



Horton

Mississippi Spotlight: Bishop Dr. Jimmie Horton honored as the 2025 Iowa NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Jackson, Mississippi native Bishop Dr. Jimmie R. Horton was honored as the 2025 recipient of the Davenport, Iowa NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2025 Freedom Fund Banquet held September 27, 2025, at the Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose University in Davenport. This year's banquet theme was "A Fierce Urgency of Now."

This award, the highest honor presented by the NAACP, recognizes the impact that an individual's lifelong dedication, leadership, and service has made on civil rights, social justice, and the advancement of the Black community in the Quad Cities.

Horton told The Mississippi Link: "This is one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. I was so humbled to receive this recognition."

Recipients of this award embody the values of the NAACP through their unwavering commitment to equity, advocacy, and community empowerment. Their legacy of service has paved the way for future generations, ensuring that the fight for freedom, justice, and equality continues.

Horton was born and raised in Jackson, MS. He is a graduate of Jim Hill High School, holds a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Jackson State University and a Doctor of Divinity from St. Thomas Christian University. He serves on the Executive Board of Bishops in the Full Gospel Church. He is the bestselling author of "Live the Unlimited Life." He taught for twenty-five years in the Davenport Public

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VFW Post 12172 Presents 4th Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Program

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

For four consecutive years, Wilson-Bain-Martin VFW Post 12172 (Brandon, MS) of Veterans of Foreign Wars has brought communities and their loved ones together to pay deference to war veterans at Liberty Baptist Church (5199 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, MS 39232). Joined by families, friends, and supporters from all walks of life, veterans maintain that it is essential to remind those who have forgotten, and to inform the unversed, about the commitment exemplified by those who serve the United States of America. Hence, promptly at 12:00 noon Saturday, September 20, 2025, the annual event convened.

The Emcee - Jay Wilson - set the tone for the gathering and kept the program moving. Participants held him and the audience in high esteem as they shared the various aspects for the hour. The overarching message shared by contributors was "War is real, and lives should not be taken for granted."

The Pledge of Allegiance - conducted by Jay Wilson - and the National Anthem - conducted by Kenneth Bourns - blended well into Michael T. Jackson's invocation. In his petition to God, Jackson asked for guidance and accountability to moral responsibility. The leaders' sincerity



VFW Post 12172, Sr. Vice Commander and Emcee, Jay Wilson; Aletta Butler, VFW District 5, Aux. President, Command Sergeant Major (retired) Murray Carr; Quilt of Valor recipient; and Tara Rivers VFW 5 District Commander PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

captivated the audience while it resonated throughout the room.

While honoring 142,000 service men and women, Billy Green asserted that "our national care" is what matters. He said that it was right and respectful to pause for the occasion, a moment to reflect on American values. "We must continue to advocate for resources and funding that are needed, and we must never forget World War II and the Vietnam War," he voiced.

The POW MIA Missing Man Table Ceremony was conducted by Kenneth Bourns. "Those who have served, and those currently serving in the uniformed

services of the United States, are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice," he said. In that regard, Bourns maintained that America should never forget "those who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation and imprisonment."

The informant referenced the table as a symbol of the missing POWs and MIAs known as comrades. Because they were unable to attend, it was essential to pay deference to them and to remember their continued absence. While the table symbol-

ized the frailty of one prisoner who was alone - against his/her suppressors, the white tablecloth symbolized purity of the missing to respond to their country's call to arms.

Other reminders were voiced. The missing soldiers' blood depicted by a single rose represented sacrifices made to ensure the freedom of the United States and faith upheld by family and friends who are awaiting their return. The red ribbon exemplified an unyielding determination for a proper accounting of missing comrades. The missing's bitter

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Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Mississippi politics of discrimination hits new low at Auditor's office



Shadrack Tucker White. PHOTO: LINKEDIN.COM

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Last week State Auditor - Shadrack Tucker White - was back at it with another report. He's a report generating machine. Per the website, www.osa.ms.gov, he's produced thousands. Some of his reports - the ones he calls Special Reports - are the ones that usually catch

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my eye. Those include titles like - A Review of Jackson Public School's JROTC Program, Brain Drain, The High Cost of Violent Crime in Mississippi, Taxpayer Cost of Fatherlessness, The Cost of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion"

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Ben Crump pledges \$50K to the Black Press and challenges others to follow his lead



L-R: Rev. Mark Thompson, emcee for the 2025 NNPA National Leadership Awards; NNPA BOD Chairman John Warren; NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin Chavis; and Trial Lawyer for Justice, Attorney Benjamin Crump. PHOTO BY PUBLISHER JACKIE HAMPTON, THE MISSISSIPPI LINK.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent

The Conrad Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., pulsed with history and urgency as the Black Press of America gathered for its Annual National Leadership Awards and Reception Thursday, September 25th with Rev. Mark Thompson, Host of Make it Plain and NNPA Global Digital Transformation Director serving as Emcee. The evening honored House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Yvette Clarke, and Communications Workers of America President Claude Cummings Jr., who now serves on the executive committee of the Democratic National Committee.

Speaking to the Black Press, Cummings declared, "Democrats need to spend money now with the Black

Press. The Black Press has always been that vehicle in our community that we've all needed and that has always been the trusted voice. With what's happening in Washington and what they are trying to do to our community and our history, everyone should be supporting the Black Press of America."

The words carried the sting of truth. For decades, the Black Press has stood as the trusted voice for African Americans, telling stories ignored or distorted elsewhere. It carried the mutilated image of Emmett Till when white newspapers looked away. It published Dr. King's words when others labeled him a troublemaker. It guided families through Jim Crow's terror and chronicled the triumphs and tragedies of migration, struggle, and resilience. Today, two years before its 200th anniversary, this institu-

tion is fighting for its life. Then, Attorney Ben Crump, known as "Black America's Attorney General," took the stage. He did not come to flatter. He came to help, and he came with fire. "I will ask for personal privilege because I see my leaders in the room. The National President of the NAACP, Derrick Johnson, and Chair of the Board, Leon Russell," Crump began. "The men who I stand with this evening, I want to come and demonstrate my appreciation to them and the Black Press. Right now in America we're under attack like we've never been in our lifetime." The weight of his words fell heavily. "So now more than ever, we have to make sure that we have institutions that are disseminating information to our people, being the clarion call for us to be able to

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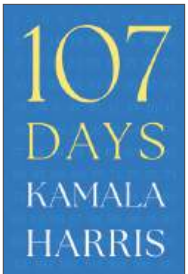
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Second chances lead to unlimited dreams: A conversation with Mr. Randall and Dr. Amanda Cooley

By LaShanda Calvert
Contributing Writer

Eight-Four miles away from the capital city lies a city called, Laurel, MS. that is filled with charm, a friendly atmosphere, spunky downtown, quirky boutiques, fine homes, unique antiques, and good ole southern soul food (check out Julia's Steakhouse and Buffet). Moreover, this city is a filming site for a popular HGTV Show called, "Hometown," and it is home to an adorable, Power Couple, Mr. Randall Cooley and Dr. Amanda Cooley, who were featured on "Hometown."

Humble, old souls, soft spoken, hospitable, loving, genuine, passionate, and cool best describes the Cooley Couple. Their love story is inspiring and encouraging.

Mississippi Link: How long have you been married?
Amanda: We've been married for eleven years.

Mississippi Link: How did you meet?
Randall: (Blushing) I'll let Amanda tell you that.

Amanda: My husband's dad was sick and his sister who is my friend asked me to come pray for their father...we met each other that day and it began from

past failures, so we learned to support each other. We came from pain to purpose.

Randall: I told Amanda that I was not an abuser and didn't believe in dwelling on disagreements and only desired to treat her well.

Amanda: Even to this day, Randall says what he has to say, and I sometimes have the urgency to keep going but he remains silent. And we agree to disagree to avoid confusion.

Mississippi Link: How is teamwork in marriage?
Amanda: God is our foundation. We both were judged as not being good enough, so we took the negative and turned it into positive by working together. We complement each other; we catch what the other don't see. We believe in following the will of God for our marriage and basing it on Jeremiah 29:11..."

Randall: Amanda told me that God wanted her to start a school and not charge tuition. Although we didn't have the resources, I supported her.

Amanda: Randall supported my dream. God told me to open a school for children especially for those struggling academically and call it, "Unlimited Dreams," and not charge tuition.

We started with zero and then moved to 44 then to 63 and eventually we had 63 students. Today, we serve more than 120 students.

Mississippi Link: Wow, free tuition. Please tell us more about Unlimited Dreams.
Amanda: We have devotion every day. We accommodate students from fourth grade to twelfth grade from over five counties. I chose purple and gold for our school colors so that the children could understand how special and royal they are.

Mississippi Link: How did HGTV help your school?
Amanda: HGTV Hometown Couple, Ben and Erin Napier of Laurel went out of their way to help us find a new building for our school. They asked people to donate things like furniture, books for our library, light fixtures, etc. They were patient and understood what we wanted for our students. They did a beautiful job, and we will forever be grateful to them and everyone who helped make our dream come true for Unlimited Dreams. It has been a true blessing.

Mississippi Link: What does your school need?
Dr. Cooley: We need large cans of non-perishable items such as vegetables, fruit, etc. And we also welcome donations for school/classroom needs. Methods of payments accepted: Cashapp: \$scearthangel, Paypal: unlimiteddreams2020 and you can mail checks to 803 North 2nd Avenue, Laurel, MS. 39440."

In conclusion, the Cooley's acknowledged that God brought them from pain to purpose and God alone is responsible for their successful decade's long marriage. God granted the Cooley's a second chance of love, which ultimately led to them achieving unlimited dreams for each other and for children who like them only needed a second chance. We hope this love story truly encourages you to believe that if God did it for the Cooley's, He can and will do it for you too.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528



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It's good to be **blue**.



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L-R: Billy Green, Post 12172, Post Commander; Aletta Butler, VFW District 5 Aux. President; Staff Sergeant Larry Halverson, Quilt of Valor recipient; and Tara Rivers VFW District 5 Commander.



Kenneth Bourns, Quartermaster Adjutant



Sergeant Major George Copeland, Keynote Speaker

Tara Rivers introduced the keynote speaker – Command Sergeant Major George Copeland – as a recipient of numerous awards – who has left an indelible mark upon the nation and world. Accordingly, Copeland fulfilled Rivers’ expectations throughout his address. The speaker specified that while Americans take many things for granted, “Many Military Service people never came home. We’re still looking for them. A lot of different organizations continue to search for them.” Though many statistics were cited, the speaker noted that approximately 20,000 soldiers are still missing from World War II, and more than 1,500 are missing from the Vietnam War. Though many died in prison, we get their remains. While many performed

their duties, they went missing in action. Families have been notified of their loved ones who were found. Continuing to address the tragedies, Copeland noted that relatives have maintained persistence in reaching out to the government to find their missing relatives. In the Middle East, at least 2,500 were found deceased. At least one female doctor went missing. On another note, many servicepersons, unable to handle the harmful effects of war, have committed suicide. Green rendered a special screen tribute to Lt. Colonel (Retired) Thomas Edward Collins III who transitioned Saturday, September 6, 2025. In his words, Collins mentioned, “The first two weeks in Vietnam were the longest weeks of my life.” Summarizing this long and complex war (the mid -1950s – 1975), Collins explained that intense guerrilla warfare, heavy bombing campaigns, and millions of deaths (over 58,000 American soldiers were killed) occurred. Further, there was severe environmental damage from chemical agents like Agent Orange, and a profound division within American society and politics. “Communication was the key to our survival. The drive home to America was the greatest day of my life,” said Collins. Another highlight of the event was the Quilt of Valor presentation. Murray Carr and Larry Halvorson - Vietnam veterans – were this year’s recipients. Aletta Butler, VFW District 5 Auxiliary President, and Tara Rivers VFW District 5 Commander, wrapped each of the honorees in a Quilt of Valor. VFW District Officers are: Billy Green (Post Commander); Jay Wilson (Senior Vice Commander); Michael Crews (Jr Vice Commander); Kenneth Bourns (Quartermaster/Adjutant); Michael T. Jackson (Post Chaplain); James Gooch (Post 1 Year Trustee); George Copeland (Post 2 Year Trustee); Tara Rivers (Post 3 Year Trustee); Tara Rivers (Post Judge Advocate); and George Copeland (Post Surgeon).

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ision” Programs at Mississippi’s Public Universities, Plugging the Brain Drain: Investing in College Majors That Actually Work, etc. Just last week though, he took aim – or in his words – “shining light,” on non-profits in Mississippi. He issued a news release and then had a media availability that several broadcast stations grabbed hold of September 22, 2025. That way he can get his big ole findings out to his base, <https://www.osa.ms.gov/news/audit-uncovers-more-nonprofits-wasting-taxpayer-funds>. Under the banner of, “The government is wasting so much money,” White explains what he deems as questionable spending by three Jackson non-profits obtaining federal pass-through grants from Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Human Services. In front of the broadcast cameras, he shared that the non-profit spending that he is questioning doesn’t align with the values of most Mississippians and that people elected him to office not just because he’s good with numbers, but because he represents their values. We’ll get back to that. Cause IQ, a non-profit growth and services company in Seattle, WA, says there are over 6,000 non-profits in the Greater Jackson Metro. The three that White highlighted are all African American. In the auditor’s news Release, found at the hyperlink above, White uses italics several times when they don’t appear needed - “disadvantaged Mississippians” and “incentive” gift cards and “address-

ing health disparities in African American youth.” Who do you suppose White’s audience is? We know a dog-whistle when we hear it. He really dove in deep over the Executive Director’s philosophy found on the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation website, which states, “one cannot make a good choice when historically, both choices end badly for people of color.” He went on to say the non-profit used that statement as the basis of its “Racial Equity Work.” Words like that make a guy like him – upset. White is one of those “pick yourself up by your bootstraps” guys. We know all about them. He complained about non-profit employee salaries, citing JSDF’s Executive Director’s (Karla McCullough, Ph.D.) salary but did not mention that his salary was \$90,000 in 2023, but was given a 66.66 percent raise in 2024, to \$150,000 per the Mississippi Legislative Bill Status System. Look at all those 6’s. The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation - <https://jsdfoundation.com> , My Brother’s Keeper - <https://www.mbkinc.org> , and 100 Black Men of Jackson - <https://www.100bmoj.org> , represent so much good in our community. These organizations give, teach, lift, mentor, and grow community members, especially the youth. People like White sadden me. So much ability, a brilliant mind, a Christian family man, educated at fine schools like University of Mississippi, St. John’s College in Oxford, United Kingdom, and Harvard Law. He’s too smart to not know better. He knows exactly what he’s doing when he looks for ways to try and knock the Afri-

can American community down. He dispatches these age-old dog whistles. He does his best to drag three honorable Jackson non-profits through the mud – of course he knows. If he could use his intelligence, his heart, and his Christian beliefs for good, he would be blinded by the positive impact of these African American organizations in our community. Instead, the persecution of African Americans continues in Mississippi. Mr. Auditor, why not shine your light on state agencies that gave 99.37 percent of contracting expenditures to white people in 2024? Or on the preventable causes of our state’s devastating poverty? Or on our state’s health posture? Or the pollution generated by Amite Bioenergy in Gloster, Mississippi, and others like it that are deliberately licensed to operate in majority-African American communities? We all see, even the Lord sees what’s going on. Tell us how much your 371-page report, targeting these three African American non-profits, cost Mississippi taxpayers to prepare. Who’s wasting taxpayer money? We’ll keep shining a light, Mister Auditor. “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.” (lyrics by Harry Dixon Loes).

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Pledge

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stand up for our children and our communities, to be ready to speak up for our children and communities, and to be ready to fight for our children in the community. And nobody carries the Black narrative and the Black information to Black communities more passionately than the Black Press.” Crump then turned to those seated in the room. “Y’all, right now, y’all know this attack on DEI and everything, they’re cutting funding to all our institutions. And it isn’t right, but part of me says that’s okay. We don’t need them to save us. We are going to save ourselves. We are all we need.” He reminded the room of the lessons of struggle and obligation. “Everybody got to give a little more when they can. If you’ve been blessed, you got to pass the blessing on. You just can’t keep it to yourself,” Crump told the packed ballroom. “Our fraternity teaches us we must lift as we climb. So tonight, I’m trying to lift as we climb to make this donation, and I pray that others will join us if you’re able to. If you’re able to.” “Because, like Dr. King said, we all got a role to play. The Black lawyers got a role to play. The Black doctors got a role to play. The Black bankers got a role to play. The Black insurance agents, Black funeral homes. I understand everybody can’t be on the front line with the NAACP and Black Lives Matter and us, but that doesn’t mean you don’t have a role to play when you get a seat at the table. When you are inside the room and you have a voice, you got a role to play. And so, you can’t be afraid to speak truth to power.” He paused, then drew from the words of his fraternity brother, Attorney Billy Murphy. “He says, Crump, in America today, we got enough African Americans who are educated. We got enough African Americans who are articulate. We got enough African Americans who are intelligent. What we seem to lack is enough African Americans who got courage to speak truth to power. And that’s what we got to have when we’re facing bullies. We got to speak truth to power. We can’t be scared. Just like they’re unapologetic in their white supremacist beliefs, we got to be unapologetic defenders of Black life, Black liberty, and Black humanity. Now more than ever. And our actions got to match our words.” His action matched his words. Crump pledged \$50,000 to the Black Press—structured at \$10,000 a year for five years. Fifty thousand dollars for the Black Press. A seed planted in fertile ground, if others dare to water it. “And so I want to present this donation to the Black Press for \$50,000,” Crump said. “Because right now we got to support our own.” But he was not content with his own gift. He pointed the way for others. With the bicentennial of the Black Press approaching, supporters are being urged to step forward through sponsorships, advertising, and partnerships to ensure that the Trusted Voice of the Black Community remains alive. Even for Let It Be Known, ever rising in its import to the Black Press and its growing audience, survival is paramount. There’s an official GoFund-Me at <https://gofund.me/240152783>. “That’s why I’m making this donation to the Black Press,” Crump declared, his words cutting with urgency. “Because right now the Black Press is needed more than ever before.”

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School system and is founder and pastor of Gospel Mission Temple in Davenport. He is married to Evangelist Lady Michelle Horton, a retired educator, and the father of Dr. Jimmie Horton Jr., Faith, and Avery Horton. The Mississippi Link congratulates Bishop Horton for this prestigious award.

United Way of the Capital Area and Jackson State University Host Entrepreneurship and Employability Skills Symposium for High Schools from Hinds and Madison Counties

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

Momentum was high at the Jackson Convention Complex (105 East Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS 39201) Wednesday, September 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The United Way of the Capital Area teamed up with Jackson State University TRIO TALENT SEARCH and shared hands-on techniques with high schoolers about career readiness and entrepreneurial thinking. Students and their advisors from Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties included the following schools: Provine, Callaway, Lanier, Forrest Hill, Murrah, and Canton.

Engulfed with a wealth of knowledge, entrepreneurial knowledge and employability information, speakers in concurrent symposium settings, heightened sensitivity and awareness of essential information for the high schoolers to explore possibilities as entrepreneurs and employees. They referenced their business skills, effective benchmarks to trigger students' thinking. Questions and answers were ideal for transactional communication that flowed from session to session.

Rickey D. Jones, Director of the Small Business Development Center at Jackson State University, spoke to the students about starting their own businesses. He advised them to



Dr. Tiffany Anderson of United Way greets high school students and their advisors



Ricky Jones, JSU's Small Business Development Center Director, advised listeners to pursue every option for small business ownership.

determine the kind of businesses that they wanted. Pursuing the education that is required is

necessary. "Training is essential to be a successful owner," he said. Looking at all options



Barbara Bennett of IRS encourages high schoolers to use discretion with personal information. During the assembly of the Entrepreneurship and Employability Skills Symposium.



Via entertainment, Boss Brothers Universe motivates high schoolers to launch businesses for success. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT.

to become the best business owners that they can become is another key to success. Jones further indicated that business owners "should strive to be in wealth positions, not just in the corporate structure." Further, "owners are able to buy shares, own properties, and look at other ways to get money." For confidential one-on-one business counseling, students may call 601-979-1100.

"The IRS knows nothing about you until you file a tax return, but we don't just collect taxes. We also supply a wealth of information for taxpayers to understand," said Barbara A. Bennett, IRS Communication and Liaison. The IRS's website (www.irs.gov) is replete, she declared, with detailed information regarding any questions that the students may have.

Bennett advised listeners to "never give out your social security number and never let somebody charge you for something that is free. Set up your individual account and apply for an identity pin because we're in the world of technology, and the pressure is on you." The speaker further asserted that whenever the listeners start a business, they must be certain to get an employee ID in the name of the business from a federal perspective. Students may call the IRS at 601-292-4708 for further inquiry.

Dr. Tonja Murphy's session presentation was titled, "Future-Proof Yourself: Skills to Thrive in Any Career." The employment readiness, youth advocacy, and literacy motivator told the students: "You're smarter than you think. You've got to not only know how to use technology, but you've got to know what the technology does."

Students observed that Murphy communicated with everyone in the room. Her feistiness allowed them to feel that they were included in what she was talking about. "Be able to find the people where they are," she stated, as she reflected the command with voice, eye contact, and bodily gestures.

Murphy then emphasized

the need for students to look honestly at themselves while assessing the things that would encourage them to be successful communicators. "Put yourself in a situation where you're uncomfortable. Do projects with groups of people. It takes a group to get anything done. Sometimes you have to be creative in how you adapt. Students were then challenged to be good stewards on their jobs by being punctual, having a willingness to learn, and being effective team players.

Theresa Kennedy delivered her talk on "Investing in Your Future." Claiming that she never had to market her business, the speaker shared that "relationships matter." She established relationships. Networking was essential for her success. "I was able to work in my high school at a leadership camp at Millsaps. I've built relationships and put in time. I did exchange for my work, rather than working for free. Your friends should be people that support and encourage you. Through networking, you might even expand your business," she asserted.

Kennedy said that no time is better than now for students to ask their counselors about scholarships. They are on the "wheel of time" and must act now. They should inquire about internships. They should go online and get IT certification. They should look into the HBCUs. Additionally, "Hinds Community College has programs that train you in small business establishments."

Edutainment was provided by Boss Brothers Universe (Khalik Brown, Kharim Brown, and Nicholas Brown, Jr.). These three highly motivated, creative, and competitive siblings set out to "be the boss of everything." They love the art of learning and sharing their knowledge with others. Their motivational act enticed listeners to believe in themselves – the only way to get others to believe in them. "A lot of times, if somebody can't see it in her/himself, they came to see it in you," they pitched. Involving the audience in

several chants, Boss Brothers Universe targeted discipline as the drive for goal motivation. "You've got to want to succeed. The only person that controls your future is you," they charged.

The competitive aspect of the event had four adjudicators: Melinda Brassfield (IRS); Julius Franks (JSU Opportunity Center); Angelique Rawls – Greater Jackson Chamber; and Willie Jones (Dependable Source Corp. A solo competitor, Zachery Taylor, was featured and received \$500. A group competition consisted of four people, and they each received \$500. Hence, these scholarship recipients received a total of \$2500. While competitors were commended for their hard work and polished projects, Kenitra Wallace, Vice President, Community Impact, appealed to the high schoolers to take advantage of scholarship opportunities. "Train yourself from apathy," she commented.

While the group competitor could not be reached after the event, Taylor claimed to be in the clothing business for two years, and his business has grown since he started. Having many designs, sizes, and colors, he strives to satisfy his customers with appealing clothing. "I want them to feel comfortable and confident in my clothing. I'm at 769-232-6724," he said.

"Our future is bright because we have young people who came out and participated in the different activities. I am so pleased. Young people, just know that today was not an accident for you to be here," voiced Nikki K. McCelleis, President & CEO of the United Way of the Capital Area.

"Today's event was very informative. I was proud to support Zachary Taylor. He endured coaching sessions in preparation to present in the Shark Tank business pitch. In the past he has earned over \$6,000 selling his merchandise locally in pop-up shops and online. I try to instill in my scholars that as long as they have a vision and a plan, they will definitely succeed," opined Dickey Rawls (Lanier HS alumna), Business Entrepreneurship Instructor at Provine High School.

Malijah Johnson, a student, explained that the event left her with freshness. "The more you buy, the less money you will have. You lose your power to retain your money."

Javier Harris, another student, indicated that the occasion was "worth my time. It was amazing. All of the sessions were great."

"We hope that our youth and educational communities gained some insight into what it takes and what is needed to be an entrepreneur. At the intersection of soft skills, innovation and workforce development, United Way of the Capital Area is concerned with connecting our communities with resources that support financial stability. All our staff are involved. Our partner agencies are Jackson State University TRIO PROGRAMS TALENT SEARCH, Teresa Palmer Jones and Theresa Young," expressed Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Economic Mobility coordinator, United Way of the Capital Area.

For further inquiry, visit myunitedway.com.

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SPEARHEADS

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garbage bags, trash grabbers, and most of all willing
bodies



Southern Poverty Law Center president warns of Trump crackdown on civil rights groups

‘We have no intention of being silenced by this administration or any administration.’

By Michael Goldberg
Mississippi Today

Civil rights organizations around the country are preparing for the Trump administration’s crackdown on progressive-aligned groups, Bryan Fair, President of the Southern Poverty Law Center, told *Mississippi Today*.

Fair spoke to the news outlet in an exclusive interview on the heels of President Donald Trump signing a memorandum directing federal law enforcement agencies to investigate what he claimed were wealthy donors and organizations funding left-wing political violence.

The memo could be used as a pretext to target civil rights organizations perceived to be enemies of the Trump administration and Republican causes in states such as Mississippi, Fair said.

“The charge from the administration, the most recent memorandum, seems to go after one type of organization — organizations that are critical of this administration, or that promote equality of opportunity for all,” Fair said. “We see this as a partisan attack on progressive nonprofits that seek to lift up due-process rights, First Amendment rights and the equal protection rights of all persons.”

The Southern Poverty Law Center — one of the nation’s



Fair

most well-known civil rights organizations that rose to prominence by filing legal cases against white supremacist groups in the post-Jim Crow South — will remain undeterred from its mission, Fair said. But Trump’s memo last week and his administration’s vows to attack the financial and organizational networks that support progressive causes have sent many groups bracing for impact.

The center is part of a “civil rights ecosystem” that includes organizations such as the Lawyers’ Committee for

Civil Rights, the ACLU, the NAACP, the Legal Defense Fund and Democracy Forward. All of these groups believe that the administration plans to target civil rights groups, Fair said. The SPLC has long attracted the ire of Republican politicians and groups who see the organization as biased against conservatives.

The organization’s work classifying “hate groups” is a particular point of contention, with critics saying the organization lumps mainstream conservative groups together with white supremacists and neo-

Nazis.

Anger from Trump and his supporters toward progressive groups intensified after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

Trump administration officials and allied media figures have claimed, largely without evidence, that progressive groups have encouraged physical violence against conservatives. Some conservative critics have turned their attention and large social followings on the center by name.

Fair said his organization condemned Kirk’s murder and

has never condoned political violence of any sort.

“For 55 years, SPLC has been on the front lines of fighting hate and extremism in this country,” Fair said. “We were founded to fight for the civil rights of all persons, and that’s what we do every day. We believe that everything that we do is protected under the law.”

Fair said threats from the Trump administration against groups such as the center have arrived at the same time these organizations are working to blunt the impact of deep federal spending cuts approved by congressional Republicans.

Fair was in Jackson Tuesday to kick off a “Truth, Poverty and Democracy Tour” around Mississippi. The multicity, week-long tour will connect Mississippians to advocates and resources that “address systemic barriers to health care, housing, education and voting rights,” the organization said.

Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the country, and Fair said the center plans to wage a “war on poverty,” harkening back to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s 1964 State of the Union Address.

Three years after that speech, Democratic Sen. Robert F. Kennedy toured the Mississippi Delta to learn more about the region’s life-shaping poverty, a seemingly intrac-

table problem that still persists.

The center’s plans to emphasize poverty-related issues — such as the Republican-pushed “big, beautiful bill” cuts to Medicaid and food assistance — represent a new strategy for the organization.

“We’ve adopted poverty as a new pillar of our work,” Fair said. “Historically, we have not done great work in that space, but we’re trying very intentionally to shift our focus so that we’re on the ground.”

Democratic state lawmakers said at a press conference that they would continue partnering with groups such as the center on shared efforts to strengthen social safety net programs.

“I’m done trying to change the minds of some of the people in this Capitol building or change the minds of the people in Washington who are in control,” said House Minority Leader Robert Johnson. “Our job is to get them out. So this partnership will continue whether Trump funds it or not.”

While the shift to a full-throated focus on poverty-related issues might be a departure, Fair said the center would not change its tactics in response to federal pressure.

“We have no intention of being silenced by this administration or any administration,” Fair said.

Former student sues University of Southern Mississippi and Omega Psi Phi over alleged hazing

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

A former Omega Psi Phi pledge who alleges he was so severely beaten during the Nu Eta chapter’s “Hell Night” that he had to relearn how to walk is now suing the fraternity, the University of Southern Mississippi, multiple other people and organizations.

According to the federal lawsuit, Rafael Joseph and other pledges were struck repeatedly with a wooden paddle made from a two-by-four plank on April 16, 2023. Afterward, Joseph went to the hospital where he underwent a blood transfusion and emergency surgery while being treated for bruised ribs, a hematoma, posterior compartment syndrome and rhabdomyolysis, a severe muscle injury.

The lawsuit alleges Joseph suffered severe emotional distress and could not walk for months. He ultimately dropped out of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity declined to

comment on the litigation. The University of Southern Mississippi was not immediately available for comment.

“We see violent incidents like these time and again across the nation but, instead of taking action, fraternity leaders and university officials alike sweep it under the rug and write it off as ‘boys will be boys,’ ” civil rights attorney Bakari Sellers, who is representing Joseph, said in a press release. “It’s criminal violence and abuse and it needs to end.”

The lawsuit alleges fraternity members began hazing Joseph in December 2022 by stealing his food and money, preventing him from sleeping and threatening him.

It also lays out a second case of alleged abuse, claiming Nu Eta hazing left another student with a torn ACL in the fall of 2022. According to the lawsuit, the University of Southern Mississippi did not investigate the incident or take action against the fraternity.



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Sorting through new and confusing vaccine recommendations

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which provides recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), met September 18-19, 2025. ACIP issued new recommendations for several vaccines, most significantly the MMR — measles, mumps, rubella — and the Hepatitis-B vaccine. Earlier, ACIP issued new guidance on the Covid-19 vaccine, severely limiting eligibility. Information about ACIP and their recommendations can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/acip/index.html>.

The committee's recommendations clashed with long-standing policy and have caused concern in the medical community at large. Several states have announced they will not follow ACIP's guidelines and instead develop their own protocols. This week's National Briefing brought together four medical experts on infectious diseases to discuss their concerns about ACIP's vaccine recommendations, along with over sixty media outlets from across the globe.

Moderator Sunita Sohrabji facilitated the sharing of vast amounts of pertinent information while ensuring that dozens of questions from media outlets were presented to the four panelists. She introduced Dr. Maurizio Bonacini, CEO, Mission Gastroenterology and Hepatology and associate clinical professor, University of California - San Francisco, first. Dr. Bonacini took time away



Dr. Maurizio Bonacini, Associate Clinical Professor at University of California – San Francisco. PHOTO: WWW.MISSIONGH.COM.

from vacationing in Greece to join the call and spoke about his perspective on Hepatitis B and its prevention by vaccines. "...in children, particularly in babies, the protection is very strong, is early and is obtained in 95-plus percent of patients. I was just reviewing a recent paper from China showing that only after two shots, when the baby is born - the birth dose vaccine — and the second at about one month - after two shots, 97 percent had significantly detectable titers — a very good vaccine."

Next, Dr. Yvonne (Bonnie) Maldonado, Professor of Pediatrics and of Health Research and Policy at Stanford University, with a focus on Infectious Diseases, shared her insights. Despite forty years of clinical experience, she was one of 17 voting ACIP committee members fired by Trump-appointed Health and Human Services Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy, in June of this year.

Dr. Maldonado stated, "I want to speak about a vaccine that has quietly protected mil-

lions of children for nearly two decades. The measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine, or MMRV.

When we talk about vaccines, we often focus on the newest developments, but sometimes, it's just as important to remember the tools we already have. Safe, effective, and time-tested tools

like MMRV that prevents serious childhood diseases. The MMR vaccine was licensed by the FDA in 1971 and the varicella vaccine in 1995. We have decades of experience with these vaccines. They are recommended for children to be given in two doses — at 12-15 months and at 4 to 6 years of age."

She also added in the chat box, "MMRV vaccines side effects include mild fever, injection site pain, and a very low risk of febrile seizures - 8 in 10,000 first doses compared to 4 in 10,000 first doses of MMR and V separately." In answer to questions about countering misinformation, she shared, "Rebuilding trust is very im-



Dr. Peter ChinHong, Professor of Medicine at UCSF. PHOTO: WWW.UCSF-HEALTH.ORG.

portant and should be done at local, regional and national levels. Engaging with the public and with trusted local leaders is important. Our trusted medical societies, like the American Academy of Pediatrics, are providing information to health care providers as well as to the public. 90 percent of adults get their COVID vaccines from pharmacies."

The Mississippi Link newspaper was recognized for a question. What is your best estimate of the damage that will be done by these policies, and can they rapidly rebound in the event of new leadership? Maldonado responded, "Great question. I can only speak to the issue of vaccines, and fortuitously, some of our Stanford and Baylor colleagues and I wrote a paper in April, modeling what could happen with current and future vaccine coverage over the next 25 years for four diseases - measles, rubella, polio, and diphtheria... we found that even at current vaccination levels, about 92 percent, we're going to start to



Dr Yvonne Maldonado, Professor of Pediatrics and Health Research and Policy at Stanford University. PHOTO: WWW.MED.STANFORD.EDU.



Dr. Benjamin Neuman, Professor of Biology at Texas A&M University. PHOTO: WWW.BIO.TAMU.EDU.

see millions of cases of these diseases and their complications. If we increased just 5 percent vaccine coverage in the U.S., we would see a massive reduction in these diseases, in the next 25 years or so."

Next was Dr. Peter ChinHong, infectious diseases specialist and Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. "This has been a rollercoaster time for COVID vaccines, something that we never thought we would get into in terms of this moment because not only, are people's

recommendations changing, but they are now variable by state, depending on enforcement. I think we're losing sight of who should be protected with COVID...there are really four groups that should be protected: 1) 65 and older regardless of health condition, 2) pregnant people regardless of health conditions, 3) children, especially younger children, and, 4) people of any age with any comorbidity, um, particularly those who are very immune compromised."

The final panelist was Dr. Benjamin Neuman, Professor of Biology at Texas A&M University. He focused on changes at CDC and on the ACIP. "This is a molecular virologist's perspective on what's going on - Secretary Kennedy's decisions are very typical for what you might expect from a lawyer. Scientists and medical doctors are in reality-business. We have to do what works, and we have to see what exists. When you're a lawyer, the facts don't necessarily matter as much as what you can convince a jury or a judge. I think a lot of what's going on here is mythmaking, they are spinning wonderful stories, or terrible stories, and honestly, a lot of people are going to get hurt because of it. I'm not saying that people can't grow. I'm just saying for a lawyer to turn into a top-notch master of a science administration, they would have to grow a lot."

The entire 65-minute briefing can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIxy-8zfJJ8>.

Black Caucus Awards Dinner: Former VP Kamala Harris, Gov. Wes Moore give pointed remarks

By Lauren Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

At the annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation awards dinner that marks the end of the half-century-old legislative conference commonly known as "CBC Week," the notable speakers of the evening were blunt in their remarks.

Beyond the awards and the sequins and campaign that's featured at the annual CBC

Gala, blunt talk of what is ahead for Blacks in America and the state of democracy was close at hand. Former Vice President Kamala Harris was one of three awardees. "They played the long game working for decades to take over statehouses, gerrymander districts and stack the Supreme Court," said Harris, speaking from the large podium to over 2,000 people. She offered advice and

surprise at how so many have capitulated to the demands of Donald Trump. She also offered remarks on leadership.

"Please let's get over the savior complex, which suggests only one individual can save us. Come on. As Democrats, we have so many stars and many of them are in this room right now. You are the leaders who are up for the fight," Harris added. The audience

cheered loudly for her appearance on stage. The crowd also reacted favorably to Texas U.S. Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. Both women have been direct and consistent in their criticism of Trump. "At a time such as this, it demands one thing for sure: we must fight fire with fire," Harris added. It hasn't been forgotten that, during her 107-day presidential campaign in 2024, Harris accurately predicted the future of America under a second Trump Administration. Her book, entitled "107 Days," was recently released.

"I'm not interested in talking about how powerful the President is or how powerful the President thinks he is. I'm interested in talking about how powerful we are," said Maryland Gov. Wes Moore. There were many questions and much discussion during CBC Week about "what the strategy is" against Trump's attacks on democracy moving forward. "The CBC was built in moments like this," Moore added. "If you ever want to learn anything about anybody, watch them when it was hard. Watch them when it wasn't simple. Watch them when there are no easy decisions left," Moore went on. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries also spoke as the government stands on the brink of a shutdown and more



Black Caucus Award Dinner

mass firings of federal employees. The evening featured awards to Harris, former Congressional Black Caucus Ex-

ecutive Director Angela Rye, and Win with Black Women founder Jotaka Eaddy.

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Is there a ceiling to what college and professional athletes make these days?

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



Do you remember the iconic singer Luther Vandross who sang the song, ‘Never Too Much’? The essence of the song was about love and having an abundance of it for someone. It is a great song and still popular today.

That title could be used for the monetary gains happening now in both college and professional sports. At all turns, money is flowing with no end in sight.

First, college athletics with

the creation of NIL agreements have made college athletes stay in school longer. This is my opinion, and I believe it’s shared by a lot of people.

In years gone by, the college scholarship was the goal for would be athletes. If you could receive a scholarship that would lessen the financial burden on parents and grandparents.

Of course, colleges and coaches were making huge sums of money, not student-athletes. All of this has changed now.

According to reports, Arch Manning, the Texas quarterback has the largest NIL deal. It is valued at \$6.8 million dollars. He has deals with EA Sports,

Red Bull and Uber. By any stretch, that is a lot of cash.

Last year, Shedeur Sanders, then quarterback for Colorado had an NIL value of \$5.1 million dollars. He is now a rookie quarterback with the Cleveland Browns.

Livvy Dunne, a former gymnast at LSU has been making millions of dollars on deals with Crocs, Vuori and Invisalign. Angel Reese, formerly a basketball player at LSU has major NIL agreements. In fact, her NIL money is more than her contract with the Chicago Sky, a WNBA team.

NIL critics believe there is an athletic crisis when it comes to

paying student-athletes. Well, the fact of the matter is, even if this is true; these companies are willing to pay them.

When you think of Name, Image and Likeness agreements, you will usually think only of Division I athletes. However, there are Division II and Division III student-athletes who are taking advantage of this windfall.

Some of them that have made deals include Jack Betts (football, Amherst College), Connor Printz (basketball, Claremont McKenna College), Kaylee Murphy (former basketball player, UC Santa Cruz), Jada Byers (football, Virginia

Union) and Jayden Beloti (basketball, Elizabeth City State University). Virginia Union University and Elizabeth City State University are HBCUs.

The NIL policy began in July 2021. Records show that Deion Sanders was the first NIL athlete. He received professional baseball earnings from the New York Yankees while he was still playing football at Florida State University.

Since 2021, hundreds of student-athletes have inked NIL deals. The landscape looks quite green for future deals. High school student-athletes are now becoming more assertive as they try to make some

money too.

Professional sports contracts are even more lucrative. Reports are confirmed that Juan Soto of baseball’s New York Mets signed a 15-year \$765 million dollar contract in December 2024. That figure surpasses the \$700 dollar contract that another baseball player, Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers signed earlier. Basketball player Jayson Tatum signed a \$315 million dollar contract with the Boston Celtics.

Enjoy your favorite college and professional players. They have a high entertainment value.

Fearing a second blacklist?

The March on Washington shows how artists, through solidarity and courageous love, helped bring the last one to an end.

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Everywhere I go lately, people whisper the same question: are we sliding into another blacklist era?

They point to what happened to Stephen Colbert. They point to what (almost) happened to Jimmy Kimmel. They point to other entertainers whose shows, jokes, or politics suddenly seemed to cost them work.

The fear is real. The memory of Hollywood’s first blacklist — when actors, writers, and directors were cast out of their professions under suspicion of disloyalty or mere association with the left — has never entirely faded. Now, in an age of hyper-partisan media and culture-war politics, it feels dangerously relevant again.

So what do we do about it?

Part of the answer will, as always in America, involve lawsuits. John Henry Faulk’s case against AWARE, Inc. in the 1950s proved that in a courtroom, lies can be punished and reputations can be restored. That victory helped to collapse the blacklist. But legal action, as powerful as it can be, has never been the whole story.

The final, cultural death knell of the blacklist came not from a judge’s gavel, but from a march. On August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington for jobs and freedom. The headliners were Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and A. Philip Randolph. But scattered throughout the crowd — and seated in solidarity near the stage — were some of the biggest stars in Hollywood: Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne, Charlton Heston, Marlon Brando, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, James Garner, Burt Lancaster, Diahann Carroll, and more.

And I say this as someone who has studied and lived these movements: Virgil Frye was there too — and he helped organize them to get there. Frye, later remembered for his role in Easy Rider, was a working actor whose career was scarred by the blacklist, forcing him to shift into directing. Yet he still took enormous risks to support the movement. As a white man traveling to places like Gadsden, Alabama, he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Black organizers at a time when “race traitors” were often punished more brutally by white Southern police — and in some

cases, feared more by segregationists than the Black activists themselves. His courage was echoed decades later by his daughter, Soleil Moon Frye — Punky Brewster to a generation — who was arrested with me outside the White House protesting for voting rights. That’s what solidarity across generations looks like.

Here’s the crucial point: those artists protected each other. One lone actor might have been blackballed. But when Brando, Poitier, Belafonte, Heston, Newman, Woodward, Garner, Lancaster, Carroll, Horne, Frye, and others all stood together, the studios couldn’t punish them all. Safety came in numbers. Their collective presence made clear that the blacklist had lost its grip.

The very next day, King and Randolph headlined a socialist convention — the kind of gathering that, a decade earlier, could have landed every participant on a blacklist. Two days later, the actors who had risked standing in Washington went back to work. Their phones still rang. The studios still hired them. Their careers were intact.

In short: they had gone to Washington to demand freedom for Black Americans, and they returned home with a re-

newed freedom of their own. By breaking the unwritten rule of silence — and by showing courageous love in standing with those most under attack — they showed the industry and the country that the blacklist no longer held.

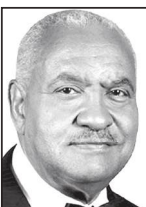
That’s the deeper lesson for us now. Lawsuits may help. Court battles may chip away at injustices. But the true end of a blacklist comes when artists, workers, and citizens together refuse to play by its rules. When they stand up publicly — in solidarity, in courageous love — they rob the blacklist of its power.

If we are, in fact, drifting toward a second blacklist era, the way out will look familiar. Not only in the courtroom, but in the streets. Not only in legal victories, but in the collective courage of people willing to risk their own status to defend the dignity of others. The artists who marched in 1963 helped to liberate Black people. And they also helped free themselves.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania, the former head of the NAACP, and the son of two civil rights workers — one Black and one white — who both took great risks in the movement.

Witnessing the destruction of America: It’s not too late

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



What happened to Rome and its destruction from within is now being experienced by Americans in real time. The meeting that the Secretary of Defense held with all the senior military leaders is a prime example of the effort to not only force all senior military leaders to resign or quit out of protest and frustration but to also undermine the position of women in the military, many of whom have earned their way to some of the highest ranks in our armed forces. President Trump’s added comments on deploring active duty military to the streets of our nation’s cities is another step in the direction of using the military to intimidate citizens at every level of our democracy.

The shutting down of the Federal government by the Republicans refusing to even consider or debate the Continuing Resolution provisions that the Democrats want in order to save crucial social service programs, is also a part of the plan to destroy America from within. From the firing of key personnel, destruction of CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services with the insane actions of RFK, Jr. all represent a part of a plan which former Vice President Harris said in her new book “was decades in the making.”

“We must not go quietly in the night”. It’s not enough to just march and protest; We have already stated before and will continue to do so, we must pray and we must register people to

vote at every protest site and now we must get out and support those Redistricting Proposals like Proposition 50 here in California and any similar measures in other states that will redraw electoral boundaries so as to deny Republicans from adding more seats in their effort to retain control of the House of Representatives in the 2026 mid term elections. Our prayers must be for the House of Representatives and the democratically elected new members of Congress needed to take back control of the House of Representatives. That’s why in California and every state that’s redrawing its boundaries to add democratic members, we the people must register and vote. We outnumbered Trump and his MAGA supporters, but they were smart enough to rig state elections by drawing boundaries that put them in power. One only need to look at what was just done in Texas where the newly redrawn congressional districts eliminated two Black members of Congress. The difference is the MAGA people have stayed the course with their agenda. We have the numbers but lack the willingness to vote.

Again I remind you the readers of Dr. King’s May 17, 1957 speech in which he said “Give us the vote and we will elect the right people to our legislative halls.” Let’s move from talk and fear to action. We can change history by blocking the destruction of America from within. Let’s hold on to every position any of us have and fight to keep those positions until we can retake our government. We can win if we pray and fight while protesting.

When Presidents can’t take a joke, democracy suffers

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



A Midwestern schoolteacher once told her class that a sense of humor is a sign of intelligence. “Look around the classroom,” she said. “The smartest kids always get the joke right away. The others might struggle.”

I’ve never confirmed that theory with a doctor. But I believe it. Humor takes quick thinking. It takes perspective. It takes freedom.

That’s why it matters when our presidents can laugh at themselves. For generations, they have. Reagan turned questions about his age into a punchline. Obama roasted himself at the Correspondents’ Dinner. Even George W. Bush, the

butt of endless late-night jokes, learned to grin and roll with it.

That humility has always set us apart from the monarchy we broke away from. Kings demand silence. Presidents in a free nation are supposed to be able to laugh along with the people.

Donald Trump doesn’t get that. He can’t take a joke—and worse, he tries to punish the people who make them. First Stephen Colbert. Now Jimmy Kimmel (his show survived Trump’s attempts to cancel it). Using the power of the presidency to go after comedians isn’t just petty. It’s dangerous.

Authoritarians hate humor because humor exposes them. Stalin, Mussolini—every strongman fears the comic more than the critic. A joke spreads fast. A sharp one can cut through a wall of propaganda. That’s why free

countries protect comedians. They keep leaders honest by refusing to let them take themselves too seriously.

We forget: America was born on satire. Franklin drew cartoons mocking the British crown. Revolutionaries cracked jokes as easily as they fired muskets. Laughter was proof that no king could control the American spirit.

But when presidents can’t laugh at themselves, citizens stop laughing too. And when citizens stop laughing, they stop questioning. That silence is the first step toward submission.

This isn’t about whether you watch Jimmy Kimmel or Stephen Colbert. It’s about whether you want to live in a country where the president decides which jokes are allowed. Today it’s late-night hosts. Tomorrow it could be a cartoonist, a col-

lege kid, or you for what you post online.

The strength of America isn’t that our leaders are above mockery. It’s that they can survive it. A president who can’t take a joke, can’t take criticism. And a president who can’t take criticism can’t be trusted with freedom.

That Midwestern schoolteacher was right: humor is a sign of intelligence. But more than that, it’s a sign of liberty. And if we want to keep our democracy strong, we better insist on leaders who can laugh—even, and especially, at themselves.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and the former head of the NAACP. He is a direct descendant of the youngest combatant at the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

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LEGAL

Legal Notice
Change in location

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

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

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

9/25/2025, 10/2/2025

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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), 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

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

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

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 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 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 thereof 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 thereof which is on a 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. 4306

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 Clifton Rogers has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to UTC - Urban Town Center (Mixed Use) District, to allow for dwelling units above a first floor commercial or mixed building for the property located at 350 N. Mart Plaza (Parcel 430-16-4), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract I.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the East right-of-way line of North State Street and the North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza, (street dedicated by Deed Book 1082, Page 245, dated May 15, 1958), marked by a found ½" iron pin, and being 225 feet Northeasterly of and 30.9 feet Westerly of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, Block "L" of North View Addition as indicated in previously recorded deeds;

Thence run Easterly along said North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza for a distance of 471.65 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin, and being The Point of Beginning of said Tract I;

Thence continue Easterly along said North right-of-way for a distance of 50.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 82 degrees 13 minutes and run Northeasterly for a distance of 184.1 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 96 degrees 44 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 50.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 18 minutes and run Southwesterly for a distance of 185.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 9,157 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed Book 1086, at Page 324.

Tract II.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the East right-of-way line of North State Street and the North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza, (street dedicated by Deed Book 1082, Page 245, dated May 15, 1958), marked by a found 1/2" iron pin, and being 225 feet Northeasterly of and 30.9 feet Westerly of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, Block "L" of North View Addition as indicated in previously recorded deeds;

Thence run Easterly along said North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza for a distance of 521.65 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin, and being the Point of Beginning of said Tract II;

Thence continue Easterly along said North right-of-way for a distance of 70.0 feet to a found 1/2" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 82 degrees 10 minutes and run Northeasterly for a distance of 182.9 feet to a found 1/2" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 96 degrees 47 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 70.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 16 minutes and run Southwesterly for a distance of 184.1 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 12,743 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed Book 1086, at Page 320.

Tract III.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds Count at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of "Parcel Number 6" as shown on Plat dated March 22, 1957, (revised April 8, 1960) prepared by W.A. Akin, Civil Engineer, recorded in Deed Book 1266 at Page 415 of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk, also being the Northwest corner of Tract I, Deed Book 1086 at Page 324, marked by a set 5/8" iron pin, and being the Point of Beginning.

Thence run Northeasterly along an extension of the West line of said Parcel Number 6/Tract I, for a distance of 10.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence Easterly and parallel to the North line of said Parcel Number 6/Tract I for a distance of 60.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence Southwesterly and parallel the West line of said Parcel Number 6/tract II for a distance of 10.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin on the North line of Parcel Number 7 as shown on aforesaid Plat/Tract II, Deed Book 1086, at Page 320;

Thence Westerly along the North line of said Parcels Number 6 and 7/Tracts I and II for a distance of 60.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 596 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed 1266 at Page 415.

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

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

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

CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

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

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

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

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



EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

BY: K Howard

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4306

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 Clifton Rogers has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to UTC - Urban Town Center (Mixed Use) District, to allow for dwelling units above a first floor commercial or mixed building for the property located at 350 N. Mart Plaza (Parcel 430-16-4), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract I.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the East right-of-way line of North State Street and the North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza, (street dedicated by Deed Book 1082, Page 245, dated May 15, 1958), marked by a found ½" iron pin, and being 225 feet Northeasterly of and 30.9 feet Westerly of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, Block "L" of North View Addition as indicated in previously recorded deeds;

Thence run Easterly along said North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza for a distance of 471.65 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin, and being The Point of Beginning of said Tract I;

Thence continue Easterly along said North right-of-way for a distance of 50.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 82 degrees 13 minutes and run Northeasterly for a distance of 184.1 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 96 degrees 44 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 50.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 18 minutes and run Southwesterly for a distance of 185.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 9,157 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed Book 1086, at Page 324.

Tract II.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the East right-of-way line of North State Street and the North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza, (street dedicated by Deed Book 1082, Page 245, dated May 15, 1958), marked by a found 1/2" iron pin, and being 225 feet Northeasterly of and 30.9 feet Westerly of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, Block "L" of North View Addition as indicated in previously recorded deeds;

Thence run Easterly along said North right-of-way line of North Mart Plaza for a distance of 521.65 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin, and being the Point of Beginning of said Tract II;

Thence continue Easterly along said North right-of-way for a distance of 70.0 feet to a found 1/2" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 82 degrees 10 minutes and run Northeasterly for a distance of 182.9 feet to a found 1/2" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 96 degrees 47 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 70.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence turn to the left through an angle of 83 degrees 16 minutes and run Southwesterly for a distance of 184.1 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 12,743 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed Book 1086, at Page 320.

Tract III.

A parcel of land being situated in Lots 2 and 3 of Block "L" of the North View Addition, Part 2, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds Count at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid hereof, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of "Parcel Number 6" as shown on Plat dated March 22, 1957, (revised April 8, 1960) prepared by W.A. Akin, Civil Engineer, recorded in Deed Book 1266 at Page 415 of the aforesaid Chancery Clerk, also being the Northwest corner of Tract I, Deed Book 1086 at Page 324, marked by a set 5/8" iron pin, and being the Point of Beginning.

Thence run Northeasterly along an extension of the West line of said Parcel Number 6/Tract I, for a distance of 10.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence Easterly and parallel to the North line of said Parcel Number 6/Tract I for a distance of 60.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin;

Thence Southwesterly and parallel the West line of said Parcel Number 6/tract II for a distance of 10.0 feet to a set 5/8" iron pin on the North line of Parcel Number 7 as shown on aforesaid Plat/Tract II, Deed Book 1086, at Page 320;

Thence Westerly along the North line of said Parcels Number 6 and 7/Tracts I and II for a distance of 60.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 596 square feet, more or less.

Being the same property as described in Deed 1266 at Page 415.

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

Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

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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 1 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 15.52 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 Duling 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 GENERAL 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

AN ORIGINAL

MISSISSIPPI

ARTS & CRAFTS

TRADITION

60

ANNIVERSARY

CANTON

FLEA MARKET

10.09.2025



Canton

TOURISM







601.859.1307 | 800.844.3369 | CantonTourism.com

Crossword Solution

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

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P R E S E R V E D

Perfected in the Process

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. - Psalm 18:32

A few weeks ago, I celebrated my 21st year of teaching English at Tarrant County College. Now I can chuckle when I remember how nervous I was when I first started teaching. I loved writing but wasn't sure how to get others to love it too. Part of my teaching strategy was to get my students to love English as much as I do. One student, in particular, told me about her difficulty in getting started writing a paper. She didn't want to write anything wrong and wanted it to be right the first time.

As a result, she didn't write anything at all. I related to her when I heard her say this

because she reminded me of myself and others who struggle with perfectionism. Because we want everything to be "perfect" the first time and hate having to redo anything, we appear to be slow getting started. In some instances, if it appears too difficult, we never start at all and just move onto something else.

I told her that she'd have to let go of some of those perfectionistic ways if she wanted to be a successful writer. The key was to just start writing something and not to judge herself so harshly because she had a hard time getting started. Because writing is a process, the results would not only be the finished product, but it would also be going through the process.

Like my student told me that she just didn't feel like she was really ready or prepared to write, I remember the many times I'd told God the same thing...and more.

Because I was still struggling with some of the more painful parts of the rejection of failed relationships, I didn't feel

at all like I was the best person to write books about love and relationships. In fact, I remember telling God once in prayer that he was making a mistake by trying to use me since I'd had so many failures with my personal, romantic relationships. I wanted to wait until I was through with my emotional roller coaster before I started writing anything about relationships.

But looking back, I see how God used what I considered my imperfections to "perfect" my walk with him. The process of stepping out in faith and obedience has changed my life. Seeing my book Love Hangover doing so well was wonderful and a confirmation that God was pleased with my efforts. In

fact, even though the book was published in 2003, I still get emails and social media messages from people about how that book has impacted their lives.

However, my biggest success is in knowing that as I walked out my own "issues" while writing the book, what God really wanted to happen did. He didn't want or expect me to be "perfect" when I started. He wanted me to learn that getting "perfect" results is an admirable goal, but the most important thing is us successfully completing the process that perfects us

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

Faith Leaders launch global Prayer Campaign to raise awareness about the Humanitarian Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Friends of the Congo, The National Council of Churches in Christ, Trinity United Church of Christ, The Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Living Water AME Church, Redeemers Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church -General Board of Church and Society, and a collective of other faith institutions will kick off their Congo Global Prayer Campaign Sunday, October 19. This yearlong worldwide, interfaith initiative calls for people across the globe to stand in solidarity with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through united, intentional prayers for peace, justice, and healing.

The DRC is home to the deadliest conflict in the world since World War II, where at least six million Congolese have perished largely as a result of a scramble for its precious and strategic minerals. Hundreds of thousands of women have been systematically raped as a weapon of war. Approximately seven million Congolese are internally displaced, and more than 25 million need emergency relief.

"Do not forget the suffering of the people. Amplify their voices and tell the truth about what is happening in the Congo," beseeched one frontline organizer trapped in the midst of the conflict. The goal of the campaign is to mobilize interfaith leaders and their followers to spearhead a worldwide moral appeal for peace, justice, and dignity for the Congolese people.

Global Effect of the Congo Crisis

The Congolese people have been blessed with spectacular wealth of diamonds, gold, coltan, copper, cobalt, and a plethora of other minerals that economists say are valued at \$24 trillion. Despite its tremendous wealth, 70 percent of Congolese live on less than \$2.15 a day. The entire world benefits from Congo's resources. The natural minerals in the Congo are vital to the functioning of smartphones,

computers, video games, automobiles, airplanes, solar panels, and a range of other electronic and technology devices.

"What does it mean when mining brings increased poverty where the minerals are mined? The tragedy that is happening in the Congo is a shame for humanity," says Congolese Indigenous leader Samuel Yagase. "The big challenge is how can we as a global community ensure that the critical minerals that are needed for the entire world brings prosperity for everyone, starting with the people living where the mining is done."

The DRC's minerals are crucial for the global energy transition. Its rainforest is indispensable to combating climate emergencies. That's why it is incumbent upon everyone to support the Congolese on the frontlines who are responsible for protecting and preserving the Congo basin rainforest for the benefit of the entire planet.

Unifying in Faith and Prayer

Faith leaders will launch the Congo Global Prayer Campaign on Sunday, October 19, as part of Friends of the Congo's Breaking the Silence: Congo Week, which runs from October 19 to 25. Organized annually since 2008, Congo Week is a global awareness raising undertaking in which communities throughout the globe host teach-ins, film screenings, fundraisers, cultural events, and much more to educate people about the Congo and mobilize support for frontline communities.

The public is invited to participate in the launch of Congo Global Day of Prayer on October 19 by joining a prayer network, hosting a prayer gathering, committing to daily prayer, sending letters of support to U.S. lawmakers, sharing and amplifying stories on social media, and donating to humanitarian relief efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Visit www.friendsofthecongo.org for more information about the Prayer Campaign and Congo Week events.



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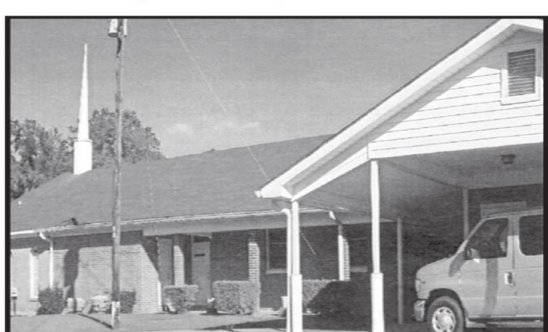
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The Silent Strain Unmasking the dangers of High Blood Pressure in youth

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

In the bustling lives of children and teens, where growth spurts, homework and social media dominate, one invisible threat is quietly gaining ground, high blood pressure. Once considered an adult-only concern, hypertension is now affecting youth between the ages of 10 and 18 at alarming rates and the consequences are far more serious than most parents realize.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, nearly 1 in 25 adolescents aged 12 to 19 now live with hypertension and about 1 in 10 have elevated blood pressure levels. These numbers are even higher among Black and Hispanic youth and among boys compared to girls. The rise is closely linked to increasing rates of obesity, sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition.

But unlike adults, children often show no symptoms. That means high blood pressure can go undetected for years, quietly damaging vital organs.

High blood pressure in youth isn't just a number on a chart it's a force that can reshape their future health. Here's what's at stake:

- **Heart Damage:** The heart works harder to pump blood, which can lead to thickening of the heart muscle (left ventricular hypertrophy). This increases the risk of heart failure later in life.
- **Kidney Disease:** The kidneys, which filter waste from the blood are highly sensitive to pressure changes. Chronic hypertension can impair kidney



function, potentially leading to lifelong complications.

- **Vision Loss:** Elevated pressure can damage the delicate blood vessels in the eyes, increasing the risk of retinopathy and vision problems.
- **Cognitive Effects:** Some studies suggest that hypertension may affect brain development, leading to issues with memory, attention and academic performance.

- **Stroke Risk:** Though rare in youth, untreated hypertension can increase the risk of stroke, especially as children age into adulthood.

Why It's Often Missed
Unlike a broken bone or a fever, high blood pressure rarely announces itself. Most children with hypertension feel fine. That's why routine screenings starting at age 3 are essential. Yet many pediatric visits skip this step, especial-

ly if the child appears healthy.

Even when blood pressure is measured, it's often misinterpreted. Pediatric hypertension is defined relative to age, sex and height percentiles not the fixed 120/80 benchmark used for adults. This complexity means many cases are missed or dismissed.

Blood pressure in children and teens isn't one-size-fits-all—it varies based on age, sex and height percentile. But here's a clear breakdown to guide your

General Normal Blood Pressure Ranges (Ages 8–18)		
Age	Systolic (mm Hg)	Diastolic (mm Hg)
8 years	97–114 (F), 98–116 (M)	57–75 (F), 57–75 (M)
10 years	102–119 (F), 104–122 (M)	61–79 (F), 62–79 (M)
13 years	<120 <80	adult threshold
15 years	110–127 (F), 113–131 (M)	65–83 (F), 64–83 (M)
18 years	<120 <80	Adult standard

health education efforts:

For children under 13, normal BP is defined as below the 90th percentile for their age, sex and height. For teens 13 and older, the adult standard of <120/80 mm Hg is used.

High blood pressure in youth can be either primary (no clear cause) or secondary (linked to another condition). Primary hypertension is now the most common form in adolescents, often tied to:

- Obesity or overweight status
- Family history of hypertension
- High-sodium diets
- Lack of physical activity
- Stress and poor sleep habits

Secondary hypertension may stem from kidney disease, hormonal disorders, congenital heart defects or even certain medications.

The Long-Term Toll

Children with high blood pressure are likely to become adults with high blood pressure. And that sets the stage for a lifetime of health challenges heart attacks, strokes and chronic kidney disease among them.

Early intervention is key. Lifestyle changes like reducing salt intake, increasing physical activity and managing weight can dramatically lower blood pressure. In more severe cases, medication may be necessary.

What Parents and Schools Can Do

- **Demand Screenings:** Ask your child's doctor to check blood pressure regularly, especially if your child is overweight or has a family history of hypertension.
- **Promote Healthy Eating:** Encourage diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. Limit processed foods and sugary drinks.
- **Get Kids Moving:** Aim for at least 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity three to five times a week.
- **Reduce Stress:** Support mental health through mindfulness, counseling, and open communication.
- **Educate Early:** Schools and community programs should include blood pressure awareness in health curricula.

High blood pressure in youth is a silent but serious threat. It doesn't just affect numbers—it affects lives, futures, and communities. By recognizing the risks and acting early, we can protect the next generation from a lifetime of preventable disease.

Cough Not Going Away? Learn these top facts about Bronchiectasis

StatePoint

Getting the correct treatment for bronchiectasis, a chronic lung condition affecting 350,000 to 500,000 adults nationwide, is necessary to slow disease progression and help prevent further damage to the airways.

The American Lung Association, with support from Boehringer Ingelheim, is raising awareness about the need for early diagnosis and treatment of bronchiectasis. Here are the top things to know:

Bronchiectasis is chronic. Bronchiectasis is a lifelong, progressive lung condition where the walls of your airways (bronchi) are permanently damaged, becoming widened and thickened from inflammation and infection. Getting the correct treatment as early as possible can help improve health outcomes and quality of life.

Diagnosis is often delayed.



Two of bronchiectasis's hallmark symptoms are daily cough and daily production of mucus. Because these symptoms, along with shortness of breath, fatigue and chest pain, can mirror that of other lung conditions, bronchiectasis may have a delayed diagnosis. Further complicating matters,

people often have bronchiectasis along with other lung conditions. However, it requires a separate diagnosis and its own specialized treatment plan. Nellie R. has had asthma since childhood and started having repeated infections as an adult. "After being prescribed inhalers and other medications to

treat infections, I realized that something wasn't right. Having my bronchiectasis mistaken for other lung conditions made me realize that you have to advocate for yourself when you know you aren't getting better with your current treatment plan," she says.

Disease management is critical. People with bronchiectasis often fall into a cycle where a respiratory infection triggers airway inflammation, which then causes further lung damage. To interrupt this cycle, follow your treatment plan: take medication as prescribed, utilize learned airway clearance techniques and take steps to reduce flare-up risk.

Jean R. was diagnosed with bronchiectasis after already living with and being treated for COPD. When it comes to managing both she says, "I manage my COPD, see my pulmonologist regularly and check in to make sure that my bron-

chiectasis is not progressing."

You can decrease your risk of flare-ups. While you can't control everything about your environment and health, there are steps you can take to help prevent bronchiectasis flare-ups. These include:

- Avoiding exposure to toxic fumes
- Staying healthy by avoiding those sick with respiratory infections and keeping up to date with recommended vaccinations
- Staying hydrated to help thin your mucus
- Following your treatment plan
- Leading a healthy lifestyle

Nellie works closely with her pulmonologist to stay on top of her treatment plan, stating, "It's important to find out from your specialist what your medications are and why they are important to take. I am able to stay active and do the things I enjoy because I follow my treatment plan."

There are many causes. Although the cause of bronchiectasis is not known in about 40% of cases, it is often brought on by damage from another condition that affects the lungs. An airway blockage, like a growth or noncancerous tumor, can lead to bronchiectasis. Often linked to cystic fibrosis, many other conditions can trigger bronchiectasis, such as autoimmune disease, immunodeficiency disorders, COPD, inflammatory bowel diseases and recurring infections like pneumonia, tuberculosis, pertussis and fungal infections.

Bronchiectasis resources, including information about symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, can be found by visiting lung.org/bronchiectasis.

While there is no cure for bronchiectasis, working closely with your pulmonologist to address needs specific to this condition can help you breathe better.

The Vaccine backslide that could shorten our lifespans

By Leanne Clark-Shirley
President and CEO of the American Society on Aging



The federal government is on the brink of reversing a century of medical progress for older adults.

As a social scientist, it's not often that I weigh in on medical policy. But as president of the American Society on Aging, which represents more than 5,000 professionals working with and on behalf of older adults, what I'm seeing alarms me.

Senior officials within the current administration are tac-

COMMENTARY

itly encouraging vaccine skepticism -- and it's jeopardizing the health of our rapidly aging population and undermining the longevity gains we've spent decades building.

If we continue down this path, older people today, as well as their children and grandchildren, could live shorter, sicker lives than those who came before them.

In 45 percent of counties nationwide, older adults now outnumber children. Millions rely on caregivers and community health workers who enter their homes and assist with daily liv-

ing.

That makes vaccine policy not just a political debate, but a matter of life or death.

Yet the federal government is actively eroding the public's trust in, and access to, vaccines.

The administration recently irresponsibly fired every member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, functionally throwing away decades of institutional knowledge that guided vaccine recommendations.

Meanwhile, budget cuts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration threaten

to delay research and approval for vaccines tailored to aging bodies, like those targeting RSV, shingles and pneumococcal infections.

That could leave older people vulnerable to new viral strains and unable to access the preventive care so many have counted on their whole lives.

The danger doesn't end with today's older adults. Today's unvaccinated children are tomorrow's elders.

Take measles, for instance. Thanks to a widespread immunization campaign, the United States eradicated measles in 2000. Now cases are soaring as vaccination rates drop.

Downplaying the severity of the infection is dangerous. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently claimed that measles infection provides lifelong protection in a way that vaccines don't.

Research shows that's not true.

Scientists have discovered that measles causes "immune amnesia" -- potentially wiping out more than 70 percent of a child's antibody defenses against other diseases.

Children who survive measles become far more vulnerable to other infections for years afterward. More broadly,

a growing body of evidence shows that access to preventive care in childhood, including immunizations, lowers the risk of chronic illness and disability later in life.

Childhood vaccinations don't just prevent infections. They are a building block for healthy aging. Skipping them early on may set people up for greater impairments and shorter lifespans decades down the road.

These policy changes are also taking a personal toll on older people and caregivers, who are experiencing growing anxiety and confusion. A free, effective shot used to be something they could count on.

100 Black Men of Jackson’s Annual Banquet pays tribute to 35 Years of Community Service

Special to The Mississippi Link

While the 100 Black Men of Jackson Inc. prepares to celebrate 35 years of service at its annual banquet, leaders are already mapping ways to expand their footprint and guide an even larger group of young men across the city.

“We have seen the strength of all sectors working together to achieve both social and academic success for our mentees,” said Leroy Walker Jr., who helped start the local chapter. “Within the next three to five years, our goal is to grow the membership by 50 percent, increase our mentoring to reach 100 more mentees and five additional schools while raising our financial standing to a self-sufficient level.”

The banquet will be held October 18, 2025, at the Jackson Convention Complex, 105 East Pascagoula Street at 7 p.m. and will highlight a mission that continues to guide the chapter’s work with young Black males who attend Jackson Public Schools. Volunteers provide academic, social, and physical support for mentees during school, after hours and on weekends.

This year’s banquet will feature live music from a local jazz ensemble, a plated dinner



Mentees and guest speakers begin the program at the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024, in Jackson, Mississippi.

and recognition of outstanding mentees and volunteers whose service has advanced the chapter’s mission. Guests will also hear highlights of new partnerships with local businesses and universities aimed at expanding career pathways for young men.

“This is our year’s work,” said 100 Black Men of Jackson board Vice President Dr. Audwin Fletcher, who also chairs the annual banquet. “We mentor throughout the year, and then this is where the students are highlighted. They are the entire program. It also showcases the best qualities of the 100

Black Men of Jackson, empowering youth through education and example.”

Founded in 1991 during a period of rapid change for Jackson’s public schools, the chapter has become a steady presence for families facing shifting resources and economic challenges. The local organization was organized through the vision of Walker, the first Black McDonald’s franchise owner in Mississippi. He convened 26 distinguished Black men from business, education, government, medicine, and nonprofit management to launch the Jack-

son affiliate of the 100 Black Men of America. It has become one of the city’s most enduring civic organizations, with a reach that spans multiple generations of Jacksonians.

The chapter adopted the national organization’s five pillars — Mentoring, Education, Health and Wellness, Leadership Development and Economic Development — with mentoring at the core. Members have mentored thousands of young Black males in Jackson Public Schools and awarded nearly a half-million dollars in scholarships to institutions

including Alcorn State University, Hinds Community College, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, the Piney Woods School, Rust College, and Tougaloo College.

Over the years, many of these scholarship recipients have returned to Jackson to give back as educators, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders. Chapter records show that more than 80 percent of mentees who receive four-year support finish their degrees, a success rate well above national averages for first-generation college students. Current 100 Black Men of Jackson

board President Dr. Marvel A. Turner said the group will put a stronger focus on recruiting younger members to continue the organization’s mission.

“For our next 35 years and the future, we must recruit members whose life experiences are vastly different and driven by a different set of values and support systems,” he said. “The membership and leadership structure of the organization will have to continue to evolve to be supported by the digital and social media generation.”

The Jackson chapter stands out among the more than 100 affiliates nationwide. It has been named chapter of the year four times, and its members have earned mentor of the year honors four times. Two Collegiate 100 chapters — at Jackson State and Tougaloo — extend the mentoring mission; Jackson State’s group won National Collegiate Chapter of the Year in 2020.

Community members unable to attend can still participate by purchasing a sponsorship or donating directly to the chapter’s scholarship fund, which supports college-bound seniors each year. Organizers say these contributions are essential for sustaining programs that reach students long after the banquet lights are dim.



Ahmad Walker Talley, who attends Old Town Middle School, served as emcee for the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Chancellor Ragsdale, a student at Galloway Elementary School, presents a scholarship during the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Dr. Marvel A. Turner Sr., president of the 100 Black Men of Jackson, recognizes scholarship awardees during the annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Founding president Leroy Walker Jr. addresses guests during the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Dr. Audwin Fletcher, vice president and banquet chair, recognizes special guests during the 100 Black Men’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024



Jeremiah Brinson, a student at Lanier High School, presents a scholarship during the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Guest speaker Dr. Dennis Kimbro of Atlanta, Georgia, addresses the audience during the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.



Ollie Walker, a student at Callaway High School, presents a scholarship during the 100 Black Men of Jackson’s annual scholarship banquet Oct. 12, 2024.

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Jackson Public Schools awarded \$50,000 Grant to install People’s Garden at Environmental Learning Center

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) has been awarded \$50,000 to establish a People’s Garden at its Environmental Learning Center (ELC). The project will expand opportunities for environmental education by creating a dedicated outdoor classroom space that integrates core curricula and provides hands-on learning for scholars and the broader Jackson community. The project will feature:

- Twenty (20) raised garden beds supporting pollinator and migratory bird habitats
- Fruit-bearing saplings planted across the site
- A compost area and irrigation system to promote sustainability
- A new pavilion designed to host cooking demonstrations and other educational activities

Completion of the garden is anticipated by December 2025. The space will be maintained by ELC staff with support from community volunteers, ensuring its long-term impact on both environmental stewardship and youth engagement.

The ELC project team includes:

- Jeffrey Gibson, Director

- Broderwick Cochran, Associate Director
- Jimmy Jones, Head Environmental Technician
- Lynette Luckett, Secretary

“This project represents another exciting step forward in advancing environmental education for our scholars and the community,” said Coach Jeff Gibson, Director of the JPS Environmental Learning Center and Project Director. “The People’s Garden will give students the chance to explore sustainability, agriculture, and conservation through real-world, hands-on experiences.”

The \$50,000 grant was awarded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the USDA’s People’s Garden Initiative and the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. NFWF provides funding on a competitive basis for projects that sustain, restore, and enhance the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Since its creation by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation’s largest private conservation foundation, working with public and private partners to protect and restore natural resources for current and future generations.



JSU senior Malik Alexander gains leadership experience at The School of The New York Times Summer Academy



Malik Alexander spent his summer as a program counselor at the New York City (NYC) Summer Academy for The School of The New York Times. There, he helped lead one of the most globally diverse and immersive journalism experiences for high school students. PHOTO SPECIAL TO JSU

By Andrew Doss
JSU

Jackson State University senior Malik Alexander spent his summer as a program counselor at the New York City (NYC) Summer Academy for The School of The New York Times. There, he helped lead one of the most globally diverse and immersive journalism experiences for high school students.

“This opportunity was life-changing,” said Alexander, a Dallas native. “Being able to mentor students from around the world and see their passion for journalism grow in just two weeks was powerful. I was learning just as much from them as they were from me.”

Alexander supervised and worked with groups of high school students from the U.S. and countries such as Canada, China, Japan and Australia, ranging from ages

14 to 18, to engage in a two-week intensive program that combined hands-on journalism training with cultural exploration throughout the “Big Apple.”

The Summer Academy hosts approximately 2,000 students for four terms, with roughly 500 students per term, from June to August. Groups of about 30 students were assigned two program counselors and one senior program counselor (SPC), forming a team responsible for every aspect of the student experience. From evening wellness checks to day trips through the city, Alexander and his team ensured students remained safe, engaged and inspired.

“We were essentially the students’ go-to support system. We weren’t just chaperones, we were mentors, older siblings and friends. The job was equal parts guidance, discipline and fun,” Alexander explained.

plained.

“I’m grateful for what this internship gave me—not just professional experience, but also personal growth. I feel more prepared than ever to enter the world of sports journalism and media.”

Additionally, the academy featured award-winning journalists from The New York Times, who offered insights and mentorship to both students and staff, including the “Fuddle Journalism Challenge,” where students explored the city to create journalistic content. The top three projects were presented publicly, with the best one selected to appear in an actual issue of The New York Times.

Zakiya Matory, assistant dean of students and a residential housing director for The School of The New York Times, says that Alexander brought “charisma” and an unforgettable energy to the experience.

“Malik is very charismatic. He is adaptable and worked well with everyone in the school. When he came around, people had fun and enjoyed working with him. He was always volunteering to do extra things to help out, whether it was with students or other staff members,” said Matory.

“A program counselor needs to be someone who is responsible, has good communication skills, interpersonal skills, leadership skills and of course an interest in working with youth and teams. Malik exhibited just that and more.”

Alexander is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in journalism and media studies with a concentration in sports media. He plans to pursue a career in sports broadcasting or production, bringing the skills he honed in New York to all of his future endeavors.

107
DAYS
KAMALA
HARRIS

BOOK REVIEW:
107 DAYS
BY KAMALA HARRIS
C.2025, SIMON & SCHUSTER
\$30.00 • 305 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Five minutes is all it takes to make a simple PB&J sandwich. You can watch an episode of your favorite crime drama in an hour. In 24 hours’ time, your heart will beat 100,000 times to pump roughly two thousand gallons of blood through your body. You can take a vacation in a week, set or release a new habit in three, learn a new task in a month, but in the new book “107 Days” by Kamala Harris, it takes real time to make history.

When she learned that she

would ultimately be the Democratic nominee for the 2024 election, Vice President Kamala Harris was relaxing at home with her great-nieces and a jigsaw puzzle. The phone rang; it was her “boss,” Joe Biden, calling to tell her that he was halting the re-election race he’d been running for months, and was throwing his support to her.

And thus begins this open, sometimes controversial, straightforward political memoir.

In that pragmatic way you’ve come to expect from Harris,

she says that she immediately made a few demands. She believed that timing and verbiage were key on any announcement that the Biden camp made, and she says she absolutely insisted that it be done right.

What she was about to embark upon wouldn’t be easy. She understood that it would be “the shortest campaign in modern presidential history” in a country torn by political division almost immediately after the election that made her Vice President. Oh-so-carefully but adamantly, she insists that she was loyal to Biden throughout,

though she now acknowledges trouble spots when he was tired or overstressed.

And so, she and her staff instantly began planning. The choosing of her VP offers readers a fascinating look inside the road to today’s White House (or, at least part of it) – and in this, Harris explains why she didn’t make certain choices.

There’s a lot of frustration inside this book – at Biden and his staff for occasional lack of support and recognition, at oppositional politics, at foreign governments, media, and at herself. The grievances are

sometimes seething, allowing readers to conclude that the unsurprising stress of campaigning, non-stop travel, and sleepless nights while continuing to do vice presidential duties impacted Harris, as it would anyone. She says her “campaign was fresh, alive, vibrating with energy. It seemed like anything was possible,” though her descriptions of the rigor of campaigning can suggest otherwise.

“This is not a genteel profession,” she says. “You must be ready to brawl.”

In light of that avowal, you

may be surprised to know that there’s not an overly-excessive amount of opposition-bashing here. Yes, there’s some – but Harris mostly takes Michelle Obama’s “go high” stance.

Says Harris, “I do know that I tried.”

Overall, throughout “107 Days,” Harris shows little reticence in her stories: she is blunt, she pulls no punches, and she may leave a lot of peeved people behind. Still, if you voted blue nearly a year ago, or if you’re concerned about politics today, it’s time for this book.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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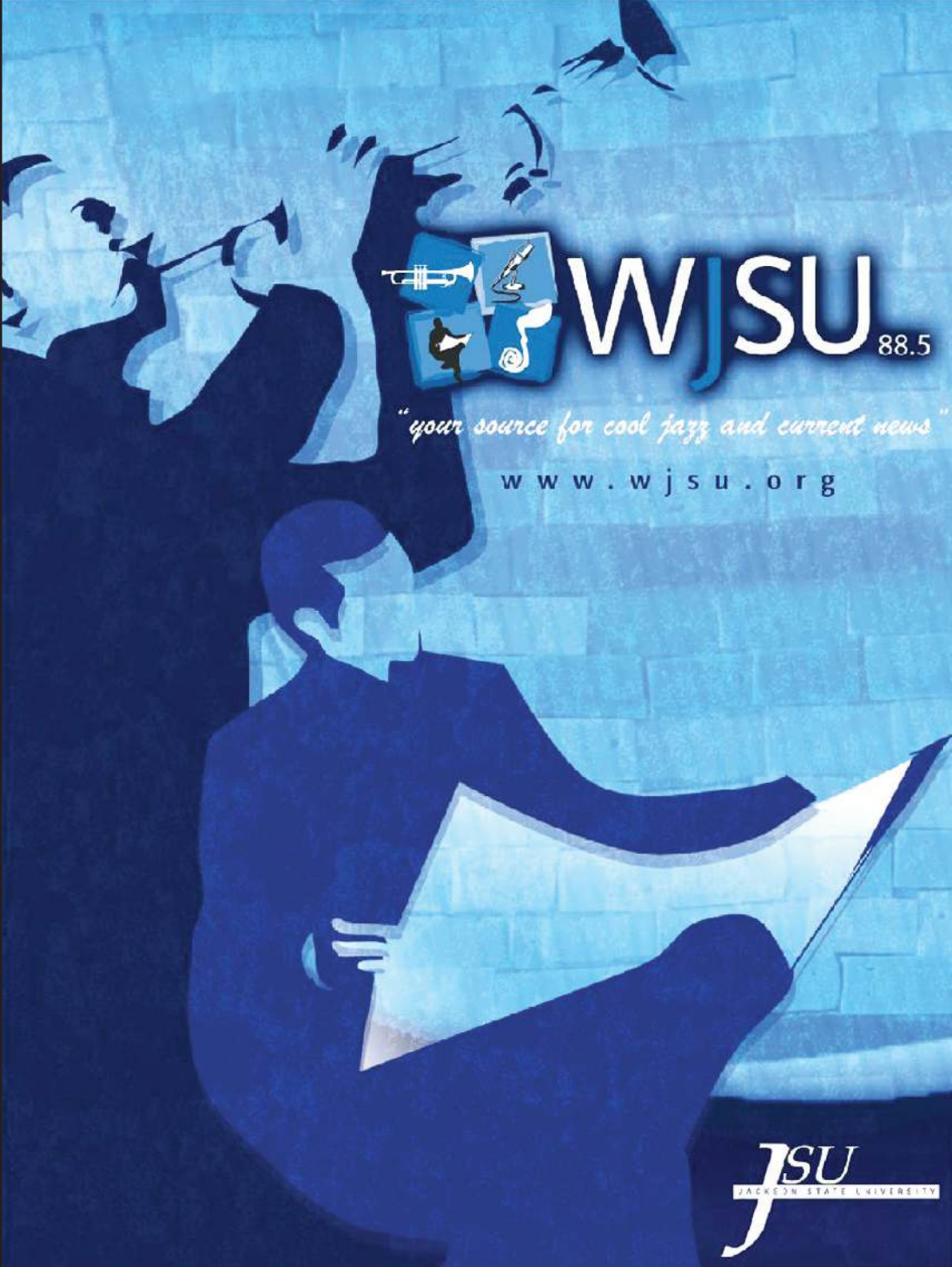
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Jackson State dominates Southern on the road, wins Boombox Classic

By Itoro N. Umontuen
Black Press, USA

The Jackson State Tigers delivered a dominant performance Saturday night, storming past the Southern Jaguars with a commanding 38-13 victory at A.W. Mumford Stadium. After falling behind early, Jackson State responded in emphatic fashion, scoring 31 unanswered points to completely shift the momentum of the game.

In the second quarter, LSU transfer Trey Holly scored on a 73 yard touchdown run, giving the Jaguars a 13-7 lead with 10:33 remaining in the second quarter. It gave Jaguars fans hope, similarly to last year's SWAC Championship game. However, the collective prayers of the fans clad in blue and gold, would ultimately be dashed.

Notably, it would be the final time Southern would score in the contest.

Jackson State Surges Ahead
Quarterback JaCobian Morgan delivered one of his best performances of the season, completing 21-of-31 passes for 337 yards and two touchdowns. The defining moment came just



Donerio Davenport scored two touchdowns as his Jackson State Tigers outclassed the Southern Jaguars in this year's Boombox Classic. PHOTO: ITORO N. UMONTUEN/BLACK PRESS USA

before halftime, when Morgan launched a 51-yard touchdown

strike to Ja'Naylon Dupree with only five seconds left on the

clock, giving Jackson State a lead they would never surren-

der. On the ground, Ahmad Miller

carried the ball 16 times for 107 yards, while Donerio Davenport added to the scoring with two rushing touchdowns. Their balanced attack kept Southern's defense on its heels all night.

"It's frustrating because right before the timeout, I told the team right at the time out, 'got to protect the football,'" said Southern head coach Terrence Graves. "We were talking about that. And then we turn the ball over."

It was the epitome of the game. Southern showed fight but their self-inflicted mistakes cost them the game.

Key Stats

Jackson State outgained the Jaguars 293-107 in the second half. Meanwhile, the Jackson State defense clamped Southern early and often. The Jaguars were 3-of-12 on third down. 27,487 fans witnessed Saturday night's contest.

With the victory, Jackson State improves to 3-1 on the season and won their first game of their SWAC schedule. Meanwhile, the Jaguars fall to 1-4, and 4th in the SWAC Western Division.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN ROBINSON



Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Radiant Spectrum: Awareness, Acceptance &

HCSD educators and leaders came together for a professional development day of learning centered on autism awareness, breaking barriers, and building bridges of understanding. We were honored to welcome Dr. Suzie Lassiter, COO of Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi, as our guest presenter. She led impactful sessions giving teachers and administrators valuable tools to better support students with autism.

In a special show of support, Avery Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, and his staff designed and wore custom t-shirts in honor of autism awareness. Many teachers also expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn, calling the sessions both informative and eye-opening. HCSD remains committed to building a culture of awareness, acceptance and action where every child is valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

