

The search is on for Jackson State University’s next president

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

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni gathered to recommend qualifications and qualities for Jackson State University’s (JSU) next president. Principal Kim Bobby (Ed.D.) and Executive Search Consultant Carlton E. Brown (Ed.D.), both of AGB Search, conducted a series of sessions that were held in the Student Center Chamber of the JSU Student Center. The listening sessions were held this week with a live stream option for those who could not participate in person.

Understanding JSU’s history was an essential element. A number of speakers recommended that information on the institution includes knowledge of its roots and what has happened since its existence. Without such understanding, traveling towards the future would be meaningless. Many people spoke about the need for JSU’s next president to be a visionary with a high level of morals and professionalism. The next president should be a morale booster while making the school’s academic side, shine like the school’s sports side. They maintained it could not be done if the ‘seesaw’ was higher on one end and lower on the other.

On communication effectiveness, several concerns were raised. So that communication flow is not hindered during the search process, the president should exemplify skillful message transmission. The path(s) of the message(s) must yield to efficiency and teamwork.

Many emphasized that several JSU presidents in recent years have gone lacking in listening. The ability to empathize should prevail. Dr. Ivory Phillips, an alumnus, asserted, the next president must be open-minded to accept ideas. “Open-mindedness



JSU scholars Seth Adams, Marilyn Osborne & Peighton favor a president with morals, respect, and dignity.



Dr. Carrie Bishop says that JSU's new president should be a good university and community steward.

PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT



Dr. Tony Lakier speaks of a president who is an academician and leader of integrity



Mayor Horhn explains that JSU's next president should be an objective resource developer

includes understanding and appreciating the Black experience. Also, adapting while identifying with constituents, whether on or off campus is vital,” he shared.

The next JSU president should recognize that all people are not the same, said one attendee. The university’s new leader should have a vested interest in the mental health of the students. This entails the students’ mental and psychological well-being.

“I want a president who values academic excellence and is willing to invest in the resources and infrastructure necessary to de-

liver high-quality programs that meet the needs of today’s students. The president has to be an inclusive leader that will work to build internal and external partnerships. I also believe that the president must be one who has a history of leading with integrity and inspiring confidence across the campus community,” stated Dr. Tony Latiker, Dean and Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development.

David Archie (1986 JSU grad) voiced that JSU’s next chief administrator “must fight IHL to make sure the voices of the stu-

dents, faculty, and staff are heard. The next leader must not be afraid of IHL, the governor, or the legis-lature and must not be afraid to do their job.”

Dr. Carrine Bishop – Director of Dissertations – at JSU, speci- fi ed that apart from being a visionary, the institution’s next president “should be trustworthy and understands shared governance, aligned with academic preservation. The president should also be committed.”

JSU
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Why do families migrate? Children’s Education is the “Currency of Love”: A Conversation with Harvard’s Gabrielle Oliveira

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Amid the many hardships of migration, separation, uncertainty, and starting over, families often find hope in their children’s education. In Now We Are Here: Family Migration, Children’s Education, and Dreams for a Better Life, Harvard scholar Gabrielle Oliveira, the Jorge Paulo Lemann Associate Professor of Education and of Brazil Studies, shows how parents see schooling as a “currency of love”, a way to give meaning to sacrifice and to invest in a more stable future for their children.

Her research exposes the emotional and moral dimensions of migration too often missed in policy debates, revealing how classrooms become spaces where families negotiate trauma, identity, and belonging—and where schools can either deepen exclusion or open doors to dignity and possibility.

Pilar Marerro, co-producer of the National Briefing Series, opened the questioning: In your book, you describe education as a currency of love for immigrants. Could



Oliveira

you elaborate on how that concept emerged from your data and how it differs from common narratives of immigration for economic opportunity? “I think one of the things that we know, we know that people leave their homes most of the time because there’s uncertainty in the places where they are, and they’re experiencing lack of hope, prosperity, for jobs, for growth, for all of that. So that’s what we know happens, that narrative has been well-established and documented, but often what I found was that migrants and migrant families become this kind of one-dimension characters in the media

Oliveira
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MDHS announces temporary pause in SNAP benefits due to federal shutdown

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) has announced that due to the ongoing federal shutdown, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for the month of November will not be issued.

This pause in benefits is a direct result of the federal shutdown and is not a state-level decision.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has directed states not to transmit the EBT issuances files to EBT vendors until further notice. As a result, no new SNAP benefits will be issued for November unless federal guidance changes, however, previous benefits will remain accessible.

Existing clients are reminded



to fulfill all requirements to maintain SNAP eligibility.

At this time, MDHS has not received confirmation from fed-

eral partners on when benefits will resume. MDHS will provide updates to beneficiaries and retailers as the situation develops. MDHS SNAP customer service representatives will continue to be available to answer technical questions but will not be able to provide information on the timing of benefit issuance.

SNAP clients and community groups are encouraged to visit <http://www.mdhs.ms.gov/home/federal-shutdown-updates/> for the latest information on SNAP updates and a comprehensive list of local food resources.

Questions & Answers regarding this announcement:

Q: Will Mississippi SNAP recipients receive November benefits?

A: If the federal government shutdown continues, November

SNAP benefits may be delayed or may not be issued.

Q: If a SNAP client has a balance on their EBT card from a previous month, will they be able to use those benefits after November 1?

A: Currently, SNAP clients will maintain access to previous month’s benefits.

MDHS advises our clients who have unused SNAP benefits from October or previous months to make eligible purchases with those benefits. Because the length of the shutdown is uncertain, MDHS recommends that clients purchase shelf-stable items such as canned goods.

Q: When will the state be able to issue SNAP benefits again?

A: Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, there is no clear timeline for when states will be able to issue SNAP ben-

efits again. MDHS will continue to follow guidance from the federal government and will communicate when more information is available.

SNAP clients and community groups are encouraged to visit <http://www.mdhs.ms.gov/home/federal-shutdown-updates/> for SNAP updates and a list of local food resources.

Q: What actions should SNAP recipients take to maintain their compliance with program requirements during the shutdown?

A: SNAP recipients should continue to report household changes, submit requested verifications, and complete any scheduled interviews.

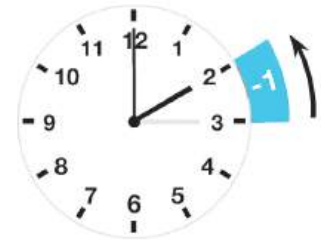
Q: Where can clients find updates about the impact of the federal shutdown on MDHS-admin-

MDHS
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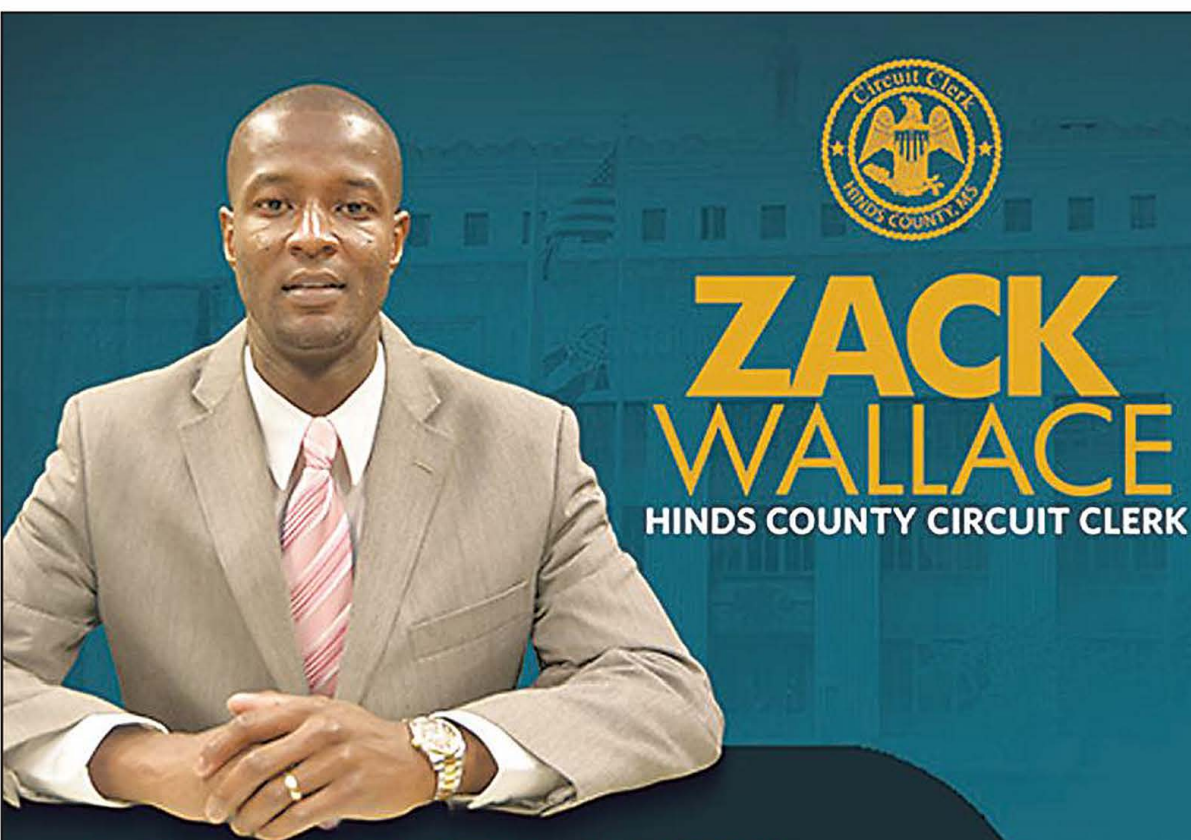
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Special Election Tuesday, November 4, 2025



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Absentee Voting Begins
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Open Saturdays for Absentee Voting
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Absentee Voting Ends:
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Absentee Voting:

- If you will be outside the county on Election Day
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Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Website: www.hindscountymms.com

IMPORTANT DATES!

At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

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

It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Oliveira

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where you just hear more about coming for economic reasons, period.”

Oliveira continued, “People are forgetting that this is a full human, that has wants, hopes and wishes, so education becomes this stabilizing force where the promise of an education, which means that the promise of your kid going to a school, being in a classroom with a teacher, reading books, going through that routine brings the sense of you know, the sacrifice being worth it. Education is seen as being this place where parents show care and show love towards their children. So that for me, was a very important piece of the puzzle to be able to understand more profoundly and not just repeat the same narrative that ‘people leave only to escape something.’”

The next question: you have said in your book that parents consistently share that migrating to the United States, despite everything they go through, was worth the sacrifice.

They see this country offering the hope of safety, opportunity, etc. How-

MDHS

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istered programs like SNAP?

A: Visit MDHS.MS.GOV or follow our agency’s social media accounts for the most up-to-date information.

Please note that MDHS county office staff do not have any additional information on SNAP benefits beyond October. <http://www.mdhs.ms.gov/home/federal-shutdown-updates/>

Q: Are there other resources available to help Mississippi families meet their food needs?

A: To find a list of local food pantries, please visit:

North Mississippi:

Mid-South Food Bank: <https://www.midsouthfoodbank.org/find-food?locsearch=38107&loccountry=US&locdistance=25&sortdir=distance-asc&loccategories=none>

Central Mississippi:

Mississippi Food Network: <https://www.msfoodnet.org/help/>

South Mississippi:

Catholic Charities of South Mississippi: <https://catholiccharitiesofsouthms.org/>

ever, we are, of course, in very different, very difficult times for migrants. Have you spoken to these families lately? Can you elaborate how they weather storms like the ones we are living now in the U.S.?

“Right, so the narrative that these families continue to live by, which for me is always incredibly inspiring and the resistance that they show is that they’re looking at this as another emergency. They talk about multiple disruptions... that you leave home because of the situation you’re encountering, you get to the border, and something like detention and separation happens, which is another piece that is incredibly complex and potentially traumatizing, then you get reunified, or you’re in the United States, and then COVID happens, and then for a lot of these families, they were essential workers, and they had to really figure out how to support their children during that time. And now we’re in this phase which is a high surveillance moment where people are worried. They’re worried

about going to work, they’re worried about taking their kids to school, etc.”

Oliveria stressed that people attempting to immigrate to the United States today are experiencing intentional terror, which generates exclusion and trauma. She indicated that about 20 million children, 1 in 4 school age children in the US, have at least one immigrant parent, and that this impacts communication because schools are not always staffed to adequately address language barriers, and sometimes those barriers are often misinterpreted as special needs.

Amid a flurry of questions from over sixty media outlets, The Mississippi

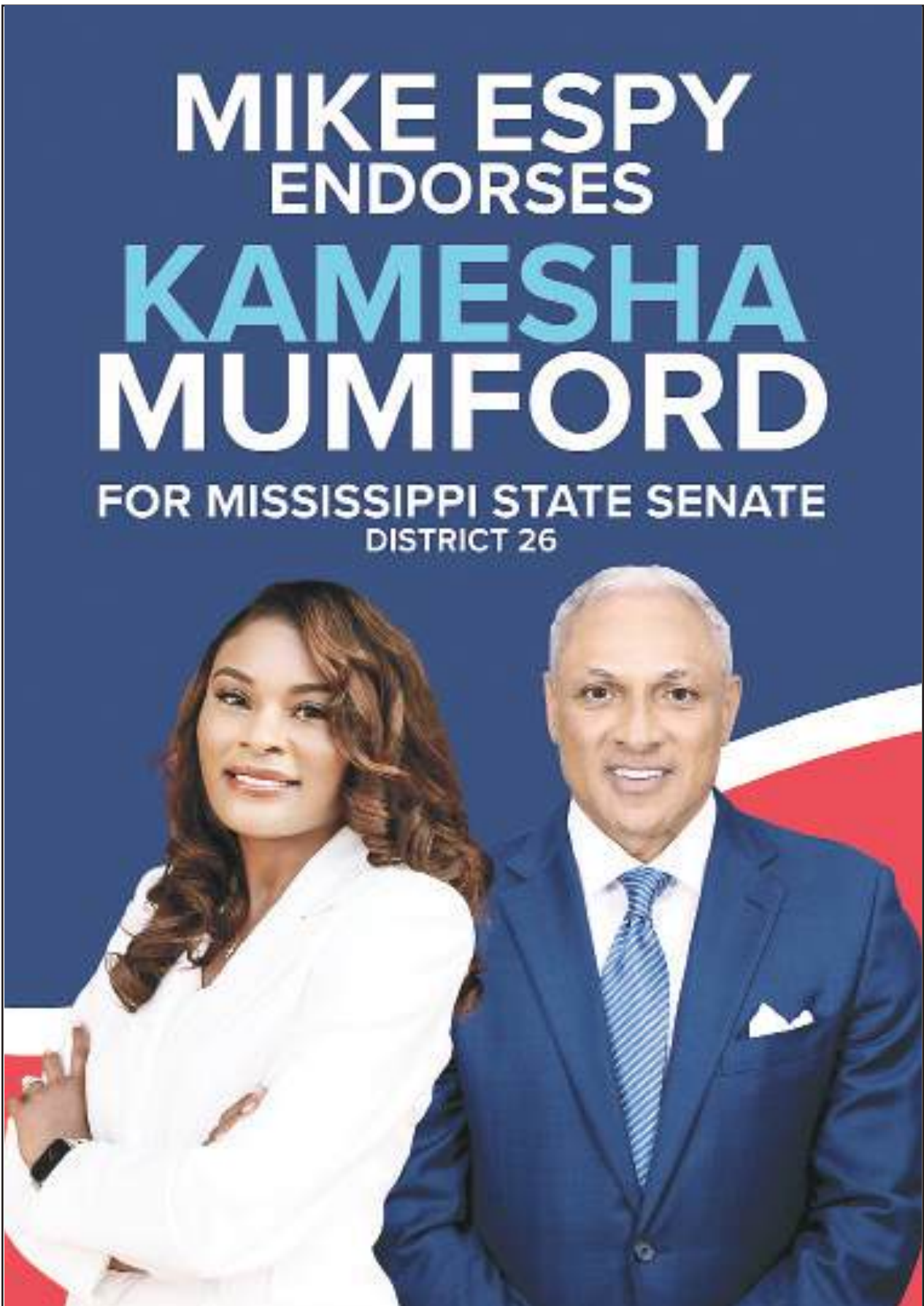
Link newspaper asked, have you discovered any levers in your research that can get the attention of deeply conservative policy makers, in a state that’s the antithesis of Massachusetts, the state of Mississippi? I know you already approached the employment aspect, but are there any other things that you’ve discovered that can be implemented to get these people to focus on

humanity and rightness?

“Thank you for that question. I agree with you. It’s much easier to do what I do in Massachusetts, but I do talks in Florida, and in different places where folks have disagreement, but I’ll say that

the biggest lever for me that I have found that people tend to convey and come together is when we talk about children specifically. When we isolate, kind of, a child, and try to bring into conversations - a 5-year-old going to school - and to kind of pull into this idea of, if you’re not concerned about a child’s well-being, where’s your moral compass. Secondly, this idea that some people have that immigrants are here to take. It’s the complete opposite.”

The entire briefing can be viewed at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings>.



Endorsement of Kamesha Mumford Candidate for MS Senate District 26

In these difficult times it is important for every voter to carefully consider the qualities of all candidates offering themselves for trusted elected positions in our state. In the upcoming senate legislative race for Mississippi Senate District 26, there are many good candidates. However, in my estimation the one who rises above the rest is municipal judge and lawyer, Kamesha Mumford.

In my law practice I have worked with Kamesha and found her to be earnest, competent, accurate and responsible. In our shared church experience I have found her to be reverent, humble and Christ-centered. And in every instance in which she has made representations to the public, I have found her to be honest and trustworthy.

Mayor John Horhn leaves big shoes to fill in the Mississippi senate but I know that Kamesha’s stylish high-heels can certainly fill them.

Mike Espy

JSU

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Dr. Tyriesa Howard prefers a president who understands JSU and workks well with stakeholders

PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Many indicated that the ideal JSU president should be a “role model,” with national and international recognition. The president should be a “proven lead-er” who has advanced through the ranks with responsibility and accountability. The leader should have a passion for students’ education and for staff devel-opment.

Beyond faculty, staff, and alumni, JSU students also shared their views. For instance, Peighton Powe, senior chemis-try major, expressed the need for “a cat-alyst” for the community. I would like a president who has either gone to an HBCU or knows the culture.” Further, there should be grants created for dif-ferent departments and out-of-state, first generational students. “In the long term, keeping the JSU culture alive and great, is [a dream that should become true].”

Additionally, Powe and Seth Adams (Business Administration senior) called for more job opportunities for students, despite their majors.

Other students emphasized that the president should be one who comes with accountability. The president must recognize that JSU has many students who are not from Jackson or Mississippi. Hence, high tuition costs should be lowered for out-of-state students.

Accessibility was another desire that students recommended for JSU’s new leader. Many noted that availing oneself to students was just as important as the president being among his or her constituents. Since students are the reasons for their jobs, it would be feasible for the president and their staff to look at the students as important constituents on and off campus.

Some students pointed to Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthony, former interim JSU president and recommended that she



JSU senior Kaniyah Riley vocalizes that Dr. Elayne Anthony is the ideal president for JSU.

become the next president. “She has good character. She is positive with good vibes. She cares about mental health. The faculty and staff were more concerned under her leadership. But it doesn’t feel that way now. There are so many unresolved problems that are on-going menaces from past years. She’s already demonstrated strong leadership for JSU and the community,” said Kaniyah Riley (junior Business Administration major). Powe claimed, “I think Dr. Hayes-Anthony has the experience. We need a true leader, someone who is trustworthy.”

Safety, water, and infrastructure were addressed. Training was highly recommended for school safety, despite the Department of Public Safety’s training tactics. Money was identified as a needed entity for moving towards a solution to these issues.

What, then, are the priorities that JSU faculty, staff, alumni, and students have for the president who will be selected to lead the university? Respondent Tiffany Dawkins seemed to put everything together. Her list includes integrity; honesty; trustworthiness; supportive of students, faculty, and staff; genuinely cares about the entire JSU family and community; creates a cooperative environment; easily communicates with all; professional and inviting; effective recruiter; and has proper coping mechanisms within the infrastructure of the university.

John Horhn, mayor of the City of Jackson, gave his input after listening to some who spoke to the facilitators. “Jackson State University needs ‘a visionary’ with a proven record of resources. The visionary needs a proven record of objectivity and must be someone who understands the need to keep our investments here.”

“Walking in His Steps”: A Celebration of Faith, Family, and Legacy in Canton

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

On a bright Sunday afternoon, October 19, 2025, the grounds of In His Steps Ministries became a place of history, gratitude, and joy as the community gathered to honor Dr. Juanita Sims Doty. The occasion—the dedication of a commemorative gazebo, benches, and three historical markers—marked a new chapter in the story of faith, family, and partnerships that have shaped both Doty’s life and her work.

The event was part of the HerStory Initiative of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., South Eastern Region, led by Dr. Tracey Morant Adams. The initiative honors the living former South Eastern Regional Directors who have made lasting contributions in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. For Doty, the choice of location was deeply personal, Canton, Mississippi is home.

“It was really God speaking through and to us,” Doty said of the decision to host the dedication at In His Steps Ministries, led by Rev. and Mrs. Jasper Bacon. “The first purpose was to honor God and for Him to get the glory. Then it was about honoring the organizations and people who assist our foundation in serving youth and families. God did it!”

Since its founding in 2010, the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation (JSDF) has remained steadfast in its mission to positively impact the lives of children and families through service, education, and advocacy. With 34 partnering organizations nationwide, including 25 in Mississippi, the JSDF has built an enduring network of faith-based and civic partnerships devoted to youth empowerment.

The dedication was filled with moments of music, reflection, and community pride. Dr. Karla McCullough, JSDF’s Executive Director, and Dr. Will Jemison, Chairman of the Board of Directors, served as masters of ceremony. The program featured powerful performances by the NPHC Metro Jackson Chorale and MADDRAMA, along with heartfelt tributes from Reena Evers-Everette on behalf of the Evers Family.

As a highlight of the day, both Mayor Tim Taylor of Canton and Mayor John Horhn of Jackson declared October 19th as Juanita Sims Doty Day in their respective cities. “All I can say is... God gets the glory,” Doty said, reflecting on the honor.

Three markers now stand at the site: one bearing the names of four local partner organizations, one with the names of all 34 JSDF partners, and the center marker dedicated to Doty herself. When an Omega Psi Phi brother reminded her, “You are in the center, holding us all up,” Doty was moved to tears. “Yes,” she said, “we are holding each other up so that we can continue to serve our youth and our families.”

Plans are already underway for an annual Youth Extravaganza to be held each October in honor of the dedication—continuing the spirit of service that has defined Doty’s life and legacy.

As the sun set over Canton, one message lingered in every heart present: Dr. Juanita Sims Doty will continue to “Walk in His Steps.”

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Mum’s the word

Lack of leadership continues to imperil healthcare for Mississippians



Governor Reeves. PHOTO: WWW.GOVERNORREEVES.MS.GOV



House Speaker Jason White. PHOTO: WWW.LEGISLATURE.MS.GOV



Lieutenant Governor and Senate President Delbert Hosemann. Photo: www.legislature.ms.gov.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

On November 1st, open enrollment begins for 338,159 Mississippians, inhabitants of the poorest and unhealthiest state in the country. Some of the poorest people in our state will have a two-month window to shop for health insurance. Marketplace premiums will rise between 210 percent and 362 percent, based on age and family size, as enhanced tax credits disappear; effectively January 1, 2026, all per the Kaiser Family Foundation. Do we hear any of the Republican-majority elected officials or legislators in Mississippi saying a word about it? Mum’s the word! Adding insult to injury, the Mississippi Department of Human Services has announced SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – benefits will not be issued November 1st, stopping a lifeline for an estimated 385,000 or roughly 13 percent of Mississippians.

This is one of many consequences of the “One Big Beautiful Bill” that was passed into law with President Trump’s signature July 4, 2025. To get the legislation - which cuts trillions in tax revenue and strips \$1 trillion from Medicaid - to his desk, it was first passed in the House of Representatives by just four votes and then required the Vice President to cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate. The winners are the wealthiest people in the country. The Treasury’s Office of Tax Analysis estimates that the top 0.1 percent of earners would get a tax cut of \$314,000 under a full extension of the individual and estate tax provisions, with the total cost of those tax cuts amounting to \$4.2 trillion between 2026 and 2035. The losers? You already know.

When the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) was signed into law March 23, 2010, by President Obama, it provided health insurance for 20 million Americans who would have otherwise not been insured. A Republican Senator now deceased, John McCain of Arizona - a former prisoner of war - cast the deciding vote. Oh, how things have changed. The principal of serving country over political party seems to have completely taken leave in Washington, D.C.

“The biggest spending cuts target Medicaid and food stamps – programs that serve low-income Americans. The Congressional Budget Office estimates these changes will cause 11.8 million people to lose their health insurance by 2034. The administrative barriers and funding cuts also apply to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Together with Medicaid, these programs cover nearly 80 million Americans, including 38 million children. The new requirements put millions of children’s health coverage at risk,” per GovFacts.org, a non-partisan site.

Additionally, in states like Mississippi, who have failed to expand Medicaid, people with disabilities that utilize community-based and

in-home services will be impacted. In a mostly rural state like ours, we will ultimately see more hospital closures and reduced access to care, to go along with more uninsured residents. The emergency departments that remain will experience a surge in patients seeking stabilizing care that will go uncompensated.

Yet those in Mississippi that possess the power, are saying nothing about it – mum’s the word. When you pledge to serve all Mississippians, or all the residents in your district, and you are vested with the full power of your elected office, and you are in the vast majority, and you fail year after year to adequately address the most fundamental needs of your constituents – needs like healthcare in the poorest and unhealthiest state in the country – you are anything but leaders, you are willfully irresponsible.

They are not blind. They know exactly what happens by their inaction. They know Mississippi is last in the nation in healthcare. They know only a couple other states share our highest in the nation maternal death rate – dead mothers don’t motivate them. They know our infant mortality rate is the highest in the nation – dead babies don’t motivate them.

The appointed Mississippi Health Officer has declared a public health emergency – white infant mortality is declining, while black infant mortality rose 24 percent in 2024 – but do you think for one minute that Mississippi’s majority Republican legislature will discard their pet projects and take immediate corrective action to support Dr. Daniel Edney? Like their counterparts in Washington, they do not care about anybody but themselves. They scurry off to church on Sunday morning even as they chain us to the bottom and throw away the key.

As Mississippians suffer generationally, our Republican elected officials and legislature cut the income tax in our desperately poor state. They put a medical marijuana store on every corner. They try to push School Choice down our throats. They are afraid of the voters, preventing their constituent’s opportunity for ballot initiatives. Their proxies at Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality just voted to diminish the environmental quality in Gloster, Mississippi, even further by allowing Amite Bioenergy, LLC to increase their Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) even after previously fining them for exceeding existing levels by 50 percent, in this 75 percent African American town.

There are lives in the-balance. In 2025, 99 percent of marketplace enrollees received enhanced tax credits (subsidies) – making their insurance affordable. Often these people are referred to as - the working poor. How many of the 338,159 will drop off entirely in 2026, choosing instead to put food on their table. Mum’s the word.

COMMENTARY

Prince Ibrahima honored with historical marker near historic Jefferson College



Descendants of Prince Ibrahima and Dr. John Coates Cox join members of the Natchez Historical Society for a photo in front of Ibrahima’s marker. PHOTOS BY ALBERT L. JONES

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Sori, the African prince who spent 40 years enslaved on Thomas Foster’s plantation, now has a historical marker that commemorates his life and legacy.

The marker was unveiled Friday, October 24, near Historic Jefferson College, on the corner of Jefferson College Street and Highway 61 North.

Over 50 people turned out for the event that was hosted by the Natchez Historical Society, the organization that sponsored the marker acquired through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Michael Morris, historian and director of the Two Mississippi Museums, served as the guest speaker. He said the story of Ibrahima is one of the most important in American history.

“There are many connections between Ibrahima and Jefferson College, the state’s first Institution of Higher Learning and Mississippi’s birthplace,” he said. “Understanding this story is key to understanding nineteenth century Mississippi. I’m thankful to the Natchez Historical Society for sponsoring this marker to recognize Prince Ibrahima.”

The ceremony attendees included descendants of the prince, historians, MDAH staff, and Alderwoman Valencia Hall, among others.

“What a historic day to honor a man forgotten by the very city that enslaved him, yet by today’s actions he will live in perpetuity,” said Hall after the ceremony. “What a testament to the power of humanity where the descendants of not only Prince Ibrahima were present for this historic moment, but the descendants of Dr. Cox and Mr. Foster standing together as one. A true testament of what it means to bridge races, religions and ethnicities into one through time and healing. Live on Prince Ibrahima!”

Karen Hill, past president of the Natchez Historical Society, shared opening remarks at the event. She said the story of the



Michael Morris, director of The Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson, was the guest speaker at the ceremony honoring the prince.

prince is fascinating and deserves recognition.

“This is the first historical marker honoring the prince. Many people in this area are familiar with him while others know very little about his life” she said. “His story is one of tragedy and triumph. If this event stirs interest in him and much more, we have succeeded.”

Hill said the day’s ceremony promoted a sense of community, something that is good for everyone.

David Dreyer, local historian and genealogist, commented on the location of the marker. “We come here today to mark the place where a seemingly improbable meeting occurred,” he said. “Two-hundred-and-eighteen years ago in 1807, Abdul Rahman, the enslaved son of King Ibrahima Sori of Futa Jallon, an independent nation in West Africa, came to the marketplace here to sell sweet potatoes and recognized a man he met 26 years earlier in 1781 at his father’s home in Timbo because he had a patch over one eye.”

The ceremony also featured remarks by Adams County Supervisor Warren Gaines, District 5; and Cheri Young Burkhalter, descendant of Dr. John Coates Cox, whose name appears on the marker.

Dr. Artemus Gaye, a descendant of the prince, was scheduled to speak, but could not attend the event. His remarks were presented by Dr. Roscoe Barnes III, cultural heritage tourism manager at



David Dreyer is a local historian and genealogist

Visit Natchez and president of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Rev. Clifton Marvel, pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation and benediction.

“This historical marker of the prince is a testimonial on these grounds here at Jefferson College that freedom comes with responsibility,” said Gaye. “Freedom has in its letters: Fidelity, Respect, Earnestly, Encouragement, Duty, Obligation, and Mutuality.”

For Gaines, the ceremony was a proud moment. “It’s an honor to be here and be part of this,” he said, adding Ibrahima’s story is one of hope and resilience. “It’s an honor to have this (marker) in my district and in Adams County.”

Gaines said many of Ibrahima’s descendants live in his district.

Burkhalter, the 4th great-granddaughter of Cox, said she loves the story of how Cox and Ibrahima met.

“I follow God, and I read the word,” she said. “God’s hand is so clear in this story it is amazing. What are the chances that Dr. Cox’s life would be saved (in Africa), and what are the chances that Prince Ibrahima would at least be able to die as a free man in Africa. I love the kindness and respect shown by two generations of two families.”

Speaking further, she said, “In this crazy world full of greed and cruelty, two generation of two families tried to do the right thing. They were a good, descent, respectful, loving people, and I just love that.”

AMR first responder recognized as National Star of Life for years of dedicated service to Central Mississippi

The Mississippi Link Newswire

American Medical Response (AMR), a division of Global Medical Response (GMR), is proud to announce Pamela Jolene “P.J.” Lowe has been selected as a 2025 Stars of Life honoree, recognizing her exceptional dedication, leadership, and impact across Central Mississippi and the emergency medical services (EMS) community.

Lowe serves as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), Field Training Officer, Honor Guard member, and Bike Medic. She also leads AMR Central Mississippi’s mental health peer support group, a vital initiative supporting the



Pamela Lowe, Advanced EMT to be honored with National EMS Award, AMR Cen. MS

emotional well-being of EMS

professionals and allied public safety agencies. PJ’s influence extends far beyond her clinical expertise, she is a trusted mentor and educator, serving as adjunct faculty at Holmes and Hinds Community Colleges. Students and new medics consistently request PJ as their preceptor, drawn to her hands-on teaching style, compassionate guidance, and unwavering commitment to safety and excellence.

“We affectionately call PJ ‘Ms. Everything EMS,’” said Ryan Wilson, operations manager at AMR. “She’s truly shaping a rich and enduring legacy within the EMS industry. The remarkable work she has accom-

plished in her 15 years with our operation will continue to benefit future first responders for generations to come.”

Lowe stands among a select group of just 32 outstanding professionals—representing Global Medical Response’s 34,000 pre-hospital clinicians, dispatchers, and support personnel—who have earned the distinguished Stars of Life award. Presented by the American Ambulance Association (AAA), this honor shines a light on individuals whose exceptional achievements exemplify the very best of the EMS profession and reflect the dedication and excellence shared throughout the entire

workforce.

“These individuals represent the highest standards of EMS, consistently exceeding expectations under pressure and making a profound difference where it matters most,” said Nick Loporcaro, president and CEO of GMR. “It’s an incredible honor to recognize these 32 caregivers for their heroic service.”

The Stars of Life program, founded by the AAA in 1996, shines a national spotlight on EMS professionals who demonstrate unwavering commitment and extraordinary impact. This year’s 147 recipients from across the country will participate in AAA’s national celebration,

November 2–5 in Washington, D.C.—an event dedicated to honoring the essential role of EMS in public health and safety. Each honoree is recognized for lifesaving interventions, innovative public health leadership, and heartfelt engagement with their communities. As part of the celebration, Stars of Life honorees will also meet with members of Congress to share the challenges and triumphs shaping today’s EMS landscape, advocating for continued support and investment in the field.

AMR Central MS Public Relations Specialist, Jim Pollard said, “We wish we could clone her!”

Virginia Democrats enter the war on maps after GOP moves to kill Black political power

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

“Democrats are going to take back control of the United States House of Representatives. It’s the reason why we see Republicans in full-blown panic right now,” House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries told reporters on Capitol Hill Oct. 22. Democrats have been strategizing on redistricting strategy with leaders in Democratic states since Republicans in Texas. “We’ve never seen this level of extraordinary gerrymandering attempts take place across the country. Why do you think it’s happening? It’s happening because the Republican ship is sinking. It’s sinking right now because they failed to deliver anything for the American people. Just pay attention to what’s going to happen two weeks from now in Virginia,” Leader Jeffries asserted. With the likelihood that the U.S. Supreme Court will destroy Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, events are moving quickly, and now Democrats in Virginia are set to enter the war on maps and redistricting. In August, Republicans in Texas, led by Donald Trump, changed their maps to target congressional seats held by Black Democrats.

In mid-2025, Trump publicly urged Texas Republicans to focus on a rare mid-decade



House Democratic Leader, Hakeem Jeffries speaks to Virginia Assembly.

redistricting of congressional maps. “We have an opportunity in Texas to pick up five seats. We have a good governor, and we have good people in Texas. And I won Texas,” Trump told CNBC’s Squawk Box August 5. Democrats in Illinois, California, Maryland, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Washington, and Virginia have been in discussions on possible districting to counter Trump-led Republican moves to eliminate congressional seats. Trump’s directive to Republicans in Texas quickly turned into a decision by the Texas GOP to change the congressional maps in a way that

would make it much harder for three Black members of Congress to win. They include the congressional seats now held by Reps. Al Green (D-TX-9), Jasmine Crockett (D-TX-30), and Marc Veasey (D-TX-33). On top of the Republican attempts to control the 2026 elections by eliminating the seats of Black members of Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, controlled by Republican nominees, is set to destroy Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is one of the most powerful protections against racial discrimination in voting. Section 2

prohibits any voting practice or policy that results in the dilution of voting power based on race. Unlike other parts of the law, Section 2 applies nationwide and allows individuals and groups to challenge maps that decrease Black voting power and election rules in court. It has been crucial in ensuring fair representation for Black, Latino, and other minority voters—especially since the Supreme Court weakened Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was designed to prevent racial discrimination before it happened by requiring certain states and

localities—mostly in the South with histories of voter suppression—to get federal approval, or “preclearance,” before changing any voting laws or practices. This safeguard ensured that new election rules, district maps, or voting procedures did not weaken minority voting power. But in 2013, the Supreme Court’s Shelby County v. Holder decision ended Section 5’s enforcement by striking down the formula for preclearance, which led to many Black communities becoming once again vulnerable to discriminatory voting practices.

In the 2013 ruling striking Section 5, Republican appointed U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts argued that Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was no longer necessary because the conditions that once justified it—widespread, state-sponsored racial discrimination in voting—had largely disappeared. Roberts maintained that America had changed and no longer needed extraordinary federal intervention in election laws. But actions in Republican controlled southern states proved that Roberts’ argument against Section 5 was wrong.

In North Carolina, in August 2013, the legislature passed House Bill 589, which reduced early voting, eliminated same-day registration, banned out-of-

precinct voting, and imposed a strict photo ID requirement. The changes specifically impacted voting rules that Black voters were utilizing. In Alabama, a new photo ID law was implemented in 2014 that significantly restricted the types of identification accepted (eliminating options like Social Security cards, birth certificates, EBT cards), soon after the Shelby decision. In Texas, officials immediately moved to enforce a strict voter ID law the day of the Shelby decision, which had previously been blocked under pre-clearance. In Georgia, the passage of the Election Integrity Act of 2021 (also known as Senate Bill 202) imposed limits on absentee ballot drop-boxes, changed the timeframe for requesting absentee ballots, increased legislative control over election administration, and made it a crime for third parties to provide food or water to voters waiting in line.

Additionally, in multiple former Section 5 jurisdictions, there were hundreds of polling-place closures after Shelby—for example, one report found 1,688 polling-place closures between 2012 and 2018 in formerly covered areas. But now Democrats appear to be prepared to bring the same energy to the war on maps as Republicans have for years.

With 200 supporters in Norfolk Outside, NY Attorney General Letitia James pleads not guilty

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

“Fear is the tool that people use when they don’t really stand for anything. That is what they use,” said LaTosha Brown, the founder of Black Voters Matter, to a crowd of supporters outside a courthouse in Virginia in support of New York Attorney General Letitia James. After being indicted on “mortgage fraud” on Oct. 9, by a Trump Administration Department of Justice that has seen an endless carousel of sudden firings, replacements, and drama, James is defiant. Many legal observers predict that the charges against her will be dismissed.

The case against Letitia James represents the third example of Trump’s Department of Justice pursuing legal action against individuals he has defined as political enemies. The Trump DOJ noted in the indictment that James purchased a house in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2020 for \$137,000. DOJ alleges that James misrepresented the property as a “second home” rather than an investment property to secure a lower mortgage interest rate. “Never ever cow down or bow down or break or bend,” Attorney General James said at a microphone to cheering supporters. “So there is no fear today. No fear. Because I believe that justice will rain down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream,” James said confidently, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Attorney General James began her civil prosecution of



James

Trump on October 2, 2023, with a trial alleging \$250 million in civil fraud at the New York State Supreme Court in lower Manhattan. As Attorney General, James moved on Trump and his family, and the Trump Organization, accusing them of inflating the value of their business entities. Many Trump supporters viewed the legal action against Trump as a politically motivated attempt to bar him from running for President in 2024. President Trump’s Department of Justice is now taking legal action against James Comey and John Bolton.

After pleading not guilty, James emerged with her attorney, Abbe Lowell, from the federal courthouse in Norfolk, Virginia, to chants of “we stand

with Tish, we stand with Tish!” A large crowd of over 200 stood outside the Hoffman United States federal courthouse on a wide street in front of a park, waiting for James to emerge. When she did, she made a brief statement. Several supporters, including elected officials, spoke in support of James across the street from the courthouse. They included Glynda Carr, President & CEO, Higher Heights, Randi Weingarten, President & CEO, American Federation of Teachers, LaTosha Brown of Black Voters Matter, Norfolk Commonwealth’s Attorney Ramin Fatehi, Norfolk City Council JP Paige, Virginia State Senator Aaron Rouse, and Virginia State Senator Angelia Williams Graves.

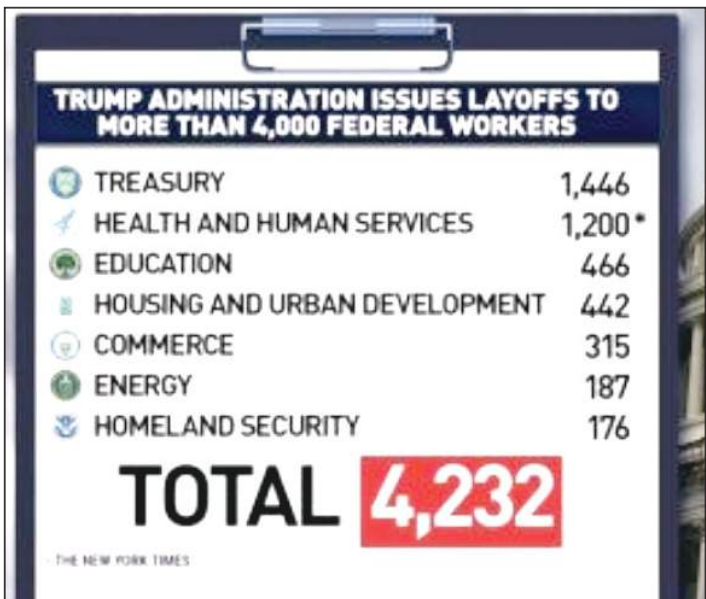
Trumps approval is underwater

By April Ryan
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Only 37 percent of Americans approve of President Trump. Those numbers are from a new October 2025 AP-NORC Center Poll. Meanwhile, over 7,000,000 people are estimated to have marched across the country last week against Trump in No Kings Day 2.0, which aligns with the Associated Press poll’s findings. Protesters included former Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff and scores of others protesting the fate of democracy and the human condition under the Trump administration’s second term.

The White House and Congress have failed to resolve the financial expenditures, resulting in office closures, worker furloughs, and decreased services. Amid the growing angst from Americans surrounding the Saturday display of dissent, Speaker Mike Johnson called it the Hate America rally. Vice President JD Vance mocked the millions of people who showed up in protest of the administration. Trump similarly used an Artificial Intelligence video depicting himself wearing a crown and flying a military jet. The footage, highly criticized on social media, portrays the president’s plane dropping excrement on protesters. As people and families try to save themselves financially amid the furloughs, the president has said, “People ‘we want paid’ in shutdown will be.”

Meanwhile, there was an important victory for workers on the chopping block. On October 15th, a judge decided



to temporarily halt worker firings. The White House confirmed over 4,000 jobs have been axed since the government shutdown. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston found the Trump administration’s actions appeared to be politically motivated and likely illegal. Illston cited Trump and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought’s public statements as evidence of political motivation, which cuts would target “Democrat agencies.” The New York Times recently detailed a breakdown of the firings.

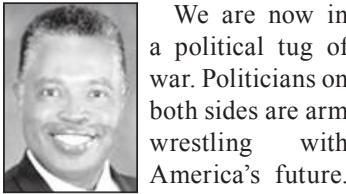
Last week, Congresswoman Shantell Brown acknowledged that no president has ever fired federal workers during the government shutdown, but this president has. Federal workers in the Department of Education’s special education unit are now unemployed. The federal office that communicates essential information about recalls, toxins, and oth-

er concerns about medical devices like faulty pacemakers is also impacted. Last week, Congresswoman Shantell Brown acknowledged that no president has ever fired federal workers during the government shutdown, but this president has. Federal workers in the Department of Education’s special education unit are now unemployed.

The federal office that communicates essential information about recalls, toxins, and other concerns about medical devices like faulty pacemakers is also impacted. Congressional leaders are responding to this crisis. Congresswoman Kwiesi Mfume, a Democrat of Maryland, has asked that his net pay be withheld until an appropriations agreement has taken effect. The shutdown has created longer phone lines than normal for financial institutions that handle mortgages for those in the grips of no pay from the government shutdown.

Stalemates and partisanships are holding America hostage

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



We are now in a political tug of war. Politicians on both sides are arm wrestling with America's future. We are zigging and zagging with no direction. Politics are at the center of a battle that is now in its 4th week. No one has moved. No one has said let us get a compromise so that the people can return to a normal way of living. Growing up at times, I had some strained friendships. At most, I'd go for a day or so without speaking or playing with a friend. Usually, one of us would

apologize or we would just start playing with each other again. Our friendship was more important than a spat. Being a friend was an important component to my maturation. Having the ability to forgive and to forget is a quality that has remained with me over the years. Friendship and what's happening with America's shutdown have some interesting similarities. First off, a bipartisan group made up of members from both sides must create a strategy to end the shutdown. Compromise doesn't mean losing. Decisionmakers use compromise as a tool in helping their organizations. It is for the greater good that compromise is used. Visionary leaders see it as a

way to move along their agendas. With compromise, the win may not be immediate, but it opens the door to it. Being deadlocked for extended periods of time only worsens the situation. These deadlocks and dead ends are where we are today. The greatest country in the world is at an impasse. We are embarrassed and are viewed negatively by some world leaders. Instead of the federal government paying our military, the current president received a gift of \$130 million dollars to pay them. We will probably never know who provided that gift. Canada has received another tariff increase by the new president. It happened because the

late American president Ronald Reagan's talk about the negative effects of tariffs was aired on Canadian television. The late president spoke the truth. Tariffs are harming this country. Prices have risen and the costs have been passed on to us. However, the current president took offense to the telecast and punished Canada. You can look at this increased tariff two ways according to the critics. First, reports say that both countries were in the middle of some important economic talks. Having President Reagan's talk was not needed. On the other hand, those in favor of airing the segment say that our administration was being picky and sensitive. Well, the bottom line is that there is

an increased tariff for Canada. Now as you travel by air, you see travel delays and cancellations. This is because of a shortage of air travel personnel. We have taken air traffic controllers for granted. This is my opinion. When the airplanes go up and come down, we know that our safety is in their hands. Well, it is still in their hands, however their morale is like sinking sands. They have become dismayed and distraught by this shutdown. Reports say that they are taking second jobs and calling off sick. This trend will not change if the government shutdown does not end. The current president is now in Asia. He is in Malaysia and will be traveling to Japan and South Korea. A meeting is

scheduled with Chinese President Xi Jinping while he is in South Korea. A possible trade deal will be discussed. The current president's travel plans have elicited a response from Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer. He said, "While Americans are struggling to make ends meet, federal workers are going without pay and millions of families are bracing for soaring healthcare costs, America is shut down, and the president is skipping town." Somewhere in the recesses of elected officials' minds must be ways to reach a compromise and bring a healing to the land." At this moment, we are in a briar patch with no band-aids.

Privatization of Education

By Becky Glover
Meridian, MS



Whether you call it "school choice" or vouchers, privatization of education socializes all the costs of education, but privatizes all the benefits. So under "school choice," all Mississippi taxpayers will pay for wealthy kids to go to private schools, even though those private schools won't accept all Mississippi taxpayers' own children as students. "School choice" keeps being pushed on Mississippi taxpayers, we will continue to be saddled with an even greater financial burden that doesn't benefit the majority of Mississippi families nor Mississippi communities. In fact, it actively harms most families, businesses, and communities because it starves the public schools, which are the only schools responsible for educating every child who walks through their doors. We will all end up paying even more for education and getting far less in return because private schools are private for a reason - because they don't want the responsibility nor the accountability of educating all children. Most private schools are set up to educate a select few and the select few does not include poor children, children with special needs, and children who don't speak English. Educating all children well and equitably comes with a

cost. With public schools, taxpayers not only share the costs, but they also reap all the benefits that come with a well-educated citizenry. I don't know of any private school that wants to accept the responsibility and accountability of educating all children in their community, but they would gladly accept the generous gift of Mississippi taxpayer money to continue educating a select handful of already-enrolled private school students. Folks already using private schools would benefit above all others in Mississippi. Where "school choice"/vouchers have passed in other states, we've seen private schools increase their tuition once vouchers are available because they know which families can still afford it and it keeps out students that most private schools would rather not serve. Mississippi legislators have very rarely kept their promise to Mississippi taxpayers, families, and communities to be responsible stewards of our public schools. Every time the State Legislature breaks its promise to the people who elected them, they increase the financial burden of their own local communities. The Mississippi Legislature ties the hands of the local community by telling them how much they can tax at the local level and what that money can and can't be used for. Plus, many of our communities are at or near the maximum percentage they can tax at the local level. And whether they are at or near that maximum local

tax percentage allowed by legislature, the vast majority of Mississippi communities don't have the economic capacity to make up for - at the local level - the amount of financial support they're supposed to be getting from the State. "School choice" is a lie built on a false promise. Mississippi has tried vouchers ("school choice") before, and the only people who could receive them were people who had the same skin color as me. Mississippi, like some other Southern states, used vouchers to prop up segregation. Vouchers weren't intended to be available for all children then, and they won't be this time either. "School choice" doesn't just hurt individual children, or families, or communities. "School choice" will hurt our cost of living, our overall quality of life, our state's economic capacity to succeed, and, ultimately, the cornerstone of our representative democracy. Public education is an American value. Investing in public schools is not only investing in Mississippi's people, it's also the most common-sense approach to strengthening our economy not only at the state level, but also at the levels of our local communities, families, and individuals. Mississippi would be wise to elect legislators and congressional representatives who are committed to strengthening the single most important factor to improving every community's capacity to succeed economically - America's public schools.

Trick or Treat?

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



G o b l i n s , witches, ghosts, spooky stories, costumes, pumpkins and lots of candy – Oh My! Halloween is not a national holiday, yet it is one of the most celebrated events dating back to early Celtic and Christian history – yes it has Christian connections. The reasons some celebrate Halloween today are not for the reasons people originally celebrated it then. Nevertheless, it is celebrated by millions across the world. But do not let me bore you with history. Halloween activities can easily include any of the following: decorating residential and businesses (my husband and I had recently had a date night and as we were walking up to the restaurant – yellow caution tape was everywhere – you already know what I did – I started to quickly make a U-Turn until my husband reminded me this is the scary month- some of these decorations go a little too far for me – just saying), hosting or watching scary movies, pumpkin carvings, Halloween baking activities, dressing up in costumes, and parties. However, one of the most popular Halloween activities is trick-or-treating. My parents did not permit my siblings and I to go trick-or-treating; it was one of the commandments – thou shall not trick-or-treat. I remember as a youngster wanting to wear a cool costume and certainly wanting to trick-or-treat, but we knew not to even whisper Halloween. Halloween was like any other day but then churches began hosting Holyween/fall festivities/Trunk or Treat – I thought God had finally heard my prayers and that my parents would support Holyween/fall festivities/Trunk or Treat with no issues – man, that made it even worse for us. Some of you know what I am alluding to... we couldn't participate in any aspect of Holyween/fall festivities/Trunk or Treat because it was a commandment too – thou shall not celebrate any Halloween alternative events like

Holyween/fall festivities/Trunk or Treat. Now, before you critically judge my parents – they had a valid reason perhaps for not allowing us to participate in Halloween activities especially trick-or-treating – our mother would always express why would you permit your child to ask especially a stranger to trick or treat them? Spouses why would you want to offer your spouse tricks instead of treats? In other words, how are you treating your spouse? Many spouses are not giving each other treats –you are giving tricks instead as described below: THE TRICKS: • Lack empathy • One-sided love • Prioritize job/careers/family/children over your spouse • Prioritize social media over your spouse • Little to no financial support • Lack of quality time with each other • Little to no communication • Abandoned/neglected the marriage • Little to no intimacy – don't remember the last time you... • Lack patience • Expect perfection from your spouse yet you are by no means perfect • don't give your spouse space to be human – spouse will have some bad days – wont be perfect EVERYDAY • Secrets • Indulge in emotional and physical affairs • Abusive • Don't show appreciation • Complains consistently • Unwilling to admit your faults – NEVER apologizes • You have a Carolina Reaper (considered one of the hottest peppers) attitude • Selfish – EVERYTHING IS ABOUT YOU! • Married on paper but you are living and pursuing a single life – don't plan a future together What are some indicators that you are giving your spouse treats and not tricks? They are as follows: THE TREATS: • Pray together DAILY • Pray for your spouse/family consistently • Growing as one

• Committed to EACH OTHER • Love is two sided • Love is ACTIVE – you have an intentional approach to showing each other love • Give each other eye contact – put away technology, etc. to avoid distractions • Work together financially • Empathize • Extend grace and mercy to your spouse • Hold each other accountable • Admit your faults and GO OUT YOUR WAY TO APOLIGIZE AND FIX IT • Marriage/Children are top priority • Invest quality time with each other • Engage in effective communication/listening • Affectionate • Intimate – meeting each other's sexual needs • Consistently illustrate appreciation to each other • Kind – gentle – approachable • HELP your spouse in whatever ways you can • You don't wait until special occasions to celebrate each other • Fight for your marriage daily In conclusion spouses, which one is it - trick or treat? If you want a loving, happy, and healthy marriage – go out your way to give your spouse treats as you promised that you would in your marriage vows– no one including you wants tricks. A marriage cannot succeed on tricks - eventually the marriage will end like a horror movie – divorces are scary. If you have been blessed not with a perfect spouse but a spouse who loves you unconditionally, trick or treat shouldn't even be a question – give your spouse treats! Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY

CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi before 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, for the purchase of certain City-owned property: parcel 121-21, located on Houston Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Bidding for the property will start at \$250.00. The City will retain all mineral rights it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same from said property. For additional information or for a "bid form", contact Vic Sexton at (601) 960 1055 or e-mail vsexton@city.jackson.ms.us.

BID INSTRUCTIONS: All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, (located in City Hall at 219 S. President St. Jackson, Mississippi 39201), or submitted through Central Bidding <https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/main.php>. If submitted to the City Clerk, the outside of the envelope must be plainly marked to identify the parcel number being bid on, along with the bidder's name. Enclose one (1) original and one (1) copy of the bid. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Preferential preference will be granted to all equivalent high bidders that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee. If multiple equivalent high bidders submitted applications, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders did not submit applications to the Surplus Property Committee, a re-bid process utilizing the Best and Final Offer (BAFO) between those bidders will be granted to determine a winner. If multiple equivalent high bidders persist after BAFO, the re-bid process will be repeated, if necessary, until a sole high bidder is certified.

If multiple equivalent high bidders consist of, one equivalent high bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee and the other equivalent high bidder(s) that did not submit an application to the Surplus Property Committee, preferential preference will be granted to the bidder that submitted an application to the Surplus Property Committee.

City reserves the right to reject any and all bids

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPP

10/23/2025, 10/30/2025 11/6/2025

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Pamela J. Gaines-Riley
PLAINTIFF
VS.
Albert Earl Riley
DEFENDANT

SUMMONS
(By PUBLICATION)

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TO: Albert Earl Riley

You have been made a Defendant by another seeking a divorce. Defendants other than you in this action is None.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to Pamela J. Gaines-Riley, whose address is 280 Mason Road Lexington Ms. 39095.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN
THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 25 DAY OF Oct 2025 WHICH IS THE FIRST DAY
OF SERVING OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A
JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF
DEMANDED IN THIS COMPLAINT.

You must also file original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a
reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and seal of said Court, this 3 day of Oct 2025.

 Chancery Clerk
10/16/2025, 10/23/2025, 10/30/2025

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

220-8-4 located at 1525 ELLIS AVE.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by:
Samantha Graves, Manager
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

10/30/2025 11/6/2025

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
10/23/2025 , 10/30/2025 11/6/2025

LEGAL

Advertisement for:
RFP 2025-04-26
Lead Partner for Teacher Certification Exam Support

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the listed project will be held Via ZOOM (see below for link) on Friday, November 07, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via ZOOM <https://jackson-k12-s.zoom.us/j/87999552248?pwd=wmCnbAYgj1fb66Bl4l3p99ZZaVWVKN.1> Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us to ensure your spot in the pre-bid conference. It is imperative to have this information before the meeting to confirm your attendance

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

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

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

Performance Dates:
• 1st Advertise: 30 October 2025 (Clarion); 30 October 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• 2nd Advertise: 06 November 2025 (Clarion); 06 November 2025 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• Pre-bid Conference: 07 November 2025 (ZOOM)
• Final Date for Questions: 12 November 2025
• Answers to Questions: 14 November 2025
• Bid Opening Day: 19 November 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

10/30/2025 11/6/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

ZONING CASE NO. 4314

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 Patricia Jones has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a residential day care center within a R-1A (Single-family) Residential District for the property located at 3228 Whitten Rd (Parcel 624-82), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

63 FT MID PT E ½ LOT 4 BEG 1124.2 FT N OF SE COR LOT 4 PT LOT 4 COOPERS SUB FARMS

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, November 19, 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 NOVEMBER 12, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of October 2025.

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

10/30/2025 11/13/2025

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF LASH LARUE
WILLIAMS, DECEASED

CAUSE NO.: P2024-296 H/3

PETITIONER: BEVERLY HARRIS WILLIAMS

AMENDED RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LASH LARUE WILLIAMS, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Beverly Harris Williams Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Lash Larue Williams, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 1:30 p.m. on the 21st day of October, 2025, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at

Jackson, Mississippi, before the Honorable Tametrice E. Hodges Linzey Chancellor. And at said hearing you should appear and show cause, if any you can, why the relief sought by the Plaintiff should not be granted by the Court. Failure to appear at the time and place mentioned may result

in a judgment against you for the relief demanded.

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 16 day of September, 2025.

 EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI
BY: E. Robinson
10/16/2025, 10/23/2025, 10/30/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF DALTON STREET (FROM DR. ROBERT SMITH PARKWAY TO CENTRAL STREET) TO HEZEKIAH WATKINS DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING DALTON STREET (FROM DR. ROBERT SMITH PARKWAY TO CENTRAL STREET) TO HEZEKIAH WATKINS DRIVE. (STOKES)

10/30/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4312

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 Janice Tyler has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home) Residential District to allow for the continued use of the property as a mobile home park and to eliminate its non-conforming use status for the property located at 4461 South Drive (Parcels #803-5, 803-5-2, 803-5-3 & 803-10), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcels 646-10 & 646-10-1

5 acres in the NE corner of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 36, T 6 N, R 1 W, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point which is the NE corner of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Sec. 36, T 6 N, R 1 W, and which is the point of beginning, run thence west along the half section line dividing the N ½ and S ½ of said Sec. 36, a distance of 463' to a point on said line, thence run south and parallel with the line dividing the W ½ and the E ½ of the SE ¼ of said Sec. 36 a distance of 470.5' to a point, thence run east parallel with the half section line dividing the N ½ and S ½ of said Sec. 36, aforesaid, a distance of 463' to a point on the line dividing the W ½ and the E ½ of the SE ¼ of said Sec. 36, thence, run north along said line dividing the W ½ and the E ½ of the SE ¼ of said Sec. 36, 470.5' to the point of beginning, containing 5 acres, more or less, of which 2.3 acres consists of Shadow Lawn Subdivision, as shown in Plat Book 4, at Page 39, of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi.

Parcel 646-10-2

Beginning at a point 463 feet West from the Northeast corner of the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, thence South 150 feet, thence West 100 feet, thence North 150 feet, thence East 100 feet to the point of beginning. Said property conveyed being the same property conveyed to a previous grantor which said deed is recorded in Deed Book 814 at page 290 of the records of deeds in the office of the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid of this description

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, November 19, 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 NOVEMBER 12, 2025.

WITNESS my signature this 27th day of October 2025.

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

10/30/2025 11/13/2025

P R E S E R V E D

Boaz Ain't Broke

P A R T 3

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



This week, we conclude our look at Boaz and how he showed wholeness in various areas of his life. Previously, we explored how he was both emotionally and spiritually whole. Boaz also was relationally, financially, and physically whole. In the case of Boaz, being whole meant that he recognized the importance of interconnections with others. One sign that someone is broke (separated into parts... not just financially struggling) is the lack of connections in their own life and their inability to respect the connections that you have in your life.

Ruth 4:1 illustrates some of Boaz's connections. It says that he went to the town gate,

the traditional place where men took care of personal, business, and legal affairs. Boaz patiently waited for the kinsman redeemer of Ruth to come along, "Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So, he went over and sat down."

The town gate was also a place of honor. The fact that Boaz was able to sit at the gate without hesitation or intimidation indicates that like the other town elders, he was also highly respected because of his financial integrity and responsibility. Boaz then followed the tradition of having ten elders witness the proposed property transaction. He did not try to hide or manipulate the kinsman redeemer or ask for a "hook up" in

secret.

Boaz then completely explained the situation with Ruth and the property. He did not conveniently leave out any detail, nor did he lie about anything. The bible says in Ruth 4:5 "Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." In the end, the other kinsman redeemer declined the proposal and Boaz soon married Ruth.

Had Boaz not been connected or comfortable with his connections with others, he might not have responded to Ruth. Even though he was significantly older than Ruth, he did not use that as an excuse for him to not do what she'd asked him. We don't know what exact physical shape he was in, but he seemed fairly

active throughout the story.

In this fascinating love story, we see so much: a woman whose life is tremendously blessed because she trusted God again. For those of us over 50 and trusting in God, we have to believe that he is more than the God of a 2nd chance. We also have to trust and believe that he is also the God of "again." As we trust God again, as we put faith in God again, as we seek him again, we will be amazed at the wonderful things he will do in our lives.

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

God's standard for the home

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



Throughout Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, starting with Chapter 1 through the remainder of the Epistle, Paul dealt with the subject of confusion. Paul was a wise master builder in that congregation. The church at Corinth was said to be a very diverse, large congregation. The people who gathered in that congregation were sailors, pagans, proselyte Jews, Orthodox Jews, people of diverse culture, and many different nationalities. They brought baggage from their former lives with all that diversity, and Paul had to deal with those things. We read in 1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the Author of confusion, but of peace, Some do not even know that according to God's Word, same-sex marriage is wrong. If people keep hammering on something long enough, many people get used to the subject and have a tendency to change their minds, but the Word of God is settled in Heaven. God does not change His mind about sin.

Activists keep hammering away to get people to change their minds and have pushed for certain bills to be passed in Congress. After a while the legislators gave in, but sinful lifestyles will never be accepted by God. Woe to the minister who performs such marriages. God performed the first wedding. You can read about it in the Book of Genesis. He brought the woman to the man, and that is how it is yet today. God did not get confused. He did not slip up and bring a man to another man or a woman to another woman. God has it straight, and those who truly know God

also have it straight.

Abortion is also wrong, and God will bring all sin into judgment. Today people get into more trouble for killing a dog than for killing a baby. God will never accept abortion. It is the murder of a child. In the scripture text, Paul was saying that true worship cannot produce disorder. God does not want disorder in any congregation. He is a God of peace, and He promotes order. His worship is calm and peaceful, not boisterous and disorderly. That which was going on at Corinth was mass confusion. Some men claimed to have the gift of languages, and they were taking part in worship and bringing mass confusion among the saints by what was being said in there preaching, in their praying, and in there singing. Paul said that was not authored by God, because if it were authored by God, there would be no confusion.

Psalm 71:1 states, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion." In other words, the Psalmist David was saying: "Let me never be ashamed or disappointed that I put my trust in thee. Do not let me be confused as to whether I should have served Thee and gone all the way with thee. James 3:16 tells us, "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." James was saying you need to be careful of where you gather wisdom and in whom you put your confidence. James said in this same chapter there is devilish wisdom, which is to say that instead of bringing people together, it drives them apart, and instead of producing peace, it produces strife. Seek Divine Wisdom!

Simeon R. Greem, III, First Church of God 6517 Walmsley Blvd. Richmond, Virginia 23224



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Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



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Sunday Worship
Service: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(Fellowship following
worship service 1st
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“Strong bones, strong legacy, strong Jackson: Why Bone Health matters in our communities”

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

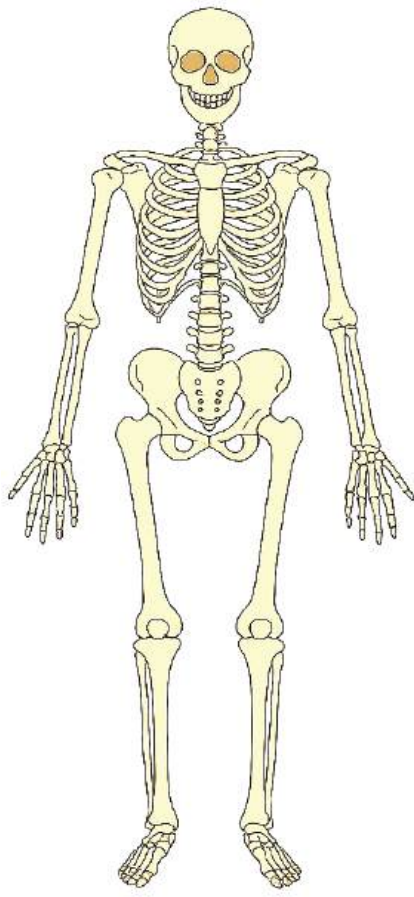
From Jackson to the Delta, from community centers to college campuses, we know what it means to carry weight of history, of struggle and of resilience. But too often, we overlook the literal weight our bones carry every day. Bones are more than the scaffolding that holds us upright, they are living tissue, constantly renewing and responding to how we live, move and age. Yet in many Black communities, bone health is overlooked, misunderstood or dismissed as a concern for “other folks.” That misconception is costing us, especially our elders, mobility, independence and quality of life.

It’s time we reclaim the narrative. Bone health is a vital part of our wellness journey, and it deserves a front-row seat in our conversations about aging, chronic disease and community care.

The silent backbone of our health
Our bones do more than keep us standing tall. Bones are living tissue. They:

- Protect vital organs like the brain, heart and lungs.
- Store essential minerals like calcium and phosphorus.
- Produce blood cells in our bone marrow.
- Anchor muscles for movement and balance.

When bones weaken, through aging, poor nutrition or chronic illness, our entire system suffers. Fractures become more likely, recovery slows and independence fades. For older adults, a single hip fracture can lead to long-term nursing care or even premature death. Myths that hurt us



In Black communities, several myths persist:

- “We’re big-boned, so we don’t break easily.”
- “Osteoporosis is a white woman’s disease.”
- “If I’m not in pain, my bones must be fine.”

These beliefs are not only false, they’re dangerous. While Black Americans may have higher bone density on

average, studies show we’re less likely to be screened for osteoporosis, more likely to be undertreated and face worse outcomes after fractures.

Many older adults in Jackson and surrounding areas don’t receive bone density screenings. Vitamin D deficiency, common among people with darker skin, goes undiagnosed. And myths about bone strength persist, keeping folks from seeking care.

Mississippi ranks near the bottom in national health outcomes. Black residents face higher rates of diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease, all of which can weaken bones over time. Yet bone health rarely makes it into our health conversations.

The real risks we face
Here’s what the data tells us:

- Black women have a 24 percent higher risk of death after a fracture compared to white women.
- We’re 20–50 percent less likely to receive bone density screenings.
- Chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease more prevalent in our communities can weaken bones over time.
- Vitamin D deficiency, common among people with darker skin, reduces calcium absorption and bone strength.

Yet many elders don’t get screened, don’t know their risk and don’t speak up, because they’ve been taught to “tough it out.” These disparities aren’t just medical they may be systemic. They reflect gaps in access, awareness and culturally responsive care.

Why this matters for older adults
As we age, bone renewal slows. Post-

menopausal women, especially lose bone mass rapidly due to hormonal changes. But aging doesn’t mean inevitable decline. With the right steps, we can preserve bone strength and prevent fractures.

For older Black adults, bone health is directly tied to:

- Staying mobile and independent.
- Avoiding hospitalizations and long-term care.
- Reducing fall risk and improving balance.
- Living with dignity and self-sufficiency.

What you can do today
Bone health isn’t just a doctor’s job, it’s a daily practice. Here’s how to start:

- Nourish Your Bones
- Eat calcium-rich foods: collard greens, okra, almonds, fortified cereals.
 - Get enough vitamin D: sunlight, supplements or fortified foods.
 - Limit soda and excessive alcohol, which can leach calcium from your bones.

- Move with purpose
- Weight-bearing exercises like walking, dancing and resistance training strengthen bones.
 - Balance-focused activities like tai chi or yoga reduce fall risk.

Advocate for screening

- Ask your doctor about bone density tests, especially if you’re over 50 or have risk factors.
 - Don’t accept “you’re fine” without data. Please push for preventive care.
- Educate and empower
- Share bone health facts with your family, friends and senior groups.

- Challenge myths and encourage others to take action.

A cultural call to action
Bone health isn’t just medical, it’s cultural. In our communities, strength is often measured by resilience, endurance and the ability to “keep going.” But true strength includes knowing when to care for ourselves, when to seek help and when to speak up.

We must:

- Ask for culturally competent care that recognizes our unique risks.
- Support research and outreach that centers Black voices and experiences.
- Build intergenerational conversations around aging, mobility and wellness.
- Train providers to recognize bone health disparities.
- Fund outreach in underserved neighborhoods.

For younger generations, bone health starts now. The habits we build in our 20s, 30s and 40s shape our future. Let’s teach our children that wellness includes every part of the body, including the parts we can’t see.

Bone health is not a niche issue; it’s a community imperative. It’s also not a luxury, it’s a necessity. It affects how we live, how we age and how we care for one another. By prioritizing our bones, we’re not just preventing fractures, we’re preserving freedom, dignity and legacy.

Let’s stand tall, Mississippi. Together.

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

Catch “Tips to be Fit” on “Good Day Good Health” everyday

Living well with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

StatePoint

(StatePoint) November is Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month, and the American Lung Association, with support from Merck, is raising awareness about one form of the condition: pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).

PAH is a serious condition that can affect people of all ages. It occurs when the tiny arteries in the lungs become thickened and narrowed, which causes reduced blood flow through the lungs. This raises pressure in the pulmonary arteries and forces the heart to work harder to push blood through the narrowed vessels. While there is no cure for PAH, there is medication to help manage the symptoms and slow disease progression. Getting a correct diagnosis is essential because without the proper treatment, PAH can be fatal.

While often seen in adults, pulmonary hypertension, including PAH, can also affect children. When Jackson was diagnosed with pediatric PAH at 14 months old, his family started advocating for his care early. “From the very beginning, we’ve done everything we can to ensure he is getting the best treatment options,” Jayna, his mom says.

Once accurately diagnosed, Jackson’s family embarked on a journey of managing PAH in their young child, “We had to figure out how to manage a toddler with a subcutaneous pump. It was terrifying, but we



LACHEEV / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

knew it was what he needed,” says Jayna.

No matter what the age of the patient is, these key actions can help your family navigate a diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension:

Find a trusted PH specialist. A specialist will tailor your treatment specific to your needs. Being able to talk with your specialist is vital in developing your personalized care plan. As Jackson shares, “My doctor is amazing,” assisting him with a comprehensive healthcare plan and helping him navigate PAH as he transitions from childhood to adolescence.

Learn all you can about PH and PAH. Take the PH Basics course offered by the American Lung Association. This free, short online module is designed to help patients and caregivers understand symp-

toms, monitoring, treatment options and more.

Activate your support network. Join support groups and peer communities to build knowledge and resilience and receive emotional support. Jayna found an online pulmonary hypertension community of other parents, which made it “easier to cope, learn from others and feel less isolated,” and eventually became one of the community’s administrators.

Learn more about PAH this Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month at Lung.org/pah.

Being diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension is life changing. However, with trusted resources, support and a strong relationship with a specialist, it’s possible to better manage PAH and maintain a better quality of life at any age.

Tips for protecting yourself from deepfake fraud

StatePoint

You answer the phone and hear a familiar voice, but are you sure you know who it is on the other end of the line? The correct answer should be “no.”

Rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has armed bad actors with sophisticated tools to enable impersonation fraud using deepfakes. A deepfake can consist of audio, video or imagery that has either been created or altered using AI. The danger is that with a simple sample of audio or video or even a few images, a criminal can create a deepfake that is almost impossible to detect.

A National Institutes of Health study in 2023 found that even when individuals were given a warning that one out of five videos for them to review was a deepfake, only 21.6 percent were able to correctly identify the fraudulent option.

In today’s technological climate, the risks are too high to trust the naked eye to determine truth. Luckily, there are certain things you can do to help reduce your likelihood of getting duped, and they don’t require specialized skills or technical aptitude.

One important one is never assuming that someone contacting you is legitimate, even if they share a seemingly legitimate image or video, have a familiar voice, or come under the guise of someone known and trusted. Creating safe words with close family members and friends is also a good idea. That means you have a secret code



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) JOSE CALSINA / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

word only they know. If the caller doesn’t know it, that is an easy and effective way to identify a fraud.

Just as important if not more than picking out deepfakes, is protecting your identity against being exploited to create a deepfake. Here are some measures that could help mitigate the risk:

Social Media Management: Don’t over-post your face or voice and limit who can view your content by tightening up privacy settings on your accounts.

Watermarks on Images: Consider putting watermarks on imagery you post online to discourage repurposing of it.

Stronger Identity Protection: Subscribe to identity monitoring services that will send alerts if your personal information appears on the dark web where criminals buy and sell stolen credentials.

Limited Voice Exposure: Screen phone calls and only answer when they come from a known number. It’s also recom-

mended to use the factory setting voicemail message rather than recording an outgoing message using your own voice.

Prompt Reporting: If you are contacted by someone you believe is leveraging a deepfake to impersonate a person or brand, report it immediately to that person or brand. They will want to work with the authorities and time is of the essence.

To learn more about tools and techniques to help protect your identity and respond to fraud, visit PNC’s Security & Privacy Center.

Technology is providing criminals more sophisticated technologies to commit fraud, but good, old-fashioned caution and common sense are still the best protection, and that applies to deepfakes, too.

A National Institute of Health Study in 2023 found that even when individuals were warned that one out of five videos given to them were fake, only 21.6% were able to correctly identify the fraudulent option

Jackson State University Office of Community Engagement uniquely presents Mt. Olive Reenactment

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

Recently, this writer was driving down Lynch Street in West Jackson and saw people standing in various places in Mt. Olive Cemetery which is in close proximity to Jackson State University. No burial was occurring. Rather, storytellers and thespians held the attention of the viewers about the contributions of historical figures whose bodies are resting in the graveyard. This unusual gathering delved into memories of long ago and reflections of contemporary occurrences. While some storytellers and thespians had completed their reenactments upon my arrival, others were still engaged.

“JSU should be the repository of the history that’s represented in this cemetery...The community needs to know the history of the people in this cemetery, so important to that mission of JSU and its responsibility to enlighten the community of the accomplishments of our people. The dividends are already paying off in research and furthering the education and awareness of the communities [in the State of Mississippi] for historical tourism,” declared Milton Chambliss – Certified Economics Developer Emeritus and the first certified developer in the Mississippi Development Authority. Chambliss displayed several pictures of his family while telling the story of their relative, Jessie R. Chambliss, Sr., buried in the cemetery.

Jessie R. Chambliss, Sr. owned and operated the Chambliss Shoe Hospital, previously located at



Tia Lyons, JSU junior, (front) Nehe-myah Wesley, Jim Hill High School Senior (Rt. Back) & Kenneth Carter, theatre director.



Lyons, JSU MADDRAMA tells story of Ida Redmond.



Rose & Milton Chambliss stand in honor of Milton's beloved Jessie R. Chambliss, Sr., who is buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery.



Others on site with Milton Chambliss

COMMENTARY

119 North Farish Street. The hospital was a repair shoe shop. One of the first commercial buildings in the Lynch Street area, this black-owned business, built by African Americans, repaired shoes for many in the community.

Ida Revels-Redmond was one of five daughters of Hiram R. Revels, the first African-American U.S. Senator. She was an educator who moved beyond classroom settings as an active organizer in women’s civic and educational movements in Mississippi, thereby promoting civic self-improvement for Black women. Storyteller Tia Lyons, a JSU junior psychology major and MADDRAMA student, commented: “It’s a great opportunity to embody this icon, one who paved the way for me, and I’m

giving back today.”

James “Jim” Hill was born into slavery by his 14-year-old mother in Marshall County, MS on the Hill Plantation. The slave master was his father. During the 19th century, Hill was the last Black Mississippian to hold a statewide office. He also was land registrar (1867), state legislator (1868), and Secretary of State of Mississippi (1874-1878). Jim Hill High School is a public school that bears his name.

Nehemyah Wesley – a junior and thespian at Jim Hill High School- explained that he was “nervous” and “excited” to reenact James “Jim” Hill. When he started forgetting his lines, he recalled that his theater director, Mr. Kenneth Carter, stressed to students, “We control the words; the words do not control us.” Accordingly, Wesley denoted that Hill’s perseverance to move be-

yond life’s difficulties inspired him to be an overcomer. “Learning that my school is actually named after someone so influential was amazing,” he vocalized.

“To witness [Jim Hill] students step into the story of the man whose name they carry daily, reminds us all that history is not distant; it’s personal. This experience allowed them to see beyond the name on their school building and understand the legacy of perseverance, leadership, and excellence that Jim Hill represents. My hope is that they left with a deeper sense of pride--not just in their performance, but in the history and heritage that shaped who they are today,” shared Mr. Kenneth A. Carter (JSU graduate and Theater Director, The Royal Stage Society - Jim Hill High School).

Virginia Scott Ford and John Ford have been identified as “the

Ford couple.” Virginia’s mother was Mary Green Scott, formerly enslaved, who shortly after the Civil War, bought land on Cohea Street in the Farish Street Historic District in Jackson. Virginia resided at 138 Cohea Street and delivered numerous babies as a midwife, while providing essential healthcare to Black residents, due to their limited access to doctors and hospitals. John Ford drove Virginia to her patients’ homes via his “informal taxi service.”

Jennie O. Johnson, an educator, was an equal rights advocate during the Jim Crow Era. A former principal of Lanier High School, she was also a charter member of the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The chapter was chartered in Jackson at 723 Rose Street October 14, 1938. On site was an influx of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

members.

Mt. Olive Cemetery was established in the early 1800s. One of the oldest African American cemeteries in Mississippi, it stands out as a representative of four district eras: slavery, reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement. Its visibility is a final resting place for both ordinary and prominent citizens. In June 2017, Mt. Olive Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Heather Denne is the Executive Director of Community Engagement at Jackson State University. A leader of many community projects, she led the Mt. Olive Reenactment. The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority member holds membership with the Jackson historic Preservation Commission for Ward 6. Additionally, she secures funding for community projects.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

The heart of the Hinds County School District

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

The celebration continued with the Byram Middle School football team, who wrapped up a remarkable undefeated season and claimed the title of Little 6 Champions. Their hard work, discipline, and teamwork reflect the very best of Bulldog pride, and we couldn’t be prouder of their outstanding accomplishment. We also spotlighted the Raymond High School “Ultimate Soul” Marching Band, whose energy and artistry continue to shine. Over the weekend, the band earned a Superior (1) overall rating, with outstanding ratings across Drum Major, Percussion, Color Guard, and Band categories. Their passion and excellence continue to set the tone for musical achievement in our district.

#BulldogPride #RangerNation
#HCSDExcellence
#LoveHopeLeadership



NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

DR. ARTHUR JONES Byram Middle School	MARKEETA CARSON Gary Road Elementary School	WALTER MCLEOD Raymond Elementary Carver Middle School	ASHLEY WHITE Gary Road Intermediate School	ZACKERY HODGE Bolton-Edwards Elementary Middle School
MEAGAN KEYES Hinds County Career and Technical	MATTHEW SCOTT Terry High School	ALEXIS WHITE Utica Elementary Middle School	CHARLES WILLIS Raymond High School	DAFFONIE MOORE Main Street Restart Center





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Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donates \$42 million gift to Alcorn State



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Alcorn State University received a \$42 million unrestricted donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, the largest single gift in the 154-year history of the nation’s oldest public historically Black land-grant university.

This is Scott’s second major gift to the university. Scott previously donated \$25 million in 2020, bringing her total contributions to \$67 million.

“Today marks a historic moment for Alcorn State University as we celebrate the largest single donation in our university’s history,” said Dr. Tracy M. Cook, president of Alcorn State University. “We are immensely grateful for Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s continued investment in Alcorn, our students, and mission to create access. I also extend my deepest gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters who champion our mission every day. Your unwavering commitment and belief in Alcorn State University make milestones like this possible.”

Scott’s 2020 gift supported faculty endowments, scholar-

ships, including the Rep. Alyce Clarke Mississippi First Scholarship program, and capital projects aligned with the university’s strategic plan.

“We are deeply grateful to philanthropist MacKenzie Scott for her commitment and confidence in Alcorn,” said Dr. Marcus D. Ward, senior vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the ASU Foundation, Inc. “Receiving another record transformational gift within five years, this time \$42 million gift is both a powerful affirmation of Alcorn’s impact and a charge to all Alcornites to help accelerate our work for student success, campus sustainability, and enrollment growth.”

Alcorn State University leadership will work with the ASU Foundation to invest and allocate resources across strategic campus priorities.

“This gift opens a new chapter for Alcorn State,” said Cook. “We will use every dollar to support students, strengthen the university, and serve Mississippi and the nation for generations to come.”

Best-Selling author and Jackson native Angie Thomas inspires Scholars at Bailey APAC Middle School

The JPS Newswire

Best-selling author and Jackson native Angie Thomas visited Bailey APAC Middle School October 23 to promote literacy and inspire scholars to read and write. As part of the Mississippi Book Festival’s outreach program, Thomas led a mini writing workshop and participated in a special book giveaway, taking time to personally sign copies for scholars and staff.

Thomas’s latest novel, *Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Book of Anansi*, even gives a special nod to Bailey APAC—mentioning a scholar from the school in its pages.

A proud product of Jackson Public Schools, Thomas grew up in the Georgetown community and attended Johnson Elementary and Brinkley Middle School. Her return to JPS is a full-circle moment that reflects her deep commitment to giving back and inspiring the next generation of readers and writers.

Thomas is best known for her acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, which became a New York Times best seller and was later adapted into a major motion picture.



Jackson Public Schools is deeply grateful to Angie Thomas for sharing her time, talent, and passion for storytelling with our scholars. Her visit was both motivational and

memorable, reminding us all of the power of words to shape lives and communities.

District awarded \$4.9M EPA grant to electrify school bus fleet

The JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools has been awarded a \$4.9 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program. This transformative investment will enable the district to replace aging Class 6 and Class 7 diesel school buses with modern, zero-emission electric buses, significantly reducing harmful emissions and improving air quality for scholars and the broader Jackson community. The buses acquired through this grant will complement the 25 buses already purchased through a 2022 Clean Bus Rebate Grant.

The grant, which totals \$4,923,958, will fund the purchase of Class 7 electric school buses and the installation of 40kW Level 3 DC Fast Charging (DCFC) stations equipped with dual CCS1 connectors. These chargers will allow for rapid recharging of the new electric fleet, ensuring reliable and efficient transportation for students across the district.

“This grant represents a major step forward in our commitment to student health, environmental stewardship, and operational sustainability,” said Dr. Errick Greene, Su-



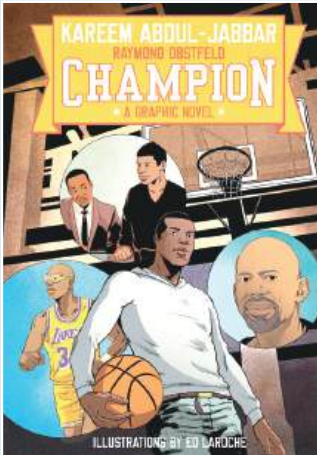
perintendent of Jackson Public Schools. “By incorporating electric buses, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also investing in cleaner air and quieter streets for our neighborhoods.”

The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program, funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, supports school districts and municipalities nationwide in replacing diesel-

powered vehicles with zero-emission alternatives. Jackson Public Schools’ award is part of a broader federal effort to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in communities disproportionately affected by air pollution.

Project implementation has already begun. The new electric buses are expected to be deployed by the start of the 2026–2027 school year. The district will also provide training for transportation staff and collaborate with local partners to ensure a smooth transition to electric operations.

Jackson Public Schools was the only school district in Mississippi to receive an EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant. For more information about the CHDV Grant Program, visit www.epa.gov.



BOOK REVIEW: CHAMPION: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR AND RAYMOND OBSTFELD ,
ILLUSTRATED BY ED LAROCHE
C.2025, TEN SPEED GRAPHIC
\$26.99 • 128 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your future is all laid out. Work a few summers, graduate, go to college, gather awards and go on to a great career, more awards, big money, lots of fame. That’s Plan A and there is no Plan B. But in the new graphic novel, “Champion” by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld, illustrated by Ed Laroche, life may have other ideas for you. Monk Travers just wasn’t thinking. He never figured that break-

ing into a rival high school’s hallway and vandalizing their mascot mural would have such awful effects. He didn’t plan on getting caught and he certainly didn’t figure that his coach would make him sit out the next big basketball game. He was the team’s best player, so that would hurt – the team, for the points he wouldn’t make; and Monk, because basketball was his thing. It was the only thing, as far as he was concerned, because Monk planned on becoming a professional basketball player after gradua-

tion. And so he was benched, plus Coach gave him an assignment. Monk had to write and present an essay about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Not on Jabbar’s games, but on his life. When Coach gave him the assignment, it seemed like everything and everyone was coming down on Monk. His parents and his boss at his part-time job both scolded him for not paying attention to his other talents, his artistic work or his piano playing. His “girlfriend-ish,” Lark, was mad at Monk for not be-

ing supportive and for missing her big ball game. The guys on his team were embarrassed that they had to help clean the mural Monk had defaced. And then there was this ghost, an invisible spirit of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar that kept popping into Monk’s head, just when he didn’t need it. Why was Monk’s imagination so insistent on telling him things he didn’t want to hear? He had a week to do the assignment. How could he focus when so much was happening? In a way, “Champion” is something rare: it’s a book that

will appeal to anyone, teen to adult, but it leans more toward an audience of older boys and young men, and that’s good to see. Another happy thing: it’s graphic novel format has quite a bit of biography in it, as authors Abdul-Jabbar and Obstfeld write at length about Jabbar’s life and accomplishments. Readers will know that this isn’t just another comic-book-type story. All that aside, the biggest appeal in this book is that the authors talk the talk without preaching. They also uplift

girls, parents, and local businesses inside this tale, without making any of the characters seem like caricatures and without ridiculing any group of people. It’s a good, moral story that doesn’t have the feel of a lecture and it’s hard not to get behind that. Artwork by Ed Laroche just underscores the fun of reading it. If you or your basketball-crazy reader wants a good story with an inspirational biography embedded within, find “Champion.” You won’t be able to lay it down.



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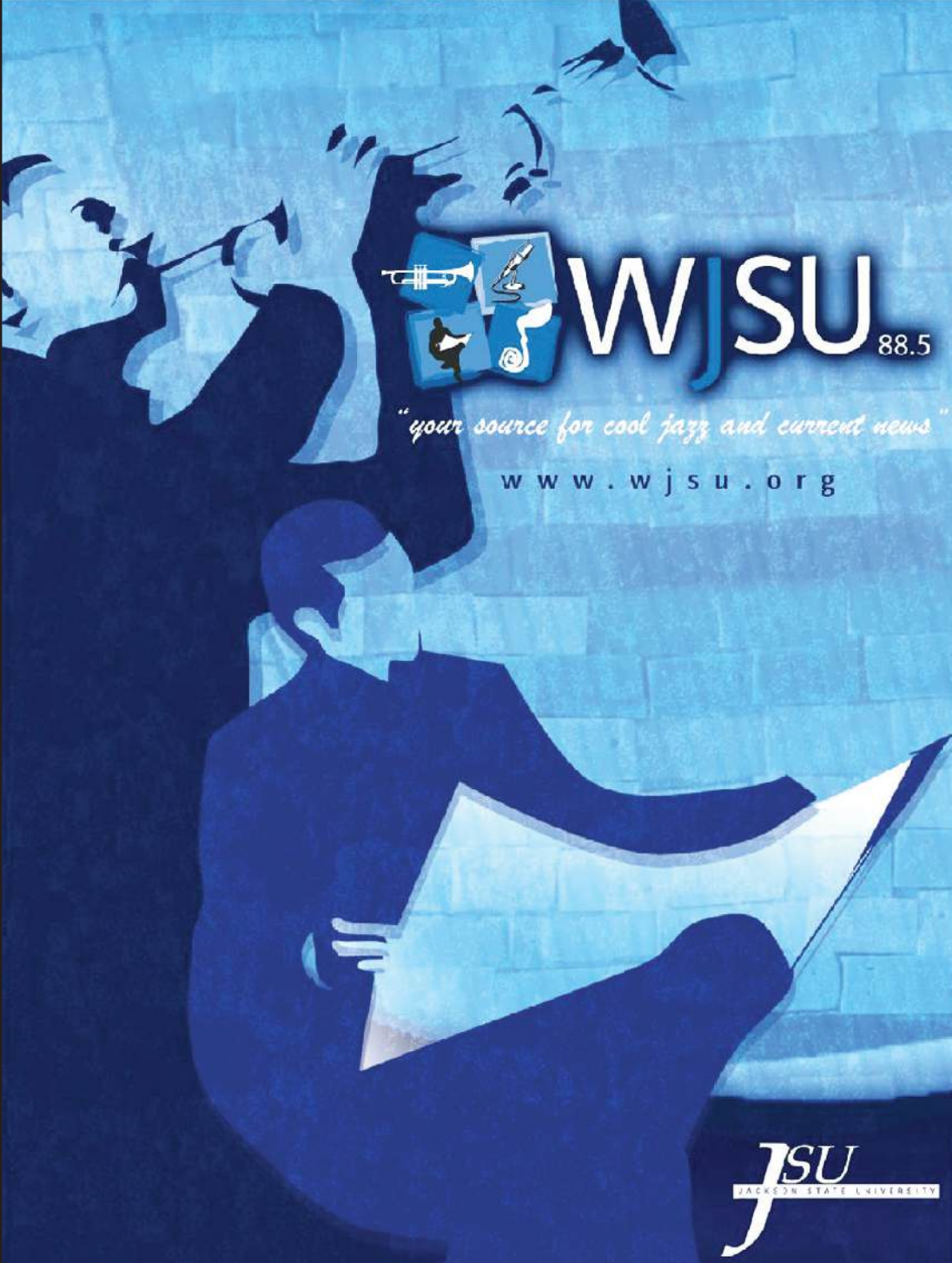
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Jackson State falls to Grambling for 2nd time

By Tim Ward
Sportswriter

The last SWAC school to defeat Jackson State on their road to a National Championship last season was Grambling State University. If history repeats itself, Tiger Nation will absorb the sting of losing to Grambling this year. Last Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada, Jackson State University and what looked like half the city of Jackson packed Allegiant Stadium, home of the Las Vegas Raiders. JSU was in town to battle Grambling State in the inaugural, Las Vegas HBCU Classic. The game was streamed online by HBCU GO on Amazon Prime. The environment was electric, the fans were amped up, and the teams were ready to do battle.

Early on, Jackson State scored on their first drive. Quarterback, Jacobian Morgan scored on a seven yard run. On JSU's next drive, tragedy happened. Jacobian Morgan was injured. At press time, no official report from Jackson State University had been made. However, Morgan came back to the sideline in street clothes wearing a boot. Though visibly frustrated, Jacobian showed true leadership talking to his backup quarterbacks, Redshirt Freshman, Parker Stofa and true freshman, Jared Lockhart. Stofa was immediately inserted to replace Morgan. He lead the offense down the field pretty smoothly,



Jacobian Morgan scores on the first drive



Nate Rembert scores on 62 yard pass

capping the drive off with a 30 yard field goal by Donovan Warren. Unfortunately, the offense stalled several drives after that. Jackson State's offense would have trouble sustaining momentum, forcing their defense to play

more often than usual. Grambling capitalized in the second quarter. Quarterback, C'zavian Teasett connected with wide receiver, Covadis Knighten on a 59 yard touchdown pass. The extra point was no good. However,



Jared Lockhart rallied the tigers PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

just as the second quarter was ending, Grambling added a 24 yard field goal by Theodore Caballero. Halftime, Jackson State 10, Grambling State 9. The third quarter continued just as the second quarter.

Grambling's offense was moving while Jackson State's defense looked a shell of themselves. Missing tackles, blowing coverage assignments, and uncharacteristic penalties plagued the dark side defense. Head

Coach TC Taylor gave quarterback, Parker Stofa practically the entire third quarter before pulling him for true freshman, Jared Lockhart. By the time Lockhart entered the game, Grambling was leading by two touchdowns, 23 to 10. Early in the fourth quarter, Lockhart connected with wide receiver Nate Rembert on a 62 yard touchdown pass. Tiger nation roars, pom poms waving. Fired up J-State cheers echoing throughout Allegiant Stadium. The defense steps up and holds Grambling scoreless. Lockhart methodically marches the team down and with 2:15 left in the game, he scores on a 1 yard touchdown. Jackson State regains the lead 24 to 23!

On Grambling's ensuing drive, Quarterback, C'zavian Teasett suffered a severe injury, needing to be taken from the game in an ambulance. A quiet hush fell across the stadium. No one ever wants to see a player have to leave in an ambulance. After several minutes, the game resumed. Grambling would manage to get into field goal range. Kicker Josh McCormick nailed a 44 yard field goal with 21 seconds left to give Grambling the lead. JSU couldn't get into field goal range as the buzzer sounded. Grambling wins 26 to 24. Giving themselves a 2 game winning streak against Jackson State.

Despite the loss, Jackson State remains in first place in the East.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





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