mississippi Food Network. “This is a great step toward ensuring that those in our community receive what they need to flourish.



Tougaloo student athletes delivering food packages to vehicles in drive-through line.



Morgan Stanley, Lauren Ann Kobb & David Gates of Atmos Energy, Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Lee



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Medgar Evers Library shines with ties that bind at Autumn Festival

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

Dedication, perseverance, and quality are links to respect, admiration, and connections that can soar to greater heights. The Autumn Festival at Medgar Evers Library produced such delight Friday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Merriment was the order from the former to the latter hour.

Many children from Day Care Centers and their teachers were present. There were many other attendants from various parts of Jackson. Library staff nestled them all into their care. They comforted them with food, information, activities like story-telling, games, face painting, and music. At the same time, a number of organizations were actively engaged at the event.

Ramona Cork chairs Community Outreach, an organization that focuses on literacy. Referencing the festival, she acknowledged, "It's a holistic community experience. With things so divisive, it's beautiful to see all the people coming together. We love and support our children."

Nefertiti Harris is Founder/Director of Empowered Prep Academy, a micro-school at 1831 Robinson Rd in Jackson. She maintained that work at the



Members of "Girls Meant To Be" and Anne Sanders, Branch Manager

academy was in keeping with the activities of the two-hour occasion. Flora Harris, a volunteer of the academy, emphasized that their specialty is in supporting students who learn differently. "We support students who have dyslexia or who need a more flexible environment. We can be contacted at www.empowered-prepacademy.org."

"I enjoy helping the children of the community. I will definitely be back next year. Everyone was appreciative," said volunteer Renee' Reyes.

Jesse Huffman, invited by Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, was taken aback with vol-

unteers at the mental health table and at the "Mentor for Women" table. He expressed delight in seeing the amount of information that was shared at those tables. He noted that "mental health should be taken seriously by everybody, and we can't give enough to the cry about mental health." Huffman explained that although his two daughters are adults, it was great witnessing volunteers talk about how young ladies should live and take care of their bodies.

"I was invited to this Autumn Festival a few days ago by my neighbor - Jackulin Jones. I decided to go to Walmart and make

some purchases for donations. I was invited to help today. The festival is fun and inspiring," mentioned Stella Moore.

The nonprofit organization - Girls Ment To Be - was founded in 2020. The operation educates, mentors, and supports 8-17-year-old girls for their academic, social, and personal well-being. "We appreciate the Medgar Evers Library and everything that they're doing for the community. We are also excited to partner with them with our Saturday camp throughout the school year. On the first Saturday of each month, we are open for third through fifth graders, and

our third Saturday camp is open for girls in grades six to twelve. Each camp is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We can be reached at girlsmenttobe.org," commented Elora Harris, volunteer.

Verna Myers shares time with the library on Wednesdays as a volunteer. She was pleased to see the crowd and to observe that healthy food was being shared with the community. "It's excellent that produce that's fresh and good for our health was passed out," she said.

James Hampton III, Librarian, and other library staff were aware that school children would be out for Fall Break from Oc-

tober 6th to October 10th. It seemed logical, then, to have the Autumn Festival last Friday. "We thought it would be a great time to have a festival to promote great community organizations and to give the children something fun to do at the library," said Hampton.

Anne Sanders, Branch Manager for Medgar Evers Library, expressed that she was overwhelmed by the number of supporters who attended the event. She mentioned the following supporters: Supervisor Deborah Dixon; City of Jackson; Walmart; Mary Church Terrell; Community of library patrons and volunteers. "Many have come that I don't know. It shows me the impact the library has on the community, and we're going to continue this participation," she said.

Medgar Evers Library is located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd, Jackson, MS 39213. The Autumn Festival's DJ was library employee Emmanuel McDougal (known as Mr. Fax Machine). Storytellers were Emmaline Smith and Jacqueline Isabella-Jones. For inquiries, visit Medgar Evers Library at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd, Jackson, MS 39213, or call 601-982-2867.

PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT, PH.D. AND JAMES HAMPTON III



Theresa Kennedy builds momentum in Senate District 26 race

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

Theresa Kennedy’s campaign for the Mississippi Senate District 26 seat, formerly held by John Horhn, is gaining traction as voters look ahead to the November election. Kennedy, with a strong record in community advocacy and public service, says her candidacy is driven by results, accountability, and deep ties to the district.

“I am running because I love my community, and I believe District 26 deserves a leader who not only understands our challenges but has actually worked on solutions,” she said. “My candidacy is rooted in care for people, the capability to get things done, and a commitment to real change.”

Kennedy emphasized that she brings bipartisan respect and longstanding relationships across the district. “District 26 deserves someone who will show up, listen, and fight every single day. That’s what I’ve always done, and that’s why I’m ready to serve.”

Education at the core

Education is a central pillar of Kennedy’s platform. She calls it “the foundation of opportunity,” and her plan focuses on funding, support, and pathway building.

Her priorities include fully funding public schools with a fair formula, continuing to raise teacher pay to remain competitive, expanding access to early childhood education & literacy support, strengthening career, technical, and dual-enrollment programs

“I will listen to teachers, principals, superintendents, and families before making policy,” she said. “When we invest in our children and support the educators who shape them, we invest in Mississippi’s future.”

Expanding Health Care Access

Kennedy strongly supports Medicaid expansion, calling it both a moral and economic imperative. She argues the benefits include keeping rural hospitals open, covering working people who fall into the coverage gap, increasing access to mental health and maternal services, bringing billions of federal dollars back to Mississippi and creating healthcare jobs and stabilizing providers. “In District 26, where many families struggle with access and transportation, health care is not just



Theresa Kennedy, candidate for Mississippi Senate District 26

about insurance,” she said. “It’s about bringing services closer to people through mobile clinics, telehealth, and community partnerships. Health care is a right, not a privilege.”

Economic Development for all

Kennedy’s economic vision is built on inclusive growth—ensuring all parts of the district benefit, from Jackson and Ridgeland to Clinton, Edwards, and Bolton. Her plan includes investing in infrastructure and equitable broadband expansion, supporting small businesses, entrepreneurs and local contractors, incentivizing companies to hire residents, partnering with community colleges and BCUs for workforce training, expanding capital access for minority and women owned businesses, promoting agriculture, manufacturing, and logistics opportunities. “Job growth must work for everyone,” Kennedy said. “We can’t just bring jobs, we must prepare our people for them.”

Public Safety and Justice Reform

Kennedy insists that community safety and justice reform must go hand in hand. “We all deserve to feel safe... and safety and justice are not opposites. We can do both,” she said.

To enhance public safety, her plan includes investing in community policing and enhanced officer training, supporting youth programs and violence prevention efforts, addressing root causes like poverty, lack of opportunity and mental health.

As a committed member of the criminal justice reform coalition, Kennedy said she will champion modern, fair policies. Her justice reform priorities include ensuring fair sentencing and ending excessive penalties, expanding alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenses,

strengthening reentry programs so individuals can successfully return to society and automatically restoring voting rights to those convicted of the 23 disenfranchising crimes once they have completed their sentence, paid restitution, and fulfilled all probation or parole requirements.

Kennedy pointed out, “Mississippi is one of only a few states that still does not automatically restore voting rights, instead forcing people to go through an outdated and burdensome legislative process. That must change.”

“I believe in accountability with opportunity,” she added. “True public safety comes from strong communities, equal treatment under the law, and a system that protects and restores.”

Infrastructure for Progress

“Infrastructure is not just concrete and pipes, it’s quality of life,” Kennedy said. Her priorities include repairing roads and bridges with targeted state investments, modernizing water and sewer systems to prevent crises, expanding high-speed broadband to all areas, ensuring equitable infrastructure funding across communities, strengthening disaster resilience and draining systems, partnering with local governments to streamline projects. “I will fight to ensure District 26 gets its fair share,” she said. “Our people should not have to beg for the basics.”

A Campaign Built on Connection

Kennedy said she will remain accessible and visible to constituents, not just during election season.

Her plans include holding regular town halls and listening sessions, providing clear updates on legislation and voting, keeping open lines of communication via phone, email, social media, and in-person, being present in churches, schools, neighborhoods year-round, building advisory councils of educators, small business owners, community stakeholders, seniors, and youth.

“Accountability is not just about voting the right way,” she said. “It’s about being visible, honest, and accessible. I have always been that leader, and in the Senate, I will continue to lead with the people, not above them.”

Jeffery Stallworth focuses on faith, service, and solutions in District 26 Senate bid

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

Jeffery Stallworth, candidate for Mississippi State Senate District 26, stands committed to serving his community with compassion, integrity, and action.

Stallworth, a longtime community leader, pastor, and advocate, is running to succeed Mayor John Horhn (who is now serving as Mayor for the City of Jackson) by representing Mississippi Senate District 26 in the special election to be held November 4, 2025. With a lifetime of local service behind him, Stallworth brings a mission-driven approach and a commitment to inclusive leadership.

Why run now, and why District 26?

Stallworth says his candidacy is rooted in love for his community and a lifetime of grassroots service. From building churches to helping establish a credit union that expands financial access, he frames leadership as the act of “showing up, listening, and working for those who’ve been left out.” Having walked every corner of District 26 and poured into its families, schools, and neighborhoods, he believes he is uniquely equipped to lead with compassion, integrity, and action.

His approach is simple, one should remain rooted/connected with local voices, not distant politics, and build policy from the ground up.

In the arena of education, I want to support our teachers and invest in futures. Stallworth calls education the foundation of strong communities. His plan includes raising teacher pay to retain high-quality educators, investing in early childhood education to build strong starts, ensuring all schools have modern technology and mental health supports and partnering with local businesses, churches, and schools to give students clear pathways — whether college, trade, or entrepreneurship.

He points to his stand against a proposed takeover of Jackson Public Schools as proof of his commitment to local control and defending students and educators. For Stallworth,



Jeffery Stallworth
PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFERY STALLWORTH

retreating from public schools is not the answer, investing in our public schools is.

Stallworth will take a strong stance on Healthcare for all Mississippians. “We should expand Medicaid and address the healthcare gap,” he shared. “It is a moral necessity.” He notes the crisis (healthcare) is affecting many in District 26. “Some of us are one medical bill away from a financial collapse and with hospitals around the state closing, the problems are getting worse.”

For Stallworth this is not political but rather a commonsense approach to support families and improve health outcomes in Mississippi. Medicaid expansion keeps hospitals open, create healthcare jobs, and make preventive care accessible while reducing long-terms costs.

In the arena of jobs and economic development, he believes the state should build from the ground up to bring opportunities home.

Stallworth said he would expand small-business grants and low-cost capital (leveraging his credit union experience), create job training and workforce development aligned with regional industries, incentivize companies to locate in District 26 via infrastructure support, tax incentives, site development and improve roads, utilities, and broadband to make the district competitive. He insists people shouldn’t have to leave their home county to find a future, the future must come to them.

When it comes to public safety and justice reform, Stallworth believes in a bal-

anced, saying “safety and justice must work together, not in opposition.”

His plan will focus on supporting law enforcement while addressing root causes like poverty, mental health, and lack of opportunity, advocate fair sentencing, expand rehabilitation programs, and offer second chances for reentry, emphasizing prevention and redemption as key pillars of public safety.

Drawing on his personal ministry and counseling experience, he says he’s witnessed lives change when given a chance to rebuild.

Another keen area of focus for Stallworth is infrastructure. Decent roads, clean water, and access to internet are basic rights.

“This isn’t optional, it is essential to health, education, and economic growth,” he said. Stallworth said his priorities would include repairing and modernizing roads and bridges, upgrading water systems to ensure safe drinking water, expanding broadband access county-wide, fighting for state funding to eliminate long overlooked areas. “My goal is equitable infrastructure so all residents, rural, urban, and in between can thrive,” Stallworth said.

Transparency, accessibility, accountability and staying close to the people of District 26 is also of top concern for Stallworth. “Real leadership is not distant or aloof,” he said. “I will commit to regular community meetings and open-door access, clear honest communication about legislation and local concerns,” he shared.

A leadership style shaped by listening first, speaking second, and being accountable for action are lessons he learns every day as a father of twin Gen Z daughters. He wants voters not simply to be represented, but to feel heard and respected. For him, service begins in community and ends in results.

Stallworth he makes the case that District 26 deserves a senator who not only speaks for the people but walks beside them.

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Trump's indictment of New York attorney general Letitia James stirs concerns for Black women leaders

By Matt Brown
Associated Press

The coalition of New York NAACP chapters had just begun its annual state convention when Letitia James, a longtime member and the state's attorney general, canceled her appearance.

James had just been indicted by the Justice Department for alleged mortgage fraud, a charge which she called "baseless" and "a grave violation of our constitutional order."

For the New York convention's organizers, the moment was alarming and underscored the gathering's importance, which featured multiple sessions on building political power at the state level in response to what NAACP leaders called federal attacks on social welfare, civil rights and the rule of law.

"It was through our collective action that a democracy was built," said NAACP New York State Conference President L. Joy Williams. "What we have to do is not only defend against what is happening now, but we have to push further past where we were before, to build a system to build a better American democracy that we all deserve."

The indictment of James, who had previously prosecuted the Trump Organization for business fraud, immediately sparked debate over whether the justice system had been politicized for



James

President Donald Trump's personal grievances. It also drew many parallels with the recent effort by Trump to remove a Federal Reserve Board governor, Lisa Cook, from her post over similar allegations.

Claims against James and Cook carry symbolic weight.

Advocates see some of Trump's recent moves as exceptionally targeted at Black women leaders.

"This is something that we've been grappling with since the start of this administration," said Shavon Arline-Bradley, president and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women, the country's oldest civil rights organization for Black women.

The claims also have symbolic weight to Black families, Arline-Bradley said, where property ownership has historically been restricted by the legal system through outright and implicit dis-



New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks during the New York State Democratic Convention in New York, Feb 17, 2022 AP PHOTO/ SETH WENIG, FILE

crimination.

Homeownership has since become a disproportionate — and sometimes sole — avenue of wealth creation for Black Americans. And a recent national survey shows a widening of the racial wealth gap between white and Black individuals, even as income has increased for Black workers.

"When you attack someone's home, you attack their ability to own, you attack their ability to have choice, you have attacked their ability to make a statement about their economic future," Arline-Bradley said. "This is a consistent pattern that has highlighted what they think is an Achilles' heel in the Black community."

Black women, Arline-Bradley added, "feel very targeted" because of the president's words

and actions, which she said was rooted in "a misunderstanding about the accomplishments and leadership of these women."

"One tier of justice for all Americans"

The Trump administration contends its prosecution of James over alleged mortgage fraud is justified and impartial.

"No one is above the law," Lindsey Halligan, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, said in a statement. "The charges as alleged in this case represent intentional, criminal acts and tremendous breaches of the public's trust. The facts and the law in this case are clear, and we will continue following them to ensure that justice is served."

And Attorney General Pam Bondi wrote, "One tier of justice for all Americans" shortly after

James' indictment in a post on X.

Critics of the administration have countered that the administration's actions amount to political retribution and an attempt to unlawfully consolidate power. Black leaders have further argued that the administration's actions have come at the expense of trailblazing Black leaders and Black communities.

"President Trump has made clear through his own public comments against Attorney General James that the goal of this indictment is simply to exact retribution against his political opponents," Yvette Clarke, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said in a statement.

"The American people see this corrupt prosecution for what it is — a desperate attempt by President Trump to weaponize the justice system. It will not withstand public or legal scrutiny," she added.

Case against James "very uncommon," legal expert says

In addition to James, the Trump Justice Department has indicted former FBI Director James Comey for making a false statement and obstruction of justice related to a 2020 Senate Judiciary Committee testimony.

The Justice Department is also investigating Sen. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat, for mortgage fraud. Trump has called for Schiff, who was the lead manag-

er of Trump's first impeachment, to be jailed.

Experts question the merits and motives of the mortgage fraud inquiries.

"It is very uncommon for prosecutors to bring these sorts of claims absent a pattern of malicious activity or evidence that the individual has actually harmed the bank by not paying their mortgage or if it's part of a much larger fraudulent scheme," said Paul Schiff Berman, a professor of law at the George Washington University School of Law.

For James, Berman said, "the claim is that she said that the house was going to be used as her second home but she also used it as a rental property sometimes," which Berman said could be argued as a reasonable use for a second home and likely not in violation of a typical mortgage contract.

Regardless of the ensuing legal debates, allies of James say they are ready to support her in whatever manner is needed. Organizers at the New York conference say she is welcome to return to the event when ready.

"While we are responding in this moment, this is also happening to her, and so we want to give her space," said Williams, the New York NAACP leader. "And the thing about home is you can always go there. So we know she'll always come back."

As Shutdown drags on, is a compromise over health care costs possible? - In Mississippi ACA premiums will increase 210-362 percent when tax credits expire in January

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

At the heart of the federal government shutdown, which began October 1, are the spiraling costs of health care. Millions of Americans this month are set for sticker shock as they see their monthly Affordable Care Act premiums increase once enhanced premium tax credits expire at the end of the year. 4 million people will immediately lose coverage. 7 out of 10 Americans surveyed in a new poll say they will not be able to afford higher-cost health care, without seriously impacting their household budget. And very low-income people stand to lose their \$0 monthly premium. The cuts come in amid new rules and restrictions for Medicaid recipients. In total, as many as 12 million Americans stand to lose health care coverage.

Three experts made presentations for this week's American Community Media National Briefing, moderated by Sunita Sohrabji - co-producer of the series. Over 70 media outlets from around the globe were present on call. The first panelist, Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Families USA, a national healthcare consumer advocacy organization. He expressed his concern with a government shutdown even as open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act begins on November 1st. He reminded us that "about half of Americans get their coverage through employers, a quarter to a third through public programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and the remainder must buy coverage as individuals or families, largely on the marketplaces set up by the Affordable Care Act - a vast majority of people are workers, or small business owners, or otherwise, who have income, but need to buy coverage, and they are going to see a massive rate increase



Anthony Wright. PHOTO: LINKEDIN.COM



Dr. Ashley Kirzinger. PHOTO: KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION



Jennifer Sullivan. PHOTO: CENTER FOR BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

unless Congress takes action on extending these tax credits that help people afford coverage. In their regulatory filings, health plans have been clear that a significant part of these spikes are because of new policy decisions this year, whether it's Trump administration actions, or the health cuts in HR 1 - the big budget bill passed earlier this year. These premium spikes are the first of many consequences of HRI...a double-whammy - premiums rising and tax credits that would have shielded them and helped them afford the cost of coverage being reduced or expiring altogether. Twenty-four million people will see the increases."

The next panelist, Jennifer Sullivan, is Director of Health Coverage Access and leads the Beyond the Basics project at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. She focused on three issues: 1) who is at risk if these premium tax credit enhancements expire, 2) why is it important to preserve \$0 premiums, and 3) why is this urgent? "93 percent of marketplace enrollees get a premium tax credit. They are working people but have low incomes. 90 percent of people in the marketplace have income below four times the federal poverty level, and nearly half have income below twice the poverty level, which is about \$32,000 a year," she said.

She continued, "it is important to preserve \$0 premiums, particularly for people in states that have not expanded Medicaid, because for people with income between 100 and 138

percent of the federal poverty level, in a state that has not expanded Medicaid, the marketplace is your only option, but it was absolutely out of reach for people before we made the premium tax credit enhancements to allow people to get in the door without having to pay a premium, which is what they would experience had their state expanded Medicaid. Lastly, why is this so urgent? Six states have enrollment open now; others will begin to open very soon. When people see the astronomical rate increase, we've been talking about, they will lose hope, be scared, worried, and the whole time Congress is saying just come back in and in December it will all be fine. That is a bridge too far for many people, and we know that's precisely why so many millions of people are likely to become uninsured. ACA and the premium tax credits were designed to shield people from market fluctuations and protect people. And the failure to extend these enhancements pulls that shield away and exposes people to a level of economic harm, that they are not prepared to take. We obviously all know that prices of everything are up, whether it's housing, gas, groceries, etc., and adding this is insult to injury."

Dr. Ashley Kirzinger is a public opinion expert and Director of Survey Methodology and Associate Director of the Public Opinion and Survey Research Program at the Kaiser Family Foundation. She shared the public's views and experiences when it comes

to healthcare costs and in the context of the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits for people who buy their own coverage on the ACA marketplaces. She notes this is part of a larger problem. When asking the public about their biggest financial worries facing their family, "the cost of healthcare services and unexpected medical bills always rank at the very top of that list, well above rent, utilities, food, etc. Just under half of U.S. adults say it's difficult for them and their families to afford their healthcare costs, and 1 in 4 say that they or a family member had problems paying for healthcare in the past year. And that's even with these enhanced premium tax credits. Black and Hispanic adults and people with lower incomes are particularly likely to report problems affording healthcare in the past year."

She added, "large majorities, 8 in 10 of the public support Congress extending these enhanced premium tax credits. We always hear talk about how nothing is bipartisan; well, this is something with bipartisan support. 92 percent of Democrats, 82 percent of Independents, and 59 percent of Republicans support extending these tax credits. That includes 57 percent of MAGA supporters, so the most ardent Trump-supporting base supports Congress extending these tax cuts."

This entire national briefing can be viewed at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/as-shutdown-drags-on-is-a-compromise-over-health-care-costs-possible/>. A table of highest ACA premium increase based on Congressional Districts can be found at <https://www.kff.org/quick-take/which-congressional-districts-could-see-the-greatest-aca-premium-payment-increases/>. Throughout Mississippi, premiums will increase between 210 and 362 percent based on age and family size.

Democrats tout state races, but party of diversity still refuses to Invest in Black Media



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) announced ten key state legislative races to watch this November, touting the contests as pivotal for maintaining and expanding Democratic power in states such as Virginia, New Jersey, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Washington. Yet, even as the DLCC calls attention to its candidates and their communities, the party's silence and neglect toward Black-owned media — particularly the historic Black Press of America — continues to speak louder than its press releases.

DLCC President Heather Williams declared that her organization is "laser-focused" on supporting Democrats in competitive districts, saying these candidates "have strong roots in their communities and are talking to voters every day about how the GOP's failing agenda is destroying economic opportunities and has even brought the government to a grinding halt." But the communities Democrats claim to champion — especially Black voters, the party's most loyal base — continue to be bypassed in political spending and engagement. Despite Black-owned media reaching millions of readers, viewers, and listeners weekly through outlets around the country, including newspapers, websites, and daily broadcasts, the DLCC, the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and the Democratic Party as a whole have refused to meaningfully advertise, sponsor, or invest in these platforms.

The Black Press of America, now more than 198 years old, has for generations been the central voice of the Democratic base — Black voters. It was the Black Press that mobilized support for civil rights legislation, chronicled the struggle for equality, and helped drive voter turnout in every modern election.

Yet Democrats continue to pour millions into white-owned media, digital consultants, and television networks while ignoring the very institution that has historically carried their message and protected their political standing. The DLCC's focus this year includes candidates such as Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger in Minnesota, Theresa Gillespie Isom in Mississippi, Andrea Katz and Anthony Angelozzi in New Jersey. In Virginia, Elizabeth Guzman, Lily Franklin, May Nivar, Jessica Anderson, and Kimberly Pope Adams are among those in spotlighted races. But even as the committee spotlights them, the Democratic Party's refusal to place ad dollars in Black-owned media has created what many call an internal crisis — one that may have helped cost Democrats the presidency, the House, and the Senate in 2024.

During that cycle, Democrats boasted of multimillion-dollar ad blitzes targeting swing voters across mainstream networks and white-owned outlets. Yet no comparable support reached the Black Press of America, the network that helped carry Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to victory in 2020. That same neglect, observers say, played a part in the steep drop in Black voter turnout last year. As Democrats now attempt to rebuild momentum through state races, many within Black media and political circles are warning that no path to recovery exists without genuine investment in the Black Press — the very institution that first demanded that African Americans "plead our own cause," nearly two centuries ago. The party that once counted on the Black Press to deliver its message must now confront a question of integrity and survival: how can it claim to fight for equity while refusing to practice it in its own political strategy?

Do revenge and retaliation warm your heart or dampen your spirit? It depends upon who you are.

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



“I got you” is an age-old expression used when someone gets the best of us. You hear it used in a joking manner and sometimes in an ill-tempered way. When you hear it, you will either smile or frown.

Back in the day, growing up, I used it a lot. The term was usually associated with us playing childhood games. Those were fun times where happiness was the main ingredient.

In fact, as a boy coming of age, I don’t recall hearing it in

a negative way. Playing tag or dodge ball always meant that we would hear I got you.

As a youth, I never imagined the three words, ‘I got you,’ could be used in a sinister way. I guess the times we’re living in have shown me a different interpretation of those three words.

Being spiteful and seeking retribution aren’t a part of my persona. So, for those who have those attributes, I feel sorry for you. How do you go around picking people to hurt?

When the truth is used against you then take your medicine and do better the next time. Fortunately, we live in a country where it is a staple of our democracy. Is that the case now?

Fabricating and just flat out lying won’t get you any brownie points, at least not with me. However, there is a remnant of Americans who use them and then say, I got you. Integrity and honesty have been removed from the front burner and off the stove.

We see people in masks taking folks from their communities and jobs. Checking legal papers and credentials isn’t being done. There is an ‘I got you’ mindset that is being displayed by those in charge.

This will continue as long as the check and balance system isn’t being used in our nation. At one point, it was being used, but not anymore. This is my

opinion.

‘I got you,’ has now shown up in the housing market. Home loans and the National Flood Insurance Program are now being held up. There is uncertainty as to how long this will last.

Sources say active-duty service members and others on the federal payroll may miss paychecks this week because of the government shutdown. However, the administration says it has identified funds to pay the military.

Advocates of what I call the ‘I got you’ movement are simply going along with business as usual as if nothing is wrong. America, something is terribly wrong.

It is beginning to get a bit cooler now and with that we’ll see more sicknesses. This is normally the time we take some precautionary health measures.

This includes taking flu and now covid-19 shots. However, we are being advised by some elected and appointed officials not to take them.

Reports say those that say not to take them have already taken their vaccines. They are practicing ‘I got you.’ Misinformation gathers around us like a storm cloud, and we are succumbing to it.

Pundits are telling us that these are unprecedented times, and we are falling for it. There are those who are engaging in

voodoo politics.

However, polls show that a large percentage of us are distrustful of and disillusioned with what is going on today. Rules and regulations have been thrown out of the window.

The American people are being held as hostages and collateral damage to a new set of laws. Mind you, laws that are made up sometimes to benefit only a small group of Americans.

During the last election season, we were told how great things would be. Do you remember the lyrics, vote for me and I’ll set you free? Now those same people are saying, “I got you.”

We have voting power

By Jannie B. Johnson
Caring n’ Sharing



It’s voting time again, Nov 4th. Candidates are vying to stay in office, replace incumbents or fill upcoming vacancies.

We, the registered voters, are preparing to do our civic duty, vote. Our job as voters is the determining factor in putting together the work force for our business, the government. We the taxpayers are the employers. We must meet payroll monthly, weekly or biweekly.

In times like these, we can’t afford to put folks on the payroll to advance their careers, improve their lives or give them super benefits and perks, with little or no supervision. Such behavior on our part has caused us to suffer financially in many ways and in many places. We need to tighten up the purse string, be more responsible and hold employees accountable. We can also replace them with folks who have

the know-how, availability and willingness to be servants of the people and for the people.

As we read the candidates’ impressive resumes and listen to their ads, let’s remember who we are. We have the voting power. We are the employers; we do the hiring and firing. So, before we vote, let’s get to know more about the candidates’ integrity, trustworthiness, moral standard, work ethics and their work records. That kind of information can give us a better idea as to what quality of work we can expect before we add them the payroll.

Our business, the government needs leaders who are wise statesmen/stateswomen who can see beyond sight and hear beyond sound. They can feel unrest and disharmony in the home and among co-workers before domestic violence, the divorce, child neglect, mass shootings and mass killings. (That sounds like a God-factor.) Our leaders need more than their intellect to keep them focused on doing right and going

straight in sight, out of sight and in the cover of the night. But, with no Bible, no prayer, no God, they are without a moral compass. Our customized version of what is right or wrong, honest or dishonest is no match for man’s base instinct to lie, cheat, fight, steal and kill for personal gain.

To be honest or dishonest is a personal choice, deed by deed and day after day. It’s not the choice of a party. Dishonesty is like a virus; it spreads and creates sicknesses, diseases and deaths. (Sometimes it’s called corruption.)

Voting is serious business, particularly for those of us who know that our votes can send some public officials back to their posts, some back to the house and some we’ll add to the payroll. We have that kind of power, voting power. So, at the end of the election day, let’s whisper a prayer that we’ve made the right choices and the men and women we’ve chosen will do their jobs as unto the Lord and they will not make us shame.

Stop wasting your time fighting the wrong person

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



I grew up watching karate, WWF, and boxing but out of all these sports as I got older, boxing fascinated me the most. Boxing fascinated me the most because

of the intensity, skills at playing, the determination of the boxer to win, and the fierce preparation and competition to become the champion. I don’t know too much about boxing but according to my husband boxers’ study and research each other’s previous fights, their trainers, their weight/height, strengths, weaknesses, etc. In other words, boxers understand precisely who they are facing in the ring, which is a vital tactic for winning. Just like boxing, it is essential that spouses understand who and what they are fighting. Many spouses are utilizing so much effort fighting each other, which is ultimately leading to a losing battle resulting in separation and divorce. Why is this happening?

One of the main reasons that married couples are constantly defeated even by small stuff in marriage is because they are fighting the wrong person. Your spouse is not your enemy, and you are not your spouse’s enemy. In fact, you both share the same enemy.

Ephesians 6:12 states: “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.”

Let’s break the word wrestle down based on the Greek meaning from this New Testament Scripture:

Wrestle – a struggle, fight, conflict, contest

Unfortunately, many couples have no clue that they are in a struggle, conflict and contest with the wrong person. Ephesians 6:12 makes it clear – we do not wrestle against flesh and blood (human beings: husbands/wives). In other words, something (principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places) is behind the bickering, gaslighting, arguing, starting fights, physical altercations, accusations, verbal attacks, nagging, spouse neglect, prodigal spouse abandonment, the sneaking, lying, secrets, cheating, and so much more. Your spouse may act and sound like your enemy, but they are not your enemy. They are being used by the enemy to bring destruction, division, corruption, conflict, turmoil, and ultimately death to your union. If the enemy destroys your marriage, then he has your home and children too. Therefore, spouses stop letting the enemy use you! And spouses stop letting the enemy win!

How do spouses fight each other?

- verbal attacks
- arguing
- pick and nag
- gaslighting
- silent treatment
- stop listening
- Sabotage your marriage

- live in isolation from each other
- withhold affection/intimacy - imagine being thirsty and someone intentionally withhold your quench
- use your children to fight each other
- physical/mental/emotional/spiritual abuse
- refuse to apologize and admit your mistakes

What are the underlying root causes of couple’s fights?

- lack self-healing/love
- stress
- exhaustion
- work stresses
- unresolved hurts/healings
- disappointments
- unforgiveness
- Miscommunication
- Misunderstanding
- Misinterpretations
- fear
- lack of quality time
- mistrust
- little to no communication
- lack of empathy
- lack of understanding

What do spouses typically fight about?

- Money
- children – do not allow your children to divide you especially adult children – ask God for guidance and for Godly parental unity
- family (in-laws, etc.)
- work/job obligations
- business matters
- politics
- technology usage – cell phones, video games have replaced spouses
- lack of quality time
- lack of affection/intimacy
- disappointments

In conclusion, spouses, it can’t be emphasized enough – your spouse is not your enemy. Please stop wasting your time fighting each other and fight your shared enemy together. Think like a boxer – think like a victor and not a victim – think like a champion. You already know your enemy’s goals: steal, kill, and destroy. So, what tactics will you both use to defeat your enemy? How do you fight the enemy? Your fight should include: praying together, praying individually without ceasing, praying for each other and your marriage and family consistently (in doing this – you are throwing punches straight at your enemy), constantly exchange hearts with each other, communicate about everything, listen, husbands live with your wives in an understanding way, support each other, do not run to another man or Sister Cheeks (temporary fixes) remember that a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger, be patient, be empathetic, reflect on vows, forgive, focus on quality time versus quantity, be affectionate/intimate, and seek marital counseling. But if you feel that God is leading you to stop fighting for your marriage – then adhere to God’s leading. However, if you both have decided that you want your marriage, then stop wasting your time fighting the wrong person because you will lose every time.

Hypocrisy in holy robes

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



When a revered church leader blesses cruelty as holiness, he’s not preaching Paul’s gospel. He’s sanctifying Sodom’s sin.

It’s been a month since Cardinal Timothy Dolan compared right-wing activist Charlie Kirk to Saint Paul, and I still can’t shake it.

Maybe it lingers because of what else was happening that week in Chicagoland.

The same week much of the city was still mourning Silverio Villegas González — an immigrant father from Michoacán who dropped his boys at school, was pulled over on the way to work, and was shot in the back by an ICE officer — the Cardinal praised a man who had urged “lethal force” to be used against people like Silverio.

The contrast was too much to ignore: a father dying to stay with his children, and a prince of the Church invoking the name of Jesus while celebrating a man who called for such executions.

Yes, that Jesus — the one who told us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to welcome the stranger, to leave vengeance to the Lord. The same Jesus whose spirit is etched at the base of our Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” That Jesus.

It was in that Jesus’s name that Cardinal Dolan praised Charlie Kirk as “a modern-day St. Paul — a missionary, a hero who wasn’t afraid to say Jesus’s name.”

A man who evangelized about using lethal force against immigrants and preached that Michelle Obama and sev-

eral other brilliant Black women “did not have the brain processing power to be taken seriously.”

Yes, Cardinal Dolan praised the man who said those terrible things as if he were the very apostle Jesus selected to spread the Gospel.

When I first heard it, the old wristband slogan came to mind: WWJD — What Would Jesus Do?

I’ll confess, another three-letter word popped into my head, first. But let’s not go there. Father, please forgive me.

If the question is WWJD, then the answer in this case can only be repent.

Catholicism is not just one faith among many; it is America’s largest Christian body and the predominant faith across much of the region where Cardinal Dolan spoke. In Chicago, Catholic churches anchor whole neighborhoods — Polish, Mexican, Irish, Filipino, Haitian, Brazilian. Nearly half of the area’s Catholics are Latino, the majority Mexican. For generations of immigrants, the Church has been more than ritual. It’s been refuge.

So, when Cardinal Dolan praised a man who urged violence against migrants, much of his own flock was still in mourning. They were grieving Silverio Villegas González, but they were also grieving something larger — a sense of decency under attack.

The Bible is clear about how God judges such moments. The prophet Ezekiel tells us that Sodom’s sin was not lust, but “arrogance, gluttony, and unconcern for the poor and needy.” It was their hardness of heart toward strangers that brought them down.

When a church leader blesses cruelty as holiness, he’s not preaching Paul’s gospel. He’s sanctifying Sodom’s sin.

Even the Gospel most cherished in

conservative pulpits — Matthew — leaves no room for such cruelty. Its Jesus does not build walls; He breaks bread. He warns that all the law and prophecy rest on love of God and neighbor, and He defines that love in action: “For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

To preach that Gospel while excusing violence against the stranger is not fidelity — it’s hypocrisy in holy robes.

From Chicago to America, to the world, to Rome, Cardinal Dolan owes a deep apology.

To the immigrants who have carried this nation’s labor and its faith.

To the children who will grow up knowing their father died trying not to be torn from them.

To the mothers who teach their sons that love is stronger than hate.

To the parishioners who still believe that “love your neighbor as yourself” means all neighbors.

Yes. Cardinal Dolan owes an apology to each of them and to every believer who, like Jesus himself, knows the words “Whatever you did to the least of these, you did to me” are a commandment.

Because when cruelty is crowned as courage and violence is blessed as virtue, the Gospel itself is profaned.

We are all flesh and blood, all fallible and all beloved. I know I am. And when we fail, we must seek repentance — even from those who already love and respect us.

I worry this plea will fall on deaf ears.

Please, Cardinal Dolan — in our Lord and Savior’s name — prove me wrong.

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

City of Jackson

Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed BID'S 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, November 18, 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:

RFP-98854-111825 Grove Park Lightning

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT HYPERLINK "http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV" WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV / 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 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
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1028

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 58-40 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2024 EDITION OF NFPA 1, FIRE CODE AND THE 2021 EDITION OF THE NFPA 101, LIFE SAFETY CODE.

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council intends to adopt the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code with appendices Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J with certain amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department proposes to adopt the 2024 edition of NFPA Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code; and WHEREAS, the International Fire Code is published by the International Code Council and contains minimum regulations for fire prevention and fire protection systems using prescriptive and performance systems; and

WHEREAS, the International Fire Code is not the only code which addresses fire safety and prevention; and WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association also has fire codes known as the NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department has determined that the International Fire Code may not address certain fire prevention, protection, and safety measures; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department has referred to NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code to address those measures not addressed by the International Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department is recommending that the governing authorities adopt the 2024 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code to serve as a supplement to the adopted edition of the International Fire Code and not as a replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department recommends that the adopted edition of the International Fire Code have precedential authority where there is a conflict between its provisions and the adopted editions of NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code; and follows:

WHEREAS, Section 58-40. - Supplemental codes adopted should be amended as follows:

Sec. 58-40.- Supplemental codes adopted.

(a) The 2018 2024 edition of the-NFPA 1, Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code shall be adopted as supplemental codes to the 20182024 editions of the International Fire Code, the appendices, and the amendments (the "adopted Fire Code) adopted on August 4 [14], 2020.

(b) The adoption of the 2018 2024 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code shall not replace the codes adopted on August 4 [14], 2020adopted International Fire Code. If provisions of the 2018 NFPA 1, Fire Code and the-NFPA 101, Life Safety conflict with the provisions of the adopted International Fire Code fire codes adopted on August 4[14], 2020, then the adopted International Fire Code codes adopted on August 4[14], 2020 shall govern and control.

(c) Any violation of the ordinances by any person, firm, or corporation shall constitute a misdemeanor offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for a period of not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days or both. For purposes of this ordinance, each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate punishable offense.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON MISSISSIPPI the following:

Section 1. Section 58-40 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 58-40. - Supplemental codes adopted.

(a) The 2024 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code shall be adopted as supplemental codes to the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code, the appendices, and the amendments (the "adopted Fire Code").

(b) The adoption of the 2024 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code and the 2021 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code shall not replace the adopted International Fire Code. If provisions of NFPA 1, Fire Code and NFPA 101, Life Safety conflict with the provisions of the adopted International Fire Code, then the adopted International Fire Code shall govern and control.

(c) Any violation of the ordinances by any person, firm, or corporation shall constitute a misdemeanor offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for a period of not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days or both. For purposes of this ordinance, each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate punishable offense.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective one month after passage and upon publication.

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Vice President Grizzell seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting May 20, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 519-521".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 6th day of October, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

10/16/2025

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, November 04, 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:

96297-110425 Weigh Scale System for Landfill

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

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted www.centralbidding.com. For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

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, and 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.

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 company submitting 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, Purchasing Manager
moliver@city.jackson.ms.us
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-102

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

Advertisement for:

RFQ 2025-03-26

Windows 10 Managed Upgrade Proposal 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 29, 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 the listed project will be held Via ZOOM (see below for link) on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via ZOOM: <https://jackson-k12- ms.zoom.us/j/87265155743?pwd=bXf5MbZlON Sx0YbiuJ3n2TWs9reubT.1>

Please email RFPajackson.k12.ms.us to ensure your spot in the pre-bid conference. It is imperative to have this information before the meeting to confirm your attendance.

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 JPSP 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: 09 October 2025 (Clarion); 09 October 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• 2' Advertise: 16 October 2025 (Clarion); 16 October 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• Pre-bid Conference: 17 October 2025 (ZOOM)
• Final Date for Questions: 21 October 2025
• Answers to Questions: 23 October 2025
• Bid Opening Day: 29 October 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025

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, November 18, 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:

91263-111825 RFP- Remodeling of Grove Park Pool

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

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted www.centralbidding.com. For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

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, and 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 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 company submitting 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, Purchasing Manager
moliver@city.jackson.ms.us
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-102

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

Advertisement for:

Bid 26-3275

Powell Middle School Cafeteria Serving Equipment

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 29, 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 and walk through concerning the listed project will be in person on Friday October 17, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 3655 Livingston Rd Jackson, MS 39213. 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 JPSP 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: 09 October 2025 (Clarion); 09 October 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• 2' Advertise: 16 October 2025 (Clarion); 16 October 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• Pre-bid Conference and Walkthrough: 17 October 2025 (IN PERSON)
• Final Date for Questions: 21 October 2025 • Answers to Questions: 23 October 2025
• Bid Opening Day: 29 October 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
OTELIAN WOODSON-BASS, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2024-289M/4

PETITIONER: WALTERINE UNDERWOOD

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF OTELIAN WOODSON-BASS WILLIAMS, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Walterine Underwood Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Otelian Woodson-Bass Williams, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 a.m. o'clock a.m., on the 12th day of November, 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 7th day of October, 2025.



EDDIE JEAN CARR,
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

10/9/2025, 10/16/2025, 10/23/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4305

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that RC Hendrix has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict to allow for a mixed use development with a residential component for the property located at 2350 Highway 80 West (Parcel 222-2-1) , Parcel 222-2-6, and Parcel 222-3. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

BEG INT N/L HWY 80 E/L ELLIS AVENUE N 854 FT TO POB N 250.5 FT E 664.32 FT TO W/L MACON ST N 139.1 FT SE 541 SW 527.25 FT SE 46 FT SW SW 39.17 FT S 359.2 FT SW 496.2 FT S 65.82 FT NW 63 FT N 95.33 FT W 134.5 FT TO POB PT SEC 7 & 8 T5N R1E & PT BLKS 19 20 21 & 22 COLLEGE SUB & PT CLOSED ALLEYS IN BETWEEN & PT LOTS 1 LESS TO INDIV

BEG NE COR LOT 1 HARVEY PLACE SUBN S 133 FT SWLY 255 FT N 134.72 FT SWLY 219.36 FT NLY 46 FT NELY 533.25 FT SELY 120 FT W 104.45 FT

TO POB PT BLK 22 COLLEGE SUBURB SY & PT LOT 1

HARVEY PLACE SUBN

BEG INT N/L HWY 80 & E/L ELLIS AVE N 854 FT N 250 FT E 624.32 FT N 157.1 FT SELY 549 FT TO POB SWLY 533.25 FT SELY 52 FT NELY 6 FT NWLY 46 FT NELY 527.25 FT NWLY 6 FT TO POB PT LOTS 1 & 2 HARVEY PLACE SUB

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025



LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4310

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Sean M. Cornwell has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a bar within a C-2 (Limited) Commercial District for the property located at 663 Duling Ave. (Parcel 47-27), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A tract of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range I East, Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the point where the South line of Duling Avenue intersects the West line of Old Canton Road, as said highways are now laid out, improved, and used in this city, said corner being the Point of Beginning of the following described property: from said Point of Beginning, run south 25 degrees 51 minutes 43 seconds West along the West line of Old Canton Road a distance of 300.63 feet; thence North 64 degrees 34 minutes 22 seconds West a distance of 25.07 feet to the Northwest corner of a concrete retaining wall; thence North 64 degrees 18 minutes 49 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 29.26 feet; thence South 73 degrees 58 minutes 14 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of .52 feet; thence North 83 degrees 27 minutes 14 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 15.52 feet; thence North 82 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.05 feet; thence North 82 degrees 48 minutes 12 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.38 feet; thence North 82 degrees 39 minutes 45 seconds West along the North face of said wall a distance of 30.50 feet; thence North 81 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds West a distance of 30.54 feet to the Northwest corner of said wall; thence North 8 1 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds West a distance of 8.03 feet to the East line of Morgan Place; thence North 06 degrees 33 minutes 12 seconds along the East line of Morgan Place a distance of 310.81 feet to the South line of Duling Avenue; thence South 82 degrees 52 minutes 12 seconds East along the South line of Du ling Avenue a distance of 398.73 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The above described tract of land includes 2.37 acres, more or less.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4307

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Mississippi Museum of Art, Inc. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a residential community facility within a R-1A (Single-family) Residential District for the property located at 306 Glenway Dr. (Parcel 3-65-2), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A part of Lots 2 and 3 of Block "C" of Woodland Hills, according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book No. 4 at Page 44 thereof, the exact metes and bounds description of which is as follows, to-wit:

Begin at the Southwest Corner of Lot 2 of said Block "C" and go thence North along the West line of said Block "C" a distance of 177 feet to a point; thence go in an Easterly direction along a line parallel with the line which separates Lot 1 from Lots 2-3-4-5 and 6 to the East line of Lot 3; go thence in a southerly direction along the east line of said Lot 3 to the Southeast corner thereof; go thence in a Westerly direction along the South line of said Lots 3 and 2 to the point of beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4309

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Curtis Young d/b/a CAMY Logistics Group LLC. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a retail store for the property located at 1739 Hill Ave (Parcel 162-377) and Parcel 162-378. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel I: Lot 142; Washington Addition, a subdivision according to a map or plat therefore which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 1 at Page 3, reference to which map or is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And

Parcel II: Lot 141, Washington Addition, subdivision according to a map or plat therefore which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 1 at Page 6, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description. LESS AND ECEPT: A parcel of land situated in the Northwest corner of Lot 141, Washington Addition , a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi, and being more particularly describe as follows, to wit; Beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 141, Washington Addition; run thence along the southerly direction along the West boundary line of said lot141; a distance of 6 feet; turn thence to the left and run in a northeasterly direction to a point located on north boundary line of said Lot 141, said point being measured 11 feet in a easterly direction from the northwest corner of said Lot 141; run thence in a westerly direction along the north boundary of said lot 141 a distance of 11 feet to the point of beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4308

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that MINCAP has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a professional office for the property located at 802 North St. (Parcel 23-24). in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Part of 5 Acre Lot 7, North, Hinds County, Mississippi, H.C. Daniel's Map of the City of Jackson (1875)

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A LEISURE AND RECREATION DISTRICT WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AND DESIGNATING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS INCLUDED WITHIN AND BOUNDARIES OF SAID DISTRICT, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the "City") is a municipal corporation, organized and existing according to the laws of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 67-1-101 authorizes the governing authority of a municipality to establish, by ordinance, one or more leisure and recreation districts within the corporate boundaries of the municipality and designate the geographic area or areas to be included within a district; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the potential benefits of an entertainment district to expand community events, attractions, and activities in the City; and

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 67-1-101 requires that an Ordinance which establishes a "Leisure and Recreation District" must "include a detailed description of the area or areas within the district, the boundaries of the district and an annotated parcel map of the district" as well as a description of the "manner in which the municipality will provide for the adequate law enforcement and other public safety measures and services within the district"; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City has found and determined that the manner of current law enforcement is adequate and sufficient for the area to be designated as a Leisure and Recreation District, and the Mayor therefore has agreed to direct that the Jackson Police Department continue to provide adequate and sufficient law enforcement and other public safety measures and services as stated herein in the City's Leisure and Recreation District established pursuant to this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, municipalities which create "Leisure and Recreation Districts" authorize business entities that hold alcoholic beverage permits issued by the Department of Revenue and that are located within the boundaries of the "Leisure and Recreation District" to allow patrons to exit the licensed premises with an open container of alcohol and to allow those patrons to carry and consume alcoholic beverages within a designated "Leisure and Recreation District", subject to certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City has determined and hereby finds that the City would benefit from the establishment of a "Leisure and Recreation District" within portions of the Central Business District area by enhancing pedestrian-oriented areas; and

WHEREAS, nothing herein is intended to confer any rights or entitlement as the sale of alcohol within an area designated as a "Leisure and Recreation District" is a privilege and not a right and further is subject at all times to reasonable regulation; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City has further determined that establishment of a "Leisure and Recreation District" within portions of the Central Business District area would be in the best interests of the City; and

WHEREAS, subject to the terms and limitations of Miss. Code Ann. § 67-1-101, and this Ordinance, the City hereby establishes a "Leisure and Recreation District" in portions of the Central Business District area as more fully set forth herein and as described by the annotated parcel map attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

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

- That the matters, facts and things recited in the above and foregoing Preamble to this Ordinance are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority of the City of Jackson.
- That the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Mississippi is hereby amended to add the following Ordinance, to read as follows:

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMMERCE STREET LEISURE AND RECREATION DISTRICT.

SECTION 1. Creation and Establishment of District.

Under the authority granted by Miss. Code Ann. § 67-1-101, there is hereby established a "Leisure and Recreation District" in portions of the Central Business District area of the City of Jackson within the geographic areas and within such boundaries as are set forth and designated herein and as represented on the annotated parcel map which is incorporated herein and attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

SECTION 2. Name and Boundaries of District.

The "Leisure and Recreation District" established herein will be known as the "Commerce Street Entertainment District" (herein after "the District") and will have the following as its boundaries:

Certain parcels of land being situated in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 3 and in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 10, all in Township 5 North, Range 1 East, City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

All of parcel numbers: 193-1, 193-2, 193-3, 193-4, 193-5, 193-6, and 193-7, in Fractional Square 1, South Jackson according to the official map of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, made by Henry C. Daniels 1875;

All of that portion of Commerce Street lying south of the south line of East Pearl Street and north of the north line of East Pascagoula Street;

All of Parcel number 1193-15-1 in Virden's Subdivision of Square B, East Jackson; and

All of parcel number 1193-15 in Virden's Subdivision of Square B, East Jackson, less and except Lots 7 and 8 of Virden's Subdivision of Square B, East Jackson, also less and except that portion of parcel number 1193-15 lying east of the extension of the line between Lots 6 and 7 of Virden's Subdivision, to the north line of Pascagoula Street.

See also attached Exhibit A

SECTION 3. Outside Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages Permitted; Conditions.

Any on-premise retail alcoholic beverage permittee (hereinafter "permittee") located within the District must comply with all laws, rules and regulations which govern its license type, except that a patron, guest or member of that permittee may remove an open container of alcoholic beverage or wine from the licensed premises, and consume the alcoholic beverage or wine outside of the licensed premises anywhere within the boundaries of the District subject to the following regulations:

A person may not enter a licensed premises with an alcoholic beverage, whether acquired at that licensed premises or elsewhere.

A permittee located in the districts may allow alcoholic beverages, as defined in the ordinance creating the applicable leisure and recreation district, to be removed from the licensed premises only in a paper, styrofoam or plastic cup, not larger than thirty-two (32) fluid ounces in size, and no such alcoholic beverages may be removed from the licensed premises in a can, bottle, glass container

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4304

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Charles R. Lindsay, III has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a residential community facility within a R-2 (Single-Family & Two-Family) Residential District for the property located at 944 Poplar Blvd. (Parcel 15-5), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot (5), Block 1, less 100 feet off the North end thereof, Magruder's Subdivision in Block P of the North Park Addition, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 1 at Page 76, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in instrument recorded in Book 4760 at Page 458.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of September 2025.

10/2/2025, 10/16/2025

or other container, except as otherwise allowed by law.

No permittee will allow a patron, guest, or member to exit its licensed premises with more than one open container of alcoholic beverages, and it is unlawful for any person to exit such licensed premises with more than one such open container.

Permittees located in the District must post a map of the boundaries of the District at all points of egress from the licensed premises. The map must be provided, either in electronic or paper form, to those permittees by the City upon request of the permittees.

Nothing in this Ordinance will be construed to require a permittee located in the District to allow its patrons to remove alcoholic beverages or wine in open containers from the licensed premises.

Permittees located in the District who participate and allow patrons to remove alcoholic beverages in open containers must place a City-approved garbage container at entrances to and exits from the permitted premises.

Nothing in this ordinance will be construed to limit the enforcement of the City of Jackson Smoking Ban Ordinance.

Nothing in this ordinance will be construed to limit any Jackson Police Department Officer, or any other duly qualified law enforcement officer authorized by the City, from having and exercising the power, authority and duty to prevent the assemblage, either upon the sidewalks, streets, or alleys of the City, congregations of person, if in the opinion or judgment of any such officer, when any such gathering is of sufficient magnitude and number to interfere with public travel of the City either on foot or otherwise. Such officer is hereby given the power and authority and it is hereby made his duty to cause such congregation of any of kind above enumerated to be dispersed, and if any person so assembling fails to disperse when so ordered by any such officer, any such person failing to disperse when so ordered will be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, will be subject to punishment in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 21-13-19 and other applicable State law and local ordinance.

Nothing in this ordinance will be construed to allow for any licensed premises to sell alcoholic beverages at different hours than other restaurants or licensed premises located within the City.

SECTION 4. Public Safety Measures.

Enforcement of the boundaries of the District will be the responsibility of the Police Department. In addition, the Police and Fire Departments will provide public safety services within the District in the same manner it provides those services in the remainder of the City. The adoption of this Ordinance does not render as lawful any otherwise unlawful conduct by any person except as explicitly provided herein and by Miss. Code Ann. § 67-1-101. Specifically, the adoption of this Ordinance does not authorize any trespass on private property, unlawful parking on public property, unauthorized parking on private property, littering, loitering, or any other conduct prohibited by local ordinance or state law.

SECTION 5. Hours in Effect.

A person may only possess an alcoholic beverage in the above-prescribed container dispensed by a duly permitted establishment within the District boundaries between the following hours:

Monday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Tuesday
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Wednesday
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Thursday
Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Friday
Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Saturday
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Monday

Hours may be amended on specific days only on order of the City of Jackson Mayor and City Council.

SECTION 6. Definition of Alcoholic Beverages.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term "alcoholic beverages" will mean any alcoholic liquid, including wines of more than five percent (5%) of alcohol by weight, capable of being consumed as a beverage by a human being.

SECTION 7. Reservation of Rights

The City reserves the right to modify or repeal this Ordinance, and any district designation created herein, at any time, with or without notice.

SECTION 8. Conflicting Ordinances

All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby declared to be inapplicable within the geographic boundaries of the "Leisure and Recreation District" created herein.

SECTION 9. Effective Date

This Ordinance will be in full force and effect thirty days following adoption. It will be published according to law and will be spread on the Minutes of the City Council for the City of Jackson and the Municipal Clerk will provide a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Mississippi Department of Revenue upon its enactment.

Vice President Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Banks seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting June 3, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7B, Pgs. 565-568".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 7th day of October, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

10/16/2025



LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING SECTIONS 58-36 AND 58-37, AND REPEALING SECTION 58-38 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2024 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE INCLUDING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO SAID FIRE CODE.

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City Council approved an ordinance which adopted the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance was approved by the City Council on August 4, 2020 and is codified at Sections 58-36 and -37 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, upon full review and consideration of all matters related to the preservation of life and property, the Jackson Fire Department has determined that Section 58-36 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances adopting the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code should be amended by substituting the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code together with applicable appendices, as follows:

Sec. 58-36. - Adopted.

A certain document, three copies of which are on file in the office of the Building Official of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, being marked and designated as the International Fire Code, 2018 2024 edition, including Appendix Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J, section 101.2.1., as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Fire Code of the City of Jackson, in the State of Mississippi regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life and property in the occupancy of buildings and premises as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees thereof; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said fire code on file in the office of the fire marshal are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this section, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in section 58-37.; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Fire Department desires to amend certain provisions of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code as promulgated; and

WHEREAS, Section 58-37 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances currently provides amendments to the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code as promulgated; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide the amendments to the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code, the Jackson Fire Department proposes to substitute the provisions of this ordinance for Section 58-37 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances by repealing the provisions of Section 58-37 in their entirety and substituting following amended sections of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code:

58-37. - Amendments to International Fire Code.

a) For purposes of the City of Jackson's adoption of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code, the term "fire code official" shall be the City Fire Marshal.

b) the following sections of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code are amended as follows:

101.1: Title.

These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of [NAME OF JURISDICTION] the City of Jackson, Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

103.1: Creation of agency.

The [INSERT NAME OF DEPARTMENT] Office of the City Fire Marshal is hereby created and the official in charge thereof shall be known as the fire code official. The function of the agency shall be the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of this code.

103.2: Appointment.

The fire code official shall be appointed by the Chief of the Fire Department, chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction.

103.3: Deputies.

In accordance with the prescribed procedures of this jurisdiction and with the concurrence of the appointing authority, the fire code official Chief of the Fire Department shall have the authority to appoint a deputy fire code official, other related technical officers, inspectors and other employees. Such employees shall have powers as delegated by the fire code official.

113.4: Violation penalties.

Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE]misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS]ninetly (90) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

903.2: Where required.

Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12.

Exception: Spaces or areas in telecommunications buildings used exclusively for telecommunications equipment, associated electrical power distribution equipment, batteries not required to have an automatic sprinkler system by Section 1207 for energy storage systems and standby engines, provided that those spaces or areas are equipped throughout with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 and are separated from the remainder of the building by not less than 1-hour fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 7107 of the International Building Code or not less than 2-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the International Building Code, or both.

903.2.1.1: Group A-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-1 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-1 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

The fire area contains a multiple-theater complex.

903.2.1.3: Group A-3.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-3 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-3 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

903.2.1.4: Group A-4.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-4 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-4 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

903.2.2: Group B.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group B occupancies for new, renovated, or modified buildings where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2) as required in Sections 903.2.2.1 and 903.2.2.2.

903.2.2.1: Ambulatory care facilities.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor containing an ambulatory care facility where either of the following conditions exist at any time:

Four or more care recipients are incapable of self-preservation.

One or more care recipients that are incapable of self-preservation are located at other than the level of exit discharge serving such a facility.

In buildings where ambulatory care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the entire floor as well as all floors below where such care is provided, and all floors between the level of ambulatory care and the nearest level of exit discharge, the level of exit discharge, and all floors below the level of exit discharge.

Exception: Floors classified as an open parking garage are not required to be sprinklered.

903.2.2.2: Laboratories involving research and development or testing.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed throughout the fire areas utilized for the research and development or testing of lithium-ion or lithium metal batteries.

903.2.3 Group E.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies as follows:

Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than12,000 \$5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2) in area.

The Group E fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

Exception: In buildings where every classroom has not fewer than one exterior exit door at ground level, an automatic sprinkler system is not required in any area below the lowest level of exit discharge serving that area.

The Group E fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

903.2.4 Group F-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group F-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group F-1 fire area exceeds 12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

A Group F-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group F-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 10,000 square feet (2230 929 m2).

A Group F-1 occupancy is used to manufacture lithium-ion or lithium metal batteries.

A Group F-1 occupancy is used to manufacture vehicles, energy storage systems or equipment containing lithium-ion or lithium metal batteries where the batteries are installed as part of the manufacturing process.

903.2.7 Group M.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group M occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group M fire area exceeds12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

A Group M fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group M fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 10,000 square feet (2230 929 m2).

903.2.9 Group S-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group S-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group S-1 fire area exceeds12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group S-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 10,000 square

feet (2230 929 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of lithium-ion or lithium metal powered vehicles where the fire area exceeds 500 square feet (929 464 m2).

903.2.9.1 Repair garages.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings used as repair garages in accordance with Section 406.8 of the International Building Code, as shown:

Buildings having two or more stories above grade plane, including basements, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding10,000 5,000 square feet (929 464 m2).

Buildings not more than one story above grade plane, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding12,000 5,000 square feet (1115 464 m2).

Buildings with repair garages servicing vehicles parked in basements.

A Group S-1 fire area used for the repair of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of lithium-ion or lithium metal powered vehicles where the fire area exceeds 500 square feet (46.4 m2).

Section 903.2.9 shall be amended to add a new Section 903.2.9.5, which shall read as follows:

Section 903.2.9.5 Self-Service storage facility.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in new, renovated, or modified self-service storage facilities. A screen shall be installed at eighteen (18) inches below the level of the sprinkler heads to restrict storage above that level. This screen shall be a mesh not less than one (1) inch nor greater than six (6) inches in size. The screen and its supports shall be installed such that all elements are at least eighteen (18) inches below any sprinkler heads.

903.2.10 Group S-2 parking garages.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout new, renovated, or modified buildings classified as parking garages where any of the following conditions exist:

Where the fire area of the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the International Building Code, exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115 m2).

Where the enclosed parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.6 of the International Building Code, is located beneath other groups.

Exception: Enclosed parking garages located beneath Group R-3 occupancies.

Where the fire area of the open parking garage, in accordance with Section 406.5 of the International Building Code, exceeds 48,000 square feet (4460 m2).

Section 903.2.11.7. High combustible storage.

For buildings with a clear height exceeding 12 feet (4,572 mm) see Chapter 32 to determine if those provisions apply.

Section 903.2.11.8. Spray booths and rooms.

New, renovated, or modified spray booths and spraying rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire extinguishing system.

Section 903.3.1.1.1 Exempt locations.

If approved by fire code official, automatic sprinklers shall not be required in the following rooms or areas where such rooms or areas are protected with an approved automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 that will respond to visible or invisible particles of combustion. Sprinklers shall not be omitted from any room merely because it is damp, of fire-resistance rated construction or contains electrical equipment.

A room or space where sprinklers constitute a serious life or fire hazard because of the nature of the contents, where approved by the fire code official.

Generator and transformer rooms separated from the remainder of the building by walls and floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

Rooms or areas that are of noncombustible construction with wholly noncombustible contents.

Fire service access elevator machine rooms and machinery spaces.

Machine rooms, machinery spaces, control rooms and control spaces associated with occupant evacuation elevators designed in accordance with Section 3008 of the International Building Code.

Any room where the application of water, or flame and water, constitutes a serious life or fire hazard.

Generator and transformer rooms, under the direct control of a public utility, separated from the remainder of the building by walls and floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assemblies having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 2 hours.

Elevator machine rooms, machinery spaces, and hoist ways, other than pits where such sprinklers would not necessitate shunt trip requirements under any circumstances.

903.3.1.4 Automatic sprinkler installation.

Automatic sprinkler systems shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the current edition of the NFPA 13 Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

903.3.5 Water supplies.

Water supplies for automatic sprinkler systems shall comply with this section and the standards referenced in Section 903.3.1. The potable water supply shall be protected against backflow in accordance with the requirements of this section and the International Plumbing Code. For connections to public waterworks systems, the water supply test used for design of fire protection systems shall be adjusted to account for seasonal and daily pressure fluctuations based on information from the water supply authority and as approved by the fire code official.

Water supply as required for automatic sprinkler systems shall be provided in conformance with the supply requirements of the respective standard.

1103.5.3 Group I-2, Condition 2.

In addition to the requirements of Section 1103.5.2, existing buildings of Group I-2, Condition 2 occupancy shall be equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. The automatic sprinkler system shall be installed as established by the adopting ordinance. [DATE BY WHICH SPRINKLER SYSTEM MUST BE INSTALLED] All Group I-2, Condition 2 occupancies shall be equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 by January 1, 2026.

A101.3 Membership of board.

The board shall consist of five voting members appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction. Each member shall serve for [NUMBER OF YEARS] four (4) years or until a successor has been appointed. The board member's terms shall be staggered at intervals, so as to provide continuity. The fire code official shall be an ex officio member of said board but shall not vote on any matter before the board; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson Fire Department has determined that there is no longer any need for Section 58-38 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances and that it should be repealed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF JACKSON MISSISSIPPI as follows:

Section 1. Section 58-36 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 58-36. - Adopted.

A certain document, three copies of which are on file in the office of the Building Official of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, being marked and designated as the International Fire Code, 2024 edition, including Appendix Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J, as published by the International Code Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Fire Code of the City of Jackson, in the State of Mississippi regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life and property in the occupancy of buildings and premises as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees thereof; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said fire code on file in the office of the fire marshal are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this section, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in section 58-37.

Section 2. Section 58-37 is repealed in its entirety and the following substituted:

58-37. - Amendments to International Fire Code.

a) For purposes of the City of Jackson's adoption of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code, the term "fire code official" shall be the City Fire Marshal.

b) the following sections of the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code are amended as follows:

101.1: Title.

These regulations shall be known as the Fire Code of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

103.1: Creation of agency.

The Office of the City Fire Marshal is hereby created and the official in charge thereof shall be known as the fire code official. The function of the agency shall be the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of this code.

103.2: Appointment.

The fire code official shall be appointed by the Chief of the Fire Department.

103.3: Deputies.

In accordance with the prescribed procedures of this jurisdiction Chief of the Fire Department shall have the authority to appoint a deputy fire code official, other related technical officers, inspectors and other employees. Such employees shall have powers as delegated by the fire code official.

113.4: Violation penalties.

Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter, repair or do work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the fire code official, or of a permit or certificate used under provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

903.2: Where required.

Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12.

903.2.1.1: Group A-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-1 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-1 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

The fire area contains a multiple-theater complex.

903.2.1.3: Group A-3.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-3 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-3 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

903.2.1.4: Group A-4.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout stories containing Group A-4 occupancies and throughout all stories from the Group A-4 occupancy to and including the levels of exit discharge serving that occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

The fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

The fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

903.2.2: Group B.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group B occupancies for new, renovated, or modified buildings where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

903.2.2.1: Ambulatory care facilities. [deleted]

903.2.2.2: Laboratories involving research and development or testing. [deleted]

903.2.3 Group E.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies as follows:

Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than \$5,000 square feet (464 m2) in area.

The Group E fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.

Exception: In buildings where every classroom has not fewer than one exterior exit door at ground level, an automatic sprinkler system is not required in any area below the lowest level of exit discharge serving that area.

The Group E fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more.

903.2.4 Group F-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group F-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group F-1 fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group F-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group F-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 10,000 square feet (929 m2).

A Group F-1 occupancy is used to manufacture lithium-ion or lithium metal batteries.

A Group F-1 occupancy is used to manufacture vehicles, energy storage systems or equipment containing lithium-ion or lithium metal batteries where the batteries are installed as part of the manufacturing process.

903.2.7 Group M.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group M occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group M fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group M fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group M fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 10,000 square feet (929 m2).

903.2.9 Group S-1.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings containing a Group S-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

A Group S-1 fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.

The combined area of all Group S-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 10,000 square feet (929 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of lithium-ion or lithium metal powered vehicles where the fire area exceeds 500 square feet (46.4 m2).

903.2.9.1 Repair garages.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all new, renovated, or modified buildings used as repair garages in accordance with Section 406.8 of the International Building Code, as shown:

Buildings having two or more stories above grade plane, including basements, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

Buildings not more than one story above grade plane, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

Buildings with repair garages servicing vehicles parked in basements.

A Group S-1 fire area used for the repair of commercial motor vehicles where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet (464 m2).

A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of lithium-ion or lithium metal powered vehicles where the fire area exceeds 500 square feet (46.4 m2).

Section 903.2.9 shall be amended to add a new Section 903.2.9.5, which shall read as follows:

Section 903.2.9.5 Self-Service storage facility.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in new, renovated, or modified self-service storage facilities. A screen shall be installed at eighteen (18) inches below the level of the sprinkler heads to restrict storage above that level. This screen shall be a mesh not less than one (1) inch nor greater than six (6) inches in size. The screen and its supports shall be installed such that all elements are at least eighteen (

Why we need calcium

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

Calcium is a super important mineral that your body uses every single day. In fact, it's the most common mineral in your body. About 99 percent of your calcium is stored in your bones and teeth, helping them stay strong and healthy. The other 1 percent is found in your blood and cells, where it helps your body do all kinds of important jobs.

Here's what calcium helps with:

- Keeps your heart beating steadily
- Helps your blood clot when you get a cut
- Balances acids in your blood
- Sends signals through your nerves
- Helps your muscles move and relax
- Supports muscle growth
- Helps your body use iron
- Activates enzymes (tiny helpers in your cells)
- Moves nutrients in and out of your cells

But the biggest job calcium has? Building and keeping strong bones and teeth.

What Happens If You Don't Get Enough Calcium?

Your body needs calcium every day. If you don't get



enough over time, your bones can become weak and thin. This can lead to health problems like:

- Muscle cramps
- Joint pain
- Irregular heartbeat
- Trouble sleeping
- Feeling extra irritable or jumpy

In more serious cases, low calcium can cause:

- Slow healing when you bleed
 - Tooth loss
 - Bone diseases like osteomalacia (soft bones) or osteoporosis (brittle bones)
 - Growth problems in kids
- On the flip side, getting too

much calcium for a long time can lead to kidney stones. So it's important to get just the right amount—not too little, not too much.

Calcium Needs Help to Work Well

Calcium doesn't work alone. Your body also needs:

- Phosphorus
- Vitamins A, C, and D

These nutrients help your body absorb and use calcium properly. Even with supplements, your body usually only absorbs about 20–30 percent of the calcium you take in. That's why eating calcium-rich foods and staying active are both important.

How to Keep Your Bones Strong

Eating foods high in calcium is a great start. Think:

- Milk, cheese, and yogurt
- Leafy green vegetables like spinach and kale

Fortified foods like cereal and orange juice

But food isn't the only way to protect your bones. Exercise helps too! Try:

- Walking
- Jogging
- Lifting weights

Bonus tip: Walking outside gives you sunshine, which helps your body make vitamin D—a key nutrient for absorbing calcium.

How Much Calcium Do You Need?

Many people think bones stop growing once you're an adult. That's not true! Your bones are always changing—breaking down and rebuilding.

That's why it's important to

start taking care of them early.

Here's what happens:

- Ages 11–18: Bones grow fast

- Ages 19–24: Bones get stronger and denser

To keep your bones healthy, you need about 800 to 1500 milligrams of calcium every day. Most teens don't even get half of that! So if you're in that age group, it's time to step up your calcium game.

Before starting any health or fitness plan, talk to your doctor. They can help you figure out what's best for your body.

Got a fitness question or concern? Email me at tipstobefit@gmail.com. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this article too.

Catch "Tips to Be Fit" on Good Day Good Health every day.

Missed an article? Just search "Vince Faust" "Tips to Be Fit".

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed tipstobefit@gmail.com

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

If you've missed an article of "Tips to be Fit" just search "Vince Faust" "Tips to be Fit"

Tips for fueling an on-the-go lifestyle

StatePoint

Our modern lives involve non-stop activity -- from school carpools to back-to-back meetings to workouts to everything in between. When you find the right fuel to keep you going, eating well and the daily grind can go hand-in-hand.

As part of the Fuel for the Modern Hustle campaign, StarKist is teaming up with actress, best-selling cookbook author and mom, Tiffani Thiessen, to celebrate everyday routines and share her top hacks for staying fueled amid the frenzy:

1. Recharge: It's easier than ever to prioritize protein at mealtimes, even when you're multitasking. With 10 or more grams of lean protein per serving, StarKist's ready-to-eat Tuna, Chicken and Salmon Creations Pouches and Smart Bowls come in more than 20 flavors like Lemon Pepper, Buffalo Style and Sweet & Spicy, making a midday recharge easy.

2. Pack an on-the-go boost: When the schedule is full, pack grab-and-go snacks full of lean protein for a quick bite between meetings or errands.

To support nonstop routines, anytime and anywhere, try cutting up veggies like carrot sticks to eat with hummus packs or cottage cheese. Or grab StarKist's Lunch-To-Go, Snack-To-Go and classic tuna salad kits, which come complete with crackers and a spoon for easy portability. "Life is busy so I try to keep snacks simple, without giving up on flavor or nutrition," says Thiessen.

3. Beat boredom: Giving routine sandwiches, salads and wraps a flavorful twist doesn't have to be complicated. Thiessen likes to turn everyday meals into something that feels new, delicious, and nourishing by incorporating fresh herbs such as dill and



chives, crunchy veggies like celery sticks and sweet peppers, with delicious flavors of already seasoned and ready-to-eat tuna, chicken or salmon from StarKist.

To inspire you to stay fueled on hectic days, Thiessen is sharing this easy, on-the-go recipe for Chicken Salad Parfait, which can be made in 15 minutes or less and packs a nutritional punch, offering 20 grams of protein, 3 grams of fiber, along with significant amounts of calcium, iron and potassium.

Ingredients:

- 1 pouch (2.6 ounce) StarKist Premium White Chicken
- 1/2 cup cooked orzo
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/2 orange bell pepper, diced
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 lemon, juiced

- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups arugula
- 1 tablespoon shaved Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. Place cooked orzo in a 12-16-ounce glass jar.

2. Add a layer of red onions, followed by the orange pepper. Drizzle lemon juice and olive oil over top. Sprinkle with black pepper.

3. Open the chicken pouch and add on top of the vegetables. Place arugula on top of the chicken and finish with the shaved parmesan cheese.

4. Seal and place in the refrigerator until you are ready to enjoy.

For more healthy lifestyle tips, stress-free recipes and information, visit starkist.com.

Today's on-the-go lifestyles require fuel to support every kind of hustle. Fortunately, nutrient-rich no-prep food options make it easy to eat well.

New Heights Church hosts life changing revival

Mississippi Link Newswire

The New Heights SDA Church, located at 3220 Forest Ave. Ext., in Jackson, MS, cordially invites the public to the upcoming "Surviving The Storms of Life Revival", beginning Sunday, October 19 thru Saturday, November 1, 2025 (off on Thursdays). The guest revivalist is Jeffery Watson, and the host Pastor is Ennis V. Johnson, Sr.

Light refreshments will be served from 6:30 pm – 6:55 pm and the nightly program begins at 7:00 pm. Nightly features include dynamic preaching; spirit filled music; nightly gifts; special prayer time; children's program; clothes closet give away; nightly



health corner; blood sugar and blood pressure screenings.

This event is free and open to

the public. For more information, contact the church at (601) 366-0133.

Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. & Youth Affiliates celebrates its 115th Annual Convention - 122nd Anniversary

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. & Youth Affiliates is proud to announce its 115th Annual Convention & 122nd Anniversary. On Friday, October 31, -Sunday, November 2, 2025, at the Hilton of Jackson, 1001 County Line Road - Jackson, MS 39211, MSFCWC 4th District will host this convention. The MSFCWC will celebrate its rich heritage, spirit of excellence, and perseverance to make a difference in the community, state, and nation.

This event is designed to engage the various clubs across the state of Mississippi, to share their wares, showcase their hosted activities and events, and aimed to increase the awareness of the organization to the public.

"We are elated to have invited community leaders, speakers, vendors and to hold workshops to amplify the message of our theme: "Embracing Evolution to Shape Our Legacy: It's about H.E.R. (Harnessing Excellence



and Resilience) and U.S. (United Sisterhood)."

MSFCWC encourages all local club members, the local community and the press to review and share this release to help spread the word about the MSFCWC 115th Annual Convention -122nd Anniversary.

For more information you may contact Mary Collier, MSFCWC President, P. O. Box 24411, Jackson, MS 39225 - colliermarij@yahoo.com. You may also contact Monocia Connors, MSFCWC 4th District President at P. O. Box 1484, Jackson, MS 39215 –

cmonocia@aol.com.

About Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. & Youth Affiliates:

The history of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs (MSFCWC) is a story within itself. The role of this organization is unparalleled as a charitable, non-profit organization devoted primarily to the uplift of African American people who have struggled for survival and educational, economic, and cultural development ever since the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. The courageous women of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., and Youth Affiliates (MSFCWC) planted their taproots in deep and fertile soil when they organized the historical Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1903. The women who organized MSFCWC had wisdom, courage, and commitment to the cause of service to the African American family. Our motto: "Lifting as We Climb."



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Nissan continues its support of Mississippi Valley State University

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Nissan is extending its long-standing commitment to Mississippi's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with a \$250,000 donation supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The investment is part of the automaker's Mississippi HBCU STEM Initiative, which has provided more than \$2.75 million in funding since 2014.

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) is among the seven HBCUs benefitting from this year's funding. The university's initiative, MVSU Innovates: Where Technology Meets Purpose, strengthens STEM programming through technology upgrades, hands-on learning, internship placement, faculty development, and student participation in conferences and competitions.

"Through Nissan's partnership, our students gain access to cutting-edge resources and opportunities that position them for success in the global workforce," said Antonio Brownlow, Ph.D., chairperson of MVSU's Department of Engineering Technology. "This support ensures that we can continue to foster innovation and prepare workforce-ready graduates."

Latonya Garner-Jackson, Ph.D., chair of MVSU's Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, said the investment builds momentum for the university's STEM pipeline. "Our students are participating in code-a-thons, hack-a-thons, and national conferences where they showcase their talents, expand professional networks, and compete alongside peers from across the country," she said. "Nissan's support helps make these experiences possible and directly impacts the future of STEM in the Mississippi Delta."

Since opening in 2003, Nissan's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant has created more than 25,000 jobs statewide and invested more than \$20 million in local nonprofit organizations. The plant is transforming into a U.S. electric vehicle manufacturing center, aligning its innovative production with the STEM principles taught at Mississippi HBCUs.

The Mississippi HBCUs receiving Nissan's donation are Alcorn State University, Coahoma Community College, Hinds Community College – Utica Campus, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Rust College, and Tougaloo College.

Brown-Simpson named to inaugural Vicksburg Post Top 20 Under 40

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Brittany Brown-Simpson, administrative assistant in the Office of the President at Alcorn State University, has been selected for the inaugural Vicksburg Post Top 20 Under 40 award.

The Vicksburg native was nominated anonymously and voted among the top young professionals making an impact in their workplace and community. "Being nominated anonymously and then voted to be part of the 2025 Top 20 Under 40 was not just a surprise, but a moment of profound honor," said Brown-Simpson. "This recognition has not only validated my efforts but also inspired me to continue making a difference."

In her role at Alcorn State, Brown-Simpson provides support to the university's chief of staff and president. She has assisted by providing support for major university events, including President Tracy M. Cook's inauguration and the university's commencement exercises. "I particularly enjoyed participating in Dr. Cook's inau-



Brown-Simpson

guration, where I had the opportunity to contribute to the event's execution," said Brown-Simpson. "I always find the commencement exercises to be very meaningful and inspiring because they celebrate the students we serve and their future endeavors. These events, along

with my daily work, remind me of the profound impact we can have on the lives of our students and the future of our community."

Beyond her university duties, Brown-Simpson founded Bless'd Beyond Beauty, a Christian ministry focused on uplift-

ing individuals and spreading the Gospel through outreach activities. The ministry emphasizes empowerment and purpose, particularly among women.

Brown-Simpson's leadership philosophy centers on authenticity and service. She advises emerging leaders to "stay grounded and positive" and maintain perspective on what truly matters.

"My goal is to show up every day with intent and to make a meaningful impact," she said. "While achievements are important, I believe that authenticity, professionalism, and kindness form the proper foundation of leadership."

The recognition highlights Simpson's dual commitment to professional excellence and community service. She views her role at Alcorn State as more than employment.

"My role at Alcorn State University is not just a job, but a privilege, and I am thankful for the opportunities it has given me to grow and contribute," said Brown-Simpson.

New Interim Superintendent

The Mississippi Link Newswire

We are incredibly excited to announce the return of our former superintendent, Mr. Dwight J. Luckett, Sr., to serve as our new interim superintendent. With an extensive background in educational leadership, a deep commitment to fostering academic excellence, and a genuine passion for the success and well-being of our students, Luckett brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our district. As an invaluable asset to our district, this is the second time the Canton Public School Board of Trustees has entrusted Luckett to serve as interim superintendent. We are confident that his guidance will inspire and uplift both staff and students alike during this pivotal period of transition.

Welcome back, Mr. Luckett. We look forward to working together as we continue elevating



Luckett

minds and empowering possibilities.

Raymond High student selected for State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

HCSD

Raymond High School junior Alicia Coleman has been named to the Mississippi Department of Education's 2025–2026 State Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SAC), a group of student leaders who will provide input on education policy and student experiences across the state.

Coleman was chosen after completing a competitive application process that included an essay explaining why she wanted to serve on the council and what changes or improvements she would like to see in her district. She said the process began by simply deciding to apply and sharing her perspective through writing.

"I'm very excited for this opportunity," Coleman said. "This is a chance for students like me to be heard and to work toward positive change in our schools."

Her motivation to serve extends beyond academics. After losing her older brother in 2023, Coleman said she is determined to honor his memory by using her voice to make a difference for others.



Coleman

The Student Advisory Council held its first in-person meeting this in Jackson, marking the start of the group's work for the school year. Throughout their term, members will have opportunities to share their perspectives and provide input to State Superintendent Dr. Lance Evans on educational opportu-

nities and policy in Mississippi.

Mrs. Tequia Willis, Assistant Director of the Hinds County Career and Technical Center, praised Coleman's selection and recalled encouraging her to apply. "Alicia is a thoughtful, determined young woman who has the courage to use her voice for good," Brown-Willis said. "I

knew she would be a strong candidate, and I am so proud to see her representing Hinds County students at the state level."

Coleman's participation will ensure that the voices of Raymond High and Hinds County students are part of conversations shaping education across Mississippi.



BOOK REVIEW:

THE HOUSE ON RONDO

BY DEBRA J. STONE

C.2025, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS

\$17.95 • 104 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You remember how the sun streamed through the window. It lit up a dance of dust as you lay on a scratchy rug to watch the show, and you recall it. Every chink in the countertops, each squeaky floorboard, and the perfect-for-reading spot on the front step, the house you grew up in still stands in your memories and that’s a good thing: as in the new book “The House on Rondo” by Debra J. Stone, memories are all that’s left.

Thirteen-year-old Zenobia understood why mama and daddy were sending her and her brother and sister to St. Paul for the summer. Still, she begged to stay home and promised that she’d help mama heal from her stroke, but daddy was firm: Zenobia, Fannie, and Mookie would spend the summer with Grandma Essie and Grandpa Joe across the river from Minneapolis. It was for the best. And it was good: every Sunday as long as she could remember, Zenobia’s family had

made the long drive to St. Paul and so she knew the neighborhood. She even had friends in her grandparents’ neighborhood and one of them loved Wonder Woman comics as much as Zenobia did. There was a library nearby and a great big backyard to play in. A summer was a long time to be away from Minneapolis, but she’d be home soon. And in the meantime, Zenobia spent time in Grandma Essie’s kitchen, learning about her family and hearing stories from a long time ago, and Zenobia read lots of

books. And she didn’t mean to, exactly, but she listened in on grown-up conversations. It was 1963 and the interstate was coming through the neighborhood, taking up house after paid-for house and the residents along Rondo Avenue were angry and upset. And really, so was Zenobia. Where would everyone live? Where would they go? Would life be the same without Rondo Avenue? Set in real-life cities with real-life events, “The House on Rondo” even sports photos of people and houses from the

heyday of the Rondo Neighborhood in St. Paul. Yes, this book is fiction, but it’s also deeply based in fact. While author Debra J. Stone gives lots of joy to her story, there’s also a keen mournfulness to what you’ll read, along with fear and uncertainty from a child’s viewpoint. Anger is an suitable emotion, too, especially when you know the background here. Even fictionalized, reading about the racism and loss of heritage in 1963 is like tasting something metallic and sour.

Curiously, you’ll likely find this book in the kids’ section of the library or bookstore, though there are some pretty grown-up concepts here, things that are authentic to life six decades ago but that may also nudge the appropriate age up a notch. Just beware. At the very least, they make the book equally good for adults, too - and so don’t just leave this book out for your child. Pick it up yourself and read it, too. “The House on Rondo” opens a great window for discussion.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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Jury Duty Recording:

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(601) 969-0052

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Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
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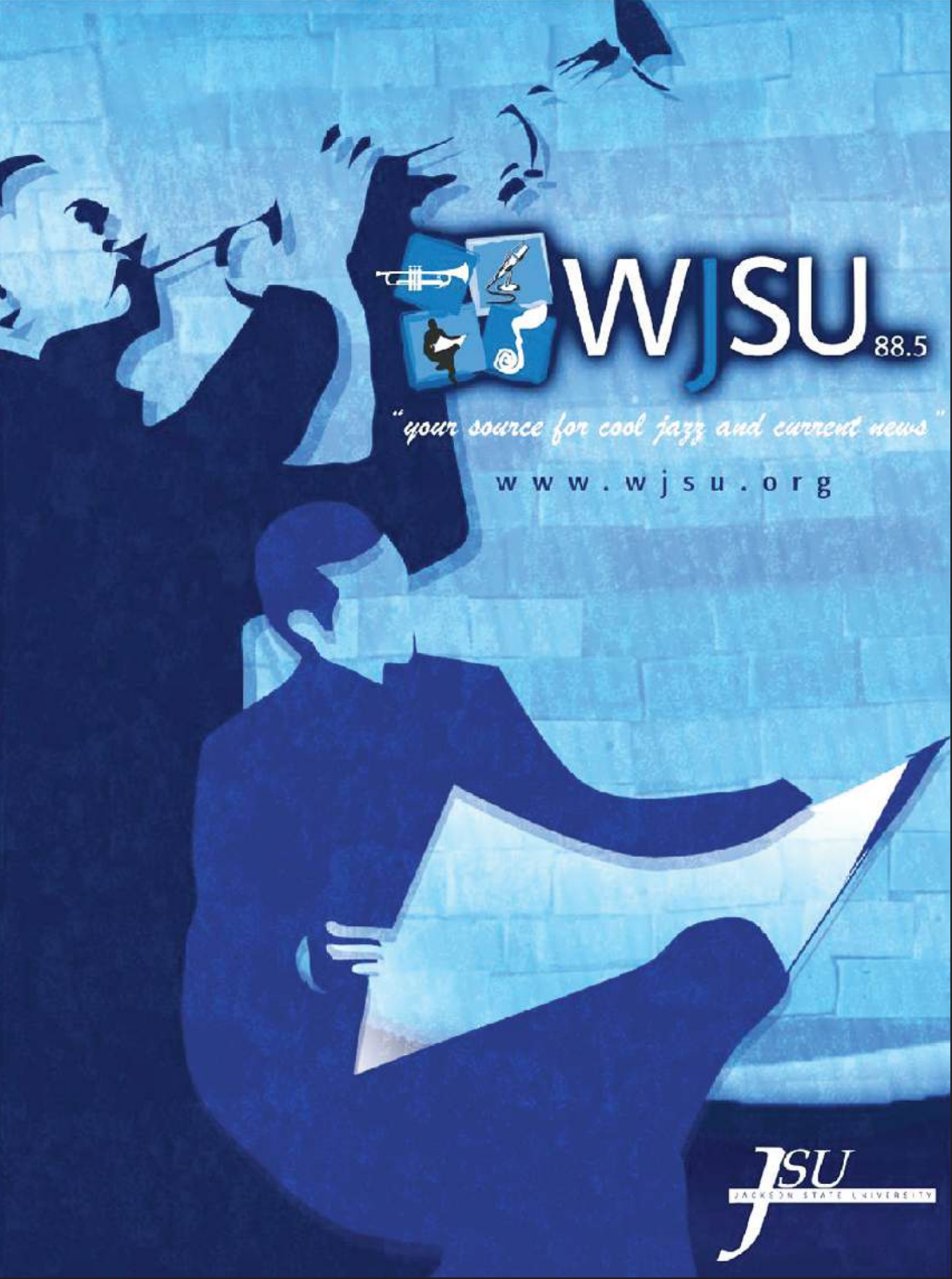
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Jackson State wins homecoming, cements first place lead in East

By Tim Ward
Sports writer

Over 40,000 people were treated to an instant classic football game, Saturday October 11, 2025. Clash of the titans. Alabama State came into Jackson with a 4-1 record and on a 4-game winning streak. Jackson State was celebrating a homecoming, 5-1 record, and a 4-game winning streak of their own. Everyone was anticipating a good game. They were not disappointed.

Jackson State scored on their first possession of the game. The Tigers marched down the field fairly easily. The drive was capped off by a 6-yard touchdown pass from Jacobian Morgan to Shermar Savage. Alabama State got onto the scoreboard early in the second quarter on a 42-yard field goal by Andrew Abu-Akel. The game was chippy, testy, and physical. Boxing fans could relate it to a prize fight with both fighters "feeling" each other out before striking. JSU added a 29-yard field goal by Donovan Warren, who was kicking in place of Gerardo Baeza. ASU ramped up some offensive momentum on their next drive. Mixing the pass and running game effectively, the drive ended with 2-yard touchdown run by Marcus Harris II. Game tied at 10. Wasting no time, JSU scored within 2 minutes on a beautiful touchdown pass from Jacobian Morgan to Ronald Dupree from thirty yards out. Alabama State's quarterback, Andrew Body, who played an awesome game, was able to drive the Hornets into scoring a field goal just before halftime. At the half, Jackson State 17 Alabama State 13.

Coming back, firing on all cylinders, Alabama State's Jamarie Hostzclaw scored from two



Ja'Naylon Dupree breaks away from defenders



Bama State Quarterback Andrew Body



Wide Receiver Jameel Gardner Jr



Quarterback Jacobian Morgan runs and showcases New Sonic Boom Uniform PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Travis Terrell Jr goes airborne

yards away. Hostzclaw carried the ball 10 times for 53 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Andrew Body was the leading rusher for Bama State with 93 yards on 11 carries. Body threw for 349 yards, completing 20 of 30 passes with 1 touchdown. For the game, Quarterback Andrew Body accounted for almost 500 yards of offense.

JSU Quarterback, Jacobian Morgan, battled tooth and nail. Morgan ran 7 times for 66 yards, completed 16 of 23 passes for 191 yards, and 5 touchdown passes.

Jackson State took a 31-20 lead early in the 4th quarter. Just as Tiger nation was breathing a sigh of relief, here comes the Hornets. Bama St scored with 7:07 left in the game, narrowing the margin to 31 to 27. Very next possession, Jackson State would fumble and Alabama State recovers. With momentum on their side, the Hornets' Jamarie Hostzclaw scored his second touchdown of the day from 15 yards out. Alabama State 34, Jackson State 31.

Nervousness swoops around the stands in Mississippi Veter-

ans Memorial Stadium. 1st place in the SWAC East is on the line. Essentially, the SWAC championship is on the line. Most experts do not feel that any of the SWAC West teams can compete with Alabama State or Jackson State this year. Jackson State gets the ball with just over 4 minutes on the clock. Jacobian Morgan is taking his time, calling out signals. The running game for JSU is doing its job. Travis Terrell Jr led the rushing attack with 79 yards on 17 carries. Terrell Jr electrified the crowd when

he attempted to jump over a Bama State defender. Ahmad Miller was next in line gaining 61 yards on 9 carries. Some of the most exciting runs were made by, Donerio Davenport. Davenport gained 37 yards on 8 carries; however, his shiftiness and quickness was causing problems for the Hornets' defense. With 54 seconds left in the game, Jacobian Morgan connected with Nate Rembert for an 18-yard touchdown surrounded by 3 defenders. Tiger nation erupts! Blue and white

pom poms fill the air. Fans start high fiving one another, players seemed relieved. Jackson State leads 38 to 34. Surely the game is won now.

Alabama State said, not so fast...with 50 seconds to go. Quarterback Andrew Body and the offense get down to JSU's redzone. 6 seconds are left on the clock. Body takes the snap, drops back, looks for a receiver, the stadium is buzzing. Body is looking, he fires a pass to his receiver. Pass is complete but he is tackled immediately. Clock runs out, JSU players storm the field in celebration. However, the referees inform everyone that there is 1 second left on the clock. Crowd shocked. JSU Head Coach T.C. Taylor is beside himself. The Darkside defense tells coach, they got it.

Final play. 1 second left on the clock. Andrew Body calls out signals, looks at the defense, and claps his hands. The ball is snapped. Body runs to his left, just as he's being hit, he pitches the ball to the running back, he's tackled at the one-yard line. JSU wins! Crowd goes crazy. JSU players storm the field congratulating each other. What a game. Jackson State is in sole possession of first place in the East at 3-0. Alabama State and Bethune Cookman are tied for second place at 2-1.

Next up for JSU is Grambling State University, October 25th in Las Vegas. The battle of the two historic HBCUS will take place in the home of the Las Vegas Raiders.

Alcorn State University also hosted homecoming this past Saturday. The Braves were able to capture their first win of the season, defeating Lincoln University 42 to 0.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

The heart of the Hinds County School District

At this month’s board meeting, we took a moment to celebrate the heart of Hinds County School District... Our People! October’s S.P.E.C.I.A.L. Seven Awards recognized team members who go above and beyond every day, embodying Selflessness, Potential, Empathy, Connection, Inclusion, Authenticity, and Love in all they do. Their dedication continues to inspire the culture of excellence we’re building across the district.

The celebration continued with the Byram Middle School football team, who wrapped up a remarkable undefeated season and claimed the title of Little 6 Champions. Their hard work, discipline, and teamwork reflect the very best of Bulldog pride, and we couldn’t be prouder of their outstanding accomplishment.

We also spotlighted the Raymond High School “Ultimate Soul” Marching Band, whose energy and artistry continue to shine. Over the weekend, the band earned a Superior (1) overall rating, with outstanding ratings across Drum Major, Percussion, Color Guard, and Band categories. Their passion and excellence continue to set the tone for musical achievement in our district.

#BulldogPride #RangerNation
#HCSDExcellence #LoveHopeLeadership

