

Sex Discrimination Suit trudges forward

Plaintiff Debra Mays Jackson, former VP and Chief of Staff at JSU, prevails against IHL appeal



Debra Mays Jackson, Ph.D.
PHOTO: WWW.JSUMS.EDU.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

After nine years in various positions within Jackson Public Schools, including Principal at Forest Hill High School, Debra Mays Jackson became Vice President of Hinds Community College. After four years at Hinds, she became Vice President and Chief of Staff at Jackson State University - Thee I Love, in July 2017. In addition to both bachelor's and master's degrees, she earned a Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Jackson State University, then went on to complete her Doctorate in Educational Adminis-



IHL Building, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

COMMENTARY

tration and Supervision at Mississippi State University.

For Dr. Mays Jackson to be in the running to become the next President of Jackson State when Dr. William Bynum

abruptly stepped down in 2020, was a given. In addition to possessing strong academic credentials, her portfolio included significant experience in higher education administration. Instead, she was never given the opportunity. Mississippi's In-

stitutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board appointed Attorney Thomas Hudson and never conducted a national search for the best candidate to serve as the next President of the largest

*Discrimination
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Civil rights attorney Ben Crump's leadership extends beyond courtroom

By Stacey Brown
Black Press USA
Senior National Correspondent



In an America shaped once again by racial hostility and the rollback of diversity protections under the Trump administration, renowned civil rights attorney Ben Crump continues to force institutions to confront the value of Black life.

His latest victory, a \$779.3 million wrongful death verdict for the killing of security guard Lewis Butler, lands as a direct challenge to a system that has long accepted negligence toward Black workers as an unavoidable cost of doing business.

Butler, 51, was killed during a 2023-armed robbery at an internet café in Havana, Florida. Evidence at trial showed that the café, operated by Fortune MGT 2023 LLC and Manish Kumar Pa-

tel, failed to report a previous armed robbery Oct. 25, 2023, during which a firearm was stolen. The complaint alleged that the owners concealed the earlier robbery because managers allegedly knew illegal gambling was taking place inside. The same stolen weapon was later used to kill Butler as he attempted to protect a cashier.

For his widow, Kimberly Butler, the verdict was only one part of what must come next. "There's definitely some changes needed. Some attention needs to be brought," Butler said. "He put himself in the line of fire to save someone else's life."

Crump, who has been called "Black America's Attorney General" for the sweeping impact of his civil rights work, spoke to the weight of the jury's decision. "The verdict means so much

*Crump
Continued on page 3*

Top JPS official leaves to lead Atlanta charter school network

By Devna Bose
Mississippi Today

Michael Cormack, deputy superintendent of Jackson Public Schools, is leaving the district to lead a network of charter schools in Atlanta.

Cormack was Superintendent Errick Greene's first hire in 2019, according to an announcement the district released. He led academics at JPS, brainstorming initiatives like Project 75, which focuses on reading, and working with school leaders to improve student achievement.

Project 75 aims to boost the percentage of third graders in JPS who pass the state assessment on the first attempt from 55 percent to 75 percent. Cormack presented his plan for the initiative to the school board in

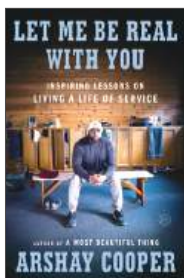


Michael Cormack resigned as deputy superintendent of Jackson Public Schools, the district announced on Dec. 8. He will be the chief executive officer of KIPP Atlanta Schools.

CREDIT: COURTESY OF JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Jackson Public Schools administrative building Credit: Jackson Public Schools



In Remembrance

Tommye Jo Morris

Child of God, willing to do God’s will

August 25, 1954 – December 8, 2025



Morris

Tommye Jo Love Morris lived a life poured out for God, for her family, and for her community, leaving a legacy as vibrant and enduring as her unwavering faith. Born on August 25, 1954, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late Thomas Love and Martha Elizabeth Watson Love, her remarkable journey began with purpose and promise.

Tommye accepted Christ at the age of ten and faithfully served the Lord throughout her life. She graduated from Vicksburg High School in 1972, then pursued nursing studies at The W–Mississippi University for Women, theatre coursework at Mississippi State University, and later earned her counseling certification from Mississippi College. She continued her biblical training through McKinley Theological Seminary and through extensive study of The Dake Bible, which she considered her true formal education in the Word of God. Her ministry service was extensive; she served as a Deaconess, Minister, Mother, and Youth Pastor in several congregations, building upon the strong spiritual foundation passed down through her family.

On November 2, 1974, she married the love of her life, Pastor James E. Morris, Sr., and together they shared 51 years of devotion, partnership, and purpose. They raised their children with love, discipline, and Christian values that continue to guide generations. She also faithfully served the Kingdom as co-founder of Christ-Anointed Church in Jackson, Mississippi, where she and her husband minis-

tered for 12 years.

A gifted teacher, leader, and visionary, Tommye spent 31 years alongside her husband operating Milestone Christian Bookstore in Pearl, Mississippi. She founded consulting services JALATA, LLC, and developed impactful community programs, including the ROPE (Rites of Passage Education) program for Jackson Public Schools and the first abstinence education programs in Rankin County and Pearl Public Schools. She spoke nationally with Dr. Freda Bush, founded and wrote the Charm School for the Spring District Association, and contributed to state and community boards, including Communities Working to Unite Youth 501(c)3 (CWUY). Through her work with CWUY, she helped establish White Ribbon Sunday, a statewide recognized initiative for abstinence education. Her leadership extended to Pearl High School as PTO President, and she was honored with the Goodwill of Mississippi Community Award 2019.

Though she guided countless families and youth with wisdom, she proudly considered her greatest accomplishment “earning her Master’s in the Art of Spoiling Grandchildren.” Her love was unforgettable; she could correct you, collect you, and hug you all in one motion, leaving you feeling both loved and lifted.

Tommye Jo departed this life on December 8, 2025, at UAB St. Vincent’s East Hospital, Birmingham, AL, surrounded by her family. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and strength. Tommye

was preceded in death by her grandparents, James H. Watson, Sr., and Rev. Thelma S. Watson; her parents, Thomas, and Martha Watson Love; her sisters, Denise Darcell Love and Lois Leannette Love Price; and her special cousins, Lerris Cooper and Jose Watson. She leaves to cherish her memory her loving husband, Pastor James E. Morris, Sr.; her brother, Willie Thomas (ex-wife Aileen) Love; her special cousins, Lamar (Theresa) Cooper, Lionel (Yolonda) Cooper, Jorge Watson, and Lucia Watson; her children, James (Pamela Anne) E. Morris, Jr., LaKisca (Prince) “Keke” Camille Jackson, and Thomas (LaTacia) Allen Morris; along with seventeen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a host of adopted children, God-children, nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends.

Tommye believed that a church community should help families grow in faith and strength. She often reminded others, “The devil is busy making plans for our children...ARE WE?” She lived this calling boldly, pouring her life into the spiritual and emotional well-being of families across Mississippi. Though her earthly journey has ended, the impact of her love, wisdom, and service will continue through every life she touched.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, at Dean Memorial Funeral Home, 745 Hwy 468, Brandon, MS., from 4- 8 PM. Homegoing Services will be held Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM, True Vine Baptist Church, 124 Vine Drive, Brandon, MS.

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Discrimination

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Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Mississippi. IHL Board members just took a vote, and Hudson, who had previously been Bynum’s “special assistant,” became President.

Mays Jackson filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) complaint alleging discrimination against her on account of her sex, when IHL Board members voted to hire Hudson without allowing candidates clearly more qualified to apply for the position. Hudson didn’t last long. He was placed on administrative leave with pay in early May 2023 and Dr. Elayne Hayes Anthony agreed to serve as Acting President while a formal search for a permanent President played out. Anthony did apply for the position and was interviewed - yet despite a year at the helm, was not selected. Mays Jackson applied during this period but was not granted an interview for the position. Ultimately, the search committee selected their own insider, Dr. Marcus L Thompson, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of the IHL, despite his never applying for the position. Thompson resigned in May 2025 – mums the word, of course, on why. Dr. Denise Jones Gregory currently serves as Interim President.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied the defendants’ (IHL Board members) motion to dismiss on the grounds of qualified immunity. The decision of the appeals court is final, yet it pertains only to the qualified immunity attempt. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, for the case styled as USDC No. 3:23-CV-3095, had previously denied the same motion by the defendants’, but they sought review by appeal. The U.S. District Court had also previously denied the defendants’ motion to dismiss the violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – the federal law that prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

It’s noteworthy that the IHL, often accused of not being transparent, doesn’t tend to take ownership of their actions.

They seem to behave as if they truly do reside in an ‘ivory tower,’ and have been sued many times, usually for wrongful termination, and even when found guilty, they fight vigorously against the punishment or accountability, so to speak.

Defining qualified immunity, Cornell Law School says, “qualified immunity is a type of legal immunity that protects a government official from lawsuits alleging that the official violated a plaintiff’s rights, only allowing suits where officials violated a “clearly established” statutory or constitutional right.”

Interestingly, qualified immunity goes back to the 1967 landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, Peirson v. Ray, following the arrest of clergy protesting at the bus terminal in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1961. Were the police officers who arrested the clergy acting in good faith and with probable cause, even if it was later determined their actions were unconstitutional, ended up being the critical question for the High Court. And poof, qualified immunity was born. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals panel ruled that qualified immunity did not apply in the Mays Jackson case. That ruling is rare. An Institute for Justice study in 2024 found that the Fifth Circuit only denied 16 percent of qualified immunity appeals, making it the most likely Circuit to grant it.

The IHL Board of Trustees members named in the lawsuit are Tom Duff, Steven Cunningham, Bruce Martin, Chip Morgan, Gee Ogletree, Hal Parker, J. Walter Star, and Jeanne Carter Luckey – who died November 7, 2024. Learn more about the IHL Board of Trustees here, <https://www.mississippi.edu/about/board-trustees>.

The IHL hires of the last four permanent Presidents of Jackson State University, dating back to 2011, have brought various elements of confusion, discredit, and/or instability to the revered institution. As Dr. Mays Jackson, represented by esteemed attorney Lisa M. Ross, returns to the U.S. District Court to continue her individual fight for justice, let’s all hope that somehow, someday, this deeply troubling and potentially unlawful pattern of hiring can cease.

Crump

Continued from page 1

for different reasons,” Crump reasoned. “Obviously, we want to compensate the family for this monumental loss that they suffered, this monumental wrong that this jury verdict helped to have a monumental right.”

He also noted Kimberly Butler’s determination to turn her loss into reform.

“The second thing is Mrs. Kimberly Butler testified; since her husband was murdered, she’s doing everything she can to try and get these internet gambling cafes shut down, because she thinks that they are an invitation for criminal activity,” Crump said.

The celebrated attorney also made clear that collecting on the judgment will be a fight of its own, but one he intends to pursue relentlessly.

“We absolutely plan on getting some compensation for the family,”

Crump proclaimed. “We may have to attach garnishments and liens to property and bank accounts, but we are dogmatic in pursuit of making sure we get compensation from those who the jury felt were responsible for this unnecessary, tragic death.”

The nearly \$780 million verdict stands among the largest negligent-security wrongful death awards in Florida history. It arrives during a political moment in which federal civil rights enforcement has been weakened and justice is becoming harder to obtain for marginalized communities.

Crump’s impressive record displays a consistent demand for accountability. He has represented the families of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Stephon Clark, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, the children of Flint and nine Black women in the Holtzclaw rape case. His work contributed to a \$27 million settlement for the Floyd family, a \$12 million settlement for the Taylor family, a \$641 million settlement for Flint’s children, more than \$200 million in banking while Black cases, and a \$411 million verdict for Duane Washington.

His leadership extends beyond the courtroom. Crump recently pledged \$50,000 to support the Black press of America, strengthening institutions that preserve Black history, Black truth and Black testimony. It is one of many reasons he is widely regarded as “Black America’s Attorney General.”

JPS

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August, but it kicked off in earnest in mid-November. Cormack told Mississippi Today he will continue working on Project 75 until his exit in March, and he’s confident the district will continue the initiative in his absence.

Under Cormack’s leadership, the district’s state accountability rating improved from an F to a C and graduation rates increased. The district’s announcement called the time of Cormack’s tenure one of the “most significant periods of sustained academic and organization improvement in its history.”

“Dr. Cormack’s impact on Jackson Public Schools has been pro-

found,” Greene said in the announcement. “His relentless focus on instructional excellence, organizational effectiveness, and leadership development has strengthened our schools and improved outcomes for our scholars. We are grateful for his service to JPS, and proud to see him elevate and expand his impact even farther.”

Cormack drew from his experience as a classroom teacher in the Delta for his work at JPS and his former position as CEO of the Barksdale Reading Institute, which closed in 2023.

“I fundamentally believe that reading is freedom,” Cormack told Mississippi Today in a previous interview. “Part of my job is

to make sure our scholars have the ability to be and do whatever their potential takes them.”

He will assume his new position as CEO of KIPP Atlanta Schools on March 16. KIPP is a national charter school network with hubs across the country, including schools in Memphis, New Orleans and Houston.

“Thank you, Jackson Public Schools, for the privilege of serving our scholars and community,” Cormack said in a statement on LinkedIn. “I carry that work and those lessons with me as I step into this new role.”



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CELEBRATION OF LIFE: “FINAL MARCH”

The Celebration of Life for Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Pastor, Dr. John E. Cameron, Sr. was held Saturday, December 13, 2025, in the church sanctuary, located at 1400 Robinson Street in Jackson at 12:00 Noon.

Rev. Dr. John Williams, Jr., served as program guide. Greetings were extended by Congressman, Bennie G. Thompson, Second District; City of Jackson, Mayor John Horhn and former City of Jackson Mayor, Harvey Johnson, Jr.

After a selection from Alexis Cameron Edwards, granddaughter of Dr. Cameron and the Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church choir, Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church gave the eulogy. He described Pastor Cameron, ‘without exception’ as an extraordinary leader and a faithful servant. He centered his eulogy using the text, Phillipians 1: 21. “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Dr. John E. Cameron, Sr.



Wyatt Waters donates giclée print to Dr. John Banks House

The Mississippi Link Newswire

When Thelma Newsome learned that Wyatt Waters had painted the watercolor, “Dr. John Banks House,” back in July, she became excited and curious.

Newsome, a manager of the Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum, said the museum staff wanted a copy of the painting, but she wondered if she could purchase one with the help of her children.

“When I contacted Wyatt Waters Gallery, I was told that Mr. Waters would be happy to donate a giclée print of the original painting to the museum,” she said. “I just couldn’t believe it. We were on Cloud 15 all day. We really do appreciate his gift.”

Newsome shared these remarks Friday, December 12, at the museum, where Wyatt Waters and his wife, Kristi, officially presented the artwork to the Rev. LeRoy White, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and the church’s staff that manages the museum.

The church inherited the Banks house in 2011 from Frank Robinson Jr., the grandson of Banks. The house, located at 9 St. Catherine St., became a museum in 2020. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also the site of Natchez’s first Mississippi Freedom Trail marker.



Wyatt Waters, right, presents a giclée print of his watercolor to the Rev. LeRoy White, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which owns and operates the museum. PHOTO BY ALBERT L. JONES

Banks was the first Black physician in Natchez, and his home served as the headquarters for the Natchez NAACP during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Newsome is one of several volunteers who operate the museum. She is joined by Dora Hawkins, Willie Woods, Jacquelyn B. Williams.

At Friday’s presentation, White thanked the Waters for their donation. He said he is excited about Rose Hill’s ownership of the house. “We’re going to show it off to make sure everybody all over Mississippi, as well as the world, know what

Dr. John Banks stood for,” he said.

Mayor Dan Gibson also participated in the presentation. “What a blessing it is to have Kristi and Wyatt here in Natchez,” he said. “What is also such a blessing is, Wyatt is capturing so much of our history in such a beautiful way through his art, and it’s being shown all over.”

Gibson said people are discovering Natchez because of Wyatt Waters’ art. “He is internationally known, internationally travelled, and he is also a fabulous painter,” Gibson said. Speaking to Wyatt Waters,

Gibson said, “I’m grateful that you have done this for the Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum.”

Wyatt Waters replied, “It’s our honor to be able to document this. A big part of our book is the story and not just the building.”

When Newsome thanked Wyatt Waters for the painting, he said, “Without y’all, there wouldn’t be anything for me to paint here. Thank you for maintaining this building and for keeping this history alive.”

In April 2025, Gibson met with the museum staff and kicked off a campaign to raise



Wyatt Waters with staff of the Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum at 9 St. Catherine St. From left to right are Jacquelyn B. Williams, Velua Robinson, Thelma Newsome, Mayor Dan Gibson, Rev. LeRoy White, Wyatt Waters, Kristi Waters, Willie Woods, Dora Hawkins, and Bonita Reed. PHOTO BY ALBERT L. JONE

\$15,000 to repair the building’s aging roof. The two-story wood-framed house was built in 1892. Gibson also honored Banks posthumously with a Key to the City, which he presented to Hawkins and other museum staff.

According to Williams, a museum volunteer, the mayor’s campaign succeeded. She said they hired Chimneyville Roofing of Jackson to repair the roof, and the company finished the job in October.

However, there is more work to be done. “We still need about \$10,000 to \$15,000 to repair the ceiling inside that was damaged

by the roof leaks,” Williams said. “We also want to expand the museum to the rooms upstairs for our civil rights history. However, we need an elevator for ADA purposes.”

Williams said there is also a need for cosmetic work for the porch.

Tours of the museum are available by appointment. Information on tours or donations is available by calling 601-807-2537. All donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to the Dr. John Bowman Banks Museum and mailed to P.O. Box 501, Natchez, MS 39121.

A New Year, a new commitment to Mississippi families

By Iris Yeldell Stacker
CEO Delta Health



On January 1, Mississippi will take an important step forward for working families. Eligible state employees will now have access to paid family leave to bond with a new child. This policy change reflects something many Mississippians already know when families are supported during life’s most important moments, everyone benefits.

Yet paid leave remains out of reach for too many workers. Nationally, only 1 in 4 private-sector employees has access to

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paid family leave, and fewer than 40 percent have access to paid medical leave. Too often, families are forced to choose between caring for a newborn, an aging parent, or their own health and keeping a paycheck.

I know how personal that choice can be. When I gave birth to my son 38 years ago, paid family and medical leave gave me peace of mind. I could bond with my child, meet my financial responsibilities, and return to work focused and ready. That time strengthened my family and my career.

Today, as CEO of Delta

Health System in Greenville, I see the same truth play out for employees and employers alike. Paid family and medical leave strengthen families and strengthen businesses. When workers have the security to care for their loved ones, they return more focused, loyal, and committed. Retaining experienced staff is far less costly than replacing them, especially in health care and other essential industries.

Research confirms this. Businesses in states with paid family and medical leave programs see productivity rise nearly 6 percent and profitability increase by more than one percentage

point. Employers receive more than \$2 in return for every \$1 invested. Manufacturing firms see a \$2.57 return, while technology companies see \$2.64. These are real, measurable outcomes.

Paid leave also makes fiscal sense for taxpayers. Women who take paid family leave are nearly 40 percent less likely to rely on public assistance during their child’s first year. States with paid leave programs report fewer families turning to emergency aid, easing pressure on public resources. For small businesses, paid leave helps level the playing field by allowing them to compete with larger employ-

ers that already offer these benefits. Nearly 70 percent of small businesses in states with paid leave support the policy because it helps retain workers and reduce turnover.

The benefits extend beyond economics. The first three years of a child’s life are critical for development. Paid family and medical leave are associated with higher breastfeeding rates, more well-child visits, higher immunization rates, and lower health care costs. Studies even show a 12 percent reduction in infant mortality. These are investments in healthier families and stronger communities.

At Delta Health System, we

believe in caring for the whole person, not just the hours they work. That belief reflects Mississippi values of responsibility, compassion, faith, and community. As the new year begins with this important paid leave policy for state employees, we should recognize it as a positive step and a foundation to build upon.

Paid family and medical leave are pro-family, pro-work, and pro-business. When we invest in families, we invest in Mississippi’s future.

Iris Yeldell Stacker is Chief Executive Officer of Delta Health System and a longtime Mississippi community leader.

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America's incredibly shrinking population

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The United States is edging toward population decline as birth rates fall, the population ages, and immigration slows, removing the country's longtime demographic safety valve. Under lower-immigration scenarios, the U.S. population could shrink as low as 226 million by the year 2100, according to data from the US Census Bureau.

This trend mirrors a global shift already reshaping Europe and East Asia. Two-thirds of humanity resides in countries with fertility below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per family. By 2100, populations in some major economies will fall by 20 to 50 percent, based on UN projections.

Sunita Sohrabji, the co-producer of the National Briefing Series, served as moderator this week, leading discussions by three guest panelists, and fielding questions from over 70 media outlets from around the globe. Discussion focused on factors leading to negative population growth; the impact to the economy, including a shrinking labor force; and possible implications for the environment. Dr. Ana Langer, Director of the Women and Health Initiative at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public



Dr. Ana Langer. PHOTO: POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Health and Professor Emerita in the Department of Global Health and Population, opened speaking about the factors involved in population decline.

"Global trends in population growth are pretty consistent around the world, and they all show a very important decline. The factors influencing population growth are basically four. Fertility rate, which is the average number of children per woman, mortality rate, migration, and age structure of a particular society. In the context, of course, of economic development, education, and women's rights, healthcare, family planning, and public policy. Among



Dr. Philip Cafaro. PHOTO: COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY.

these different determinants. I will focus on the fertility rate and the factors that influence it. During my years working in global reproductive health as a practitioner, an advocate, and a researcher I've observed fertility rates have declined over the last 40 to 50 years, in a very impressive way. In 1970, the global fertility rate was around 5 children per woman. In 2024, it's 2.2. In Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, which is the region with the highest fertility – yet the fertility rates have declined from 6.7 in the 70s. In the US, it has gone from 3.5 in the 60s to 1.6 in 2024."

Anu Madgavkar, a McKinsey



Anu Madgavkar. PHOTO: MCKINSEY & COMPANY

Global Institute Partner, shared next. "I represent the McKinsey Global Institute, which is the economics and business research arm of McKinsey &

Company. I think demographic shifts are really the outcomes of millions of individual or personal decisions. But what's interesting is how there is a very consistent trend that you can see globally, and how these personal and individual decisions combine and will have very profound economic consequences. And these economic consequences will force us in the coming 1 or 2 or 3 decades to question many assumptions we make about how

we work, how we grow, how we spend, how we save. We've sort of grown up with intuition about how our economies work but a lot of this will change. In the context of fewer younger people and many older people, and on balance, many countries stabilizing or shrinking overall population. So, it's both the age mix as well as the total population that matters...so let me just summarize what these big shifts or implications for the economy will be. Depopulation by 2100 feels like a long time away, although countries are already in the midst of this. We think there are a lot of shifts in the next 20 to 25 years ...the first big implication is that demographic change will slow down the rate of per capita economic growth, or per capita GDP growth."

The final panelist, Dr. Philip Cafaro, is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University and spoke about the environmental impacts of population decline. "In the year 2000, according to the census, the U.S. population was 281 million. Today, it's 343 million, so that's 60 million more people than we had 25 years ago. I come at this from a little different perspective. I'm focused on sustainability issues. The environmental news

is not good lately. It's almost a cascade of terrible environmental news; melting glaciers, acidifying oceans, fires of unprecedented size and intensity, unusually numerous and severe tropical storms, record-breaking droughts, dying coral reefs, dying boreal forests, massive bird losses. In North America and elsewhere, massive insect die-offs, and much more. The underlying cause of all of it is pretty clear. We've got an immense and rapidly growing human economy, serving the needs and wants of unprecedented numbers of people...we have much more powerful technologies, we're much wealthier, so that's really what driving our environmental problems. What I almost never hear is just an honest, direct statement of the fact that human beings are taking too much. We're demanding too much. And we're polluting too much. And so, I think we have to start looking at this in a different way."

Please view this briefing in its entirety at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/americas-incredibly-shrinking-population/>, for a deeper understanding of America's population shifts and the impact it will have on our society.

The Voting Rights Act is under threat. So are Workers' Rights.

The VRA was brought to life by courageous civil rights and labor leaders

By Fred Redmond, AFL-CIO
Secretary-Treasurer

In our workplaces, in our communities and in our government, the right to vote is how working people make our voices heard. The late Rep. John Lewis (Georgia) proclaimed, "Your vote is precious, almost sacred." The Supreme Court's recent decision allowing Texas to use a racially discriminatory congressional map threatens that precious right once again—and with it, the foundation of worker power itself.

A challenge out of Louisiana may soon make matters worse, threatening to further limit the strength of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965—the nation's most powerful tool for correcting historical racial discrimination in voting, including the violence and suppression once used to keep Black voters from the polls.

The VRA was brought to life by courageous civil rights and labor leaders who risked everything to end racial discrimination at the ballot box. The law transformed American democracy by dramatically increasing Black political participation, expanding representation at every level of government and giving working people a real chance to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

This fight is part of the labor movement's history too. In 1963, labor leaders were key architects of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and labor unions mobilized 40,000 union members and provided resources. We offered critical lobbying support and testimony in support of the Civil Rights Act and the VRA—the passage of



The VRA was brought to life by courageous civil rights and labor leaders

which in 1965 led to the filing of thousands of successful cases against workplace discrimination and eliminated many of the racist voting restrictions in the South. When Black voter turnout surged, so did worker power, especially in the South, where the VRA helped create a diverse coalition of working-class voters.

According to research from the University of California San Diego, the VRA narrowed the wage gap between Black and White workers by 5.5% between 1950 and 1980. Another study found that high-turnout communities saw more paved roads and streetlights; better access to city and county resources; and easier entry into public sector jobs such as police, firefighters and teachers.

The lesson is clear: A strong democracy gives working people space to thrive. When democracy is weakened, workers pay the price.

In 2013, the Supreme Court issued its Shelby County v. Holder decision and gutted the VRA, ruling that states with histories of racial discrimination no longer

needed federal approval to change voting laws. Almost immediately, a race to the bottom began. States wasted no time closing polling places, shortening early voting hours and passing restrictive ID laws. The targets were clear: young people, shift workers and communities of color—the same groups driving today's organizing momentum. In the years since Shelby, wages for Black teachers, city workers and health care aides have fallen, while corporate power has only grown stronger.

The Texas congressional map offers a glimpse of a future without the VRA: diluted working-class voices in a system that answers only to the wealthy few. These attempts to roll back the clock on racial progress should sound an alarm. When politicians get a green light to manipulate voting maps and take intentional steps to block representation on the basis of race, they can use that power to dismantle protections for union power, fair wages and retirement security.

Democracy depends on rules

that keep it fair. Those in power understand this—and some are working overtime to erase the rules entirely. But America's unions have never accepted a world where working people are silenced. We fought for the Voting Rights Act because this movement knows our fight for fair pay, safe jobs and dignity at work is the same fight as the struggle for the ballot box.

Workers built this democracy, and we will defend it. We will continue to push Congress to do its job and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to fully restore and permanently protect voting rights and ensure access to free and fair elections.

Voting rights are a labor issue—because when democracy breaks down, worker power breaks down with it.

Fred Redmond, the highest-ranking African American labor official in history, is the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor federation, representing 64 unions and nearly 15 million workers.

Rev. Al Sharpton condemns Donald Trump's comments over murder of acclaimed Director, Rob Reiner and wife



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), today slammed President Trump's comments over the murder of acclaimed director Rob Reiner and his wife, Michele, who were found dead in their California home Sunday. Trump has been widely condemned over a social media post over the couple's murder, with many in his own party shaming his highly politicized remarks over past disagreements he had with Reiner.

"President Trump continues to find a new low, with his remarks today effectively endorsing violence against those who disagree with him. What happened to Rob and Michele Reiner was a true tragedy, one that is still unfolding, and should be a moment in which we respect and share our condolences with his family. It is not a time for the President of the United States or anyone else to make gross, disgusting comments alleging their tragic death by any means had to do with political feelings. Even his staunchest backers are condemning these terrible remarks, which Trump should pull down and apologize for immediately. This was a man who we prayed for last summer after he was nearly assassinated in Pennsylvania — condemning all forms of political violence. He should find it within himself to find an ounce of the same dignity."

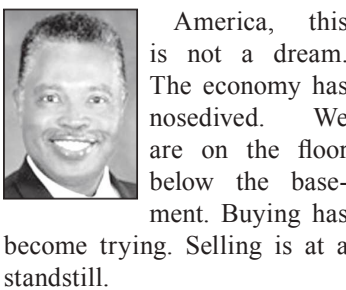
About National Action Network (NAN)

National Action Network is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the Nation with chapters throughout the entire United States. Founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, nationality, or gender.

For more information go to www.nationalactionnetwork.net.

We are wide awake and not dreaming in this economic nightmare

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



America, this is not a dream. The economy has nosedived. We are on the floor below the basement. Buying has become trying. Selling is at a standstill.

“Can’t find no work, can’t find no job my friend. Money is tighter than it has ever been. Say, man, I just do not understand what’s going on across this land” are lyrics sung by iconic singer, Marvin Gaye in 1971. That was many years ago and much has changed in this country.

While these lyrics were writ-

ten some years back, they have relevance to many people today. The economy is a painful reality to many Americans. Affordability has become an issue, and it is not going away.

Several months have passed since the new administration began talking about the cost of living. Their constant refrain was that the economic forecast was good, and all was right with America. We, the people, saw a different picture when we went to the store. In other words, their talk did not match our walk.

Most recently the president was in Pennsylvania telling the folks the economy is in good shape. Critics and those who know about these matters disagree with his assertions. A recent Gallup poll says that 62

percent disapprove of his handling of the economy. Noted scholar, Dr. Cornel West said recently on CNN that the president is out of touch with everyday Americans.

It is clear the new administration is struggling with their message. The economy is listless so now the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates a quarter point. Chairman Jerome Powell suggests “that the Fed is well-positioned to wait for more data, noting cooling labor markets and tariff-driven inflation, with no immediate rate hikes expected, while balancing risks to both inflation and employment, though facing internal disagreements.”

If you are a potential home buyer, this cut may help you.

Danielle Hale, chief economist at Realtor.com said, “I expect to see home sales in 2026 move more convincingly up from their 30-year lows.”

According to Real Estate News, Ruben Gonzalez, chief economist at Keller Williams is quoted as saying, “2026 will be a transitional year with home sales ticking up in a high inventory environment across most of the U.S.”

Christmas purchases will become more difficult. Goods that were cost effective in past years will be more expensive this year. That is simply a fact of life.

Another problem on our radar screen is healthcare. This year is coming to an end in a few weeks and so will the healthcare sub-

sidies for many Americans. The Affordable Care Act is being debated by our elected leaders.

There have been several proposals floated in both legislative chambers about the future of healthcare in this country. All have failed so we are now in a state of healthcare limbo. More than twenty million Americans will be affected. That does not have to be if legislators act for the people instead of acting against the people.

It is my opinion that the next few days to a week will be a tipping point for this healthcare crisis. At the end of the pharmacy counter is the question about what the future of healthcare will be in the United States of America.

The economy and healthcare

are problems with solutions not readily available at this moment. It must change. America is too great of a country to be in this predicament. We are being held hostage by these circumstances.

There has not been this level of vitriol between the political parties in many years. Now, it is just commonplace. Frustration and fatigue are words to describe how we feel about what is happening in Washington DC. We are weary of the meanness and tired of the malcontent between the Democrats and the Republicans.

There will be no solutions until this atmosphere of animosity turns into an environment of amicability.

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Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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Church: 601-859-2858

Husbands think like the ‘Wisemen’ did for Christmas

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



There are many wives who dread the idea of their husbands not going out their way to give them something for Christmas or getting

them something that they really do not want.

I know many believe the following sentiments: wives should be happy and grateful for whatever their husband give them for Christmas, at least you are blessed to have a husband, at least you have a husband that is willing to get you something for Christmas, many wives don’t get anything, he’s just not a good gift giver, or well he did try. Furthermore, some of you also support the idea that it is the thought that counts the most. Additionally, some believe that gift exchange is unnecessary, especially if you have been married for many years. However, this is just my opinion about all of this, one, I concur that wives should be grateful, secondly, if you been married that long –you’ve earned some decent gifts, and lastly, some wives must be honest, these husbands can do better about gift giving for special occasions and the holidays like Christmas.

I will never forget, picture this, my first Mother’s Day, 2008. I could not wait to open all my gifts, read all my cards, etc. My husband approached me; I was cheesing as he presented my first and only gift. I opened it and it was a picture frame of our son. I wept! (shortest scripture in the bible is Jesus wept). I wept (ugly cry) because I was disappointed. I had anticipated so much more, trophies, plaques, an Oscar, something more than a picture frame, etc. However, I later learned that my husband did not mean any harm. He honestly thought this gift was unique and special. And for the judgmental, the Lord is still working on me, and I still have this picture frame to this day on display. But my husband and I have had some conversations about gift expectations across the years that have been very helpful.

Wives, I have some suggestions that I believe can truly help your husband(s) improve his gift giving. The suggestions are as follows (this is for old-fashioned husbands and modern-day husbands):

- Compose a list of at least five items you want, give details about the stores, etc. Tell him to choose any two off the list or however you want to do it
- Create a Gift Registry

- Ask for Gift Cards to your favorite stores -give him pictures or samples – make it easy for these men to understand.

- Create a Scan Code for the gift(s) you want.

- Text and share links with your husband.

- Let him choose one gift on his own as he adheres to the above

- When all else fails, ask for cash

Husbands, I really want to help you because I do not want you to deal with hurt, disappointment, and upset Grinch Netta or Grinch Emily because you did not go out of your way to woo them on Christmas Day. Therefore, please think like Wisemen did for Christmas. Husbands, the Wisemen did not have many resources like stores, malls, online shopping, etc. as you do today but they still managed to go Christmas shopping for a baby names Jesus. If they could go out their way for a baby, then you should go out your way for your wife who is your baby too. Husbands unless your wife tells you differently they do not want the following for Christmas: vehicle accessories like mat sets, domestic products like vacuum cleaners, kitchen appliances/products, cleaning devices/supplies, gym equipment – I wish you would get me a treadmill – what you trying to say?, do not get tools, books especially on how to be better wives and mothers, we don’t want lingerie because that’s really for you. We want you to get us gifts like the wisemen did for Baby Jesus – the wisemen got Jesus – luxury items like gold (we want real jewelry), perfumes, special oils and fragrances – the wisemen went out their way to share valuable gifts with Baby Jesus because of their care, love, and admiration for Him. I forgot one more detail – the Wisemen failed down and worshipped Jesus too. No, your wife is not Jesus, but Jesus blessed many of you with a good wife, therefore, bless her for Christmas.

In conclusion, the best all year-round gifts that a husband can give his wife are reassurance, love, commitment, affection, quality time, etc. but there are special occasions where wives want you to think like the Wisemen did for Christmas – Merry Christmas!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528



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LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI TO MODIFY CHAPTER 14 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE “CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE V – PARADES”.

WHEREAS, it is the express intent of the Mayor and City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi (the “City”) and of this Ordinance, to establish reasonable time, place, and manner of procedures and regulations for parade activities and ensure a safe parade experience for all; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to regulate the use of grills, open flames, cooking oils, glass containers, certain vehicles, portable toilets, and similar items in outdoor public places that pose health, fire safety, litter, and public order risks; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to prohibit firearms at parades in the City where permitted by law, while also protecting State and federal constitutional rights to bear arms; and

WHEREAS, it is consistent with the nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation to restrict carrying firearms in areas of public assembly whee necessary for public safety; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi § 45-9-53 grants a municipality the authority to regulate the carrying of a firearm, either openly or concealed, at a parade; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General for the State of Mississippi has opined tha the authority to regulate firearms at a parade must not infringe on the rights of enhanced concealed licence holders; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has further opined that a municipalaity has the authority to enact an ordinance which regulates firearms at a parade with regard to open carrying of a firearm, concealed carry with a regular concealed license, or firearms carried without a license, so long as the ordinance does not regulate the right to concealed carry with an enhanced license, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 14 of the Jackson Municipal Code pertains to “Amusements and Entertainments,” including special events; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 21-19-1 et seq., Mississippi Code Annotated as amended, the City Council of the City of Jackson has authority to enact such ordinances for public safety, order, and welfare within municipal boundaries as necessary and in the best interest of the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THAT CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE V OF THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL CODE – PARADES BE CREATED AND READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 14-200 – Definitions

For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms have been defined as:

“All-terrain vehicle” or “ATV” means any motorized vehicle manufactured and designed exclusively for off-road use that is fifty-five (55) inches or less in width; has an unladen dry weight of one thousand (1,000) pounds or less; and travels on three (3), four (4) or more nonhighway tires. The term “all-terrain vehicle” shall not include electric bicycles.

“Cooking oil” or “grease” means oils, fats, or grease used in frying, grilling, sautéing, or other cooking processes.

“Downtown Business Improvement District” means the area bounded by Court Street on the South to Jefferson, Jefferson Street on the East to High, High Street to the North, North Street to George, George Street on the North to Lamar, Lamar Street on the West to Griffith, Griffith Street on the North to Mill, and Mill Street on the West to Court.

“Glass container” means any container made wholly or partly of glass, including bottles, jars, drinking vessels.

“Golf cart” means a motor vehicle that is designated and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes, is not capable of exceeding speeds of twenty (20) miles per hour and is equipped with safety equipment as required under 49 CFR Section 571.500.

“Grill” or “barbecue” means any device that uses charcoal, wood, propane, gas, or similar fuel to cook or heat food via flame or combustion (including smokers, fire pits used for cooking).

“Low -speed vehicle” means any four-wheeled electric or gasoline-powered vehicle that has a top speed greater than twenty (20) miles per hour but less than twenty-five (25) miles per hour and is equipped with safety equipment as required under 49 CFR Section 571.500.

“Off-road vehicle” means any all-terrain vehicle, dirt bike or recreational off-highway vehicle. The term “off-road vehicle” shall not include electric bicycles.

“Open flame” or “open burning” means combustion that is not fully enclosed or within a fully enclosed appliance, including campfires, bonfires, or other flame producing devices.

“Outdoor public place” means any street, sidewalk, alley, plaza, park, public square, plaza, or other open area owned or maintained by the City, or under city easement, and open to general public access.

“Person” means any natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or

LEGAL

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

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

CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4


PETITIONER: JESSICA CARR

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Jesse Earl Carr, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probation and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.


This thc 19 day of September, 2025.

Jessica Carr, Administrator




STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Jessica Carr, Administrator for the Estate of Jesse Earl Carr deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.



NOTARY

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HINDS COUNTY



MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

12/18/2025

agent thereof.

“Permit” means the authorization granted by the city and which the special events committee will provide under this ordinance to lawfully use one or more of the otherwise prohibited items or activities, subject to conditions.

“Portable toilet” means a temporary, mobile restroom facility not permanently affixed to a structure or utility line.

“Specialty Vehicle” means any self-propelled or motorized conveyance. For purposes of this ordinance, “specialty vehicle” includes, but is not limited to, ATVs, golf carts, and low-speed vehicles.

Section 14-201 – Permit Required.

Any person desiring to stage, present, or conduct a parade, motorcade, procession, march, or any other planned movement of persons, vehicles, or animals on the streets of the city must first secure a special event permit to engage in such activity as outlined in Sections 14-176 through 195.

Section 14-202 – Drivers.

All drivers of floats shall possess a current, valid driver’s license issued by the state department of public safety.

Section 14-203 – Reserved.

Section 14-204 – Fencing of public property prohibited.

Four hours prior to the scheduled start time of any parade within the boundaries of the Downtown Business Improvement District, it shall be unlawful for any individual, organization, or legal entity to fence, rope off, or stake out any area of public property along a parade route, except when necessary to protect plants, shrubbery, trees, and other landscaping materials with the approval of the special events committee.

Section 14-205 – Prohibitions

Except as permitted by the City in writing, it shall be unlawful from the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the day of a parade within the boundaries of the Downtown Business Improvement District to:

Use, operate, or maintain grills, barbecues, smokers, open-flame cooking appliances, or open burning along the parade route.

Perform cooking, including frying, employing cooking oils or grease along the parade route unless contained and under conditions approved in a permit.

Possess or utilize glass containers (e.g., bottles, jars, drinking glasses) along the parade route.

Operate, park, or bring in specialty vehicles such as ATVs and golf carts along the parade route, unless permitted.

Place or maintain portable toilet units along the parade route except under a permit or during approved events.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, any person may apply for an exception from the requirements herein. Such application shall be presented for approval to the Police Chief and/or the Mayor, or such designee as the Police Chief and/or the Mayor may make.

Section 14-206 – Firearms.

The carrying of firearms by any parade participant or attendee is prohibited. Duly commissioned law enforcement personnel are exempted.

Section 14-207 – Severability & Effective Date.

If any section, clause, or provision is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

This ordinance becomes effective 30 days after passage.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.
Nays – None.
Absent – Clay.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 18, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book “7C, Pgs. 311-317”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of December, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

12/18/2025

LEGAL

Advertisement for:
Bid 26-3276
Powell Perimeter Fence

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning all listed projects will be held in person at Powell Middle School 3655 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213 on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged.

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

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

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

Performance Dates:

- 1st Advertise: 12 December 2025 (Clarion); 11 December 2025 (Jackson Advocate & MS Link)
- 2nd Advertise: 19 November 2025 (Clarion) 18 December 2025 (Jackson Advocate & MS Link)
- Pre-bid Conference: 09 January 2026 (In-person)
- Final Date for Questions: 30 January 2026
- Answers to Questions: 04 February 2026
- Bid Opening Day: 10 February 2026 @ 10:00 A.M.
- Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

12/11/2025, 12/18/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING MINCAP A REZONING FROM R-5 (MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 802 NORTH ST. (PARCEL 23-24) TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION OF A PROFESSIONAL OFFICE, CASE NO. 4308.

WHEREAS, MINCAP has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 802 North St. (Parcel 23-24), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a professional office; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a professional office; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, November 17, 2025 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 2, 2025 and October 16, 2025 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on October 22, 2025, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a professional office; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practices and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

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

SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

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

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the property located at 802 North St. (Parcel 23-24) from R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a professional office. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.
Nays – None.
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting November 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book “7C, Pgs. 247-248”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 9th day of December, 2025.




Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

12/18/2025

LEGAL

Banking Services-Depository Bid

Depository Bids for 2026 thru 2029 will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi on January 6, 2026 at 3:30 pm at City Hall, 219 South President Street. Please submit original and two (2) copies of sealed bids, marked “RFP#94629-010626 Depository Bid” to the following address prior to or on January 6, 2026 by 3:30pm.

City of Jackson, Mississippi
Attention: Municipal Clerk
219 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201


Depository bids must be submitted in compliance with Mississippi Code Section 27-105-315 and related Mississippi Code Sections 27-105-305 and 27-105-353.

Depository bid specifications may be received by contacting the City of Jackson, Mississippi as follows:

Department of Administration
Attention: Courtney Bell
200 South President Street
Jackson, MS 39201
Telephone (601) 960-2005

12/11/2025, 12/18/2025

LEGAL



THE CITY OF
JACKSON
MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR GRAY DANIELS CHEVROLET

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR GRAY DANIEL CHEVROLET TO REPLACE THE 120 SQUARE FOOT DAMAGED FACE OF THE EXISTING NON-COMFORMING 47 FOOT TALL PYLON SIGN WITHIN A C-3 ZONE THAT ONLY ALLOWS PYLON SIGNS TO BE 35 FEET IN HEIGHT TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

12/18/2025, 12/25/2026



LEGAL

AN ORDINANCE ENLARGING, EXTENDING, AND DEFINING THE CORPORATE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; SPECIFYING THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE ANNEXED TERRITORY AND THE MUNICIPAL OR PUBLIC SERVICES TO BE RENDERED THEREIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi recommends that the governing authority adopt an ordinance to enlarge, extend, and define the corporate limits and boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes related thereto, as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of the entry of decree of the Chancery Court of Rankin County, Mississippi, approving, ratifying, and confirming the enlargement and extension of the municipal boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi as established by this Ordinance and the final judgment of the said Chancery Court or, in the event an appeal is taken therefrom, within ten (10) days from the final determination of such appeal.

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby found and determined that the public convenience and necessity require that the corporate boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, be and the same are hereby extended and enlarged so as to embrace the adjacent and unincorporated land and territory in Rankin County, Mississippi hereinafter described.

SECTION 2. In 1964, the Mississippi Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1995, which is now codified in Title 61, Chapter 9 of the Mississippi Code, which created an exception to the adjacency requirement of general annexation laws for certain municipalities that desired to incorporate and establish an airport outside the corporate limits and boundaries of such municipalities.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Senate Bill 1995, in June 1964 the City of Jackson passed an ordinance that incorporated what is now known as the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("the Airport") in Rankin County into the corporate limits and boundaries of the City of Jackson.

SECTION 4. Mississippi Code Annotated § 61-9-5 provides, as follows:

any municipality shall, pursuant to the authority of this chapter, incorporate into its corporate boundaries property situated in a county other than the county in which the principal office of the municipality is located, it shall not thereafter extend its boundaries into such other county, without, in addition to complying with all existing laws of this state governing or relating to the extension of corporate boundaries of municipalities, first obtaining the consent and approval of the board of supervisors of such county into which it desires to extend its corporate boundaries.

SECTION 5. On October 6, 2025, the Rankin County Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution Providing Consent and Approval of the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, Pursuant to Section 61-9-5 of the Mississippi Code, to the City of Jackson's Proposed Annexation of Certain Lands in Unincorporated Rankin County Adjacent to the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport Subject to Certain Conditions.

SECTION 6. The unincorporated land and territory which is added to and included in the corporate limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is situated in Rankin County, Mississippi, and is more particularly described as follows:

City of JACKSON, Mississippi

Proposed Annexation Areas

Area 1

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, said point being on the Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Airport Property), as described in the Amended Final Decree of Annexation entered April 26, 2007 in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County Mississippi, said point also being the POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence Westerly along the South line of said Section 26 to the Southwest corner of said Section 26;

thence Northerly along the West line of said Section 26 to its intersection with the centerline of Hog Creek;

thence leaving said Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Southeast-ly along the meanderings of the centerline of Hog Creek to a point at its intersection with a line parallel to and 81 feet East of the West line of said Section 26 in the Southwest 3/4 of the Northwest 3/4 of said Section 26;

thence leaving the centerline of Hog Creek, Southeast-ly along a straight line to said Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, said point being on said Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson and the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Area 2

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the property described in Deed Book 371, Page 97, as recorded in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi, said point being on the North line of the Southwest 3/4 of Section 35, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, said point also being on the Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Airport Property), as

described in the Amended Final Decree of Annexation entered April 26, 2007 in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County Mississippi, said point also being the POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence Easterly 800 feet, more or less, along said North line of the Southwest 3/4 of Section 35 to a point, said point being located 400 feet Westerly of the West right-of-way line of East Metro Parkway;

thence Southeasterly along a line lying 400 feet Westerly and concentric with the West right-of-way line of East Metro Parkway to a point located 400 feet Northwesterly of the Northwest right-of-way line of Airlane;

thence Southwesterly along a line lying 400 feet Northwesterly and concentric with the Northwest right-of-way line of Airlane, and continue Southerly along said line concentric with and 400 feet Westerly of the West right-of-way line of Airlane to a point 50 feet Northerly of the North right-of-way line of Old Brandon Road;

thence Westerly along a line lying 50 feet Northerly and parallel to the North right-of-way line of Old Brandon Road to the East line of the fourth parcel described in Deed Book 157, Page 417-418, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk, Rankin County, Mississippi;

thence Southerly along the East line of said fourth parcel described in Deed Book 157, Page 417-418 to its Southeast corner;

thence Westerly along the South line of said fourth parcel of Deed Book 157, Page 417-418 for 298 feet, more or less, to a point, said point being on said Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi;

thence Northerly along said Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and continue along said Existing Corporate Limits, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Area 3

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 29, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi, and the Southwest margin of an unnamed service road serving the City of Jackson, Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, said Southwest margin being designated by the existing security fence as same exists this date (9-2025); said point being on the Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi (Airport Property), as described in the Amended Final Decree of Annexation entered April 26, 2007 in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County Mississippi, said point also being the POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence Northwesterly along the Southwest margin of said unnamed service road, as designated by said security fence, to its intersection with the North line of the Southwest 3/4 of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi;

thence Northwesterly 40 feet, more or less, along the Southwest margin of said unnamed service road, as designated by said security fence;

thence Westerly 145 feet, more or less, along a line perpendicular to the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi;

thence Northerly 245 feet, more or less, along a line parallel to said East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490;

thence Westerly along a line perpendicular to said East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490 to its intersection with the East right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway 475;

thence Northerly along said East right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway 475 to its intersection with the centerline of a utility easement in the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi;

thence Northwesterly along the centerline of said utility easement to its intersection with the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 246, Page 172, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi, said point also being on the Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi;

thence Southeasterly along said Existing Corporate Limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

SECTION 7. After the addition of the lands and territory described in Section 6 hereof, the corporate limits and boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, shall be and are described as follows:

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Resultant Enlarged City

PARCEL 1 - CITY WEST OF PEARL RIVER

The Corporate Limits and Boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as enlarged and extended west of the Pearl River in Hinds County and Madison County, Mississippi, are described as follows:

Begin at the intersection of the Madison County line with the Hinds County and Rankin County line; run thence

Southerly and Southwesterly along the line between Hinds County and Rankin County to the section line between Sections 3 and 10, Township 4 North, Range 1 East; run thence

Westerly along the line between Sections 3 and 10, Sections 4 and 9, and partially along the line between Sections 5 and 8, Township 4 North, Range 1 East to the intersection of said line with the West Right-of-Way of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad; run thence

Southwesterly along said West railroad

Right-of-Way to its intersection with an Easterly extension of the South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road; run thence

Westerly following the extension of the said South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road to a point, said point being the intersection of the West Right-of-Way of Old Byram Road and the South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road; run thence

Westerly along the said South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road to the intersection of the South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road with the East Right-of-Way of Terry Road (U.S. Highway 51); run thence

Westerly along a Westerly extension of the South Right-of-Way of Bounds Road, crossing said Terry Road, to its intersection with the centerline of an unnamed creek, said unnamed creek being a tributary of Trahon Creek; run thence

Northwesterly following the meanderings of the centerline of said unnamed creek to a point on the Southwest boundary of Brookleigh Subdivision, part 11, said point being on the South property

line of lot 21, as described and recorded in Plat Book 34, Page 10, on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; continue thence

Northwesterly following the meanderings of said unnamed creek, said creek being generally along the Southwest boundaries of said Brookleigh Subdivision, part 11; and Brookleigh Subdivision, part 5, as described and recorded in Plat Book 28, Page 28; Brookleigh Subdivision, part 7 (amended), as described and recorded in Plat Book 30, Page 32; Brookleigh Estates as described and recorded in Plat Book 36, Page 9; and the South boundary of Torrey Pines of Brookwood, part 2, as described and recorded in Plat Book 32, Page 11; to a point near the Southwest corner of said Torrey Pines, all previously named subdivision plats being on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; continue thence

Northwesterly along the meandering centerline of the said unnamed creek to a point being the corner common to Brookwood Place, part 3, as described and recorded in Plat Book 34, page 42; and Brookwood Place, part 1, as described and recorded in Plat Book 33, Page 20 on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

Westerly, leaving said centerline of unnamed creek, along the South boundary of said Brookwood Place, part 1, to the Southwest corner of said Brookwood Place, part 1; run thence

Northerly, along the West boundary of said Brookwood Place, part 1, to its intersection with the centerline of said unnamed creek; run thence

Northwesterly leaving said West boundary of Brookwood Place, part 1, along the centerline of said unnamed creek to its intersection with the West Right-of-Way of Henderson Road; run thence

Northerly along said West Right-of-Way of said Henderson Road to a point being the intersection of said West Right-of-Way with the half-section line between the N 1/2 and the S 1/2 of Section 34, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

West along the half-section line between the N 1/2 and S 1/2 of said Section 34 to the intersection of the North-South section line between Sections 33 and 34, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the North-South section line between Sections 33 and 34, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, to the South Right-of-Way line of McCluer Road; run thence

Westerly along the South Right-of-Way line of McCluer Road to the Westerly Right-of-Way line of Siwell Road; run thence

Northerly along the Westerly Right-of-Way line of Siwell Road to its intersection with the South boundary line of Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

West along the South boundary line of said Section 28 to the corner common to Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the section line between Sections 28 and 29, Township 5 North, Range 1 West to the Southerly Right-of-Way line of Old Miss. Highway 18 (Raymond Road); run thence

Westerly along the Southerly Right-of-Way line of Old Miss. Highway 18 (Raymond Road) to the half-section line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of Section 29, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the half-section line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of said Section 29 to the section line between said Section 29 and Section 20, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, run thence

North along the half-section line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of Section 20, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, to a point, said point being the Southeast corner of Brookhollow Place, part VI, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 28 at Page 3 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

North 89 degrees 58 minutes West along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part VI, subdivision a distance of 246.5 feet to a point; run thence

North 39 degrees 04 minutes West continuing along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part VI, subdivision a distance of 330.8 feet to a point; run thence

West continuing along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part VI, subdivision a distance of 183.9 feet to a point, said point being the Southwest corner of said Brookhollow Place, part VI, subdivision and the Southeast corner of Brookhollow Place, part VII, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 28 at Page 4 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

West along the South boundary of said

Brookhollow Place, part VII, subdivision a distance of 290.0 feet to a point, said point being the Southwest corner of said Brookhollow Place, part VII, subdivision and the Southeast corner of Brookhollow Place, part VIII, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 28 at Page 20 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

West along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part VIII, subdivision a distance of 560.0 feet to a point, said point being the Southwest corner of said Brookhollow Place, part VIII, subdivision and the Southeast corner of Brookhollow Place, part IX, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 29 at Page 18 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

West along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part IX, subdivision a distance of 570.0 feet to a point, said point being the Southwest corner of lot 353 of Brookhollow Place, part IX, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 29 at Page 18 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence

West a distance of 150 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of lot 400, Brookhollow Place, part X, subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 30 at Page 43, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence.

West along the South boundary of said Brookhollow Place, part X, subdivision a distance of 440 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of said Brookhollow Place, part X, subdivision, said corner being on the section line between Sections 20 and 19, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

Northerly along the section line between Sections 20 and 19, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, to the intersection of said section line and the North Right-of-Way line of Mississippi Highway 18; run thence

Easterly along the North Right-of-Way line of Mississippi Highway 18 to its intersection with the section line between Sections 16 and 17, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the section line between Sections 16 and 17, Township 5 North, Range 1 West to the intersection with a line between the N 1/2 and S 1/2 of the S 1/2 of Section 16, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East along said line between the N 1/2 and S 1/2 of the S 1/2 of said Section 16 to the section line between Sections 15 and 16; run thence

North along the section line between said Sections 15 and 16 to the intersection of said section line with a line between the N 1/2 and the S 1/2 of said Section 15, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East along said half-section line between the N 1/2 and S 1/2 of said Section 15 to its intersection with the West Right-of-Way line of Maddox Road; run thence

Northerly along the West Right-of-Way line of said Maddox road to the intersection of the section line between Sections 3 and 10, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

West along the section lines between Sections 3 and 10, 4 and 9, 5 and 8, Township 5 North, Range 1 West to the intersection of the line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of said Section 5, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along said half-section line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of said Section 5, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, to a point at the intersection of said half-section line with the North Right-of-Way line of the I.C. Railroad (now I.C. Gulf Railroad), run thence

North 00 degrees 04 minutes 30 seconds West 2436.13 feet; run thence

North 89 degrees 52 minutes 30 seconds East 1320.3 feet to a point; run thence

North 00 degrees 05 minutes West 1330.19 feet to the North boundary line of said Section 5, Township 5 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East along the North boundary line of said Section 5, Township 5 North, Range 1 West to the Southwest corner of Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, said line being a portion of the Southern boundary line of the Corporate Limits of the City of Clinton, Mississippi; run thence

East along the section line between Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West and Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 1 West, to the line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of said Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the line between the E 1/2 and the W 1/2 of said Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West to the Southwest corner of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East to the Southeast corner of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 33, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the East line of said NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 33 to its intersection with the South Right-of-Way line of U.S. Highway 80, the same being a portion of the South boundary line of the Corporate Limits of the City of Clinton; run thence

Southeast along the South Right-of-Way line of U.S. Highway 80 to its intersection with the West Right-of-Way line of Shaw Road, being a portion of the Southerly boundary line of the Corporate Limits of the City of Clinton; run thence

North along the West Right-of-Way line of Shaw Road to its intersection with the East line of Section 28, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, being a portion of the Eastern boundary line of the City of Clinton, Mississippi; run thence

North along the line between Sections 27 and 28 to the common corner of Sections 21, 22, 27 and 28, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East along the section line between Sections 22 and 27 to the common corner of Sections 22, 23, 26 and 27, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the section line between Sections 22 and 23 to the half-section line between the N 1/2 and the S 1/2 of Section 23, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

East along said half-section line to its intersection with the West Right-of-Way line of McWilliams Road (Flag Chapel Road); run thence

North along the West Right-of-Way line of McWilliams Road (Flag Chapel Road) to its intersection with the South Right-of-Way line of Northside Drive; run thence

West along the Southern Right-of-Way line of Northside Drive to its intersection with the section line between Sections 22 and 23, Township 6 North, Range 1 West; run thence

North along the section line between Sections 22 and 23, 14 and 15, and 10 and 11 to the intersection of said section line with the South Right-of-Way line of the Natchez Trace Parkway; run thence

North along the West lines of Sections 11 and 2, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; run thence

East along the North lines of Sections 2 and 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, to the Northeast corner of said Section 1, said corner also being the Northwest corner of Section 6, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; run thence

East along the North line of said Section 6 to the intersection of said section line with the South Right-of-Way line of the Natchez Trace Parkway; run thence

Southwesterly along the South Right-of-Way line of the Natchez Trace Parkway to the Northwest corner of the City of Jackson tract known as tax parcel 0902 010 000 recorded on tax maps 420 and 419 and described in Deed Book 3006, Page 389, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

Southeasterly along the North line of said tax parcel 0902 010 000 to its intersection with the West Right-of-Way line of the North West Industrial Parkway; run thence

Northerly along the West Right-of-Way line of the NW Industrial Parkway to its intersection with the South Right-of-Way line of West County Line Road; run thence

Easterly along the South Right-of-Way line of West County Line Road to its intersection with the East Right-of-Way line of the NW Industrial Parkway; run thence

Southerly along the East Right-of-Way line of the NW Industrial Parkway to the Northwest corner of the City of Jackson tract known as tax parcel 0902 010 001 recorded on tax map 419 and described in Deed Book 3300, Page 256, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

Southeasterly along the North lines of said tax parcel 0902 010 001 and the Arch Aluminum and Glass Co., Inc., tract known as tax parcel 0902 010 003 recorded on tax map 426 and described in Deed Book 5071, Page 481, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk, to the Northeast corner of said parcel 0902 010 003; run thence

South along the East line of said tax parcel 0902 010 003 to the intersection of said East line with the South line of the F. Harris Virden tract known as tax parcel 0902 014 000 recorded on tax map 419 and described in Deed Book 3514, Page 148, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk, said intersection being the Southwest corner of said parcel 0902 014 000; run thence

East along the South line of said tax parcel 0902 014 000 to the Southeast corner of said parcel, said corner also being the Northeast corner of the City of Jackson tract known as tax parcel 0902 010 000 recorded on tax maps 420 and 419 and described in Deed Book 3066, Page 389; run thence

South and Southeasterly along the East line of said parcel 0902 010 000 to the Northeast corner of the Cintas Sales Corp. tract known as tax parcel 0900 010 001 recorded on tax map 427 and described in Deed Book 5134, Page 18, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

Southeasterly along the East line of said tax parcel 0900 010 001 to its intersection with the North line of Section 8, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; run thence

West along the North line of said Section 8; run thence

South along the West line of Section 8, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, to the intersection of said section line with the North Right-of-Way line of Hilda Drive; run thence

West to the South Right-of-Way line of Hilda Drive; run thence

Northwesterly along the South Right-of-Way line of Hilda Drive to its intersection with the South Right-of-Way line of the Natchez Trace Parkway; run thence

East along the Northern boundary line of said Section 12 to the Northeast corner of said Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, said corner also being the Northwest corner of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; run thence

South along the West line of said Section 7 to the Southwest corner of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/2 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; said corner also being the Northwest corner of the Collins Wohner, et. al., tract known as tax parcel 0904-004-000

recorded on tax map 464 and described in Deed Book 3888, Page 381, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

East along the North line of said tax parcel 0904-004-000, said North line being the line between the N 1/2 and the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, to the Northeast corner of said tax parcel; run thence

South along the East line of said tax parcel 0904-004-000 to the Southeast corner of said parcel; run thence

West along the South line of said tax parcel 0904-004-000 to the Northeast corner of the City of Jackson tract known as tax parcel 0905-001-000 recorded on tax map 472 and described in Deed Book 2086, Page 240, on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

South along the East line of said tax parcel 0905-001-000 to the Southeast corner of said parcel, said corner also being the Northeast corner of the Roy L. Deberry, Jr., tract known as tax parcel 0905-002-000 recorded on tax map 472 and described in Deed Book 3836, Page 80; run thence

South along the East line of said tax parcel 0905-002-000 to the intersection of said East line with the North line of the Carol Caldwell and Leslie Edinburg tract known as tax parcel 0905-003-003 recorded on tax map 472 and described in Deed Book 2858, Page 354; run thence

East along the North lines of said tax parcel 0905-003-003; the Construction Equipment, Inc., tract known as tax parcel 0905-005-004 and described in Deed Book 3722, Page 660; the James O. Upton tract known as tax parcel 0905-010-000 and described in Deed Book 4556, Page 660; and the W. K. Paine tract known as tax parcel 0905-011-000 and described in Deed Book 2332, Page 428, to the Northeast corner of said tax parcel 0905-011-000, all said tax parcels being recorded on tax map 472; run thence

South along the East line of said tax parcel 0905-011-000 to the Northwest corner of the W. K. Paine tract known as tax parcel 0905-007-001 recorded on tax map 472, and described in Deed Book 2332, Page 428 on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk; run thence

East along the North line of said tax parcel 0905-007-001 to a point on the West line of the W. K. Paine tract known as tax parcel 0905-007-002 recorded on tax map 473, and described in Deed Book 2332, Page 428 on file in the Office of the Hinds County Chancery Clerk, said point being the Northwest corner of said tax parcel 0905-007-001; run thence

North along the said West line of said tax parcel 0905-007-002 to the Northwest corner of said parcel; run thence

East along the North line of said tax parcel 0905-007-002 to the Northeast corner of said parcel; run thence

Southerly along the East line of said tax parcel 0905-007-002 to the Southeast corner of said parcel, said corner being on the North Right-of-Way line of Forest Avenue; run thence

East along the North Right-of-Way line of Forest Avenue to its intersection with the East boundary line of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; run thence

North along the section line between Sections 7 and 8, Township 6 North, Range 1 East to

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AN ORDINANCE ENLARGING, EXTENDING, AND DEFINING THE CORPORATE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; SPECIFYING THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE ANNEXED TERRITORY AND THE MUNICIPAL OR PUBLIC SERVICES TO BE RENDERED THEREIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES RELATED THERETO (continued).

PARCEL TWO – CITY EAST OF PEARL RIVER (AIRPORT PROPERTY)

The corporate limits and boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as enlarged and extended, shall also include the boundaries of the lands constituting the Jackson Municipal Airport, Allen C. Thompson Field, in Rankin County, Mississippi, the metes and bounds description of which is as follows, less and except the G.M. & O. Railroad right-of-way:

All of that part of Sections 27, 34, and 35, Township 6 North, Range 2, East, and Sections 2, 3, 10, and 11, Township 5 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows, less and except the G.M. & O. Railroad right-of-way as included herein.

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, said point also being the POINT OF BEGINNING; run thence

South 00 degrees 00 minutes 51 seconds West 1320.0 feet to a point; run thence

North 89 degrees 21 minutes 31 seconds East 3960.0 feet to the East line of Section 35; run thence

with said East line South 00 degrees 01 minute West 1320.0 feet to a point; run thence

South 89 degrees 21 minutes 31 seconds West to a point, said point being located 400 feet Westerly of the West right-of-way line of East Metro Parkway; run thence

Southeasterly along a line lying 400 feet Westerly and concentric with the West right-of-way line of East Metro Parkway to a point located 400 feet Northwesterly of the Northwest right-of-way line of Airlane; run thence

Southwesterly along a line lying 400 feet West to a point, said point being located 400 feet Northwesterly of the West right-of-way line of Airlane, and concentric with the Northwest right-of-way line of Airlane; run thence

South 00 degrees 34 minutes East 1177.43 feet to a point; run thence

South 67.4 feet to a point; run thence

North 89 degrees 54 minutes West 1093.4 feet to a point; run thence

South 23 degrees 47 minutes West 147.2 feet to a point; run thence

South 23 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds West 375.45 feet to the PC of a 2 degree 30 minute curve to the left; run thence with said curve 684.3 feet to the PT of said curve; run thence

South 05 degrees 06 minutes West 5.4 feet to a point; run thence

North 89 degrees 54 minutes West 200.76 feet to a point; run thence

North 05 degrees 06 minutes East 22.9 feet to the PC of a 2 degree 25 minute curve to the right; run thence with said curve 747.6 feet to the PT of said curve; run thence

North 23 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds East 436.15 feet to a point; run thence

North 22 degrees 04 minutes West 949.5 feet to the West line of Section 11; run thence

with said West line North 00 degrees 34 minutes West 394.6 feet to a point; run thence

South 89 degrees 10 minutes East 668.0 feet to a point; run thence

South 88 degrees 38 minutes East 279.7 feet to a point; run thence

North 23 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds East 54.3 feet to a point; run thence

North 89 degrees 16 minutes West 1348.7 feet to a concrete monument; run thence

North 22 degrees 05 minutes West to the intersection of the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 29, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi, and the Southwest margin of an unnamed service road, said Southwest margin being designated by the existing security fence as same exists this date (9- 2025); run thence

Northwesterly along the Southwest margin of said unnamed service road, as designated by said security fence, to its intersection with the North line of the Southwest ¼ of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi; run thence

Northwesterly 40 feet, more or less, along the Southwest margin of said unnamed service road, as designated by said security fence; run thence

Westerly 145 feet, more or less, along a line perpendicular to the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi; run thence

Northerly 245 feet, more or less, along a line parallel to said East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490; run thence

Westerly along a line perpendicular to said East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 247, Page 490 to its intersection with the East right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway 475; run thence

Northerly along said East right-of-way line of Mississippi Highway 475 to its intersection with the centerline of a utility easement in the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi; run thence

Northeasterly along the centerline of said utility easement to its intersection with the East line of the property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 246, Page 172, in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi; run thence

North 22 degrees 05 minutes West to the Northeast corner of said property described as Parcel A in Deed Book 246, Page 172; run thence

South 89 degrees 28 minutes 01 seconds West 297.62 feet to the West line of Section 34; run thence with said West line North 00 degrees 29 minutes 43 seconds West 2650.24 feet to the corner common to Sections 27, 28, 33, and 34; run thence

North 00 degrees 30 minutes West 799.7 feet to a point; run thence

North 65 degrees 08 minutes East 109.8 feet to a point; run thence

South 00 degrees 30 minutes East 310.0 feet to the South right-of-way line of the G.M. & O. Railroad; run thence with said South right-of-way North 65 degrees 08 minutes East 2158.2 feet to the East right-of-way line of Fox Hall Public Road; run thence with said East right-of-way line of Fox Hall Public Road North 27 degrees 38 minutes West 522.0 feet to the South right-of-way line of Jackson-Fannin Public Road; run thence with said South right-of-way line of Jackson-Fannin Public Road Northeast-erly 2106 feet to a point; run thence

South 70 degrees 30 minutes East 528.0 feet to a point; run thence

South 198.0 feet more or less to the centerline of Hog Creek; run thence with the meander of Hog Creek Southeasterly to the East line of Section 27; run thence with the meander of Hog Creek Southeasterly to a point at its intersection with a line parallel to and 81 feet East of the West line of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East in the Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 26; run thence

Southeasterly along a straight line to said Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Rankin County, Mississippi, said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING.

SECTION 8. The City of Jackson, Mississippi shall make the following improvements in said annexed territory to be completed within a reasonable time, not to exceed five (5) years from the effective date of the Ordinance, unless delayed by war or military preparedness:

(a) Improve existing streets and drainage where necessary and economically feasible and legally permissible;

(b) Install water lines, water service, sewage disposal lines, sewage treatment facilities, and street lighting where necessary and economically feasible and legally permissible;

(c) Said services shall be furnished in the same manner as such services are being furnished to the present citizens, businesses, and property owners of the municipality where necessary and economically feasible and legally permissible.

SECTION 9. The City of Jackson, Mississippi shall furnish to the said annexed territory the following municipal and public services in the same manner and to the same extent as such services are being furnished to the present citizens of the municipality, such services to begin on the effective date of this Ordinance, to wit:

(a) police protection;

(b) municipal court services;

(c) first response fire protection and fire prevention services;

(d) emergency medical services;

(e) emergency preparedness and civil defense services;

(f) engineering services;

(g) maintenance of streets and related structures;

(h) right of way maintenance services;

(i) traffic systems maintenance services;

(j) street lighting;

(k) administration of sanitation service;

(l) access to the City's cultural facilities, services, and programs;

(m) access to the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs;

(n) water and sewer utility services at in-city rates for those who are customers of the City utility services;

(o) municipal planning and zoning services;

(p) municipal code enforcement and building inspection services;

(q) the right to fully participate in the affairs of the municipality through direct involvement and the right to exercise the ballot (vote) in municipal elections upon registering and meeting all statutory and constitutional requirements; and

(r) the use and benefit of all other municipal services and facilities furnished to all present citizens of the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 10. The City of Jackson, Mississippi shall undertake the following redistricting, planning, and zoning activities following the effective date of the Ordinance, to wit:

(a) Within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance, the City of Jackson will prepare and the City Council will adopt a Redistricting Plan so as to include all territory and persons annexed into the City. The Redistricting Plan shall conform with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. This Redistricting Plan will provide for proportional representation of all persons annexed and will in all other ways conform with applicable Federal regulations;

(b) The City of Jackson shall enlarge, update, revise, and amend its Comprehensive Plan to include all territory annexed into the municipality, and the City Council shall adopt such revisions fulfilling all legal requirements to do so including public notice and a public hearing on enlargement, updating, revision, and amendment of the Comprehensive Plan; and

(c) Following modification of the Comprehensive Plan to include territories annexed, the City of Jackson shall prepare and adopt revisions to the Official Zoning Map and such Zoning Ordinance text amendments, as are warranted and necessary. All territory annexed shall be included on the City's Official Zoning Map. Adoption of Zoning Ordinance text amendments, Zoning Map amendments, and Comprehensive Plan amendments by the City Council shall occur after proper notice and public hearing(s).

SECTION 11. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of the entry of decree of the Chancery Court of Rankin County, Mississippi, approving, ratifying, and confirming the enlargement and extension of the municipal boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi as established by this Ordinance and the final judgment of the said Chancery Court or, in the event an appeal is taken therefrom, within ten (10) days from the final determination of such appeal. All other prior ordinances or enactments in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 12. The City of Jackson, Mississippi, through its City Attorney Drew M. Martin and Special Counsel J. Chadwick Mask, shall file a petition in the Chancery Court of Rankin County, Mississippi, which petition shall pray for the approval, ratification, and confirmation by said Court of the enlargement and extension of the municipal boundaries and limits of the City of Jackson, Mississippi as herein fixed and determined. The petition shall have attached thereto a certified copy of this Ordinance and a plat showing the boundaries of the said City of Jackson, Mississippi as they will exist in the event such enlargement and extension becomes effective pursuant to this Ordinance; and that the attorneys for the City of Jackson, Mississippi and the governing authorities are hereby authorized to file such other pleadings in the Chancery Court of Rankin County, Mississippi, and take all other necessary steps such that the expansion of the municipal boundaries authorized hereby be ratified, approved, and confirmed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi.

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Parkinson seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.
Nays – Stokes.
Absent – Clay.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 18, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of December, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

12/18/2025

LEGAL

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Hezekiah Watkins, a Civil Rights Icon, business leader, and a member of the Freedom Riders who sought justice and equality for all people regardless of skin color; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hezekiah Watkins is still making an impact on the quality of life for all in the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the honorary designation of this street in his honor shall help ensure that all of his contributions shall never be forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby honorary renames Dalton Street (from Dr. Robert Smith Parkway to Central Street) to Hezekiah Watkins Drive.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.
Nays – None.
Absent – Clay.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 18, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pg. 317".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 5th day of December, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

12/18/2025

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC REVIEW OF A DRAFT COPY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON'S 2024 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION REPORT

PUBLICATION DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.

The City of Jackson will solicit comments on its 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report at a Public Hearing to be held at 10:00 A.M. CST on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Warren Hood Building located at 219 S. President St. Jackson, MS 39201.

The City will accept comments on the 2024 CAPER commencing Monday, December 12, 2025 and ending on Tuesday, December 26, 2025, which represents the City's 15-day public comment period. The City is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to annually submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report provides an assessment of the City's progress in carrying out its five-year strategic plan and its one-year action plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA). The purpose of this notice is to make the CAPER report available to the public for comments prior to its submittal to HUD.

Draft copies of the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report will be available for examination and comment by the public at the City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development located at 218 S. President St. Jackson, MS 39201 and on the City's website at <https://www.jacksonms.gov/caper/>.

The required public review ends Tuesday, December 26, 2025. The City will receive written comments until 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 26, 2025.

No displacement will occur as a result of the activities described herein. Should displacement occur, the City of Jackson will implement the provisions as required by CFR 570.606 (Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance). The City of Jackson does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission of, access to, or treatment of, or employment, the programs and activities described herein. An interpreter is available upon request to assist persons with limited English proficiency. Any requests for reasonable accommodation required by an individual to fully participate in any open meetings, programs, or activities of the City of Jackson's Office of Housing and Community Development should be directed to: Mr. Reginald Jefferson, Deputy Director, (601) 960-4238 or rjefferson@jacksonms.gov.

12/18/2025

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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.

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Week of December 7, 2025

“Pink Eye not just a schoolyard thing”

What you need to know

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

When we hear “pink eye,” many think of kids sent home from school with crusty lashes and a note for their parents. But conjunctivitis, its medical name, is more than a childhood nuisance. It’s a highly contagious condition that affects people of all ages and in some cases, it can signal deeper health concerns. It’s one of the most common eye ailments in the world, affecting millions annually. For Black communities, where access to timely care isn’t always guaranteed, understanding pink eye is more than just a health lesson, it’s a matter of protecting your vision, community and families.

Pink eye is the inflammation of the conjunctiva, the clear tissue covering the white part of your eye and the inside of your eyelids. When this tissue gets irritated or infected, the eye turns red or pink, hence the nickname.

There are three main types:

- Viral conjunctivitis is the most common form and is often associated with the same viruses that cause the common cold. It spreads easily through direct contact with infected eye secretions, contaminated surfaces or even respiratory droplets. A handshake followed by an eye rub can be enough to transmit the virus. It spreads fast and usually clears on its own.
- Bacterial conjunctivitis is also highly contagious and can be caused by bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or even sexually transmitted infections like chlamydia and gonorrhea. It spreads through contact with infected hands, towels or cosmetics. It can lead to serious complications if untreated.
- Allergic conjunctivitis on the other hand, is not contagious. It’s triggered by allergens like pollen, pet dander or dust mites. This form often affects both eyes



and is accompanied by intense itching, sneezing and watery discharge.

Pink eye spreads like gossip at a family reunion. One touch of an infected surface, one shared towel or even a hug from someone with a cold can pass it along. That’s especially true for viral and bacterial types. Barbershops, schools and family gatherings, places where we connect and care for one another, pink eye can move quickly if we’re not careful.

Who’s at Risk?

Everyone is susceptible to pink eye, but certain groups are more vulnerable:

- Children in daycare or school settings, where close contact and shared items are common.
- Healthcare workers and caregivers, due to frequent exposure to bodily fluids.
- Contact lens wearers, especially those who don’t follow proper hygiene.
- People with weakened immune systems, who may experience more severe symptoms or complications.
- Newborns: Babies can contract

a dangerous form of pink eye during childbirth, which is why hospitals give antibiotic eye drops at birth.

What Are the Signs?

- Red or pink in one or both eyes
- Itching or burning sensation
- Watery or thick yellow/green discharge
- Crusty lashes in the morning
- Blurry vision or light sensitivity
- A gritty feeling, like sand in the eye

If you experience severe pain, vision changes or intense light sensitivity, it’s crucial to seek medical attention. These could indicate a more serious condition like a corneal ulcer or uveitis.

In most cases, pink eye is mild and self-limiting, especially when caused by viruses or allergens. However, bacterial conjunctivitis can lead to complications if untreated, including corneal damage and vision loss. Certain strains, like those linked to gonorrhea, can cause rapid and severe eye damage.

Newborns are particularly at risk. A condition called ophthalmia neonatorum, caused by bacteria in the birth ca-

nal, can lead to blindness if not treated promptly. That’s why antibiotic eye drops are routinely given to newborns in hospitals.

Most cases are mild, but some can be serious. Bacterial pink eye, if ignored, can lead to corneal damage and even vision loss. In rare cases, pink eye may be a sign of a larger issue, like an autoimmune condition or a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

What Should You Do?

1. Get a diagnosis if you suspect pink eye, especially if symptoms worsen after a few days, see a healthcare provider. They can determine the cause and recommend appropriate treatment. In some cases, a swab of eye discharge may be tested to identify the specific bacteria or virus.

2. Follow Treatment Guidelines

- Viral conjunctivitis usually clears on its own within 1–2 weeks. Cool compresses and artificial tears can ease discomfort.
 - Bacterial conjunctivitis may require antibiotic eye drops or ointments. Symptoms often improve within a few days of treatment.
 - Allergic conjunctivitis responds well to antihistamines, decongestant eye drops and avoiding allergens.
- Avoid wearing contact lenses or eye makeup until symptoms resolve. Discard any lenses, cases or cosmetics used before or during the infection to prevent reinfection.
3. Prevent the Spread
- Because pink eye is so contagious, hygiene is your best defense:
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
 - Avoid touching or rubbing your eyes.
 - Don’t share towels, washcloths or cosmetics.
 - Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, phones and keyboards.

- Keep children with pink eye home from school or daycare until symptoms improve.

- Stay home from any function if you have pink eye.

4. Know When to Worry

Seek immediate care if you experience:

- Severe eye pain
- Vision loss or blurriness that doesn’t improve
- Intense redness or swelling
- Symptoms that persist beyond a week without improvement

These could be signs of a more serious eye condition requiring urgent treatment.

Pink eye may seem like a minor nuisance, but its high transmissibility makes it a public health concern, especially in schools, nursing homes and other communal settings. Outbreaks can disrupt classrooms, workplaces and even sports teams.

In underserved communities, where access to healthcare and hygiene resources may be limited, untreated pink eye can lead to more serious outcomes. Public health campaigns that promote hand washing, eye safety and early treatment can help reduce the burden.

So the next time someone says, “It’s just pink eye,” remind them: our health is never “just” anything. It’s everything.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

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

If you’ve missed an article of “Tips to be Fit” just search “Vince Faust” “Tips to be Fit”

Five advances in Alzheimer’s care and treatment in 2025



StatePoint

For the millions of Americans touched by Alzheimer’s disease, 2025 brought major advances in understanding of brain health and progress in diagnosis and treatment. Here are the year’s biggest advances, along with how you can take action with this knowledge in 2026:

1) A structured plan can sharpen brain health.

In a major U.S. clinical trial of older adults at risk for cognitive decline, two healthy lifestyle plans in the Alzheimer’s Association’s U.S. POINTER study improved memory and thinking skills over two years. Both interventions included exercise, brain-healthy nutrition, cognitive training, and heart health monitoring. How-

ever, participants in a highly structured program that also included regular coaching and peer support showed significantly greater brain health gains, demonstrating that when brain-healthy habits are organized and supported, people stick with them and thinking skills benefit.

Next steps for families: Start small but structured: aim for 150 minutes of weekly exercise of at least moderate intensity, Mediterranean-style meals, 7–8 hours of sleep per night, and 2–3 short brain-training sessions each week. Put goals on a shared calendar, find an exercise or brain-health buddy, and schedule regular check-ins with your clinician or healthcare professional.

2) Simple blood tests can help spot changes earlier.

In 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cleared two blood tests that detect Alzheimer’s-related brain changes, offering a less invasive, less expensive option for those experiencing memory changes to support diagnosis and potentially reduce the need for PET scans or spinal taps. Blood tests are not stand-alone diagnostic tools, but their use can help guide next steps for testing, treatment, and planning. The Alzheimer’s Association has developed clinical guidelines to help specialists determine when to use blood tests alongside established “gold standard” tests and clinical judgment.

Holiday Heart Dangers: Stress, cold, and overindulgence drive spike in cardiac incidents

Cardiac deaths surge on Christmas Eve: AMR warns families to take heart symptoms seriously

Mississippi Link Newswire

Stress, cold weather, and festive indulgence make the holiday season the most dangerous time of year for heart emergencies. American Medical Response (AMR), which is the largest emergency medical service provider in the U.S. and part of Global Medical Response (GMR), has found cardiac emergencies rise by more than 30 percent on Christmas Eve. This makes it their busiest day of the year for heart-related crises. This trend aligns with national data from the American Heart Association showing the majority of cardiac deaths in the U.S. occur during the last week of December, Heart attack deaths spike during the winter holidays | American Heart Association.

“Throughout the holidays, we often see people ignore warning signs of heart trouble because they don’t want to disrupt family celebrations,” said Global Medical Response Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ed Racht. “But whether it’s chest pain, a racing heartbeat, or a sudden collapse, these symptoms could signal a heart attack, dangerous arrhythmia, or even cardiac arrest. Time is critical in these emergencies. If you notice any of these signs in yourself or a loved one, don’t wait—call 911 right away.”

Why Cardiac Emergencies Increase During the Holidays

Cardiac risk rises this time of year due to several well-documented factors:

- Overeating and high-salt meals that raise blood pressure
- Increased alcohol consumption, which can strain the heart and trigger arrhythmias
- Emotional stress from travel and family dynamics
- Cold temperatures that make the heart work harder
- Delays in seeking medical

care because people are traveling or don’t want to leave gatherings

Cardiac Arrest – When the Heart Stops Beating

Cardiac arrest happens when the heart unexpectedly stops, interrupting blood flow to the brain and other crucial organs. It usually strikes without any warning, causing people to collapse suddenly. This is a serious medical emergency that demands immediate attention. If it happens, call 911, start CPR, and use an AED if available until help arrives.

Early CPR and giving the heart a controlled electrical shock with a defibrillator can significantly improve survival, and many communities offer accessible training programs. Learning CPR is one of the most impactful ways families can prepare for a cardiac emergency.

Heart Attack Warning Signs Not to Ignore

Heart attacks happen when blood flow to part of the heart is blocked. The heart usually keeps beating, though it may be weak or irregular. Racht adds, “The priority is to call emergency services immediately, and keep the person as calm as possible.”

- Chest pain, pressure, tightness, or discomfort
- Pain radiating to the arms, jaw, neck, or back
- Sudden shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness, fainting, or sudden confusion
- Cold sweats, nausea, or vomiting
- A new or worsening irregular or racing heartbeat
- Heartburn or indigestion.

Nearly 1 in 4 heart attacks go unrecognized, especially in women, because the symptoms can be subtle; — such as nausea, indigestion, fatigue, or shoulder aches — rather than the classic chest pain most people experience. “If you’re questioning whether to call 911,

call 911 for help,” said Racht.

What EMS Can Do Before You Reach the Hospital

When someone calls 911 for a suspected cardiac emergency, EMS clinicians can begin life-saving care within minutes. Depending on local protocols, crews may:

- Connect a heart monitor to the patient’s chest, to quickly identify a heart attack
- Start IV access and administer cardiac medications
- Provide oxygen therapy
- Treat dangerous heart rhythms
- Notify the hospital ahead of arrival so the cardiac team is activated

“Rapid treatment significantly improves survival,” adds Racht. “Driving yourself or waiting to see if symptoms improve can delay critical care.”

How to Reduce Cardiac Risk This Holiday Season

- Keep meals and alcohol consumption moderate
- Stay hydrated
- Continue taking medications as prescribed
- Avoid sudden heavy exertion in cold weather
- Get enough rest amid holiday stress
- Check in on older relatives or loved ones with heart disease

A Simple Message for the Holidays

As the saying goes, “Laughter is the best medicine,” and this season, it truly is. Laughter relaxes and expands blood vessels, increasing blood flow by up to 20%. By embracing happiness and shared moments of joy, we support our heart health and strengthen our bonds. Racht reminds us “Make laughter a priority, and if something doesn’t feel right, always listen to your body and get help when needed. Together, let’s make these festivities both joyful and heart healthy.”



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Mother, daughter earn MVSU degrees together after 23-year journey

By LaTunya Evans
Communications Specialist,
Mississippi Valley State University

Twenty-three years after withdrawing from Mississippi Valley State University, Jemeka Summerall crossed the graduation stage Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 — a milestone made even more meaningful as her daughter, Jelijah Summerall, graduated alongside her.

A Hollandale, Mississippi, native, Jemeka Summerall began her academic journey at MVSU in 2000 after graduating from Simmons High School. Raised in a family deeply rooted in the university, she said attending MVSU was never a question.

“My mom, my sister and even my granddad received their degrees from the Valley, so attending MVSU was a natural choice,” she said. “I wasn’t interested in going anywhere else.”

Intent on continuing her family’s legacy, Jemeka Summerall enrolled at MVSU and joined the university choir under the direction of Dr. Orlando Moss, Sr. In 2002, however, she withdrew from the university because of academic challenges.

Shortly after leaving MVSU, she became pregnant with her daughter. Although her path changed, she said returning to college remained a long-term goal.

After years of balancing motherhood and working as an in-school suspension teacher at T.L. Weston Middle School in Greenville, Mississippi, Jemeka Summerall returned to higher education. In a unique turn, she re-enrolled at MVSU alongside her daughter, pursuing a degree in general studies.

Jelijah Summerall, a 2022 graduate of O’Bannon High School, described herself as shy and reserved while growing up. She said she viewed college as an opportunity to challenge herself personally and academically.

“I was extremely shy and afraid of doing things on my own,” she said. “I knew college would force me to grow socially, emotionally and in real-life skills.”

She began her collegiate career at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, earning an associate degree in spring 2024. Encouraged by the support MVSU

provided to her family, Jelijah Summerall transferred to the university.

“I chose MVSU because it offered a supportive environment, a community that felt like home and affordable tuition that allowed me to graduate debt-free,” she said.

As Jelijah navigated upper-level coursework, her mother became both a classmate and a source of accountability. Adjusting to the demands of university-level work proved challenging, she said, but persistence paid off.

“The assignments were longer and more time-consuming than anything I had done before,” Jelijah Summerall said. “There were days I woke up at 3 a.m. to finish assignments, but I pushed through.”

One moment underscored the impact of her mother’s encouragement.

“I wanted to skip a midterm because I felt unprepared,” she said. “My mom insisted I go to class, and with encouragement from her and Dr. Elian Dyo, I took the exam and passed.”

For Jemeka Summerall, sharing the college experience with her daughter proved equally motivating.

“Jelijah was my motivation every step of the way,” she said. “We leaned on each other — whether it was learning new technology like Canvas or reminding one another about assignments.”

Their shared journey strengthened their bond and offered each a new perspective.

“This experience allowed me to see my daughter grow into a confident young woman,” Jemeka Summerall said. “She’ll always be my baby, but now I see her standing on her own.”

Jelijah said attending college together allowed her to view her mother beyond the role of parent.

“I saw her as a student chasing her own dream,” she said. “That gave me a deeper level of respect for her.”

Mississippi Valley State University hosted its Fall 2025 Commencement at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the R.W. Harrison HPER Complex. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Mary Tyes-Williams, mayor of Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Madison Upendo selected as W.K. Kellogg Foundation Fellow

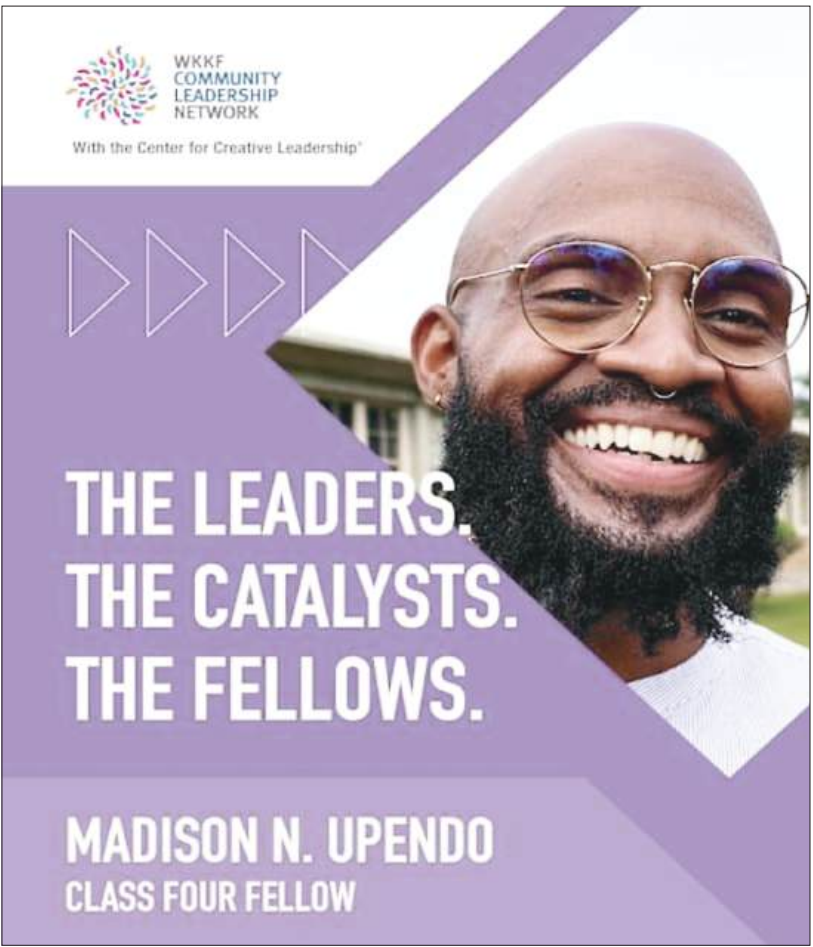
JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools is celebrating a major achievement by Madison Upendo, who has been selected as a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Fellow in Class Four of the foundation’s national leadership program, in partnership with the Center for Creative Leadership.

Madison was chosen through a highly competitive selection process and is one of just 80 leaders nationwide selected as part of the WKKF Community Leadership Network. Fellows are dedicated to strengthening outcomes for children, families, and communities and live and work in priority places including Mississippi, Michigan, New Mexico, New Orleans, Tribal Nations, and communities across the country.

The 18-month fellowship focuses on equity-centered leadership, collaborative problem solving, and sustainable community transformation through intensive training, coaching, and development. Madison will continue his work with Jackson Public Schools while bringing what he learns back to support the district’s mission.

“This fellowship represents a meaningful investment in leadership development,” Madison shared. “I am grateful for the opportunity to grow in this work and to bring back what I learn to strengthen our district and the communities we serve.”



As a Kellogg Fellow, Madison will also join the Global Fellows Network, a community of more than 1,200 leaders across 44 countries who collaborate, share ideas, and work together to accelerate change for children and families.

Madison currently serves as Chair of the Wells APAC Theatre

Department within Jackson Public Schools, where he teaches acting, technical theatre, and career development across elementary, middle, and high school. A faith driven teaching artist from Jackson, he holds degrees from Belhaven University and Jackson State University and is a 2025 M.A.C. film grantee.

Near-death experience influences father-of-five’s return to school, earns master’s at Jackson State

By Brianna Young
Jackson State University

Edward Howard Benton walked across the stage Dec.5 to receive his master’s degree from Jackson State University; a milestone he calls proof that persistence and purpose paid off.

A health and physical education major from Atlanta, Benton is a father of five daughters, ages ranging from 7 to 18. He said earning his master’s degree was about building a legacy his girls can be proud of.

“When Morris Brown regained its accreditation, I thought, ‘Wow. This is my chance.’ I reapplied and returned,” Benton said.

Benton returned to Morris Brown College at age 40 while raising five daughters, a reminder that it’s never too late to finish a degree. In 2024 he earned a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education before enrolling at



Edward Howard Benson during JSU Fall Commencement PHOTO BY ARON SMITH, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Jackson State.

In 2019, Benton survived a shooting that left a bullet passing through his frontal lobe and nasal cavity. His doctor later told him it had been only the second case like it in his 30-year career.

Benton underwent surgery and recovered without life-altering injuries. The experience, he said, clarified his priorities and strengthened his resolve to provide for his family.

“I had a near-death experience, and that made me put all my chips on the table. Fearlessly, I pursued my goals,” declared Benton.

He was diagnosed with acute stress disorder and struggled with nightmares, panic, social anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Being enrolled in school and coaching helped him heal and refocus.

Benton first attended Morris Brown College, but the school lost its accreditation before he could finish. When Morris Brown regained accreditation, he returned to complete his studies. In 2024 he earned a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education from Morris Brown before enrolling at Jack-

son State.

“Once I put my mind to it and believed in it, things started to manifest,” Benton said. “Morris Brown regained accreditation, formed a partnership with Jackson State, and then I was accepted at Jackson State.”

Jackson State aims to build leaders, and Benton is on that path. He aspires to be a head collegiate coach. When his oldest daughter began playing sports, he said he noticed a shortage of qualified youth coaches. He is an assistant girls’ varsity and junior varsity basketball coach at South Atlanta High School.

“I know it’s not in vain. I know I’m going to be a six-figure coach because I speak it and I claim it,” Benton said.

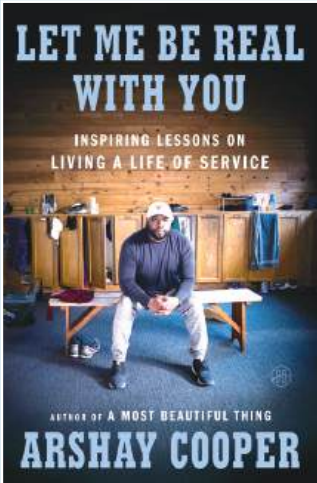
As a father, Benton said he extends his parenting into coaching and mentoring. His players know they have a safe space and someone they can talk to. Growing up in the inner city, he said he

wants to help them navigate life’s challenges.

“I’ve cried with my players. I’ve prayed with my players. I don’t think anybody can out-coach me from a mental standpoint and really understand these kids like I do. They’re like my children – I have about 20 of them,” Benton said.

For Benton, earning his master’s degree and the work he has poured into his daughters, players and community proved more than a line on his resume. It demonstrated that every sacrifice, late night, setback and prayer led him exactly where he was meant to be.

“I was so proud when I walked across the stage on Dec. 5 because I knew what my family had been through for me to pursue my dream. I’m a living testimony. I’ve been through things people don’t survive, so walking across that stage meant a lot,” he said.



BOOK REVIEW: LET ME BE REAL WITH YOU

BY ARSHAY COOPER
C.2025, HARPERONE
\$26.00 • 240 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The hole you’re in is a deep one. You can see the clouds above, and they look like a storm; you sense the wind, and it’s a cold one. It’s dark down there, and lonesome, too. You feel like you were born there – but how do you get out of the deep hole you’re in? You read the new book “Let Me Be Real With You” by Arshay Cooper, and you find a hand-up, and bring someone with you. In the months after his first



book was published, Arshay Cooper received a lot of requests to speak to youth about his life growing up on the West Side of Chicago, his struggles, and his many accomplishments. He was poor, bullied, and belittled, but he knew that if he could escape those things, he would succeed. He focused on doing what was best, and right. He looked for mentors and strove to understand when opportunities presented themselves. Still, his early life left him with trauma. Here, he shows

how it’s overcome-able. We must always have hope, Cooper says, but hope is “merely the catalyst for action. The hope we receive must transform into the hope we give.” Learn to tell your own story, as honestly as you know it. Be open to suggestions, and don’t dismiss them without great thought. Know that masculinity doesn’t equal stoicism; we are hard-wired to need other people, and sharing “pain and relatability can dissipate shame and foster empathy in powerful ways.” Remember that trauma is

intergenerational, and can be passed down from parent to child. Let your mentors see your potential. Get therapy, if you need it; there’s no shame in it, and it will help, if you learn to trust it. Enjoy the outdoors when you can. Learn self-control. Give back to your community. Respect your financial wellness. Embrace your intelligence. Pick your friends and relationships wisely. “Do it afraid.” And finally, remember that “You were born to soar to great heights and rule the sky.” You just needed someone to

tell you that. At first look, this book might seem like just any other self-help offering. It’s inspirational for the casual reader and business reader, just like most books in this genre. Dig a little deeper, though, and you’ll spot what makes “Let Me Be Real With You” stand out. With a willingness to discuss the struggles he tackled in the past, author Arshay Cooper writes with a solidly honest voice that’s exceptionally believable, and not one bit dramatic. You won’t find unnec-

essarily embellished stories or tall tales here, either; Cooper instead uses his real experiences to help readers understand that there are few things that are truly insurmountable. He then explains how one’s past can shape one’s future, and how today’s actions can change the future of the world. “Let Me Be Real With You” is full of motivation, and instruction that’s do-able for adults and teens. If you need that, or if you’ve vowed to do better this coming year, it might help make you whole.



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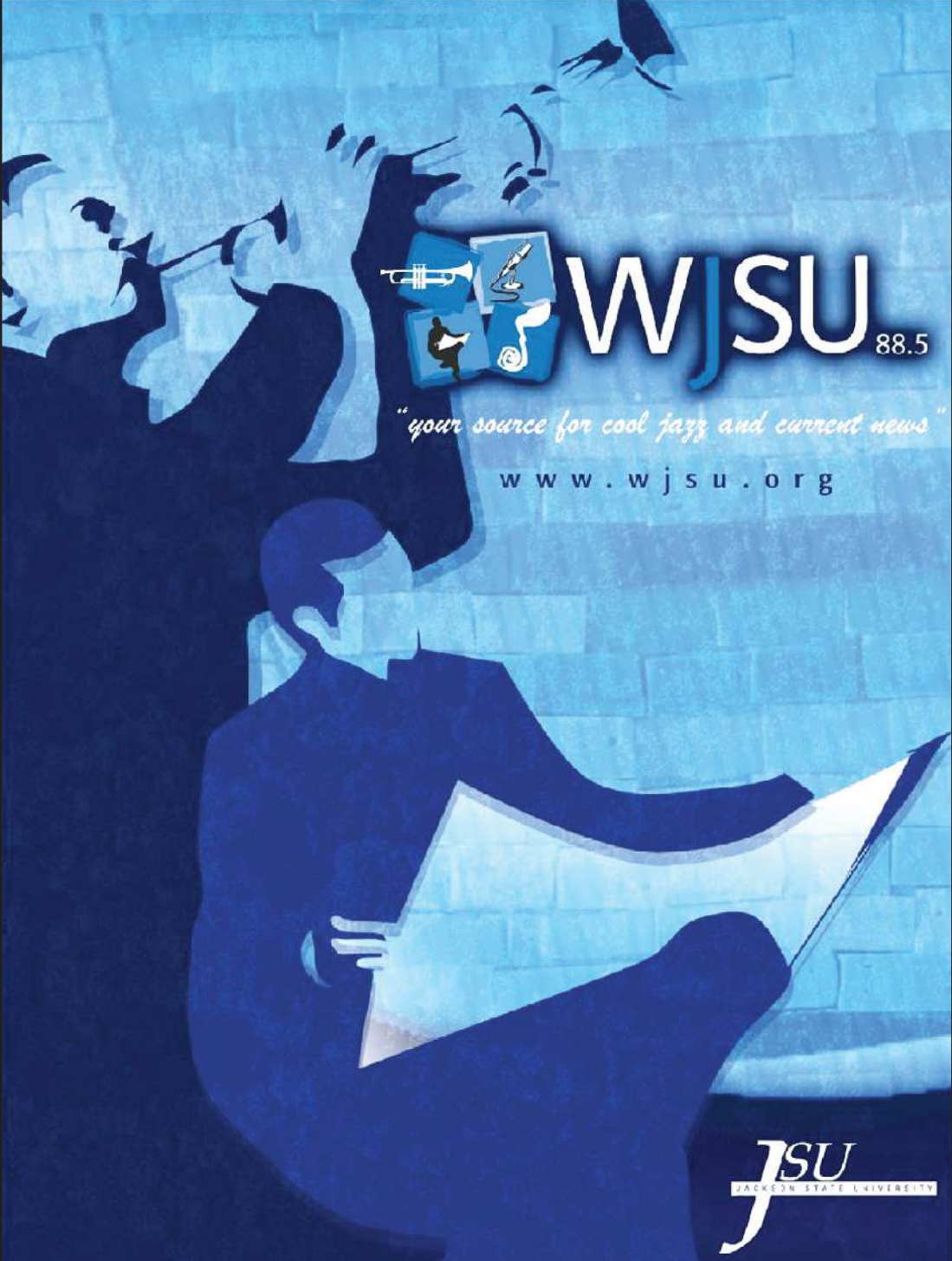
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SC State makes historic comeback to capture HBCU National Crown

South Carolina Sports

South Carolina State capped a thrilling championship performance with a dramatic 40-38 victory over Prairie View A&M in four overtimes to win the 10th annual Cricket Celebration Bowl Saturday, Dec. 13 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, securing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's (MEAC) seventh all-time victory in the event.

Quarterback Ryan Stubblefield connected with Tyler Smith on the decisive two-point conversion in the fourth overtime, and the Bulldogs' defense sealed the win when Prairie View's final attempt fell incomplete, igniting a celebration for the MEAC champions.

After both teams traded field goals in the first overtime, the Bulldogs gained momentum in the second extra period when Cornelius Davis intercepted a Stubblefield pass on Prairie View's opening possession. The Panthers had a chance to end the game moments later, but a



missed 31-yard field goal kept South Carolina State alive. Neither team converted during the

two-point attempt-only third overtime, setting the stage for the dramatic finish.

South Carolina State erased a 21-point halftime deficit with an explosive third quarter, scoring

three touchdowns on drives of fewer than 50 yards to pull even and force overtime.

Stubblefield entered the game late in the second quarter and delivered a standout performance, throwing for 234 yards and two touchdowns. His favorite target, Smith, accounted for all three Bulldog touchdowns, two receiving and one rushing, and caught the game-winning two-point conversion. Smith finished with nine receptions for 152 yards.

Prairie View A&M quarterback Cameron Peters threw for 412 yards and four touchdowns, while Andre Dennis recorded 131 receiving yards and a touchdown in the Panthers' historic season.

The Bulldogs finished the season 10-3 and claimed their second Celebration Bowl title, making their third appearance in the game over the past five years. With the victory, the MEAC extended its all-time Celebration Bowl advantage to 7-3.

Prairie View A&M concluded the season 10-4, reaching the 10-win mark for the first time since 1963.

Jim Hill High School Student Council

Partnership to Impact Leadership

Jim Hill High School
MSASC Leadership Conference 2026

Theme: "Leading with H.E.A.R.T. (Humility, Equity, Authenticity, Resolution, and Teamwork)"
Date: March 27-28, 2026
Venue: Jim Hill High School
Organized by: Jim Hill High School Student Council, Advisors, and Booster

Greetings!

I can not express the joy we have to serve as host for our upcoming MS State Association of Student Council (MSASC) Conference. This conference is a fascinating event designed to empower young leaders from schools across the state. The conference will bring together students, educators, and community mentors to share ideas, develop leadership skills, and inspire action in schools and communities. Our mission is to equip high school student leaders with the tools, confidence, and vision to lead with integrity, empathy, and innovation. This is an exciting experience for our school, district, and city to welcome student leaders from across the state and highlight the strength of our community.

Event Overview

- Expected Attendance: 300-500 student leaders and advisors from various high schools
- Target Audience: High school student council members, possibly middle school class officers, club leaders, and educators
- Program Highlights:
 - Inspiring keynote speakers
 - Leadership skill-building workshops
 - Student networking and collaboration sessions
 - Team-building activities and community service project
 - Awards and recognition ceremony

By sponsoring this event, your organization will:

- Invest in the next generation of community and business leaders
- Gain visibility among students, parents, educators, and school communities
- Show your commitment to youth development and education
- Connect with motivated young people who represent future customers, employees, and innovators
- Enhance your brand's reputation through community engagement and support

Your support will help cover costs such as materials, speaker honorariums, meals, and leadership resource kits for students.

We invite you to join us in supporting the leaders of tomorrow. Your sponsorship will make a direct impact by providing students with meaningful leadership development opportunities and inspiring them to create positive change in their schools and communities.

Thank you for considering a partnership with the Jim Hill High School Student Council, together, we can help shape the future of leadership.

Sincerely,

Tammy Cox

Tammy Cox, Ed.S.
JHHS Student Council Advisor
MSASC Council Treasurer



PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$2,000+

- Logo on all promotional materials, event signage, and student t-shirts
- Opportunity to address attendees during the opening or closing ceremony
- Recognition on school social media and website
- Certificate of appreciation and/or sponsor recognition plaque

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,000

- Logo on event materials and social media posts
- Verbal acknowledgment during the conference
- Half-page feature in the digital program
- Option to include promotional materials in student gift bags

SILVER SPONSOR - \$500

- Logo on event program and social media
- Verbal acknowledgment during the conference
- Recognition in thank-you communications

BRONZE/COMMUNITY PARTNER - \$250 OR IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Recognition on event website and program
- Option to provide in-kind donations (e.g., printing, refreshments, supplies, giveaways)
- Certificate of appreciation

Make checks payable to Tiger StuCo RC Booster with JHHS Student Council on Memo Line.
Cash App: TigerStuCoRCBooster
Mail to: Jim Hill High School-2185
Coach Fred Harris Street-Jackson, MS 39204
Attention: Tammy Cox, Student Council Advisor

T.C. Taylor receives red jacket at Champions Dinner



JSU Sports

As the Cricket Celebration Bowl celebrated its 10th anniversary this past weekend, the bowl took a moment to reflect on last year's champion and reward head coach T.C. Taylor on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The third-year Jackson State head coach joined an illustrious group when his team won the 2024 Cricket Celebration Bowl over South Carolina State, receiving his red jacket from the Cricket Celebration Bowl executive director John Grant and 2023 champion, Willie Simmons. He was awarded the jacket in front of a sold out crowd at the Champions Dinner featuring both participants in this year's game, sponsors, and fans.

Taylor is now a lifetime member of the Circle of Champions at the Celebration Bowl. Follow Jackson State Athletics For complete coverage of Jackson State athletics, follow the Tigers on social media at @GoJSUTigers (Instagram and Twitter), Jackson State Tigers (Facebook), or visit the official home of Jackson State athletics at GoJSUTigers.com.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Hinds County School District hosts fall 2025 legislative meeting at Gary Road Intermediate

Hinds County School District welcomed state and local officials to its Fall 2025 Legislative Meeting at Gary Road Intermediate School, creating intentional space for dialogue on public education, district innovation, and statewide priorities that impact students and families. The event was proudly sponsored by the Hinds County Public School Foundation, Inc., reflecting a shared commitment to supporting schools, students, and educators across the district.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Ashley White, principal of Gary Road Intermediate School, followed by an inspirational performance from the school’s choir. The performance showcased student talent and reflected the district’s emphasis on academic excellence and the arts.

District leaders invited legislators and municipal officials to participate in the district’s regular leadership meeting and opening team building activities. These activities, rooted in the district’s S.P.E.C.I.A.L. values initiative, emphasized empathy, inclusion and strong interpersonal connections across all leadership levels.

“This meeting is about building relationships and creating shared understanding,” said Superintendent Dr. Mitchell M. Shears. “When our legislators and local officials experience the culture of our district firsthand, it helps strengthen the partnership needed to support students and schools.”

Tonie Crisler, Partnership and Philanthropic Specialist, outlined the purpose of the meeting and emphasized the importance of sustained engagement with state and local leaders. Dr. Shears later delivered his State of the District presentation and discussed district progress and priorities.

An open discussion followed the presentation, centering on legislative matters impacting K-12 education. Topics included school choice, funding equity, and accountability measures. The exchange emphasized a shared commitment to student outcomes and importance of aligning local innovation with Mississippi’s statewide vision for educational excellence.

Distinguished guests included Senator David Blount, Representative Stephanie Foster, Representative Gregory Holloway, Mayor LeKentric Caston, Mayor Richard White, Mayor Randall Harris, Supervisor Bobby McGowan, Supervisor Deborah Butler-Dixon, and other community leaders and stakeholders.

Hinds County School District expressed appreciation to its legislative and municipal partners for their participation. The district remains committed to collaboration that supports students, educators, and families across Hinds County.

