



# Mississippi NAACP marks 80 years of advocacy at 2025 State Convention and Freedom Fund Banquet

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

This past weekend, the Mississippi State Conference NAACP celebrated a milestone of eight decades of leadership and service with its 80th Annual State Convention and Policy Institute, held November 6–8 at the Jackson Convention Center. With the theme “The Fierce Urgency of Now,” the event honored the organization’s enduring commitment to civil rights while calling a new generation to action.

Hundreds of delegates, youth leaders, and community advocates from across the state gathered for three days of panels, luncheons, and strategy sessions focused on justice, equity, and progress.

“Eighty years of advocacy is not just a celebration of the past—it’s a call to action for the future,” said Charles V. Taylor Jr., executive director of the Mississippi NAACP. “We’re honoring the legacy of those who built this movement while empowering the next generation to carry it forward.”

The convention featured a full agenda of signature events, including the Words from the Wise Luncheon, the State of the State Conference Address, and the



Charles V. Taylor, Jr., NAACP Executive Director, Mississippi NAACP gave the State of the State address reminding attendees how far we have come and how much more we have to achieve. PHOTO BY THOMAS JOHNSON

Catfish & Blues Dinner featuring legendary musician Bobby Rush. The weekend culminated with the Freedom Fund Banquet, recognizing outstanding individuals and organizations whose work continues to shape Mississippi’s path toward equality.

This year’s honorees included: Derrick Johnson Legacy Award – Cheryl Turner, International President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated  
Jerry Mauldin Award – Co-

rey Horton, Vice President of Federal Regulatory & External Affairs, Entergy Services, Inc.

Sam Bailey Award – Rev. Reginald Buckley, President, General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, and Senior Pastor, Cade Chapel  
Dr. Aaron Henry Award – Dr. Sandra Melvin Carr, CEO, Institute for Advancing Minority Health  
Fannie Lou Hamer Award –



Pastor C. J. Rhodes, Mt. Helm Baptist Church gave a stirring message, that echoed throughout the sanctuary. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Clinton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta

Vernon Dahmer Award – Dr. Erica Thompson, Founder and Executive Director, Magnolia Medical Foundation

Volunteer of the Year – Evelyn Baugh, Vice President, Clinton Branch

Medgar Evers Award – Kimberly Merchant, President and CEO, Mississippi Center for

NAACP  
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## Kolors’ Mystique: Connecting likable African and Caribbean merchandise to Jackson and beyond



Kolin DJ C-Lecta/WMPR 90.1 Radio Station is co-owner of Kolors, an African & Caribbean shop that sells quality merchandise.

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

Two decades ago, the store Caribbean Pulse originated on Pascagoula Street in the City of Jackson, Miss. The island’s culture was highlighted as a means of drawing the community to the site. The store was operable from 2005 to 2007.

Caribbean Pulse’s name was changed to Kolors in 2009, and Kolors sits in a different location (404 W Pascagoula Street). Co-owner - Kolin DJ C-Lecta of WMPR 90.1 FM Radio Station - stated during an interview last Saturday that following the deaths of his parents, grief which grew into a near-death experience landed him in the hospital for six weeks. “I lost my dad and mom within a 13-month period. I came back from New York in 2009 and established Kolors. Its name came about because Africa is the splendor of colors, and we are one race of many colors. We’ve been here 16 plus years,” he said.

Why is Kolors labeled “a one-stop shop for African and Caribbean products?” “I saw a need for adequate representation: “Most of the time when we see African and Caribbean products, we see them in places like Roses and flea markets. There are two cultures, African and Caribbean under one roof. Here we have reggae culture and soca music. We carry the

soca music and the clothing. This is the only place where you find a whole story with combined products.” The interviewee shared that he buys from distributors in California, Georgia, New York, Trinidad, Ghana, Nigeria, and other places.

When I first opened, there was a problem with the prices compared to what customers paid in those places, but when they came here, they realized that there was a difference in quality. We don’t spare the nickel or dime. We don’t cut corners when it comes to quality.” People who enter the store for the first time are startled. It does not matter where they are from: New York, Dallas, Houston, Baltimore, North Carolina, Tennessee, Jackson, etc. They react essentially the same. “It’s ‘uh,’ ‘I’ve never seen a store like this,’ ‘I usually have to go out of Mississippi to find something nice to wear for my culture,’ and ‘I didn’t think you had all this in here.’ They are joyfully shocked,” the co-owner stated.

When asked when African clothing should be worn, Kolin emphasized that it is an everyday kind of fabric. “Normally, African clothing will be worn for Kwanza and Black History Month, but we’ve made inroads, and now people wear African clothing

Kolors  
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# November 9th declared Cheryl W. Turner Day in the City of Jackson



(L-R) Mayor John Horhn, First Lady Horhn and Cheryl Turner  
PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Cheryl Turner (center) with family and friends.

9, 2025, in honor of Jackson resident Cheryl Turner, recently elected as the Sorority’s International President and Chair of the Board of Directors.

Held at the Jackson Con-

vention Complex, one thousand guests gathered for the elegant event. Mayor John Horhn and First Lady Gail Horhn were among those who paid tribute to Ms. Turner. They presented

her with a key to the city and proclaimed the day as Cheryl W. Turner Day in the city of Jackson.

Turner  
More photos on page 3

Thousands gather for the National Folk Festival



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## Turner

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## NAACP

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**Derrick Johnson, National President of the NAACP (center) posing with Pinkie Young (L) and Deidre Gilbert (R), from Los Angeles, CA. PHOTOS BY THOMAS JOHNSON**

Justice  
Goodman-Cheney-Schwerner Award – MS Engaged  
NAACP Legal Award – Jennifer Nwachukwu, Senior Counsel, Voting Rights Program

A highlight of the week was the Community Mass Meeting at the historic Mt. Helm Baptist Church, where Rev. C.J. Rhodes, pastor of the church, delivered a stirring message that echoed throughout the sanctuary. “You had to be there,” Rhodes said. “The Community Mass Meeting of the Mississippi NAACP hosted at The Helm was amazing. Our choir sang heaven down. I was honored to sound the alarm so we can wake up and stay woke during a great revolution. As Teddy P. said, ‘Wake up, everybody!’”

The Mississippi NAACP’s officers, led by Rev. Robert James, president, continue to guide the organization through a season of renewed purpose and action. As the convention closed, attendees reflected on the movement’s proud legacy and recommit- ted themselves to ensuring the next 80 years are just as transformative as the first.



**Attendees at Mt. Helm Baptist Church enjoying stirring message from Pastor Rhodes.**

*(Additional photos on page 4)*

## Kolors

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year-round. Many people are having African style weddings, family reunions, special dinners, etc.”

Just as clothing and style come in variety at Kolors, so do sizes. “We provide clothing for children. We sell up to size 28 in fashion- able outfits for men and women alike. For men we go up to 6X in modern suits, and from SM to 3X and SM to 5X. For dashikis we go up to 8X (unisex),” the businessman voiced.

In addition to the above, Kolin is embarking on another journey. Customers are also purchasing diabetic products, many different detoxes, and men enhancement products. “If the product doesn’t work,” voiced Kolin, “we don’t carry it.”

Kolin stated that he was born in Trinidad and Tobago, but his great, great, great grandmother came from Africa on a slave ship to the island of Tobago. “My great, great grandfather was Irish, and he was married to my great grandmother. My grandfather came from Ghana. My mother and Stokely Carmichael were cousins, born in the southern part of Trinidad, noted the interviewee.

The gentleman grew up between New York and Mississippi. He was the first soccer style kicker at Jackson State University and in the SWAC. He also played football and track and field. He learned early-on to “reach for higher standards, no matter the task.” “It’s okay to bend, but don’t break. We’re all in business to make money. Kolors, however, is a labor of love,” chuckled Kolin.

Angela Edwards is Kolin’s co-owner. David Diaz of Fort Lau- derdale, Florida is a partner who does reggae merchandise. Kolors is open Monday – Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and closed on Sunday. For further inquiry, call (769) 257-5735.

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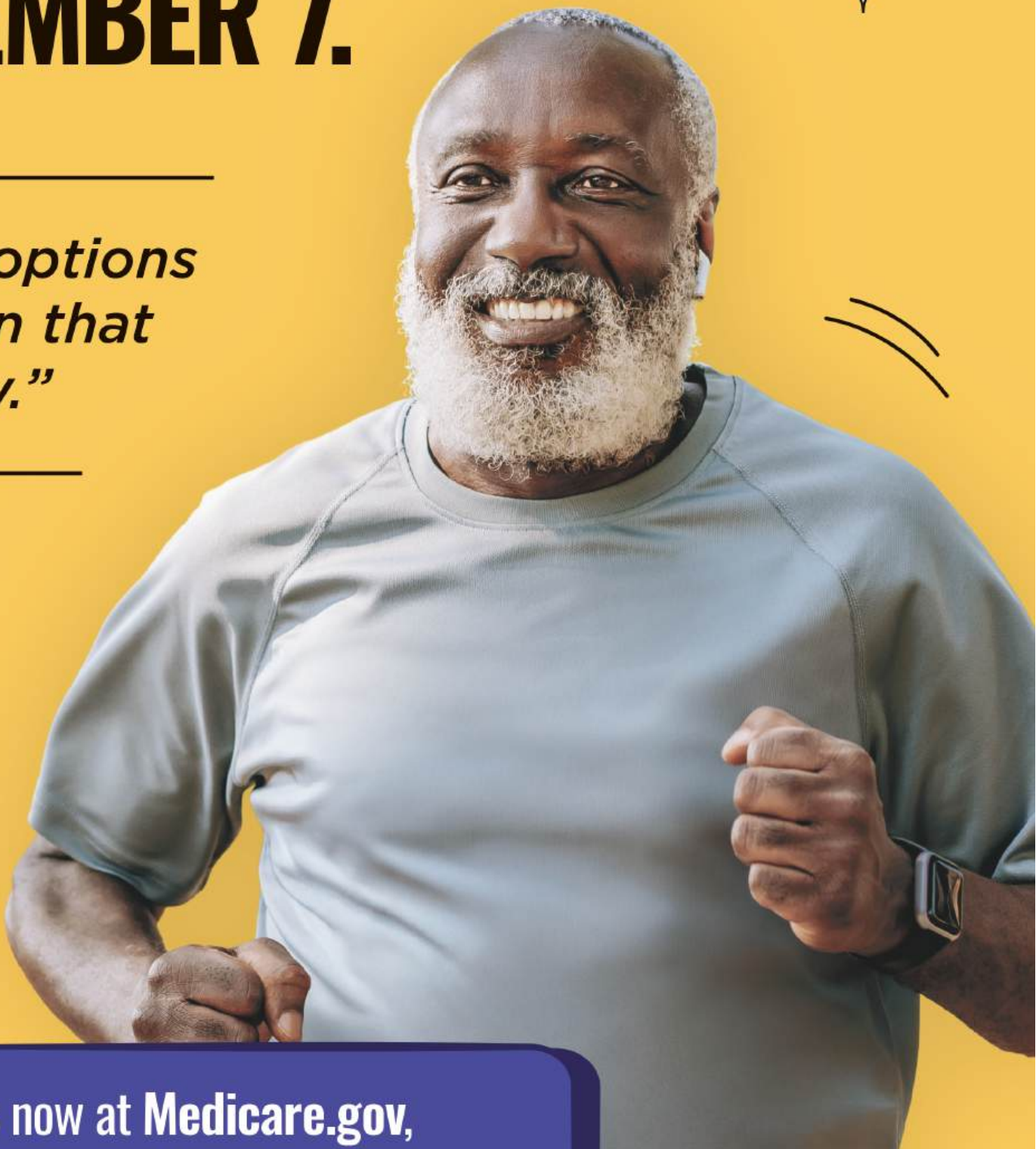
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# A week later: A dire need in Jamaica



By April Ryan  
Senior White House Correspondent

The United Nations reports that Hurricane Melissa has scattered nearly 5 million tons of debris across Western Jamaica, hindering crews from delivering aid and restoring critical services promptly.

According to reports, crews are still working to clear roads, attempting to reach 27 communities cut off by landslides and flooding. Many of those communities are still without power and Wi-Fi. The category five storm killed at least 32 people in Jamaica and another 43 in nearby Haiti, where 13 people remain missing. Here in the United States, the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, New York Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, is working feverishly with the State Department to ensure help is coming from the United States to the affected Caribbean nations, particularly Jamaica.

Both of the New York Congresswoman's parents immigrated to the United States from Jamaica. Clarke has been a strong advocate for Caribbean issues and serves as co-chair of the Congressional Caribbean Caucus. According to a State Department website, "Within hours, Secretary [Marco] Rubio deployed a regional Disaster Assistance Response Team, including urban search-and-rescue teams, to assess needs and provide search and recovery assistance."

The State Department also indicates it "is collaborating with UN agencies, NGOs, and host governments to deliver food, water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, temporary shelter, and search and rescue support." Iconic and award-winning actress, activist, and Jamaican native Sherly Lee Ralph said on The Tea with April, "It is exactly one week later, and there are some people who have not had anybody come to help them, nobody!"

Ralph emoted," It's rough. We need help there now." She is calling on all the people who have "enjoyed the beaches in Jamaica" to help by finding trusted places you know and making a donation, as the storm's destruction has halted the normalcy of life on the island." Ralph provided an update on some areas that hold personal significance for her. "The school that my parents helped build lost their roof. They're trying to figure out where we're gonna put these kids, how we're gonna get them back into school, all of these things, and it's like I can see where we're going afterwards, but how do we start to get the help there now?"

The actresses' children have also started a donation center at their facility, Walk Good LA, to help address some of the dire needs in Jamaica. Her family used the same space for donations to help the victims of the L.A. fires earlier this year.

# Michael: The King of Pop's story returns to the big screen



Michael: The King of Pop's Story PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

By Stacy M. Brown  
Black Press USA Senior  
National Correspondent

The curtain has finally lifted on one of Hollywood's most anticipated films. Lionsgate has unveiled the official trailer and release date for "Michael," the sweeping biopic about Michael Jackson that has been years in the making. Directed by Antoine Fuqua, the film will arrive in theaters April 24, 2026, with the singer's nephew, Jaafar Jackson, stepping into the spotlight to portray his legendary uncle.

The trailer wastes no time rekindling the aura of Jackson's genius. Opening with a studio scene between Jackson and his longtime producer Quincy Jones, played by Kendrick Sampson, the clip builds from a quiet, familiar rhythm to the electrifying pulse of "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'." Viewers catch glimpses of the singer's childhood, flashes of "Thriller," and the silhouette that redefined pop culture. Each frame reminds fans of why Jackson remains unmatched in artistry and influence. The cast surrounding the late pop king's nephew, Jaafar Jackson, reads like a who's who of Black entertainment and music history. Colman Domingo plays Joe Jackson, Nia Long portrays Katherine Jackson, and Larenz Tate takes on the role of Motown founder Berry Gordy. Laura Harrier portrays music executive Suzanne de Passe, while Kat Graham embodies Diana Ross. Miles Teller plays attorney John Branca, a towering entertainment lawyer and longtime Jackson confidant who later became co-executor of his estate. The film's journey to release has been as complicated as the icon it portrays. Production wrapped in 2024, but legal hurdles over depictions of past controversies forced extensive reshoots and editing delays. Even so, Fuqua's film now appears ready to reclaim the narrative, focusing on Jackson's creative ambition and humanity beyond tabloid noise. IndieWire reported that the film had faced "a massive legal snafu" over a disputed storyline but was retooled to center the music and legacy that defined generations.

"Michael" promises more than a chronological retelling. It aims to explore how a child star from Gary, Indiana, became the world's most influential entertainer. The script, written by Oscar-nominated John Logan, traces Jackson's early years with the Jackson 5 through the triumphs and isolation of global superstardom. With Fuqua's cinematic eye and producer Graham King—who brought "Bohemian Rhapsody" to life—joining forces with estate executors Branca and John McClain, the film is positioned as both a tribute and a restoration of Jackson's cultural truth. Branca's work behind the scenes has long shaped Jackson's posthumous success. After the singer died in 2009, Branca and McClain took control of the estate burdened by debt and turned it into a global powerhouse worth billions. Under their stewardship, Jackson's projects have generated more than \$3 billion in worldwide ticket sales and landmark deals, including a \$600 million joint venture with Sony earlier this year. At its heart, though, "Michael" is a story about artistry that transcends scandal. It offers a reminder that, despite the noise surrounding his life, Jackson's music still bridges continents and generations. The trailer's closing moments capture that spirit. As the beat of "Billie Jean" swells and Jaafar Jackson moonwalks into a spotlight, audiences are left with a familiar feeling—the awe of witnessing something timeless return home. "Michael" opens worldwide in theaters April 24, 2026.

# Suburban Chicago dad headed to store with toddlers who says they were pepper-sprayed by federal agents

By Sophia Tareen  
Associated Press

A suburban Chicago father and his 1-year-old daughter were pepper-sprayed at close range as they headed grocery shopping over the weekend and happened upon federal immigration agents, the family said.

Rafael Veraza said the incident happened in a Sam's Club parking lot in Cicero on Saturday, amid escalating clashes that day between immigration agents and frustrated area residents. The suburb shares a border with the Chicago neighborhood of Little Village, a largely Mexican enclave that has frequently been at the center of a federal immigration crackdown that began two months ago in the nation's third-largest city.

Veraza said the family was in their car when they heard a helicopter and honking, common signals in the Chicago area these days that federal agents are nearby. They decided to leave. That's when a masked agent pointed a pepper-spray gun through their vehicle's open window and fired. A cloudy substance hit Veraza in the face,



Rafael Veraza holds his young daughter, Ariana, during a press conference decrying federal agents use of force in Little Village on the South-east side, Chicago, Sunday Nov. 9, 2025. UNCREDITED - CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

which also affected his daughter, according to a video taken by the family.

"My daughter was trying to open her eyes," Veraza told reporters Sunday, as his wife held their daughter nearby. "She was struggling to breathe."

He said they were not protesting, honking their horns to warn others or trying to interfere.

A longtime pastor in the area, the Rev. Matt DeMateo, arrived at the scene to help and also re-

corded footage of Veraza struggling to open his eyes and of their daughter, Arianna, crying while her mother tried to comfort her.

"A family, and I shouldn't have to say this, but guess what? All U.S. citizens attacked while shopping," he said. "We need a better way."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security flatly rejected the family's account.

"There was no crowd control

or pepper spray deployed in a Sam's Club parking lot," Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement sent to the Associated Press Monday.

A day of tensions

Saturday marked a day of chaotic encounters in the operation that has seen more than 3,200 arrests of people suspecting of violating immigration laws in the Chicago area. The aggressive tactics used by agents from Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have repeatedly come under fire through legal challenges.

Agents have used chemical agents liberally across the city of 2.7 million and its many suburbs. They've also gone into a daycare to arrest a teacher, targeted rideshare drivers at O'Hare International Airport, thrown tear gas in a neighborhood preparing for a Halloween parade and gone after landscapers.

But the area hit the hardest has been Little Village, a neighborhood with one of the city's largest business corridors that's sometimes dubbed the

"Mexico of the Midwest." Most restaurants and shops have signs warning ICE agents to stay out while neighbors use whistles and car horns to warn passersby of immigration agents who often stage in an area behind the Sam's Club.

DHS said agents were conducting enforcement operations when they encountered a "hostile crowd" and someone fired at federal officers. Federal officials alleged protesters threw paint cans and bricks at agents' vehicles. Chicago police were called to respond to a call of gunshots fired at federal agents. No one was injured.

"Make no mistake: Our mission will continue despite the violence," McLaughlin said.

Area residents, including DeMateo, said agents deployed chemical agents, including tear gas and pepper balls, near his van without being provoked.

Some protesters confronted Chicago police officers they viewed as helping the federal agents. One police vehicle had its taillight smashed and windshield damaged.

DHS said eight U.S. citizens

were arrested, but the agency did not say if they were charged. The agency did not respond to follow-up questions Monday.

Agent tactics under scrutiny  
The tensions unfolded as a federal judge in Chicago has issued an extensive injunction limiting federal agents' use of force, saying that a top Border Patrol official leading an immigration crackdown repeatedly lied about threats posed by protesters.

DHS appealed that ruling on Sunday.

The order restricts agents from using certain riot control weapons, such as tear gas and pepper balls, "unless such force is objectively necessary" to prevent "an immediate threat." It also bars agents from using physical force, including shoving protesters and journalists to the ground, and it requires agents to give two warnings before using riot control weapons.

Separately, ICE has been compelled to make improvements at a suburban processing center activists say functions as a de facto detention center and is plagued by inhumane conditions.



# Will democratic victories in recent elections be a sign of things to come?

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



There is something about winning that gives us hope. It makes for a better day and allows us to have some joy.

Winning is a term that all of us understand and probably been associated with at different points in our lives. We have won in life whether it has been in our jobs or in sports.

It is not easy to do. Everyone wants to be a winner, however there is some work attached to it. Yet those who win sometimes lose their edge. They become complacent and take it for granted.

During the last election

season, the GOP made a lot of promises and won over the American voters. All seemed right with the world. The new president had everything that he could have possibly wanted.

He gained control of both the Senate, the House of Representatives and used the Supreme Court to his advantage. Legislation was being signed signaling new rules and regulations. Executive orders were coming out of the White House at a rapid pace. Reports indicate the new president has signed 212 executive orders.

The people who voted for the new administration believed the promises they made. They were expecting better days ahead. The citizens who didn't vote for the new White House team knew bad days were right

around the corner.

Well, those folks were right. They are now simply using the old expression; I told you so.

The new administration underestimated the I told you so crowd and the power of the vote showed itself on Tuesday, November 4th.

The states of New Jersey, Virginia, California and Georgia had victories for the Democratic Party. They were much needed because some pundits were saying that they had lost their way. Well, you shouldn't jump to those conclusions after what happened last week. The Democrats are still alive and kicking.

Mikie Sherrill is now the new governor of New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger will hold the same position in Vir-

ginia.

Governor-elect Sherrill while campaigning said, "Trump administration's policies were raising costs on everything from a cup of coffee to your groceries." Governor-elect Spanberger on Tuesday night said, "We sent a message to every corner of the commonwealth, a message to our neighbors and across the country. We chose our commonwealth over chaos."

In California, voters said yes to redrawing new congressional voting lines. California political strategist, Erica Kwiatkowski Nielsen said, "I think the campaign did a fantastic job of saying and acknowledging people's fears that hey, we've been a leader in California on redistricting, but this isn't poli-

tics as usual. These are unprecedented times."

While in Georgia, two Democrats, Peter Hubbard and Alicia Johnson won seats on the state's Public Service Commission. Reports show this was a landmark election. It is the first time since 2006 that the Democrats have won a statewide constitutional office in Georgia.

Will these victories move the political needle for the Democratic Party in the mid-term elections? Many critics believe that it will. They say that momentum is on the side of the Democrats.

These wins come at an opportune time for them because polls show that many Americans are not satisfied with what the new president is doing. Surveys also show that the Republicans are to

blame for the shutdown.

On Sunday, November 9th, the Senate passed legislation that if approved by the House of Representatives will bring a halt to the government shutdown. Speaker Mike Johnson must now reconvene the Congress to get a vote. This will bring some temporary relief to the millions of people who are suffering.

Politico reports, "The 60-40 vote to take the first step toward ending the shutdown came hours after enough Democrats agreed to support a package that would fund multiple agencies and programs for the full fiscal year, and all others until January 30, 2026." If things go as planned, the United States government could reopen late next week. We'll see.

## When Racism is embedded in healthcare

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



From its inception, there has been a national effort to equate healthcare for all Americans

as some kind of hangout for those who were primarily people of color. This is the same strategy applied to the idea of "Welfare".

It suggested that only Blacks or people of color were the recipients when in reality, there have always been more Whites on Welfare than any group of people of color.

Fast forward to the enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which was immediately named "Obamacare" suggesting that since it was passed by a Black President, its primary beneficiaries are Blacks, or African American or people of color if one wants to be inclusive of all ethnicities other than White. Mainstream media has been a willing participant. Throughout the entire government shutdown. The Democrats held out seeking healthcare pro-

tection for millions of Americans, of all colors. One of the main issues was protecting the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mainstream media insisted on always referring to the Act as "Obamacare". This term subconsciously made many of the MAGA supporters feel justified and encouraged in suffering themselves through the government shutdown. This meant that the government was pulling back on those people who don't want to work and cutting off or stalling "Obamacare" while shutting down the government.

Let's make people call the Act by its proper name. The Affordable Care Act. Maybe then there will be less resistance to the benefit it provides for all Americans as the greatest social insurance program since Social Security, which benefits millions. We know former President Obama is responsible for this program which is saving lives and helping millions. Let's not have his name become a code word for the racism against the program because some who benefit are people of color. When in reality, like welfare, most recipients are White.

## Remembering African American Veterans with honor

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



On November 11, 2025, Americans will honor those brave men and women who have served in the military.

As a reminder, it all started November 11, 1918, when an Armistice between the Allied forces of World War I and Germany went into effect. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th Armistice Day, in recognition of the end of the War that was to end all Wars. In 1938, the U.S. Congress passed an Act declaring November 11, Armistice Day, a national holiday. In 1954, after World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed and the Congress approved changing the name Armistice Day to Veterans Day, honoring all Americans who had served in all wars.

But the celebrations we have today do not do justice to the African Americans who have fought and died for America, in spite of the racism and segregated practices that have denied us full and equal treatment. Consider the following Hall of Fame of African Americans who have served and in many instances, died for this country:

Crispus Attucks, son of a slave, first American casualty of the Revolutionary War. March 5, 1770; Nurse Susie King Taylor, who in the 1800s, when it was illegal for African Americans to be educated, snuck in lessons at an underground school which she built with her passion to help others. She met and worked alongside Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross.

During the Civil War; Lewis Martin of the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry, who lost a leg and an arm following the Battle of the Crater in July 1864; the Buffalo Soldiers, as the Colored Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry became known, who fought both in the Civil War and the Indian Wars where they got the name "Buffalo" from Native Americans; and Corporal Freddie Stowers, who led the all-Black 371st Infantry Regiment in France in a successful battle against German troops and was recommended for the Medal of Honor which was not given to him until 70 years later and awarded posthumously to his family. We also remember Corporal John T. Van Rensalier of the 350th HQ Battalion who was awarded the French Legion of Honor in WWI; Doris "Dorie" Miller, a Mess Stewart in the U.S. Navy, who became the first African American to win the Navy Cross based on service at

Pearl Harbor in WWII. Let us not forget African American women like Colonel Margaret Barley serving in WWI and fighting for integrated military housing when Blacks were still fighting and living in a segregated army.

Let us remember Colonel Charles Young, the 3rd African American to graduate from West Point Military Academy and the first African American to reach the rank of "Colonel" in the U.S. Army; or the Tuskegee Airmen, Colored fighter pilots who never lost a plane they were escorting during WWII and paved the way for more than 1.2 million African Americans to enter the service during and following that war.

We have seen from history that African Americans who fought for the freedom of others on distant shores, came home to disenfranchisement, segregation, and subhuman treatment on every front where they should have received respect and equality for having served. We have seen from a historical point that a Black soldier named Charles Lewis, recently discharged from the military, was lynched in uniform in Hichman, Kentucky; in 1944, four Black soldiers after a white store owner claimed they tried to take over his place; in 1947, we repeat, how Joe Nathan Roberts, a

Black Navy Veteran studying at Temple University on the G.I. Bill was abducted and shot because he wouldn't say "Sir" to white men.

We remember with pride our pioneering Black generals like General Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., U.S. Army, the first African American to obtain that rank in the U.S. Army, and his son Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., U.S. Air Force, as well as General Daniel "Chappy" James, fighter pilot, U.S. Air Force and General Colin Powell, City College of New York ROTC graduate who rose to become a four-star general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, twice, as well as the first African American Secretary of State under President George Bush.

Of the 3547 Medals of Honor given out since the beginning of this award, 96 have been given to African Americans, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The first African American to receive the medal was William Carney July 18, 1863.

So, this Veterans Day, all African Americans have a very special and proud history to celebrate, recognizing that among those we honor and remember are our own countless "Band of Brothers and Sisters" that must not be forgotten in the first of parades and holiday sales.

"And still we rise."

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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 1/4 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

LEGAL

I. 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 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

1. 209-89 located at 2745 Pine Tree Dr.

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.

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

11/6/2025, 11/13/2025

LEGAL

I. 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 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

1. 209-35 located at 2722 Pine Tree Dr.

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.

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

11/6/2025, 11/13/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4315

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 Terrence Brent, Sr. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a skating rink for the property located at 540 Raymond Rd-Ste. B (Parcel 217-9), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land situated in the East 1/2 of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of that certain ten acre tract conveyed by Henry and Anne Moore to W.E. Johnson by Warranty Deed recorded in Deed Book 227 at Page 126 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi; run thence Easterly along the South line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 4.0 feet to the Point of Beginning of the parcel of land herein described; from said Point of Beginning, turn thence left through a deflection angle of 88 degrees 21 minutes 49 seconds and run Northerly 4.0 feet East of and parallel to the West line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 458.20 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 38 minutes 11 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 481.43 feet to a point on the East line of said ten acre tract; said point also being on the West line of Glenwood Subdivision, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi; turn thence left through an interior angle of 88 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds and run Southerly along the East line of said ten acre tract and West line of Glenwood Subdivision for a distance of 183.19 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 34 minutes 50 seconds and run Westerly for a distance of 175.0 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 268 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds and run Southerly for a distance of 275.0 feet to the South line of said ten acre tract; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 34 minutes 50 seconds and run Westerly along the South line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 306.88 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 172,498.08 square feet or 3.96 acres, more or less.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, 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.

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

10/30/2025 11/13/2025

LEGAL

I. 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 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

1. 209-73 located at 264 Shady Pine Ln.

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.

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

11/6/2025, 11/13/2025

LEGAL

I. 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 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

1. 611-141 located at 321 Creston 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.

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

11/6/2025, 11/13/2025

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

ZONING CASE NO. 4313

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 Eric McKie d/b/a Green Oaks Garden Center has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a height Variance of up to 5' from the maximum 8' height for fences to allow for privacy, economic and security purposes within a C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property located at 5009/5055 Old Canton (Parcels 507-276 & 507-280-1), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Tract 1:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the NE ¼ of section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence Westerly along the South line of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of said Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi for a distance of 1247.2 feet to the Easterly right of way of Old Canton Road; turn thence right and run Northerly along the Easterly line of Old Canton Road 828.5 feet; turn thence right 89 degrees 1 1 minutes and run Easterly 1 50 feet to the point of beginning; turn thence left 89 degrees 1 1 minutes and run Northerly 250 feet; turn thence right 89 degrees 1 1 minutes and run Easterly 122.82 feet; turn thence right 84 degrees 28 minutes and run Southerly 251.07 feet; turn thence right 95 degrees 32 minutes and run Westerly 150 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.06 acres, more or less.

Tract 2:

For a place of beginning, begin at the intersection of the Southern right-of-way line of Old Canton Road with the western right-of-way line of Ridgewood Road, as both streets are now (March 1973) laid out, improved, and in use in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and measure thence westerly along the southern right-of-way line of said Old Canton Road for a distance of 905.63 feet to an iron stake, which stake is the true point of beginning for the property herein described; continue thence westerly along the southern right-of-way line of said Old Canton Road for a distance of 150.19 feet to an iron stake; turn thence to the left through a deflection angle of 89 degrees 1 1' and run thence southerly along the eastern property line of property now belonging to Cities Service Station's Corporation for a distance of 200.0 feet to an iron stake marking the SE corner of said Cities Service Station's Corporation property; turn thence to the left through a deflection angle of 90 degrees 49' and run thence easterly for a distance of 122.22 feet to an iron stake; turn thence to the right through a deflection angle of 84 degrees 28' 29" and run thence southeasterly for a distance of 251.19 feet to an iron stake; turn thence to the left through a deflection angle of 173 degrees 37' 46" and run thence northerly for a distance of 450.05 feet to the point of beginning, containing an area of 0.77 acres.

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

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

Sudoku

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

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

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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS  
OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Jackson Office of Housing and Community Development is issuing this notice to solicit qualifications from Contractors/General Contractors to create an "Approved Contractor List". The Approved Contractor List will be used to solicit sealed bids for all housing construction/ rehabilitation activities associated with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) Funds.

Contractors or General Contractors with demonstrated experience in housing construction/rehabilitation projects and are interested in making their services available to the City of Jackson are invited to respond to this RFQ. "Respondents" means the companies or individuals that submit proposals in response to this RFQ. It is understood that the selected Respondent, acting as an individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, is state-licensed, certified, and capable of providing the specified services.

Contractors or general Contractors interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the City of Jackson three (3) copies of a Statement of Qualification Packet, which should consist of the following:

1. License and Certifications for all individual contractors and or members of the company submitting for the RFQ
2. A copy of your Privilege License
3. Certificate of Liability
4. A copy of your City Master Trade License (if applicable)
5. A copy of your business information from the Secretary of State showing your business is in good standing
6. MSBOC License
7. Contractor's Bond
8. SAMS Number
9. Must have a City-issued Master License for your Trade
10. A description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the consultant for this work; the cost and schedule completion (or actual completion) of this work with project owners reference contact information.

The City will evaluate the Statements of Qualification based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance. Contractors who satisfactorily meet the criteria will be placed on the Approved Contractors List

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 proposer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan with the proposal submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a proposer from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Division of Equal Business Opportunity at 601-960-1856. Copies of the City of Jackson's Executive Order, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the program are available at the following location: 200 South President Street, Room 223, Jackson, Mississippi; or can be accessed on City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity webpage.

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

Responses to this RFQ are due by 3:30 p.m. on December 2, 2025 Responses to this RFQ may be mailed or delivered in a sealed envelope to:

City Clerk's Office, Attn: RFQ – Housing and Community Development Division Rehabilitation Services, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Each Respondent is responsible for labeling the exterior of the sealed envelope containing the name of the respondent's business name.

11/13/2025 11/20/2025

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
LEGAL PUBLICATIONS FOR 2026

Pursuant to Section 21-39-3 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson"), seeks competitive bids for the City of Jackson's annual contract for legal publications.

Sealed bids will be received in the Department of Municipal Clerk at City Hall in the City of Jackson, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2, 2025 for the publication of the City of Jackson's proceedings, ordinances, resolutions, and other notices required to be published. All submitted bids should be sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Legal Publications" on the outside of the envelope.

Each bidder is responsible for documenting its bid with the necessary attachments evidencing its qualifications and compliance with all relevant criteria set forth in Section 13-3-31 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

Each bid must be submitted on the bid form provided by the Department of Municipal Clerk. Bid forms may be obtained from the Department of Municipal Clerk. Each bidder must quote a per word rate to the nearest one dollar, e.g., 0.010 cents per word. The quoted per word rate must be for a first, second and third publication. Bidders must also include a flat rate for supplying a proof of publication.

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at: www.centralbidding.com and the City of Jackson's website: www.jacksonms.gov under Bid Opportunities. Electronic bids and/or reverse auction 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.

The determination of the low bidder will be based on a per word rate advertisement, published three (3) times and a single proof of publication. The successful bidder will be awarded service for one-year for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

By: Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

11/13/2025

Sudoku Solution

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

© Feature Exchange

PICK UP  
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK  
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON

BULLY'S RESTAURANT

3118 Livingston Road

CASH & CARRY

Capitol Street and Monument Street

CITY HALL

219 S President St

GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX

2659 Livingston Road

DOLLAR GENERAL

3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

DOLLAR GENERAL

2855 McDowell Rd

DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

J & A FUEL STORES

3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST

2325 Livingston Rd.

MCDADE'S MARKET

Northside Drive

MCDADE'S MARKET #2

653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA

Jackson Medical Mall

350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

SHELL FOOD MART

5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55

MURPHY USA

6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

REVELL ACE HARDWARE

Terry Rd (South Jackson)

WALGREENS

380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON

A & I

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

BOUTIQUE STORE

3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

COMMUNITY MART

743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

FRYER LANE GROCERY

Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

K & K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

LACY'S INSURANCE

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road

CITY HALL

Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

SERVICE STATION

at Exit 78

CITY HALL

West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WELCOME CENTER

505 E. Main Street

SUNFLOWER GROCERY

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP

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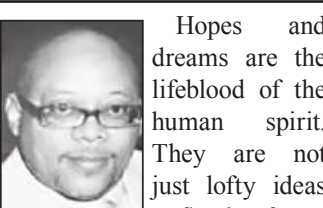
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# Seize every chance to serve God's people and purpose

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



Hopes and dreams are the lifeblood of the human spirit. They are not just lofty ideas or fleeting fantasies but the very core of what gives life meaning, direction and energy. When hopes fade and dreams die, we are left wandering in a fog of apathy, confusion, and despair. But when they are cherished and nurtured, they lead us to incredible heights – both personally and collectively.

Without truth, life is without hope and dreams, life becomes a hollow experience. It becomes a daily grind that slowly erodes our joy and our will to preserve. That's why it's so critical that we never allow them to die. Instead, we must actively protect, cultivate and pursue them – even when circumstances seem bleak. Hope is more than a feeling. It is a lifetime, an anchor for the soul. It is the inner conviction, despite what we see or feel, there is something better ahead. Hope reminds us that the darkness is temporary and morning is on the way. Without

it, we become emotionally and spiritually paralyzed. We stop striving. We stop believing. We settle.

But with hope, we endure trials. We preserve through pain. We wait, watch, and work with anticipation. Hope gives us the courage to rise again, no matter how many times life knocks us down. If hope is the fuel, dreams are the destination. Dreams stretch our imagination and allow us to see beyond our current situation. They help us visualize a better version of ourselves, our communities, and the world around us. They give our lives direction and purpose.

Every great invention, every movement of justice, every beautiful work of art began as a dream in someone's heart. From Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality to Mother Teresa's dream of caring for the forgotten, history is shaped by those who refused to let their dreams die. But here's the challenge: dreams often face resistance. Life has a way of throwing obstacles in our path – disappointments, delays, failures, and even betrayals. And it's in those moments that the temptation to give up is the

strongest. That's why dreams must be guarded with vigilance and pursued with persistence.

Sometimes, life demands that we become our own research and development team. If our dreams feel distant from our buried, it's time to investigate. Why are we where we are? What brought us here? What can we do to move forward? This kind of self-examination is not about blame – it's about understanding. It's about reconnecting with the purpose God has placed inside us and finding the path that leads back to it. Too often, people wait for someone else to rescue them. However, the truth is that much of the breakthrough we need is already within us. We need to research our condition and develop a plan. What talents have we overlooked? What opportunities have we ignored? What relationships have we neglected? What habits have we allowed to weaken our foundation?

The story of Nehemiah in the Bible offers a powerful example of this principle. In the book of Nehemiah, we meet a man who is deeply burdened by the brokenness of his homeland. The walls of Jerusalem

had been torn down, leaving the city vulnerable and in disgrace. Though he lived far from Jerusalem in the comfort of the Persian palace, Nehemiah's heart broke for his people. He could have convinced himself that the problem was too big or too distant. But instead, he prayed, he wept, and he acted.

Nehemiah became his own research and development team. He asked questions. He assessed the damage. He fasted and prayed for direction. He then developed a plan. He requested resources from the king, received letters of support, and traveled to Jerusalem to assess the situation firsthand. Once there, he rallied the people with vision and purpose. Despite opposition and discouragement from outsiders, Nehemiah kept the people focused and motivated. They worked side by side, each one rebuilding a section of the wall. They rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days – an incredible feat made possible by unity, determination, and unwavering belief in the mission.

*Simeon R. Green, III, First Church of God 6517 Walmsley*

## PRESERVED Boaz Ain't Broke (The List) PART 4

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



I know I said a few weeks ago that the Boaz Ain't Broke series was ending in October. However, this week's column

is the actual final one in the Boaz Ain't Broke series. I've gotten such a great response and had a few conversations with others who've shared great feedback that I wanted to add a few more things. Just a reminder, that when I wrote the first column a few weeks ago, I wrote that "A whole man may still have personal and professional disappointments, but he has learned how to allow God to heal him."

The sweet love story of Ruth and Boaz showed two people who were willing to seek and accept God's plan... again. That might be the hardest thing for those of us who have dealt with relationship disappointments in the past. The following list gives a few things for mature single women to look for as they search for their Boazes.

Boaz should be whole in the following five areas:

- Financially - Takes care of his financial obligations
- Relationally - Willing to work past fears and doubts from past relationships to connect to others.
- Emotionally - Willing to be real about his emotions without being manipulative or co-dependent
- Spiritually - Acknowledges, hears, and obeys the voice of God
- Physically - Takes care of his health

Talking to others in the last few weeks, I realize that there are probably more things that could be added. This doesn't mean that you can't find true love or a committed

relationship if these things aren't evident. Finding love as a mature single or seasoned saint might mean that we have to be willing to do the following:

- Find Love Again – Have the courage to love and be willing to allow yourself to be vulnerable again.
- Accept Love Again – Have the wisdom to accept love no matter what package it comes in.
- Trust God Again – Have the discernment to trust God's plan for your life even if you can't see his hand.
- Seek God Again – Have the passion to relentlessly pursue God's presence and purpose in your life.
- Get Connected Again – Have the willingness to step out of your comfort zone and risk connecting with others in relationships.
- Trust Your Heart Again – Have the ability to forgive past mistakes and disappointments.
- Obeys God Again – Have the faith to submit your will to God's will in every area of your life.

Like Hebrews 3:13 says, "For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ." Trusting God again after hurts, disappointments, rejection, and mistakes is one of the hardest things to do. Like Boaz and Ruth, we have to be willing to take the risk that love, peace and God's purpose and plan are waiting for us... again.

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

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# More than skin deep: Our skin is essential to health, identity and longevity

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

Our skin is more than a surface, it's a story. It's the first thing the world sees, the last thing we shed and the only organ that touches every part of our lives. From shielding us against environmental threats to signaling internal health, skin is a living, breathing testament to our experiences, our heritage and our resilience.

Despite its importance, skin care is often dismissed as vanity or luxury. In reality, caring for our skin is a vital act of health preservation, self-respect and cultural affirmation. Whether you're navigating aging, advocating for health equity or simply trying to feel better in your own body, skin deserves your attention.

Our skin is our body's largest organ, covering about 20 square feet in the average adult. It's not just a passive layer; it's a dynamic system with multiple roles:

1. Protection
  - Acts as a physical barrier against bacteria, viruses, pollutants and UV radiation.
  - Prevents dehydration by keeping moisture inside the body.
  - Shields internal organs from mechanical injury.
2. Regulation
  - Helps regulate body temperature through sweat and blood flow.
  - Maintains electrolyte balance and fluid levels.
3. Sensation
  - Contains millions of nerve endings that detect touch, pain, pressure and temperature.
  - Plays a key role in emotional and physical intimacy.
4. Immunity
  - Hosts immune cells that detect and respond to pathogens.
  - Supports the skin microbiome, a community of beneficial bacteria that protect against infection.
5. Detoxification
  - Eliminates waste through sweat.
  - Assists the liver and kidneys in processing toxins.
6. Identity and Expression
  - Reflects age, ethnicity, health status and emotional state.
  - Carries cultural significance, especially in communities of color where skin tone and texture are deeply tied to history and representation.

BEFORE STARTING ANY HEALTH OR FITNESS PROGRAM CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN

## More Than Skin Deep: Our Skin Is Essential to Health, Identity and Longevity

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It's the first thing the world sees, the last thing we shed and the only organ that touches every part of our lives.

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- Why Skin Care Matters: Be-

yond Beauty

Skin care isn't just about looking good, it's about feeling whole, staying healthy and aging with dignity. Here's why it matters:

1. Prevention Is Power
  - Regular skin care helps prevent acne, eczema, psoriasis and infections.
  - Early detection of skin changes can signal internal issues like diabetes, liver disease or cancer.
2. Sun Protection Saves Lives
  - UV radiation is a leading cause of skin cancer, including melanoma.
  - Sunscreen, protective clothing and shade-seeking behaviors

reduce risk dramatically.

3. Aging Gracefully
    - As we age, skin loses elasticity, moisture and collagen.
    - Proper care can reduce wrinkles, dryness and age spots—preserving comfort and confidence.
  4. Mental Health Connection
    - Skin conditions like acne or hyperpigmentation can affect self-esteem and social engagement.
    - A consistent routine fosters mindfulness, self-care and emotional regulation.
  5. Cultural Affirmation
    - For Black communities, skin care is also about reclaiming narratives around beauty, health and representation.
    - Products and routines tailored to melanin-rich skin help address unique concerns like hyperpigmentation, keloids and razor bumps.
- Skin Through the Ages: What to Know at Every Stage
- Childhood
    - Skin is thinner and more sensitive.
    - Focus on gentle cleansers, moisturizers and sun protection.
  - Adulthood
    - Hormonal changes affect oil production and skin texture.
    - Tailor routines to skin type—dry, oily, combination or sensitive.
  - Older Adults
    - Skin becomes thinner, drier and more prone to bruising.
    - Prioritize hydration, barrier repair and regular skin checks for cancer or pressure sores.

People of color, especially those with melanin-rich skin, often benefit from tailored skin care approaches that address unique biological and cultural factors. While the fundamentals

of skin care apply to everyone (cleansing, moisturizing, sun protection), melanin-rich skin has distinct strengths and sensitivities that deserve special attention.

Here's a breakdown of what's different and why it matters:

1. Sun Protection Is Still Essential
  - There's a myth that darker skin doesn't need sunscreen. Not true.
  - Melanin offers some natural protection, but not enough to prevent sun damage or skin cancer.
  - People of color are more likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer at later stages, making early protection critical.
  - Use broad-spectrum SPF 30+ daily and look for formulas that don't leave a white cast.
2. Hyperpigmentation Is a Common Concern
  - Melanin-rich skin is more prone to:
  - Post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (dark spots after acne, eczema, or injury).
  - Uneven tone from sun exposure or hormonal changes.
  - To manage this:
    - Use gentle exfoliants (like lactic acid or mandelic acid).
    - Look for ingredients like niacinamide, vitamin C and azelaic acid.
    - Avoid harsh scrubs or aggressive treatments that can worsen discoloration.
3. Moisture Matters—But So Does Barrier Repair
  - Darker skin tones often have lower ceramide levels, which can lead to dryness and sensitivity.
  - Choose moisturizers with ceramides, hyaluronic acid or shea butter.
  - Avoid alcohol-heavy or fragrance-laden products that strip

the skin.

4. Shaving and Ingrown Hair Prevention

People of color, especially Black men, are more prone to:

- Pseudofolliculitis barbae (razor bumps).
- Keloid scarring from shaving or skin trauma.

Tips:

- Use single-blade razors or electric clippers.
  - Shave in the direction of hair growth.
  - Consider glycolic acid or salicylic acid products to reduce bumps.
5. Eczema and Inflammation Can Leave Lasting Marks
- Inflammation in melanin-rich skin often leads to:
- Scarring or pigment changes that persist long after the flare-up.
  - More intense itching, which increases the risk of chronic scratching and damage.
- Management includes:
- Fragrance-free moisturizers.
  - Anti-inflammatory ingredients like colloidal oatmeal or ceramide-rich creams.
  - Dermatologist guidance for prescription options.
6. Cultural Sensitivity and Representation Matter
- Many mainstream products and dermatology practices were developed with lighter skin tones in mind. That's changing, but slowly.
- Seek dermatologists experienced in treating skin color.
  - Support brands and professionals who understand melanin-rich skin.
  - Advocate for inclusive education and product development.

StatePoint

As temperatures drop and people spend more time indoors; the flu and other respiratory viruses can spread easily. Fortunately, you can take precautions to protect yourself, your family and your community.

The American Medical Association (AMA) recommends that all eligible Americans -- everyone 6 months and older (with rare exceptions) -- get vaccinated against flu as soon as possible. While the timing, intensity and severity of each flu season is difficult to predict, vaccination is always the best way to reduce your risk of severe illness from flu -- and the best way to protect your loved ones and community by slowing its spread. Flu vaccination also reduces missed days of work and school, prevents added medical costs, and has even been associated with lower rates of cardiac events among people with heart disease.

Based on preliminary data, the CDC estimates that getting



vaccinated against flu reduced the risk of hospitalization due to flu by about 40 percent in adults and 50-60 percent in children during last year's flu season. However, fewer than half of all people nationwide received a flu vaccine last sea-

son.

"Last year's flu season was one of the worst in the United States in 15 years, and the statistics speak volumes. The low vaccination numbers resulted in more than 620,000 hospitalizations and 27,000 deaths re-

lated to flu illness," said AMA president, Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. "We cannot afford to repeat this pattern. We strongly urge everyone who is eligible to get a flu vaccine as soon as possible, ideally before illness begins spreading widely."

In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses with potentially serious complications are expected to circulate again this year, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2.

The AMA encourages all adults age 75 and older to get vaccinated against RSV, as well as adults ages 50–74 with certain medical conditions who are at increased risk for severe RSV. The RSV vaccine is not an annual vaccine, so those who have already received it do not need another dose. Families should also familiarize themselves with the options to protect infants during RSV season, including vaccination during pregnancy or an RSV monoclonal antibody for infants and young children. Most infants will not need both options.

Anyone 6 months and older who wants a COVID-19 vaccine should be able to get one. Certain populations are at increased risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, in-

cluding adults age 65 and older, those with underlying medical conditions, patients who are pregnant, and children 6 to 23 months of age.

The AMA encourages you to speak with your physician or other health care professional to determine which vaccines are best for you, and to call your doctor or pharmacy to make an appointment for flu and other shots. AMA recently launched infographics to help patients and physicians cut through vaccine confusion and have open, honest conversations with each other. The infographics can be found at <https://ama-assn.org>.

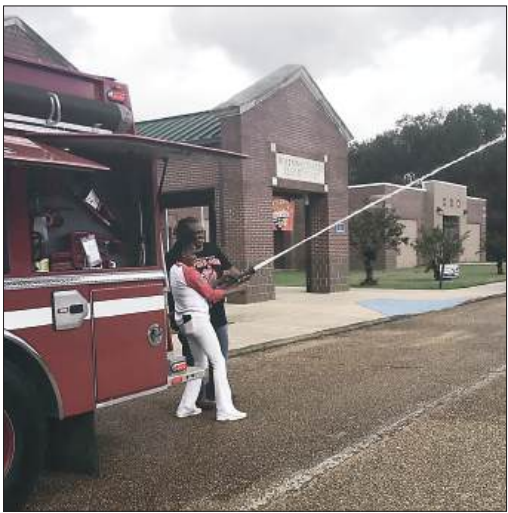
Additional health precautions, such as covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing your hands, improving indoor air quality, and staying home when you're sick, can also help reduce the spread of viruses. This respiratory virus season, take these steps and get up to date on vaccinations to stay healthy and protect those around you.

# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Red Ribbon Week at Bolton Edwards Elementary Middle School

We're fired up for Red Ribbon Week! Our students and staff proudly wore red Monday to show our commitment to living drug-free. A huge thank you to our local Fire Department for joining us in spreading this powerful message of safety and awareness! #RedRibbonWeek #WeWearRed #DrugFreeLooksLikeUs



## *Jackson comes alive with Rhythm and Tradition* Thousands gather for the National Folk Festival *November 7 - 9 2025*





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## JPS inspires men to positive actions in our communities



### JPS Newswire

The Jackson Public School District proudly relaunched its Men of IMPACT initiative with a kickoff meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2025, at Kirksey Middle School. The event brought together more than twenty male educators and staff members from across the district, united under a shared mission to inspire men to positive actions in our communities together (IMPACT).

Facilitated by Dr. Tommy Nalls, director of recruitment, the event marked a renewed commitment to elevating the presence, leadership, and collaboration of male educators throughout JPS. The gathering served as both a listening session and a vision-setting conversation for the year ahead.

“Our goal is to create a network where men across JPS, whether teachers, custodians, administrators, or support staff, model the leadership our scholars need to see,” said Dr. Nalls. “This program is about connection, visibility, and taking positive action together.”

During the session, participants completed a districtwide survey identifying areas of greatest interest and need. Common themes included mentorship and leadership development, fellowship growth, visibility and representation, and wellness and balance.

The October kickoff laid the foundation for a year of monthly programming focused on fellowship, leadership, and service. The next gathering, IM-PACT in Motion, will be held Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Forest Hill High School, located at 2607 Raymond Road Jackson, MS 39212.

During this meeting, the district will launch its mentorship framework for male staff. Light refreshments will be provided, and all male JPS employees are invited to attend.

For more information or to register for the December meeting, please contact Dr. Tommy Nalls, Director of Recruitment, at [tnalls@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:tnalls@jackson.k12.ms.us).



## Five JPS Scholars named to State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council



John Bell



Clarissa Coleman



Jamia Dent



Faith Malembeka



Edgar Solis-Diaz

### JPS Newswire

Five Jackson Public Schools scholars have been named to the Mississippi Department of Education’s (MDE) 2025–26 State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council. The group of 114 students from across the state will meet with Dr. Lance Evans, state superintendent of education, to share their perspectives on policies and educational opportunities in Mississippi.

Representing JPS this year are:

- John Bell, Callaway High School

- Clarissa Coleman, JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School
- Jamia Dent, Provine High School
- Faith Malembeka, JPS-Tougaloo Early College High School
- Edgar Solis-Diaz, Murrah High School

The council is made up of high school juniors and seniors, along with first-year college students attending Mississippi colleges and universities. Members provide a direct student voice to MDE by discussing academic

goals, challenges, and ideas that could strengthen learning across the state.

This year’s 114 members include 57 new students and 57 returning members. To earn a seat, students completed a competitive application process that required a cover letter, resume, and written responses about their experiences, concerns, and vision for education in Mississippi. Nearly 200 applications were submitted statewide.

The Student Advisory Council, launched in 2019, gives students a chance to serve as

liaisons between their peers and state leaders. By sharing their experiences, members help ensure student perspectives are considered in statewide decisions about public education.

JPS congratulates John, Clarissa, Jamia, Faith, and Edgar for this achievement and looks forward to the impact they will make as scholar leaders on the council.

For the full list of 2025–26 Student Advisory Council members, visit [mdek12.org/SSE/Student-Advisory-Council](http://mdek12.org/SSE/Student-Advisory-Council).

## Alcorn’s Funky Four Drum Majors celebrate 40 years of electrifying showmanship

### ASU

Alcorn State University’s legendary Funky Four drum majors are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, marking four decades of the high-energy, precision-driven showmanship that defines the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band. Established in 1985 under the visionary leadership of the late Samuel “Griff” Griffin, then-Director of Bands, the Funky Four tradition has grown into a defining symbol of HBCU marching culture, blending artistry, athleticism, and musicality into a performance style recognized around the world.

The legacy began with the four founding members: the late Raymond Neal; Michael Gee of Memphis, Tenn.; Travon Neal of Houston, Texas; and Michael Harper of Jackson, Miss. These pioneers transformed the role of the drum major from one of simple direction to one of dynamic performance, introducing synchronized, dance-infused routines that combined precision, power, and flair.

Michael Harper, a founding member who now serves as drum major sponsor, reflected on his deep-rooted connection to the program and his decision to return to guide the next generation.

“If you opened up the dictionary and looked up the word ‘bandhead,’ you’d probably see



LtoR: Michael Harper, Travon Neal, Michael Gee, & Raymond Neal (deceased)

my picture,” Harper said with a laugh. “I would consider myself a diehard bandhead.”

He remembers how 1985 marked a turning point for the band.

“Before then, you’d usually see one gentleman and a young lady, or maybe two young ladies and a guy,” Harper explained. “That year, we had four drum majors for the first time. We didn’t realize it at the time, but that was history in the making.”

Griffin’s philosophy of impeccable showmanship and marching precision continues to define the Funky Four’s magnetic style. Their movements, inspired by the syncopated rhythms of the funk era, emphasize “playing

on the one,” the first beat of the measure, creating the powerful, danceable groove that has become their hallmark.

That commitment to technical excellence and performance intensity remains the driving force behind the group today.

“I’m all about precision,” Harper said. “We’ve got to get back to that grit. We’ve got to be that cutting edge. Maintaining that style and ensuring it stays alive. That’s important to me. That’s my passion.”

The tradition continues through mentorship and the passing down of standards from one generation to the next.

For the 2025–26 season, the program features five drum ma-

jors. The lineup includes head drum major LaZarion Gary of Killeen, Texas, a graduate student studying business administration; Akira Scott, a senior biology major; Caleb Turner of Greenville, Miss., a junior agricultural science major; Ashton Murphy of Vicksburg, Miss., a senior biology–pre-professional major; and Tra’Main Warren, a junior agricultural business major.

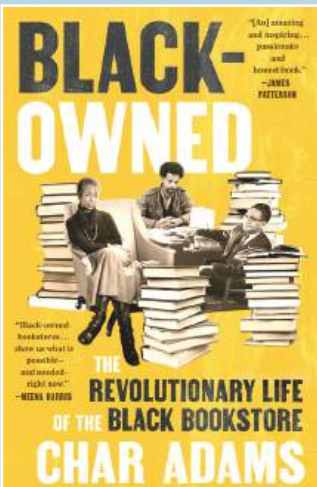
Harper said his focus is on discipline, clarity, and consistency.

“I’m all about expectations and being very clear about them,” he said. “There’s no gray area. There’s no room for error or drifting from the goal. They are the standard. They are the example.”

But for Harper, mentorship extends beyond music and movement.

“It’s not just about teaching routines,” he said. “It’s about teaching them how to march, how to lead, and how to carry themselves as men and women of purpose. Leadership isn’t just something we talk about — it’s something we model.”

For four decades, the Funky Four have embodied Alcorn’s values of excellence, discipline, and pride. Through rhythm and mentorship, their legacy continues to inspire — a living tradition that remains a cornerstone of the Alcorn family.



BOOK REVIEW:

BLACK-OWNED: THE REVOLUTIONARY LIFE OF THE BLACK BOOKSTORE

BY CHAR ADAMS

C.2025, TINY REP BOOKS

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You’re not planning on being shelfish.

But seriously, you’ve been waiting months for the release of your favorite author’s newest book and it’s in stores. You have your copy, you’ll be the first one to open it, your easy chair is ready, no bookmarks needed. As in the new book “Black-Owned” by Char Adams, you knew just where to find it.

For many people, it’s a dream: owning a bookstore, talking about books all day, putting good reads into people’s hands.

These are the kinds of stories Char Adams says she likes telling, and she was surprised when she started researching for this book. The tales of Black bookstore owners is one that’s rarely told.

David Ruggles, for instance, was a Black abolitionist in New York, and he had quite a reputation for his ability to “inspire almost any crowd to action.” In 1834, he opened what would be America’s first Black bookstore, using it “as a home for both anti-slavery literature and his activism.”

A century later, Harlem’s

Lewis Michaux became the first person to make a career with a bricks-and-mortar bookstore when he opened National Memorial African Book Store in 1933. He was a man of determination, having gotten his start “selling periodicals... with a bullhorn outside his shop” every day.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Black-owned bookstores such as the Drum and Spear in Washington D.C. Vaughn’s Bookstore in Detroit, and Liberation Bookstore in Harlem hand-picked their stock to reflect the battle for Black rights

– and sometimes, that meant violence visited their stores. Hue-Man Experience in L.A. became a home for Black authors to launch new books and nurture careers; in the 1970s through the 1990s, Black publishers began to partner with America’s Black bookstores to further those careers and mainstream publishers eventually followed suit.

Today, Black-owned bookstores likely have a digital footprint to reach readers. Digital, however, “will not be the end of Black-owned bookstores...” says Adams.

“As long as the fight for Black

liberation exists, so will these shops.”

Before you start reading “Black-Owned,” be sure you have a pen and notebook close. You’ll need them to write down all the bookstores you’ll want to visit, places you’ll regret missing and places you’ll learn about inside this fascinating volume.

But that’s just a part of what you’ll find here. Author Char Adams also tells the long story of Black authors and publishers, and the struggles both had – and sometimes still have - to get their books into readers’ hands. It’s a surprising journey

that seems intuitive now, but it wasn’t so in the not-so-distant past. Bookstores and authors had to learn, by necessity, how to work together, which was an offshoot of the activism found in 1960s-era bookstores and which still continues today. It’s a nice, round circle of time that readers will appreciate.

Absolutely, this is a book meant for anyone who has a sky-high TBR pile and who’s heading to the bookstore this week. Find “Black-Owned.” It’s just what you want when you have a need for read.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
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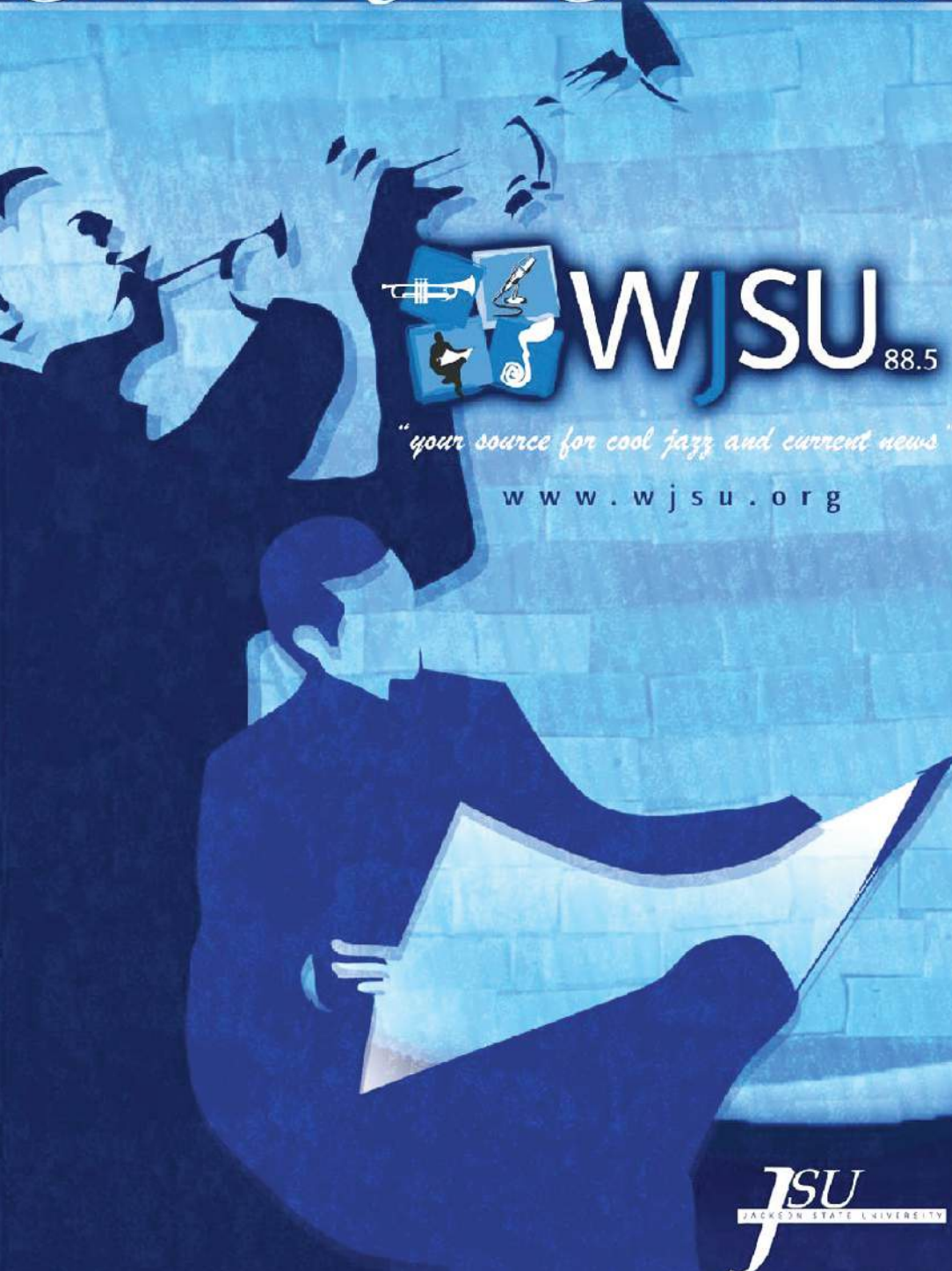
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# Jackson State defeats Valley: Prepares for important game against Bethune Cookman



Ja'Naylon Dupree PHOTOS BY KEVIN ROBINSON



JSU QB Jared Lockart played a solid game



Ashton Taylor pressures Valley QB Brandon Nunez

**By Tim Ward**  
*Sports Writer*

Jackson State traveled to Itta Bena last Saturday to battle with Mississippi Valley State University. JSU won 42 to 3. The win, coupled with a Bethune Cookman loss, has JSU in sole possession of first place. Jackson State and Alabama State are both 5-1 in the SWAC. Jackson State has the tiebreaker with their victory over the Hor-

nets a few weeks ago. In the West, Prairie View A&M is 5-1 with Grambling State University in second place at 4-2 in the SWAC. Prairie View defeated Grambling earlier in the season 28 to 13.

Freshman Quarterback, Jared Lockhart from JSU, played a solid game completing 21 of 27 passes for 241 yards and 2 touchdowns. Lockhart also ran the ball 8 times for 30 yards.

Running back Ahmad Miller carried the ball 19 times for 87 yards. Travis Terrell Jr carried the ball 10 times for 56 yards with 1 touchdown. Wide receiver Nate Rembert, who started his collegiate career at Mississippi Valley State, caught 6 passes for 97 yards with 2 touchdowns.

Quincy Ivory, another former Mississippi Valley State player, compiled two tackles, a half

sack and forced a fumble. The defense held Valley to 179 yards of total offense. Valley State Quarterback, Brandon Nunez completed 15 of 34 passes for 126 yards with 1 interception. Christian White led the devils in receiving yards. He caught 3 passes for 51 yards.

Jackson State closes out the season at home. This Saturday, JSU hosts Bethune Cookman. BCU is one game behind JSU

for first place. However, there may be key players suspended for this weekend's game. Last Saturday, Grambling State University and Bethune Cookman University got into a fight at halftime. Over 20 players were ejected. The SWAC is investigating and will levy fines to the universities and players from both schools are expected to be suspended for 1 or 2 games. If Jackson State wins the next two

football games, they will win the East again. Same scenario for Prairie View, win their next two and they're in. Jackson State and Prairie View could win the East and West respectively if they win and Alabama State and Grambling State lose. Kickoff for the game Saturday at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium is at 12 pm. The game will be shown on HBCU Go.



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“District 26, you showed up and made your voices heard — thank you! Let’s keep the momentum going. I’m asking for and counting on your support again on December 2!”

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