



School Choice high priority for 2026 Legislative Session

Who your child sits next to is at the root of the push for School Choice in Mississippi

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Of the fifty states, can you guess the three considered the least educated, based on numerous metrics? Can you guess one state, beyond any doubt, that is always on the short list of least educated states? Surely you can. Mississippi has always had, and continues to have, a problem of lack. Lack of fairness, lack of equality, lack of equity, lack of leadership, and lack of educational attainment. It's in Mississippi's soil, deep down, and it's no accident - it's willful. On some level, all Mississippians know it, but far too many are unwilling to do the work necessary to change it. The official answer to the question above is West Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as reported by numerous sources.

Mississippians continue to elect folks to lead us that do not care about our problems of lack. They're often caught gerrymandering legislative districts. They discriminate in voting. They ban voting forever for felons that have served their time. They misuse -



State Representative Jeffrey Harness (D-85).



House Speaker and School Choice advocate Jason White. PHOTOS: WWW.LEGISLATURE.MS.GOV

COMMENTARY

a pretty word for steal - federal funds specifically intended to help the poorest among us in the poorest state in the country. They don't prioritize the health of our residents and access to medical care in the unhealthiest state in our country. They don't intervene when civil rights are violated by law enforcement. Instead of offering help to address crime in the

capital city, one can conclude that they foist their own new police department, led by a white man, in a city of 80 percent African Americans.

The elected Republican majority installed a new inferior court system with appointees, subverting the will of the voters. They willfully discriminate as minorities receive less than 1 percent of state contracts each year. They cripple us further by eliminating

state income tax, a major source of revenue in the poorest state. They ensure just one African American is seated on the State Supreme Court - since 1985 - representing just 11.11 percent racially in a state with a near 40 percent minority population. The list goes on and on, and now public education could be added to the

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Wells United Methodist Church practices extravagant generosity: awards the Jackson Free Clinic \$32,500

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

Wells United Methodist Church - a place of grace - worships on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Having a rich heritage, the Church is composed of all sizes, shapes, colors and kinds of people. Considered "a branch of the 'vine of Christ,'" the living organism is community minded.

November 3rd, the Church shared its love with the Jackson Free Clinic in the form of a \$32,500 check. The clinic is located at 925 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in Jackson. Next year a new addition to the clinic will be directly behind its present spot. The awarded money will go toward that construction.

The student-run nonprofit organization is an essential entity to the Jackson community. It provides free medical, dental, and psychiatric service of high



Jackson Free Clinic staff received a \$32,500 check from Wells United Church

quality to uninsured patients in Jackson. Students are afforded the opportunity to learn from physicians, patients and other students in collaborative professional settings.

Natasha Burrell, Chief Outreach Officer of the clinic voiced: "We are overjoyed

and so grateful to receive the \$32,500 check from Wells Church. It is amazing to feel the support of an organization that passionately serves the community that we also hold dear. Burrell mentioned that not only will the check build walls, but "it will foster hope and allow

us to continue providing care to those who may have nowhere else to go."

In keeping with the spirit of giving with "open hands," the entire service was devoted to God's extravagant generosity

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Minister Ali Leatherman teaches children about the art of giving

A Black Friday of resistance as Americans push back



Photo of girls smiling, carrying bags, chatting while walking in shopping mall

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent

Black Friday arrives this year in a country wrestling with the weight of policies that have stripped stability from millions of Americans and placed Black communities at the edge of economic ruin. Storefront lights shine as if the nation were whole, yet in living rooms across the country, families count the losses of a political agenda that has torn apart the federal workforce and shattered the financial security of those who once depended on it. Hundreds of thousands of Black federal workers have been removed from their positions since Trump returned to office, and the effect on neighborhoods, schools, and generational wealth has been immediate.

The crisis facing Black women is even deeper. The National Partnership for Women and Families reports that 265,000 Black women have been pushed out of the labor market since January, and the unemployment rate for Black women has climbed to 7.5 percent, which is the highest in years. "These numbers are damning and confirm what we've long known to be true," said Democratic Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. "Under Donald J. Trump, Black women continue to face a

crisis of disproportionately high unemployment. Their systematic pushout not only has dangerous consequences for Black women, Black families, and Black futures. It is also a glaring red flag for the entire U.S. economy."

This is the country entering Black Friday. It is why the Mass Blackout movement and the We Ain't Buying It coalition have stepped forward to reclaim the weekend that once symbolized celebration. Their message calls for shoppers to keep their money, their labor, and their attention away from the companies they believe profit from silence while Black households are battered by economic loss. "No spending. No work. No surrender," the Mass Blackout coalition announced in its call to action, which accuses the nation's corporate power structure of thriving while ordinary people struggle to survive.

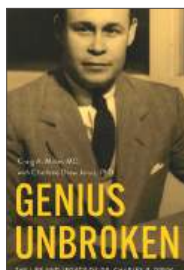
The second coalition focuses its attention on retailers like Amazon and Home Depot. Activists accuse these companies of cooperating with or benefiting from Trump's political agenda. LaTosha Brown, cofounder of Black Voters Matter and a member of the We Ain't Buying It coalition, delivered her remarks in the coalition's public statement. "We ain't

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Inside
2025 Special
Runoff,
MS Senate District
26 and Hinds
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DON'T FORGET TO
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Tuesday, December 2

Genius
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KAMESHA MUMFORD

FOR MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE DISTRICT 26

Judge, Attorney, Business Owner,
Wife, Mother and Servant Leader

My top priorities for District 26:

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A large group of diverse people of various ages and ethnicities, mostly Black, are posed together. Many are wearing suits or professional attire. They are all smiling or looking towards the camera. On the right side of the image, Kamesha Mumford is shown from the waist up, wearing a white blazer, with her arms crossed and a confident smile.

Stronger Together

Connected to the Community, Connected to You!

Wells

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David McMillan, CEO of Methodist Rehab. Center



Rev. Susannah Grubbs Carr, Senior Pastor, Wells Methodist Church

which exemplifies that whoever we may be, we are responsible for giving with open hearts and open minds. Ali Leatherman - leader of the Children’s Ministry – devoted her message to planting seeds. “When we give to God, we can be cheerful about it so that His kingdom will grow. We want to plant a lot of seeds for His kingdom,” she said to the children who were seated upfront with her.

Addressing “Celebrating Community Partnerships,” David McMillan, CEO of Methodist Rehabilitation Center, complimented Wells United Methodist Church for the care that they give to people outside the walls. He echoed what Jesus says in Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure

you use, it will be measured back to you.” Hence, whatever generosity we give will determine the generosity that we receive.

During the sermon for the hour, the Rev. Susannah Grubbs Carr - Senior Pastor of the Church – explained in her conversational tone, “We open our hearts. We open our church; God provides blessings. When we give freely of our time, our service, and our money, we show reverence to God.” The shepherd concluded that extravagant generosity transforms lives while trusting God, sacrificial giving, and being responsible to each other. As a result, “extravagant generosity blesses for years, not just for the moment.”

Wells United Methodist Church is located at 2019 Bailey Avenue, Jackson MS 39213. The doors are open to all, despite class, ethnicity, and race. For further inquiry, visit <https://www.wellschurch.org> or call 601-353-0658.

School Choice

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list of harm’s done, in a much bigger way than it already is.

To avoid integration, following Brown v. Board of Education – 70 years ago, hundreds of private schools – segregation academies – were stood up in Mississippi. For too many Mississippians, the color of the skin of the child sitting next to yours in class, is of paramount importance. Although some progress has been made, in 2023 the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division reported that “32 school districts in Mississippi remain under federal desegregation orders,” per the Associated Press. Some people like to think that the confederacy is dead. They need to spend time in Mississippi. Central to the Confederate States of America’s goals was the protection of slavery and states’ rights – limiting federal authority. Confederates like to claim they don’t tolerate federal authority, but they have no problem taking federal monies - nearly half of all of Mississippi’s revenue comes from the federal government.

Today we see the full court press for school choice barreling toward us. We hear words like liberty, freedom, parent’s bill of rights, vouchers, tax-credits, and educational savings accounts. Clearly, in the United States, a private education has always been an option, and it remains an option today – but individuals pay for it out of pocket. What’s going on here, and in some other states, is the attempt to get the state government (all taxpayers) to foot the bill for you to send your child to a private school instead of a public school. And in Mississippi, we know exactly what that looks like and why.

State Representative Jeffrey Harness, Esq. has represented District 85 (Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, and

Warren) since 2018 and sits on the lower chamber’s Education Committee. That committee has twenty-seven Representatives, 19 of which are Republicans and 8 are Democrats, like Harness, per www.legislature.ms.gov. A graduate of Jefferson County High School, he went on to earn two degrees from Alcorn State University, and then a juris doctorate from Southern University. He pulled no punches about the Republican push for school vouchers in our meeting at the capitol October 6, 2025. “I’m a former schoolteacher. I taught history and a little Driver’s Ed, and was a head football coach, before I decided to go to law school. I’m surprised they put me on the Education Committee, they tend to not use peoples’ talents.”

In discussing the goal of this Republican push for school choice, he stated, “you mean to resurrect segregation academies? I’m very concerned about the resources, if this passes, that would be left for the public schools and how the money would be allocated. We already have a constitutional issue. The Mississippi Constitution specifically forbids sending public money to private schools. With the gains we have made in education in this state, why are we trying to change the envelope now?” We discussed the abundance of segregation academies that we still have today, even though they are far fewer than decades ago, and then returned to the subject of vouchers. “I don’t think vouchers fit because Mississippi is such a rural state. Those around us that are trying this; Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana - their programs are failing. And now with the new tax cuts here, I don’t see how we can afford it.”

Black Friday

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buying this foolishness. We’re not buying this racism. We’re not buying the abandonment of DEI. We’re not buying that the wealthiest country in the world cannot take care of its own citizens,” she stated. “If they want to call it Black Friday, let’s show them what a Black Friday really looks like.”

Home Depot issued its response after activists accused the retailer of working with immigration authorities during enforcement actions. The company stated that it is not notified before such actions occur and that it is not involved in them. Organizers remain unconvinced and continue to include the retailer in holiday boycott plans.

Amazon has faced scrutiny for working conditions and for the \$1 million it contributed to Trump’s inauguration, which boycott leaders cite as evidence of political alignment. The coalition argues that Amazon has benefited from federal policy while workers across the country face tightening hours and declining wages, and its owner, Jeff Bezos, has fully capitulated to Trump.

Behind all these confrontations sits a larger truth. Black Americans are living through an economic emergency that has been shaped by federal policy decisions targeting the jobs, protections, and historical pathways that built the Black middle class. Analysts at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report that Trump’s agenda has attacked food assistance, health care, and family income supports at the very moment when unemployment among Black women is rising, and Black communities are losing stable federal careers that once offered a route out of poverty.

Organizers say this Black Friday is not about discounts. It is a line drawn by people who are tired of being told to spend in a country that is stripping away their ability to live. It is a refusal to pretend that holiday lights can hide the harm done to families who have been pushed to the margins of the economy.

The final word from organizers cut through the noise of the season. “We’re not buying from companies that won’t stand with us,” LaTosha Brown stated. “Our dollars will go elsewhere.”

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MISSISSIPPI



Morning Star Baptist Church 100th Year Anniversary

“God’s Glory, Our Story – Reflecting the Light of Christ Since 1925.”

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Morning Star Baptist Church, 3420 Albermarle Road celebrated their 100th year anniversary beginning with an Anniversary Celebration Gala on Friday, November 21, 2025 at the Hilton Jackson, 1001 E. County Line Road. The pastor is Rev. John R. Johnson, Jr. The speaker for the occasion was Dr. Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

The anniversary service was held Sunday, November, 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the church sanctuary. The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Michael Tolliver, Sr. Pastor, First Baptist Church South Hill, Chesapeake, VA.





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Are we now cutting healthcare to the bone?

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

2026 brings sweeping changes to health care access in the US, driven by a mix of new rules, budget law changes, and Medicare/Medicaid reforms. Without enhanced premium tax credits, American consumers who buy health care through the Affordable Care Act marketplace could see their monthly premiums jump by over 70 percent.

Analysts note a \$45 billion cut to the Medicare budget next year, amounting to \$536 billion over the next decade. HR1 - also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill - strips \$911 billion from the Medicaid budget over the next 10 years, and adds new work requirements, which many current recipients may not be able to meet. As well, the Trump Administration has re-imposed the public charge rule, adding fear for eligible recipients who may not apply for benefits to which they are entitled.

American Community Media's Sunita Sohrabji, co-producer of the National Briefing Series, served as moderator for this week, facilitating presentations by three panelists and with participation by nearly 70 media outlets from around the globe. She began introducing Tomas Bednar, Esquire, Senior Vice President & Counsel, at Health-



Tomas Bednar, Esq.
PHOTO: HEALTHSPERIEN, LLC..

perien, LLC. "I'd say the themes for 2026 which the American community at large, are looking at are cost increases, access decreases, and from a political perspective, the high probability of gridlock on large-scale changes and reforms in anticipation of midterm elections."

An explicit stated goal of the administration right now, specifically with respect to public benefit programs and part of the Medicaid program more broadly, the administration has positioned itself to return Medicaid to its perceived initial definitions. The populations that it perceives to have been the intended recipients of Medicaid. The net effect of that is to try to establish policies that limit access to Medicaid, the primary safety net source of health insurance for low-income Americans. and certain other residents."



Amber Christ, Esq.
PHOTO: WWW.JUSTICEINAGING.ORG .

Attorney Bednar continues, the administration specifically is proposing changes to what in our parlance is known as the public charge rule. The public charge rule is was implemented by the first Trump administration which seeks to make changes to the factors that immigration officials can take into account when assessing the validity and approving permanent resident status, what we colloquially still refer to as the green cards, and for the longest time, factors related to accessing public benefits, like Medicaid, were not allowed to be considered in the application process and the assessment of eligibility."

Panelist Amber Christ, Esquire, Managing Director for Health Advocacy at the Justice in Aging organization, is a national Medicare and Medicaid expert with a focus on programs



Sofia Tripoli.
PHOTO: FACEBOOK.COM.

and policies impacting people who are dually eligible. "HR1 directly cuts aid to older adults and SNAP recipients. So, for those with the lowest incomes they're going to see their household resources decrease the most because of HR1. They're going to see a decrease of about 3% or \$1,200 a year from their households. Meanwhile, households with the highest incomes will see their household resources increase by almost 3% or \$13,600 a year. The losses for those who have the lowest income are really not because of cuts or in-kind transfers, but from cuts from Medicaid. HR1 really paid for tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country by cutting public programs for the people with the lowest incomes.

Christ continues, "I want to note here, that HR1 specifically targeted eligibility for immi-

grants, and that included immigrants with lawful status, refugees, asylees, and immigrants with temporary protected status - those are particularly vulnerable groups who are losing their healthcare insurance because of HR1. The cuts that we're talking about to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act have significant ramifications for older adults. Another group that HR1 targets is the Medicaid expansion population, so those individuals who are ages 50 to 64, who have a disability or a chronic condition, or a caregiver - all of them will now have to prove that they are working, or that they meet some exemption from this requirement to maintain their healthcare coverage. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 5 million people across the country are going to lose access to this coverage because of the requirements."

The final panelist, Sophia Tripoli, Senior Director of Health Policy at Families USA. She holds a master's degree in public health from George Washington University. She shared, "We are at a turning point on one of the biggest kitchen table issues in American life, the cost of healthcare. The number one driver of unaffordable healthcare in America is prices - not overuse, not bad decisions - it's prices, and those prices are be-

ing pushed higher by two structural forces that have little to do with the health of the American people - corporate consolidation and payment incentives that reward volume over value. In almost every corner of the healthcare system, hospitals, physician practices, drug companies, and insurance plans have all become increasingly consolidated over the past several decades. Fewer companies now control more of the market. And when companies get bigger, they get more power to raise prices."

Tripoli continues, Together, consolidation and misaligned incentives create a business model where success is defined by getting bigger, gaining leverage and charging higher prices. Not by delivering better outcomes. We see the consequences of this every day. Higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs, workers whose wages are stagnant because employers' dollars that could go to raises are instead eaten up by healthcare, reduced access to services, especially in rural communities and communities of color, hospital closures, etc."

The entire weekly briefing, including participants questions and responses can be viewed at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/are-we-now-cutting-healthcare-to-the-bone/>.

Trump's war on Obamacare continues as GOP kills subsidies

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Republican power in this country has chosen cruelty as policy. It is not an accident. It is not a mistake. It is a decision.

The decision now is to rip out the federal subsidies that have made the Affordable Care Act more than a slogan and turn it back into a luxury item for the rich. Years of quiet sabotage and loud lies are coming to their natural endpoint. They are preparing to take health care from tens of millions of people and call it freedom.

This is not only about money. It is about a man who walked into the White House vowing to erase the work of the first Black president. From the birther lies to the nightly chants about "repeal and replace," Donald Trump built his political life around tearing down Barack Obama. Analysts laid it out years ago. The law was called "Obamacare." That name, that legacy, that image of a Black family in the White House turning health care from charity and chance into a right drove him wild.

So, he hacked at it from every angle. Cut outreach. Cut enrollment help. Pushed junk plans. Tried to strangle Medicaid expansion. Took every inch of executive power and turned it toward undermining a law he was sworn to enforce.

Now he and his party are walking the country to the edge of a cliff. Inside a closed Republican meeting, House leaders stood up and made a case not for saving people from ruin but for letting the enhanced ACA subsidies die on schedule. Those subsidies, about \$35 billion a year, keep premiums for a basic "benchmark" Obamacare plan at no more than 8.5 percent of a family's income. When that money vanishes at the end of the year, an estimated 22 million people will not just see an uptick in costs. Some will watch premiums jump by thousands of dollars a month.

They are not talking about how to protect those people. They are talking about how to walk away



and blame someone else. Senior Republicans already admit the cliff is coming. They admit they have no serious replacement ready. One of their own from a vulnerable district called it "ripping the rug out." The reaction in the room was described as average. Not outraged. Not alarmed. Just average.

You have to understand what those subsidies are before you can grasp what this moment really means. The Affordable Care Act did not rain down free insurance. It built a Marketplace where people without job-based coverage could buy plans and then added tax credits to keep those plans within reach. Advanced premium tax credits go straight to the insurer and cut the bill before it ever lands in a family's mailbox. Cost-sharing reductions lower deductibles and copays, so a trip to the doctor does not become a trip into debt. About eight in ten people who buy ACA coverage qualify for some sort of help.

Those tools turned a cruel equation into something close to survivable. Instead of choosing between rent and an asthma inhaler, between childcare and a mammogram, people could finally carry a card that meant the hospital had to see them as a patient and not as a bill collector's target.

Trump and his allies want to break that equation on purpose. They do not hide the plan. They call the law a failure, then move to destroy the very subsidies that make it function. When it collapses under that pressure, they

will point at the ruins and say they were right all along.

The excuse now is a new promise that sounds generous until you listen with your eyes open. They say they want to "send the money directly back to the people," through health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or maybe even cash. They say they do not want to "give money to insurance companies." Never mind that those payments keep premiums down for real people in real time. Never mind that health savings accounts help those who already have spare cash and leave those living paycheck to paycheck with an empty tool they cannot afford to use.

In truth, this is not a debate about bureaucratic routes and fiscal instruments. It is a question that has haunted this country since its birth. Who deserves to live? Who deserves to see a doctor when their chest tightens, or their child spikes a fever? Who deserves chemotherapy instead of a prayer?

The answer from this Republican Party, led by this president, is as plain as his social media feed.

"The only healthcare I will support or approve is sending the money directly back to the people," Trump wrote on social media, declaring that he will not accept a continuation of the ACA structure that routes those funds through the system that actually pays the bills. "Congress, do not waste your time and energy on anything else."

Fate of Civil Rights Office unknown as Trump continues to dismantle Department of Education



By Lauren Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A busy news week heading into the Thanksgiving holiday has distracted from a continuing effort by the Trump Administration to relocate, and in some cases end, the U.S. Department of Education. It has long been known that Trump and his policy advisors want to dismantle the department - but the acceleration over the last week has taken some by surprise.

The U.S. Department of Education was established in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter. It was created to unify and elevate federal efforts to support public schools and protect students' civil rights. It has also been the department that has amplified the national education policy.

"The Trump Administration cannot close a federal agency without an act of Congress. Nevertheless, the Trump Administration is intent on breaking the law and dismantling the Department of Education," Rep. Bobby Scott, the senior Democrat on the House Committee on Education and Workforce, said in a written statement Nov. 20.

"Today's announcement is part and parcel of the Trump Administration's larger agenda to reduce federal enforcement of civil rights laws and eliminate support for low-income communities. A core function of ED is to protect and defend students' civil rights," Rep. Scott added.

Since taking office again in January, the Trump Administration has made its central focus to dismantle civil rights policies passed in the 1960s. The undoing of civil rights protections and a theme of anti-Blackness is now a cornerstone policy during Trump's second term in office.

Trump has reversed the 2015 "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (AFFH) rule, a civil-rights tool aimed at reducing segregation and racial disparities in housing. Trump has also ended disparate-impact liability in civil-rights

enforcement, and in 2025, Trump signed an executive order instructing federal agencies to deprioritize enforcement of "disparate-impact" theory - a legal standard used to challenge policies that, while neutral on their face, disproportionately harm protected groups. Trump has also ended key DEI and affirmative-action programs in federal hiring and rescinded Executive Order 11246 (initially signed in 1965), which required federal contractors to maintain affirmative-action programs to promote diversity in hiring.

"The federal government must retain its central role in enforcing students' civil rights, because historically, when states had no federal oversight, we saw segregation of public schools, a refusal to educate students with disabilities, and a lack of resources for low-income communities," Rep. Scott also pointed out in his Nov. 19 statement.

At a committee hearing on the morning of November 20, Rep. Summer Lee, who represents parts of Pittsburgh, made a pointed observation. As Republicans held a hearing on career and technical education, Rep. Lee pointed out the irony of the Department of Education being dismantled by President Trump in the background.

"Republicans can't simultaneously hold a hearing about how to strengthen students' skills through career and technical education while also allowing this administration to dismantle the sole agency tasked with expanding the same students' educational opportunities and protecting their civil rights," Rep. Lee said.

One of the remaining mysteries of the Trump Administration's efforts to destroy the Department of Education is what will happen to the civil rights division within the department. Will the work of the office be destroyed completely or moved to another department in the government? That remains an open question.

Johnson C. Smith University raises the CIAA Football Championship Banner

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



The last time my beloved alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University won a CIAA Football Championship was 1969. That’s a long time ago by any barometer that you use. I live in another time zone, yet my clock is always on JCSU time. I have watched, read and heard about the new Golden Bulls football team over the past few years. My thinking was there seemed to be a new attitude and a new way of doing

business. It was my honor to meet Maurice Flowers, head football coach at JCSU a few years ago. I interviewed him for a story and came away thinking that he is a winner. He talked like a winner and had a distinctive confidence in himself. Plainly put, he had the “it factor”. I was hooked. So, I tuned in or turned on to find out the score between JCSU and our opponent. Last year was a year that we almost made it. I know the JCSU family was disappointed near and far. You see, I was a student-athlete at Johnson C. Smith University and was a part of a CIAA

Tennis Championship team. I know first-hand the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat because I have been on both sides of that sports equation. While 2nd place is a great achievement, it’s not the championship trophy. Winning is tough and there is a gear that you must shift to in order to achieve a championship. The 2025 Johnson C. Smith University Football team is now the champion of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Let’s ring the bell and applaud mightily for this wonderful accomplishment. I have often said that records can be broken but champion-

ships cannot. They will remain with you forever. To be called a CIAA champion is a high honor and must be celebrated. It must be revered. The football target was on this team’s back for the past month. There could be no slip ups. It had to be winning time each week. Fayetteville State University wanted to play spoiler, but our character and our resilience stopped them. I believe our team must have said, “The Golden Bulls are in your house and it’s winning time for us.” Every member of the Golden Bulls nation was on high alert as we defeated the Broncos. How-

ever, we still had more work to do. My antenna was up because I knew that Livingstone College was our next opponent. We hear the term, win and you’re in and that was certainly true for us Saturday, November 8th. A victory in The Commemorative Classic would send us to the CIAA Championship game. We won. Virginia Union University would be our foes Saturday, November 15th. Alumni and friends of JCSU all arrived in Durham, NC to watch the game. Those who couldn’t attend watched it on HBCU Go, a television station owned by Byron

Allen. Announcements and pronouncements were made by the media about the significance of this game. The CIAA is the oldest African American athletic conference in America. The two teams were both ranked in the NCAA II college rankings. Pundits opined that regardless of the outcome both teams would make the playoffs. We defeated the Virginia Union University Panthers 45-26. Hold high the Gold and Blue as the JCSU Golden Bulls will forever be called CIAA Champions.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, hope for an America where ending poverty comes before party

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



(At a Virginia estate that shaped civil-rights history, an unlikely conservative keeps bipartisan hope alive)

The world of our screens has many of us dreading Thanksgiving. The things old friends and family members post on social media convince us in an instant that they’ve lost any semblance of sanity. But time in person quickly reminds us that we actually love them and still have far more in common than we don’t. Today’s media makes me long for the leaders who once shaped our public discourse before social media and 24-hour news seemingly distorted it beyond repair. As Congress grows louder and louder with increasingly extreme declarations—threatening another shutdown after the recent crisis already shuttered agencies and disrupted vital food support for poor families—I find myself missing Jack Kemp more than ever. As a Democrat, I miss Kemp most of all because he was a Republican who believed that fighting poverty and protecting civil rights were American obligations—even when his party didn’t have much appetite for either. When I became the youngest president in the history of the NAACP at 35, the first assignment our then-chairman Julian Bond gave me was to go meet Jack Kemp. I must admit I was a little baffled as to why I was being sent to meet with a Republican so quickly, let alone one who was no longer in office. Bond explained he had personally tapped Kemp to co-chair a commission advising the NAACP on its future direction because lasting change demands bipartisan consensus, not just partisan warfare. Kemp made one request to me: “No surprises.” I kept my promise. And in him I found a creative problem solver and courageously ally. With Kemp’s encouragement, I repeatedly reached out to Republican leaders when I led the NAACP with great success: we abolished the death penalty in the first state south of the Mason-Dixon line, helped shrink prison systems in Georgia and Texas, and led a final push in a successful effort to restore voting rights for thousands

of formerly incarcerated people in Virginia—each time with support from top Republicans willing to be courageous on civil rights. Still, Kemp had a special way of making his commitment to courage plain. Julian Bond once told me a story to explain why he trusted Kemp so deeply. During Kemp’s presidential run, Bond recalled, a reporter pressed him on how he could seek the Republican nomination while being described as a card-carrying member of the NAACP. Kemp didn’t hesitate. “I can’t help but care about the rights of the people I used to shower with,” he said. That level of candor—that shared investment in defending human decency regardless of party—is vanishing from American politics. Recently, 24-hour news had me all but convinced Kemp’s brand of compassionate conservatism had died with him. Then I visited Holly Knoll.

There have always been political leaders who understood that beneath the noise, we share the same hopes. Jack Kemp was one of them. He found a kindred spirit in Kay Coles James, who shared his vision that free enterprise could lift all boats. James fondly remembers Kemp once declaring, “I am a Kay James Republican”—high praise from a man who rarely followed anyone else’s lead. Their unlikely alliance—a white quarterback turned politician and a Black woman who’d risen from Richmond’s housing projects—embodied America’s promise. Holly Knoll in Gloucester, Virginia, is where James keeps Kemp’s brand of conservatism alive. Built in 1935 by Robert Russa Moton—Booker T. Washington’s successor at Tuskegee and a man who rose from slavery’s shadow to advise five presidents—this York River estate became a secret strategy centre of the civil-rights movement. Under its 400-year-old oak, some have said Martin Luther King Jr. found inspiration for his “I Have a Dream” speech. In its rooms, Black leaders and white allies talked strategy for Brown v. Board of Education. Kay Coles James knows this history in her bones. As a child in Richmond’s housing projects, she spent summers at Holly Knoll when wealthy relatives brought her to experience what was possible. While public pools barred Black

children, Holly Knoll’s pool welcomed them. When James purchased the crumbling property in 2005, she wasn’t simply saving real estate—she was preserving an approach that’s increasingly rare. Through her Gloucester Institute, she champions what Kemp called “bleeding-heart conservatism”: market solutions with moral purpose, enterprise with empathy. Kemp would have smiled seeing his friend transform Holly Knoll into a laboratory for the ideas they’d championed together. I imagine Booker T. Washington would’ve smiled as well. Like Kemp, James speaks uncomfortable truths: civil rights matter to all of us; the Black community must work with allies across ideological lines. Her candor matches Kemp’s locker-room honesty—rooted not in calculation but in lived experience. During the Obama years, while others in her party sought the harshest soundbite, James says she never publicly condemned the president—not because she agreed with his policies, but because she held to an old tradition: Black people stand together when glass ceilings shatter, even across ideological lines. This costs something in today’s Republican Party, where the Kemp wing—focused on enterprise, skills development and home-ownership—is increasingly eclipsed by voices offering grievance over solutions. Yet Holly Knoll endures as both refuge and reminder. Here, practical solutions matter more than political theatre. Here, Kay Coles James proves that conservatism at its best doesn’t defend the castle—it extends the drawbridge. No surprises. Just the steady work of making America’s promise real for everyone. The kind of work that reminds us, when we meet face-to-face rather than screen-to-screen, that we’re all still trying to solve the same kitchen-table issues for our families and our nation. That’s the Holly Knoll way. That’s what Kemp believed. That’s what America needs another helping of now—especially at Thanksgiving. Ben Jealous is the executive director of the Sierra Club, a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, and former national president and CEO of the NAACP.

Communication and the Thanksgiving dinner menu

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



This year my husband and I have the honor of hosting Thanksgiving Dinner for our family. I have been planning for this event since September 2025. Although, we are hosting the Thanksgiving dinner we had not officially communicated about the menu. I made a mental and text note of my Thanksgiving dinner menu. The menu consisted of smoked turkey, hams (yes, more than one), fried chicken, mustard/turnip greens, cornbread stuffing (dressing), mac & cheese, potato salad, dinner rolls, you name it. My dessert menu consisted of pecan pie, key lime pie, chocolate pie, sweet potato pie, caramel cake, Italian cream cake, pound cakes, and banana pudding. The menu was set as far as I was concerned. However, a few weeks ago I got in my husband’s truck and discovered large bottles of oil, a turkey fryer, and pans, so I inquired about his festive purchase. Big Daddy informed me that he had planned to deep-fry a turkey, and he wanted to bake a couple of cheesecakes for Thanksgiving dinner too. First, I was flabbergasted and shocked that I forgot to add his cheesecake to our dessert menu (you have not had good cheesecake until you try Big Daddy’s), and I was disappointed about the possibility of having a deep-fried turkey. I do not know about you, but I have never had a good experience eating fried turkey. In fact, I’ll never forget my first experience – I can’t tell the who, what, and where but please know that I was left with the taste of lighter fluid in my mouth for days. It may not seem important to communicate with your spouse about small stuff as simple as a Thanksgiving Dinner menu, but it is imperative that you communicate about everything. What is communication? Communication means the following to me: C- Christ Centeredness

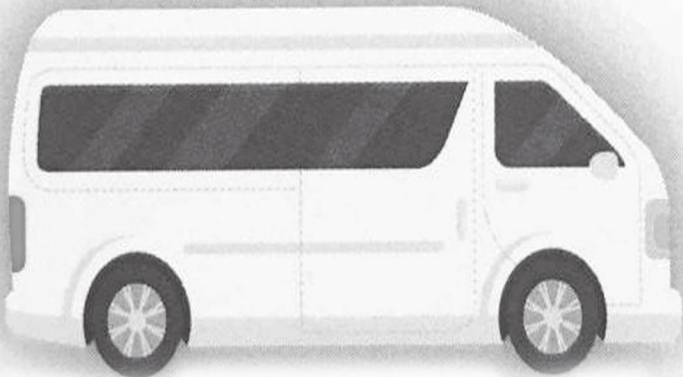
O- Optimism
M- Mercy
M- Mannerable
U- Unity
I- Intentional
C- Communicate
A- Apathy
T- Truthfulness
I – Involvement
O- Openness
N- Nourishment (some men would say nagging, which may be true in some circumstances)
What does God say about communication?
James 1:19
My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.
Many times, spouses are eager or quick to talk and not listen, but God’s Word clearly states to be quick to hear – be quick to listen first before you speak.
• Fear judgement
• Fear being misunderstood
• Avoid confrontation
• Time consuming
• Fear things will worsen
How should you communicate with your spouse?
Proverbs 15:1 states:
“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
God says a gentle, some scriptures say, a soft answer turns away wrath. Wrath is extreme anger, rage, verbal/physical abuse, and believe it or not murder, etc. But a Harsh Word, stirs (escalates and elevates) up anger...Harsh Word is name calling, cruel/derogatory verbiage, gas lighting, utilizing profanity, loud tone, etc. anything said that does not positively edify your spouse. Who wants to talk or listen to someone who has a hostile tone/language?
What should be communicated in marriage? Everything.
• Goals for Marriage
• Religion
• Prayer
• Tithing
• Money
• Bills
• SEX – Yes, I said SEX – the good and the bad and the lack thereof!
• Children
• Family Matters – Immedi-

ate and Extended Family
• Housing
• Careers
• Health – good and/or bad
• Life Insurance
• Disappointments/Offenses
• Triggers that provoke stress/anguish/anxiety
• Vacations
• Personal hygiene
• Helping with house chores
• Thanksgiving Menu
• EVERYTHING!
EVERYTHING! E V E R Y -THING!
Communication is vital in a marriage. If little to no effective communication takes place in your marriage it can lead to arguments, contention, affairs, separation, and/or divorce. It is not always easy to communicate with your spouse, especially depending on the situation. However, with God, prayer, and applying the principles of communicating as described above – your communication and the overall marriage can improve in the areas of building trust, bonding, increased quality time with other, increased affection/intimacy, grow as one and in love. In conclusion, in twenty years of marriage, my husband and I are still learning how to effectively communicate with each other because we want a healthy and happy marriage at least most days. After effectively communicating and listening, we finalized our Thanksgiving dinner menu. We will have turkey and gravy, but it won’t be deep fried, and we are adding two cheesecakes; mixed berry and snickers cheesecake and we will save some gravy for later if you know what I mean. Happy Thanksgiving!
Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

LEGAL		LEGAL	
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING ZONING CASE NO. 4315		NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING ZONING CASE NO. 4316	
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		County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description. Parcel 20-49 West ½ of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description, less and except a strip of land 5 feet in width off the north side of the west ½ of Lot 15 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, December 17, 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 DECEMBER 10, 2025. WITNESS my signature this 20th day of November 2025. /s/Ester L. Ainsworth Zoning Administrator City of Jackson, Mississippi 11/27/2025 12/11/2025	
		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 William Lake has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a residential subdivision for the properties located at Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St., in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as: Parcel 20-38 Lot Five (5) of Ewing Subdivision of 5-Acre Lot 8, North Jackson, as shown by map or plat of said subdivision on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of said County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to same being in aid of and as a part of this description. Parcel 20-41 Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot No. Eight (8), a North Jackson, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book A, at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description Parcel 20-42 Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot Eight (8), North Jackson, Mississippi according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description. Parcel 20-48 East ½ of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds	

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P R E S E R V E D

Be Thankful for What You Lost

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



This week, I wanted to share a past column that I feel is appropriate for our current chaotic political and social times. I know it's Thanksgiving season and we are focused on being grateful for the many blessings we have. However, in some cases, homes and jobs have been lost. Hope for some is fading. It's hard to be thankful because of growing fear and uncertainty. How can you be thankful when you feel like you've lost so much? However, It's during times like this that we learn that the secret to thankfulness isn't about getting your needs met. It's about having a healthy perspective. That doesn't mean that we wish for bad things to happen. It does mean that we will be able to see the good even in those

bad things.

Philippians 4:11-12 says, "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." How do you apply that scripture to everyday life, especially if you have lost something?

I had to re-learn this a few years ago when I dealt with an unexpected loss of something I valued. For a time, I struggled with coming to terms with the disappointment of the loss. Then it hit me one day: the loss was really God making room for what he really wanted me to have. And, less than one month later, God blessed me with something better than what I'd previously complained about losing.

Often, we complain to God and wonder why he doesn't give us certain things when we pray for them. Spiritual temper tantrums might happen when we send up heartfelt prayers and they are not answered. We spend so much time focusing on what we didn't get that we miss what God has for us on the other side of that disappointment: A challenge to change perspectives and trust Him again.

Do we pass the test of being able to congratulate the person who got their prayers answered when their prayer was similar to ours? An even bigger test is praying that God would bless that person as they accepted those new blessings if/when they run into difficulties.

Being able to pray that kind of prayer requires that we go back to thanking God for what we didn't get...regardless of the reason we believe he didn't allow it to hap-

pen for us. Sometimes when we get blessings from God, we quickly forget that he is sovereign; we'd rather give credit to our prayer partner.

It seems a little odd to thank God for not giving you something or worse when you have lost something that you value, but this kind of thankfulness is just as important because it forces us to take a crash course in spiritual maturity. Not getting a prayer answered is God's ironic reminder that he really is still in control, knows what is best for us and is working things out on our behalf.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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

AMR taking six nursing facility residents' home for Thanksgiving at no charge

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Six nursing facility residents in Hinds County will be able to enjoy Thanksgiving Day with loved ones at their family home, thanks to a goodwill project from AMR.

With its "Home for the Holiday" program, AMR is donating roundtrip ambulance service on Thanksgiving Day for selected nursing home patients, ages 46-96, to and from their family residences.

Participating nursing facilities include Manhattan, Pine Forest, Magnolia, and Veterans Administration.

Ryan Wilson, operations manager for AMR, said, "Anyone who has been away from home on Thanksgiving knows the longing

to be with family that special day. With this project, AMR helps a small number of elders go home for that heartwarming tradition."

Wilson said, "AMR's Home for the Holiday transports are uplifting for all involved, our crews, participating families and patients. Our crews often build fond relationships with nursing facility caregivers and their residents, sometimes responding to situations stressful for all. Home for the Holiday enables our dispatchers and ambulance crews, facility staffs, their residents, and the residents' families to interact joyously."

AMR has conducted the project in central Mississippi nearly every year since 1991.



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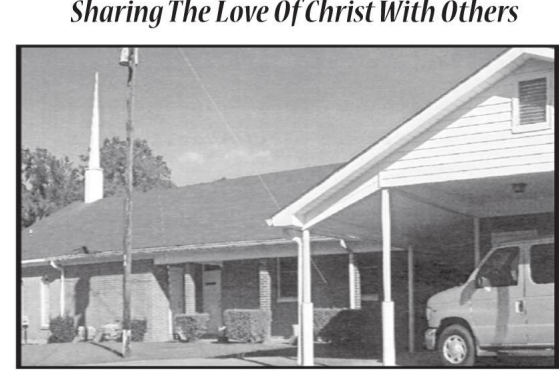
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Navigating the emotional journey of adoption

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

For many adopted individuals, the journey toward belonging is not just legal, it's emotional. While adoption can offer safety, love and opportunity, it also carries complex emotional terrain that both adoptees and their adoptive families must learn to navigate together.

Adoption gives children, especially those in foster care or orphanages a chance to grow in a stable, nurturing environment. It offers individuals and couples (including those facing infertility or in same-sex relationships) a meaningful way to become parents. Adoptive families often embrace diverse cultural, racial or social backgrounds, fostering empathy and inclusivity. Prospective parents can choose between domestic, international, foster care and private adoption depending on their circumstances. Some adoptions qualify for grants, subsidies or tax credits to offset costs.

While these challenges are more common among adoptees, many lead emotionally healthy lives, especially when adoption is handled with sensitivity, support and access to mental health resources.

Helping adoptees adjust to adoption requires emotional attunement, cultural sensitivity and long-term support. Whether you're a parent, educator, clinician or advocate, here are key strategies that promote healthy adjustment:

1. Foster Open and Honest Communication
 - Talk about adoption early and often: Use age-appropriate language to normalize adoption as part of the child's story.
 - Answer questions truthfully: Avoid secrecy or sugarcoating. Honesty builds trust and helps adoptees form a coherent identity.
 - Validate emotions: Let children express grief, confusion or anger without judgment.
2. Support Identity Formation
 - Celebrate cultural and racial heritage: Especially important in transracial or international adoptions. Incorporate traditions, foods, and stories from the child's background.



porate traditions, foods, and stories from the child's background.

- Encourage storytelling: Life books, memory boxes or art can help children process their journey and feel ownership of their narrative.
 - Avoid "rescue" narratives: Frame adoption as a way of building family, not saving a child.
3. Address Trauma and Attachment Needs
 - Seek trauma-informed therapy: Many adoptees benefit from therapists trained in attachment, grief and early childhood trauma.
 - Practice consistent caregiving: Predictability, warmth and responsiveness help build secure attachments.
 - Watch for triggers: Transitions, anniversaries or family events may stir up feelings of loss or confusion.
 4. Build a Supportive Community
 - Connect with other adoptive families: Peer support reduces isolation and offers shared wisdom.
 - Include birth family when possible:

In open adoptions, respectful contact can help children integrate their identities.

- Educate extended family and schools: Help others understand adoption language and dynamics to avoid micro aggressions or stigma.
5. Equip Parents and Caregivers
 - Pre-adoption training: Helps parents understand trauma, loss and cultural humility.
 - Post-adoption services: Access to counseling, respite care and educational advocacy is crucial.
 - Self-care for parents: Supporting an adoptee's healing journey can be emotionally demanding. Caregivers need support too.
- The Hidden Struggles Behind the Smile
- Adopted children and adults often wrestle with questions of identity, loss and loyalty. Even in loving homes, they may feel:
- Conflicted Identity: "Who am I, really?" is a question that can echo for

years, especially if cultural or racial backgrounds differ from those of adoptive parents.

- Grief and Abandonment: The loss of birth parents, whether remembered or not, can manifest as sadness, anger or fear of rejection.
 - Pressure to Be Grateful: Some adoptees feel they must suppress negative emotions to avoid seeming ungrateful, which can lead to emotional suppression or isolation.
 - Attachment Challenges: Early trauma or disrupted caregiving can make it difficult to trust, bond or feel safe in relationships.
- What Adoptive Parents Can Do
- Adoptive parents play a critical role in helping their children feel seen, heard and whole. Experts and adoptees alike recommend:
- Open Conversations: Talk about adoption early and often. Normalize questions and emotions, even the hard ones.
 - Learn the History: Understand the

child's background, culture and any trauma they may carry. This builds empathy and connection.

- Validate Feelings: Don't rush to fix or dismiss sadness. Instead, say "I hear you" and "It's okay to feel that way."
 - Seek Support: Therapy, especially adoption and informed therapy can help families process emotions and build stronger bonds.
 - Connect with Community: Support groups, cultural events and adoptee-led organizations offer solidarity and healing.
- What Adoptees Can Do for Themselves
- Healing is a personal journey, and adoptees can empower themselves by:
- Exploring Identity: Journaling, ancestry research or connecting with birth culture can help clarify self-understanding.
 - Finding Safe Spaces: Therapy, peer groups or trusted mentors can provide emotional safety and validation.
 - Speaking Their Truth: Sharing their story, when ready, can be liberating and affirming.
 - Building Chosen Family: Emotional bonds aren't limited to biology. Creating meaningful relationships can redefine belonging.

A Shared Journey of Love and Listening

Adoption is not a one-time event, it's a lifelong relationship. Emotional challenges don't mean failure, they mean humanity. With compassion, curiosity and courage, adoptive families can build bridges that honor both the past and the future.

Adoption is not a one-size-fits-all solution, it's a lifelong journey that requires emotional readiness, financial planning and a commitment to supporting a child's evolving needs. Whether you're considering adopting or placing a child for adoption, it's essential to seek counseling, legal guidance and community support.

As one adult adoptee shared: "I didn't need perfect parents. I needed parents who were willing to walk with me through the questions."

Expanded effort will help standardize, improve care for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

The American Heart Association

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common inherited heart disease and impacts an estimated 1 in 500 people in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association, a relentless force changing the future of health for everyone everywhere. Because many cases go undetected and untreated until acute symptoms occur, the Association is scaling up its efforts to improve diagnosis and treatment of HCM.

HCM is a thickening of the lower main pumping chamber of the heart (the left ventricle). It is a chronic disease that can get worse over time and lead to poorer quality of life and long-term complications, including atrial fibrillation, stroke and heart failure. Despite its serious implications, care for HCM remains fragmented, with inconsistent standards and limited early detection.

To further address these gaps, the American Heart Association is expanding its existing initiative to improve HCM systems



The heart muscle becomes enlarged, thick or rigid in cardiomyopathy, and in rare cases the muscle tissue is replaced with scar tissue.

of care and standardize how people with HCM are identified, assessed, referred and treated. With new support from Cytokinetics, the program will grow to include:

- an increased number of sites participating in a national HCM

Registry powered by Get With The Guidelines®;

broader certification opportunities for referring centers and personnel;

introduction of patient support services at select HCM sites; and a prospective implementation

pilot of the Association's HCM detection algorithm.

The new, matching support from Cytokinetics builds on a national effort designed to unify and elevate consistent standards of care for HCM patients financially supported by founding

sponsor Bristol Myers Squibb.

"Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy can be an insidious disease, with some people having no obvious symptoms, while others may only feel symptoms with exercise or exertion," said Anjali Owens, M.D., volunteer co-chair of the American Heart Association's HCM initiative and director of the Center for Inherited Cardiovascular Disease at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. "This initiative represents an essential step toward a unified approach to HCM care, ultimately aiming to improve patient outcomes, enhance quality of life and reduce the risks associated with the disease. Integrated commitment across the system of care is critical to success."

"Our longstanding commitment to tackling cardiovascular diseases by discovering and developing innovative medical therapies compels us to support the American Heart Association on this important initiative to create a consistent standard of care for people with hypertro-

phic cardiomyopathy," said Fady I. Malik, M.D., Ph.D., Cytokinetics' executive vice president of research and development. "Because HCM can be complex to identify and treat, we are proud to support the initiative's focus on advancing care and improving outcomes for those affected."

To stay up to date on the latest science and evidence-based guidelines on HCM care, visit heart.org/HCMregistry.

The Association receives more than 85% of its revenue from sources other than corporations. These sources include contributions from individuals, foundations and estates, as well as investment earnings and revenue from the sale of our educational materials. Corporations (including pharmaceutical, device manufacturers and other companies) also make donations to the Association. The Association has strict policies to prevent any donations from influencing its science content and policy positions. Overall financial information is available here.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District Celebrates Outstanding Staff and Student Achievement at November Board Meeting

The Hinds County School District highlighted dedication, achievement, and excellence during its November School Board Meeting, honoring staff members, schools, and student performers who continue to make a strong impact across the district.

The meeting, held Thursday evening at Raymond High School’s Performing Arts Center, opened with an invocation from Pastor Marlon McDuffie, of The Word Center Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Zola Lenoir, 5th grade Gary Road Intermediate.

The recognitions began with our the district’s S.P.E.C.I.A.L. Seven recipients for the month of November. These honorees were celebrated for demonstrating the values of Selflessness, Potential, Empathy, Connection, Inclusion, Authenticity, and Love in their daily work. Their leadership and service reflect a districtwide commitment to creating welcoming and supportive school environments.

The district also acknowledged the schools and principals with the highest monthly attendance. Their consistent focus on student presence and engagement supports strong instruction, stable daily routines, and a positive school culture. District leadership commended the recipients, noting that steady attendance is one of the clearest signs of a strong and thriving school.

Staff members who continue to show innovation and take initiative beyond their normal responsibilities were also recognized. Their creativity and problem solving help the district meet evolving needs and strengthen communication with students, families, and the community.

The evening concluded with a celebration of artistic excellence. The Terry High School and Raymond High School marching bands were recognized for receiving superior ratings at the Mississippi High School Activities Association marching evaluations. Both bands were praised for their discipline, musicianship, and the pride they bring to their schools.





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Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

Ensuring a bright future for every child, The Mississippi Department of Education presents Jackson State University, the Science of Reading Award for 2025-2026



Dr. Tony Latiker , JSU's Dean & Associate Professor of College of Education and Human Development, stands with supporters as recipient of the Mississippi Science of Reading Award presented by the Mississippi Department of Education.

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

On Jackson State University's website for the College of Education and Human Development is the following statement: "The vision of the College of Education and Human Development is to be the premier Urban institution of choice within the state of Mississippi, the region, and the nation for the preparation of teachers, counselors and mental health professionals, professional development specialists, school leaders, and other school-related professional practitioners with the latest in technology, best practices and as responsive educators with adaptive expertise."

During a 9:00 program in room 100 of the College of Education and Human Development on Thursday, November 20th, Dean Tony Latiker (Ed.D.) and educators underscored that three Mississippi Universities (Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, and Blue Mountain College) were designated as 2025-2026 "Emerging" Science of Reading Educator Preparation Programs. Among these institutions, JSU was the only university designated as a Science of Reading Award from the Mississippi Department of Education.

What are The MDE's criteria

for the award? Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) are required to exemplify programs committed to developing pre-service teachers' knowledge and skills to effectively deliver instruction aligned to the science of reading. Thus, the EPP provides opportunities for teacher preparation students to view professional presentations related to the science of reading and/or high-quality instructional materials. Subsequently, students and instructors engage in MDE-supported professional learning related to the science of reading and/or high-quality instructional materials.

Producing strong leaders, the EPP has joined forces with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) based on the science of reading, structured literacy, and high-quality instructional materials. In keeping with excellence, the EPP upholds current trends. Hence, the program has made programmatic changes to strengthen candidates' skills and knowledge of the science of reading and structured literacy practices.

JSU's College of Education and Human Development has made, and continues to make, significant gains. Number 1 in accountability; number 1 in service; and number 1 in teacher preparation, excellence is the goal. For further inquiry, visit www.jsu.edu/early_education/; or call: 601-979-0300, or

Jackson State University and S&P Global launch partnership for business and STEM students

JSU Newswire

On Nov. 4, Jackson State University's (JSU) College of Business (COB) and College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) announced a partnership with S&P Global, centered on research, technology and career placement for JSU students.

"The partnership between S&P Global and Jackson State University is the model we seek in all our corporate relationships," said Nicholas J. Hill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business. "S&P Global values our talented students and understands that JSU has some of the best and brightest, capable of excelling in any environment. They also believe in supporting our university's mission to prepare students for the dynamic global business world. It is truly mutually beneficial, and we are committed to building more relationships of this caliber and proud to have S&P Global as a key partner."

Jackson State is one of four universities partnering with the S&P Global Culture & Engagement team to provide underclassmen studying business with enhanced enrichment opportunities aimed at developing essential skills and improving internship readiness.

To enhance research capabilities and efforts at the university, JSU received licenses to access S&P Global's financial intelligence platform, Capital IQ Pro. The platform provides global, real-time data, research and analytics on companies, markets and economies. JSU students and faculty will now have advanced tools used by some of the top Wall Street firms and global institutions to drive financial insight and decision-making.

Additionally, through S&P Global's Laptop Donation Program, JSU will receive nearly 500 laptops for students in the COB and CSET. The program repurposes old laptops in good condition, diverting them from e-waste and placing them into the hands of young scholars. Twenty JSU students serving as part of the inaugural class of the S&P Global Mentor Circle received the first delivery of repurposed laptops during the November visit.

"I've learned how to brand myself better, have a better elevator pitch and how to talk to professionals overall," said Jayla Reeves, a computer engineering student and in-



Jackson State University administrators and faculty with students in the S&P Global Mentor Circle and S&P Global representatives. The first batch of students was presented with their laptops during the November 2025 visit. ARON SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



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Nicholas J. Hill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, encourages students to continue utilizing the JSU network of faculty, staff and alumni.



Carter Smith is a credit ratings analyst at S&P Global and a 2025 graduate of Jackson State University. The young alum provided essential tips and insight into his day-to-day work at the company.



Guyna Johnson serves as managing director at S&P Global. The JSU alum visited her alma mater to help announce the partnership and assist in professional development for current students.

augural member of the S&P Global Mentor Circle. "It was really great receiving a computer. It was a blessing."

The Mentor Circle is another groundbreaking partnership to empower sophomore students in the COB and CSET through mentorship, career readiness and real-world industry engagement. This initiative connects JSU's emerging business and STEM student leaders with professionals from S&P Global, offering transformative experiences that bridge classroom learning with global career pathways.

As part of the partnership announcement, students in the JSU Mentor Circle participated in professional portraits provided by the Division of University Communications at JSU, a branding and elevator pitch workshop led by S&P Global representatives and a

fireside chat featuring Guyna Johnson, Carter Smith and Ryan McDay.

Johnson serves as managing director at S&P Global and Smith is a credit ratings analyst at the company. Both are JSU alumni. McDay, S&P Global's director of Culture & Engagement, moderated the chat.

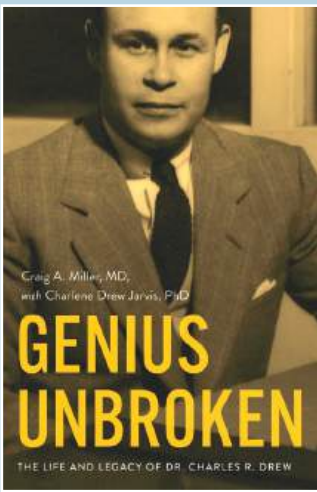
The JSU alums shared insights about forging lasting corporate relationships, securing sponsorships and growing into the professionals students desire to be.

"Part of my responsibility is to be a sponsor and advocate for JSU and HBCUs. The reason why I can do that successfully and confidently is because of Carter and the example that he set, as well as other students from other schools that we work with," said Johnson.

"You wear that JSU brand. When you get out there, you have to wear it well. You have to represent. You can't be lazy. You have to do your homework, and if you do that, it's part of my job to make sure you're given the consideration and you all have people on the inside that can make it happen."

According to Johnson, the company currently employs six Jackson State graduates in various roles.

"Make yourself invaluable and do something that you feel no one else can do as good as you," said Smith, who joined S&P Global post-graduation in 2025. "You have to build your financial acumen. That's something that I would say to students and peers. If you're looking to get into this industry, do your homework."



BOOK REVIEW:

GENIUS UNBROKEN: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CHARLES R. DREW

BY CRAIG A. MILLER, MD, WITH CHARLENE DREW JARVIS, PHD

C.2025, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRESS

\$29.95 • 311 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

“Stayin’ Alive.”
That’s the BeeGees song to remember, the song with the perfect cadence for cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Each beat is a pump; each pump, a lifesaving action, which is handy information to know, if you ever need it. So now read “Genius Unbroken” by Craig A. Miller, MD, with Charlene Drew Jarvis, PhD, and meet the man whose legacy takes over when CPR isn’t enough.
Almost from the moment he

could walk, Charles Richard “Charlie” Drew was an active boy.
Growing up in Washington DC’s Foggy Bottom neighborhood, an area that was more equal than most in the early 1900s, gave him opportunity to explore his surroundings, to get a good education, to learn to swim and to excel at athletics.
Sports and music were his passions then, in fact. But when his younger sister, Elsie, died, and he incidentally learned while attending Amherst College that he enjoyed the study of biology,

Charlie decided to be a doctor.
Sadly, there was no money for medical school. Still, he applied to Howard University School of Medicine, which turned him down so he went to work at Morgan College in Baltimore as a teacher before heading to Quebec, where he received a fellowship at McGill University to study medicine. He entered Howard in early 1935, for his residency.
In 1938, he was invited to Columbia University, to work as a fellow in surgery.
Eagerly, he took on extra proj-

ects, one of which was the nature of shock, a condition that could lead to circulatory failure and death. Laboratories everywhere were “were dedicated to studying the phenomenon in all its... physiologic complexity.” World War II was raging, banked blood would save a lot of lives, and Charlie set to work figuring out how to do it. But one of the questions was “whether to accept blood donated by African Americans” like him...
How many times have you been warned not to judge a book by its cover? Probably a lot, so

don’t do it here. The cover of “Genius Unbroken” isn’t colorful or splashy, yet this may be one of the more interesting books you read this fall. But it does have its bumps.
Authors Craig A. Miller, MD and Charlene Drew Jarvis, PhD belabor Charles Drew’s athletic expertise, and the tales of those exploits melt together in their similarities. It may be a safe bet that readers who pick up this book up will want the story of Drew’s accomplishments in medicine, instead of a litany of sports tales.

Fortunately, the rest of Drew’s life story and that of his career and his activism eventually become front-and-center here, and then you’ll be riveted. It helps that the authors are careful to explain the medical parts of the story in layman’s terms, making this a book you ultimately won’t want to put down.
That “Genius Unbroken” becomes a lively biography is a nice surprise that will appeal to true medicine readers or Black history fans. Look for it, and you’ll know who to thank when you’re stayin’ alive.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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Jackson, MS 39205
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Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

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(601) 969-0052

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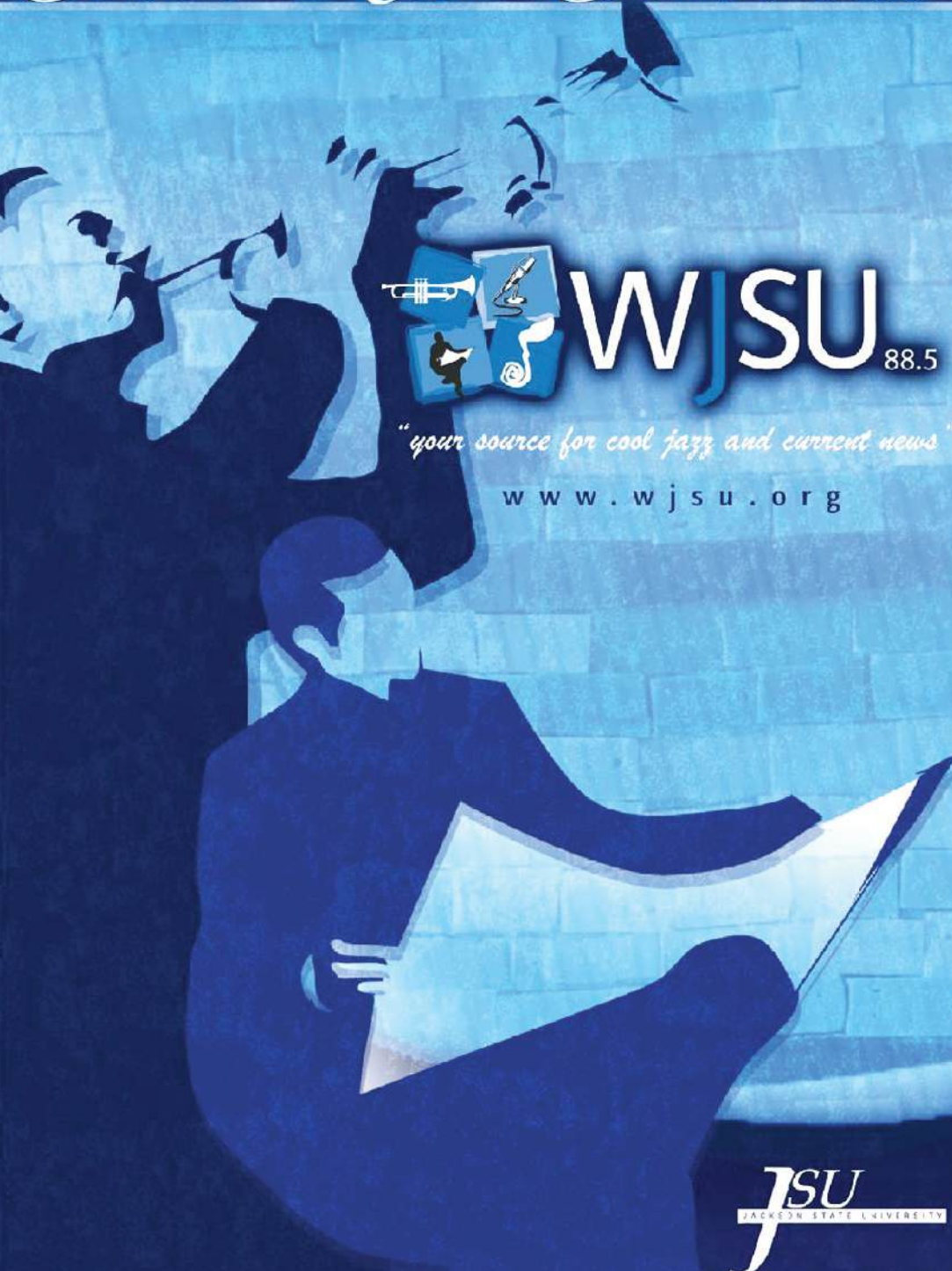
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - o Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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Jackson State wins East in a nail biter

By Tim Ward
Sportswriter

Over 44,000 people showed up at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium this past Saturday either to root for Jackson State University (JSU) or to cheer for Alcorn State University (ASU) to spoil JSU's season. Archrivals battling it out once again. Not only for bragging rights, but to determine the winner of the SWAC EAST. Jackson State and Alabama State started the day 6-1 in the SWAC. Alabama State defeated Arkansas-Pine Bluff 44 to 13. That factoid added pressure to JSU. If JSU lost, Alabama State would be East champions.

Jackson State's Ahmad Miller broke a 57-yard run to start the game. Miller would go over 1000 yards rushing for the season, finishing the game with 15 carries for 118 yards and 1 touchdown. Last season, Irv Mulligan rushed for over 1000 yards for JSU. The Tigers came out ready to play. At the end of the first quarter, JSU was leading 17 to 0. Tiger nation was feeling pretty good about the outcome at this point. Early in the second quarter, Alcorn quarterback, Jaylon Tolbert connected with Tyran Warren, who outran the JSU defense for a 64-yard touchdown. Alcorn was building some momentum. Alcorn was in scoring position again in the second quarter. Down on the goal line essentially, when the ball was snapped over the head of Andre Washington. Washington was in at quarterback at the time. Ashton Taylor from JSU recovered the fumble. With less than 2 minutes to go before halftime, JSU quarterback, Jared Lockhart connected with wide receiver Nate Rembert for a 55-yard touchdown pass. Pivotal point in the game, giving JSU a 24 to 7 halftime lead.

Coming out of halftime, Alcorn State University refused to go away quietly. Running back Reggie Davis scampered 44 yards for a touchdown, nar-



Running back Ahmad Miller ran for 1000 yards this season PHOTOS BY TIM WARD



Coach TC Taylor presented with the SWAC EAST trophy



Quarterback Jared Lockhart



SWAC East Champions



Alcorn Quarterback Jaylon Tolbert

rowing the gap to 24 to 14. For the game, Davis rushed for 120 yards on 15 carries with 1 touchdown. Alcorn would score again, but the touchdown was called back because it was deemed, Alcorn made two forward passes on the play. Offensively, JSU seemed content to keep the clock moving with a ball control gameplan. The Tigers ran the ball and used short passing plays to keep the clock moving. Early in the 4th

quarter, field goal kicker, Carlos Baeza nails a 23-yard field goal, extending the lead to 27 to 14. With 2:26 left in the game, Tyran Warren would score his second touchdown. Warren caught a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jaylon Tolbert. Tyran Warren lead Alcorn in receiving. He had 7 catches for 111 yards and 2 touchdowns. Quarterback Jaylon Tolbert completed 21 of 33 passes for 234 yards with 2 touchdowns. The

victory was in hand for JSU. All they had to do was take a knee to run out the clock. With 1:09 left, Jackson State lined up in victory formation. But somehow, the snap was fumbled by Quarterback, Jared Lockhart and Alcorn's Orlandus McLaurin recovered it. Braves nation goes wild! Tiger nation in shock! After a few plays, it's 8 seconds left in the game. Alcorn throws up a Hail Mary; the pass falls incomplete. Players

run onto the field celebrating, but the refs say it's 1 second left on the clock. Coach Taylor and JSU shocked! Alcorn lines up for 1 more play, the quarterback rolls around and throws another Hail Mary, and once again, it's incomplete. JSU SWAC EAST CHAMPIONS! Jackson State wins 27 to 21. Back-to-Back East Champs. When asked about the fumble in the victory formation, JSU Coach T.C. Taylor said, "Who'd have thought

that would have happened? You work on that every day. We go through quarterback to center exchange, but you just try to pick (Lockhart) up because we still got football to play. You can't get too tough on him."

December 6th at 1 pm, Jackson State will host Prairie View for the SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP. Tickets went on sale Monday. Expect a packed house and the winner will be SWAC CHAMPIONS.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



RUNOFF TUESDAY DEC 2



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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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