



Merry Christmas

Yes, I live in Jackson and I love Jackson

Despite the state's lack of love for Jackson and our many issues – listen to Jacksonians

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Even with suffocating oppression and racism, and despite all of Jackson's issues, Jacksonians love Jackson. Combing streets, offices, and businesses – South, West, East, and North – speaking to women and men, the love of Jackson is undeniable - it's in Jackson's soil, in Jackson's DNA. Read this article and understand what Jacksonians mean when asked the question, what do you love about Jackson.

"Oh, that's easy, it's the people," says a pharmacy technician and mother of four waiting in line for a food giveaway. "The people, the powerful history, and the resilience of our people," said a lifelong resident and community organizer. "The people, neighborhood configurations, food, diversity, and the ability to be able to educate people of all age groups is a true joy," says a profoundly respected Freedom Rider.

"I had to work in the Delta for many years, but my family was



Mural on Downtown Jackson Building. PHOTO BY CHRIS YOUNG

COMMENTARY

always here in Jackson. I love the people and the food and the weather – I like very hot weather. People are pleasant and friendly and easy to get along with. The education system is good and there are opportunities for im-

provement here to improve your standard of living," said a museum worker. "The people, the fellowship, and the food – that's what I love about Jackson," said a Capitol Police officer. "I love everything about Jackson. Jackson is my home," says a community agency worker. "I can

say that Jackson is a melting pot with a deep rich history – people with different backgrounds, very resilient people. The state hates us, but we still thrive," said the leader of a non-profit.

"Jackson has good things to

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New Hope Baptist Church & RECH Foundation provides Christmas Giveaway



Dr. Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Mrs. Helen Young, and Pauline Rogers (Co-Founder & Executive Director, RECH Foundation). PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

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

When community comes together, bridges are closed and merriment occurs. That's what happened Sunday, December 21st at New Hope Baptist Church's R. B. Cooper Gymnasium, 5202 Watkins Dr. in Jackson, MS.

RECH Foundation (Reaching & Educating for Community Hope) and New Hope Baptist Church joined forces and hosted a Christmas Giveaway for children of incarcerated parents and justice-impacted families.

The community-centered event was designed to ensure that children impacted by incarceration experience dignity, joy, and hope during the holiday season. Infants to 17-year-old children received toys and gifts within a safe environment rooted in compassion and care. Accommodated by many adults, the children could feel agape exemplified in its finest form.

Pauline Rogers, Executive Director of the RECH

Foundation, noted on a press release: "Christmas is not merry for every family. For children with a parent in prison, the holidays can magnify absence, loss, and uncertainty. This event is about reminding our children and families that they are seen, valued, and loved, and that community stands in the gap." That gap was fulfilled at New Hope Baptist Church.

New Hope Baptist Church, shepherded by Dr. Jerry Young, has consistently been a cornerstone for prison ministry, family support, and community outreach not only in Jackson, but throughout Mississippi. Thus, partnering with RECH Foundation demonstrates a continued commitment to impact the lives of many who oftentimes are neglected. Through faith, service, and collective responsibility, the Church and the Foundation recognize the need to appeal to community

and Hinds County District 4 Supervisor explained that there are yard markers to reveal the

New Hope
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Medgar Evers Library presents Holiday Christmas Bash and prods ongoing, active involvement for Young to Senior Adults

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

Medgar Evers Library charmed young to senior adults with a spirit of compassion Thursday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Adults were honored with a holiday Christmas bash replete with cordiality and concern for their well-being. The two-part event consisted of a program that focused on community concerns and a hearty meal.

Addie Green, a former Board of Alderman members in Bolton, MS, was the Mistress of Ceremony. She voiced that Medgar Evers Library is an excellent facility for the children and appealed to parents to be proactive with the library staff for the children. Green urged the crowd to be attentive to how they are being impacted as Jackson residents and to take charge in the making of a better Jackson.



Seated second far right is Anne Sanders, Medgar Evers Library Manager, surrounded by staff, Jackson Hinds Library System.

Public safety needs were addressed. Retired firefighter Eddie James encouraged Jackson residents to go outside into the middle of the street to see if

they could see their numerical house numbers. New numbers should be placed if they could not see them. Wanda Evers – CEO of WMPR Radio Station

and Hinds County District 4 Supervisor explained that there are yard markers to reveal the

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Ah, so many things to choose!

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STITCHING FREEDOM
A TRUE STORY OF INJUSTICE, RESISTANCE, AND HOPE IN A BOLD PRISON
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Kwanzaa celebration invites communities to an evening of culture and connection in the Capital City



Mississippi Link Newswire

Women for Progress of MS, Inc., in partnership with the Two Mississippi Museums, will host the city's annual Kwanzaa Celebration at the Two Museums, Friday, December 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public and will bring together local communities to honor African American heritage and the principles.

Jackson Mayor John Horhn will serve as the 2025 Kwanzaa Griot. Griots are guides for Kwanzaa, and their roles are rooted in respect for them as community storytellers, historians, and cultural keepers who preserve and share heritage through spoken word and music.

"For more than four decades, Kwanzaa has been a cornerstone of our work," said Willie Jones, President of Women for Progress of MS, Inc. "Partnering with the Two Mississippi Museums allows us to celebrate culture in a space that honors our past and

strengthens our future through community connection." The program will also honor Dr. Mark G. Henderson, founder of MADDRAMA, a nationally recognized creative troupe founded at Jackson State University and is known for its powerful use of artistic expression to educate, inspire, and engage audiences across the country. The evening will feature live cultural performances, food, and interactive activities for all ages.

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JMAA expects a busy end-of-the-year holiday travel period for Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN)

Mississippi Link Newswire

As the end-of-the-year holidays approach, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) is preparing for what is expected to be a very busy two-week travel period. Peak travel is set to begin Friday, December 19th, and continue through Sunday, January 4th.

"At JMAA, our great partners at TSA and FAA, along with experienced JMAA staff, strive to make travelers comfortable knowing that their safe and efficient travel is of paramount importance at JAN," said Rosa Beckett, CEO at the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority. "We endeavor each day to deliver exceptional travel experiences for all guests and will continue to ensure your journey through JAN is as seamless as possible. We wish all our Mississippi travelers and visitors a great holiday season and 2026."

To ensure a smooth travel experience during this busy holiday period, the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) encourages all passengers to arrive at least two (2) hours before their flight departures. This allows ample time for parking and security



procedures and permits travelers to grab a bite to eat, enjoy a beverage, or pick up any last-minute travel essentials on both the East and West concourses. JAN boasts several nationally recognized concession locations, including Dunkin' and Sam Adams.

JAN's world-class airlines, including American, Delta, Southwest, and United, still have some seats remaining for any last-minute travelers. So, don't hesitate to contact them or your favorite travel planning professionals for trip options. To get the latest travel information and updates, passengers can follow Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport on social media channels @JacksonAirports or visit www.iFlyJackson.com. For inquiries regarding permitted holiday items and Transportation Security Administration checkpoint rules, please visit www.TSA.gov.

Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport offers a wide range of convenient parking options to meet passengers' needs, including:

- Garage parking: \$19 per day (at the terminal)
- Surface lot: \$17 per day (a short few minutes' walk into the terminal)
- Long-term lot: \$13 per day (with free shuttle service)
- Complimentary 10-minute parking in any lot; hourly fees begin at 11 minutes

For added convenience, JAN continues to provide free Cell Phone parking as visitors await arriving passengers. This location is accessible by turning left on Cross Street, just before International Drive splits at the surface lot. The Parking Department at JAN can be reached directly for real-time holiday availability and additional information at 601.360.8690.

Happy Holidays to all and thanks for flying JAN!

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It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Jackson

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offer. There is too much negative energy flowing instead of all the positive. The schools are good. Communities need help. Things can be better, but I love Jackson," said an office worker. "It's home. I love it all," said a cook. "There are so many things to participate in like the folk festival, book festival, and rodeo. The entertainment in Jackson is amazing, and the food, and hospitality, too. Believe me, southern hospitality is not all gone," said a parking enforcement officer.

"It's Chocolate City (said with a beaming smile), what's not to love? You meet people here from everywhere – other states, even other countries," said a City of Jackson employee. "Jackson is a melting pot of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Jackson is now the home of where black representatives from every plantation in Mississippi work, live, and play. Different groups, different languages, different dialects. Here in the Little Africa of the U.S.A. where inventions changed and revolutionized the entire world. Jack-Town, Little Africa, Jackson Mississippi, Thee I Love," said an educator and actress.

A soon to be 13-year-old boy responded, "I love Jackson because all my family is here and my cousins, even though I'm the only boy and all the rest are girls, I've got my family all around me." A Fed-

eral Officer said, "It's the people. No matter what they say, we still have hospitality in Jackson." "I love the people here. I left at fifteen and discovered what I truly had here. People will stop and ask how you are doing and they really care," said a paralegal downtown. "Our people are so creative. I think we have more Grammy winners from Mississippi than from any other state," said a bookstore clerk.

The Capital City is the largest in Mississippi in terms of population and we sure do have our troubles. Water is a bad word in Jackson – certainly one of our issues, along with sewer, poverty, homelessness, crime, blight, and racism. Unlike the people of Jackson, the state government of Mississippi does not love Jackson. It's well documented that state government officials sharply reduced or completely ignored Jackson's infrastructure bond requests for decades, contributing painfully to the troubles of our water and sewer system in late 2021, and a complete breakdown of the entire system in August 2022. No love there at all. The federal government intervened, giving funding directly to the City of Jackson, but with a federal regulator.

Paternalistic power brokers at the Capitol are always trying to harm Jackson, not lift it up. Some of the same lawmakers who hang-out on Monday nights at Hal & Mal's for Blue Monday during the

legislative session, are the same ones that voted for HB1020, foisting a vastly expanded Capitol Police department - with a white chief named Bo - upon Jackson, rather than offer help to the already existing Jackson Police Department. They installed an inferior court system, with appointees, unelected by the predominantly black citizens – usurping their rights. They tried to take over Jackson's schools and airport. They never stop, because they don't love Jackson. More specifically, they despise black leadership. It's in Mississippi's soil – in her DNA. At last count, 96 percent of Mississippi's state agencies are headed up by white people. Racially motivated lack of love. Next month when the legislative session convenes, despite being unconstitutional, those same power brokers, with their unloving mindset, will attempt again to siphon public dollars toward private schools – they don't like Sally having to sit next to Talecia.

2026 promises to be a huge year for Jackson. 'Guard The Yard.' Jackson. Start thinking now of one thing that you and your family can do to help Jackson keep moving forward next year. Merry Christmas Jackson and may the new year be filled with purpose and progress in our City with Soul.

Library

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Retired firefighter, Eddie James, and Wanda Evers - Hinds County Supervisor, District 4, provide instructions for public safety. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

reflection of lights. "If you don't have one, get approved. Check with Ms. Dixon or me."

James noted that residents should practice fire escape at least twice a year. Having two ways in and two ways out of the house is highly recommended. If the house is on fire, once outside, do not go back inside, but dial 911 immediately. "It's the smoke, not the fire, that kills most of the time," said the former firefighter.

James then indicated that for residents not having a fire alarm, they should contact the Fire Department at 601-960-1399. The personnel will show residents how to test the smoke alarm. "The smoke alarm should be checked once a month. If it's not working, residents should call and report the matter to the Fire Department,

and the Fire Department will handle it from there. Also, the Fire Department issues a pamphlet that details what to do after the fire," James added.

Deborah Butler-Dixon, Hinds County District 3 Supervisor for Jackson, appealed to the citizenry: "You've got to help us. We have to clean up our own house in Jackson. You need to help clean up Jackson because you live in Jackson."

Green encouraged residents to pay their water bills if they could pay. She also explained that if water machine managers were not doing their jobs to accommodate the citizens, then they should be fired. "I marched for the water bill employees to do right by the people," she quipped.

A number of politicians were invited to the event, but many were not present. "Vote for people you know who have your back. These people didn't show up, but they never do. I came from the educated crowd of community leaders – Aaron Henry, President of the NAACP and Charles Evers," she said.

In addition to the above, Jasmine Green, a Mississippi State University student, was the essay competition winner and was awarded a certificate of appreciation. Legendary Blues Performer, Jesse Robinson, appeased the audience with tunes such as "I Play the Blues for You;" "The Thrill is Gone;" and "The Masquerade." From there, the crowd was ushered from the recreation room to the library and had a Christmas feast.

Regarding the entire event, Verna Myers - Wednesday Reader at Medgar Evers Library, - remarked: "The event was outstanding. The seniors were happy. The food was excellent."

The Christmas Bash was sponsored and hosted by the CEO of Mississippi Outreach and JHLS Trustee, Addie Green. Medgar Evers Library is located at 4215 Medgar Evers Blvd, Jackson, MS 39213. It serves the Jackson Hinds Library System in Miss., and is part of the local library system.

New Hope

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to answer the charge of service.

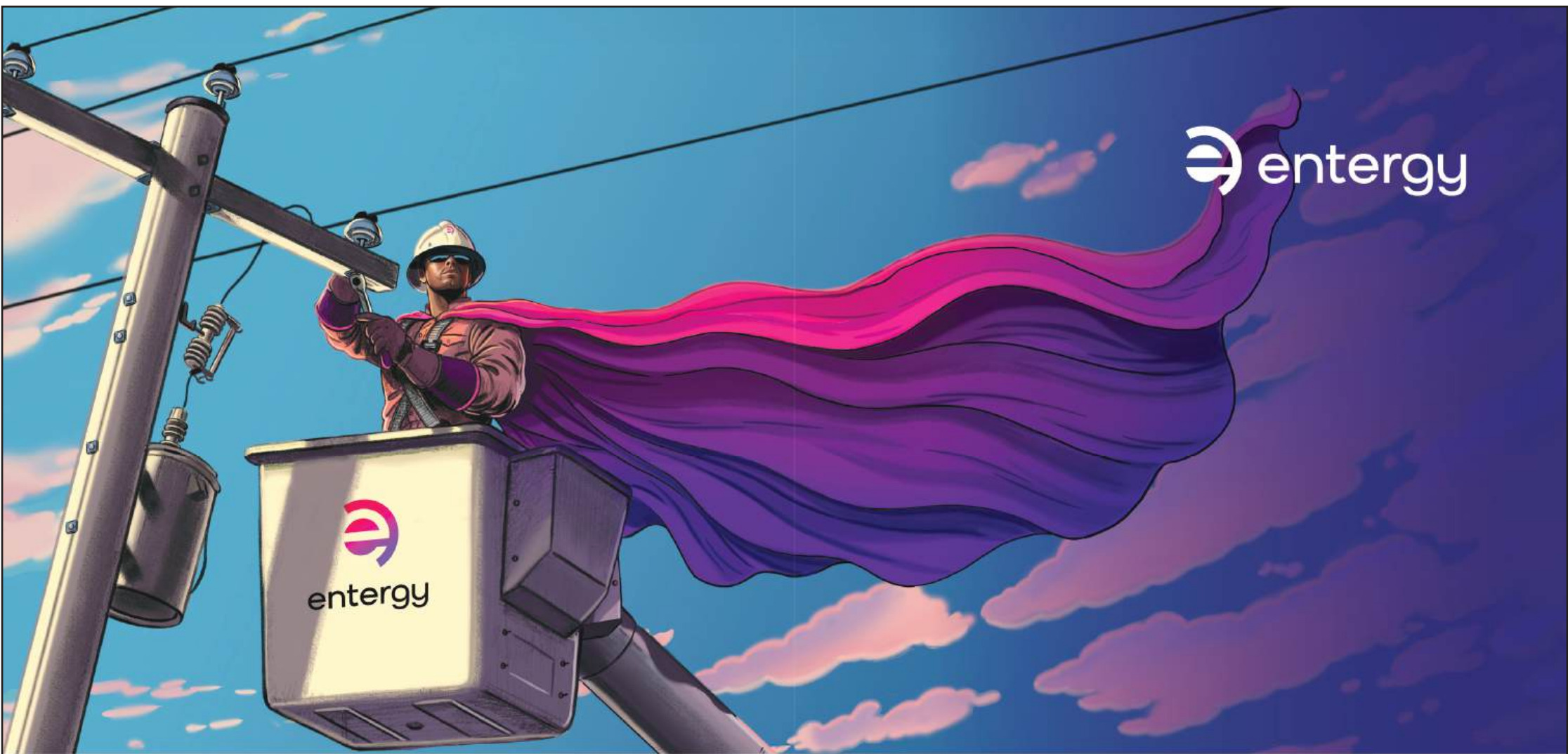
"Dr. Jerry Young is a man of integrity, a man of his word, and what he says – that's what he will do. My wife Pauline and I have been doing this for 33 years. I think that the Church has gotten away from sharing compassion, what Jesus emphasized. We have commercialized Christmas. Everybody gets a gift but Jesus. The Church should return to its roots," said Fredrick Rogers.

"This is my second year, and I'm honored to serve others. This is a special time for the people. My husband and I are pleased to be here working for the people," volunteer Brenda Briscoe voiced.

Others noted their delight. "It's good to see the people smiling. It's an excellent opportunity for family here with their kids, for the incarcerated," said Lakesha Vaughan. Terrance Myles, Sr., Deacon Chair Ministry of New Hope, commented, "We're thankful for brother Fred and Sis. Pauline Rogers for coordinating this event, and we look forward every year to serving the community."

"This is what community looks like when compassion meets action. It went beyond providing resources by restoring dignity and connection for families impacted by crime and hardship," said Dr. Stacia Hunter. Hunter has been a volunteer for more than a decade.

What did Dr. Jerry Young have to say? "It's just a matter of extending the life of Christ and expressing His love. This Christmas Giveaway reflects our calling to care for children, strengthen families, and live out our faith through action."



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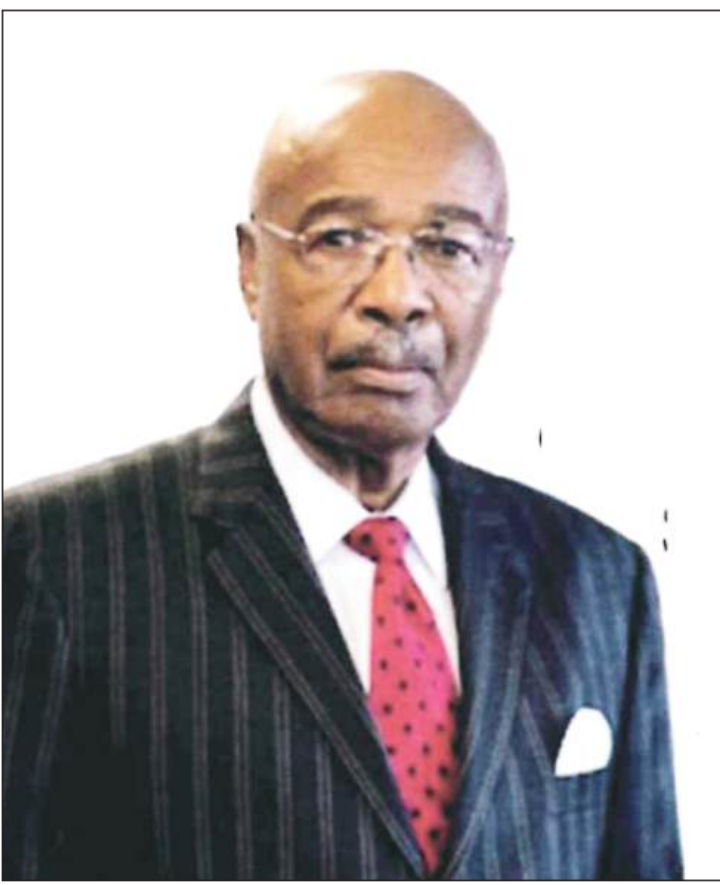
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A Life Well Lived

Dr. Roderick Raynor Paige, Sr.

June 17, 1933 to December 9, 2025



Paige

One of the nation's preeminent education leaders, appointed as the seventh United States Secretary of Education by President George W. Bush, as well as having the distinction of being the first African American and school superintendent to hold that position in the president's cabinet, Dr. Roderick R. Paige, Sr. passed into the arms of God on December 9, 2025, at the side of his beloved wife,

Stephanie. Paige was 92 years old. A father, husband, sibling, and deeply treasured friend to so very many.

On January 21, 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Paige as the

U.S. Secretary of Education. His leadership was bold, inclusive, visionary and always focused on delivering excellent education in every American school,

community college, and uni-

versity. All of them were his vigilant priority. Supporting the bold vision of President Bush to eliminate the soft bigotry of low expectations and sharing the president's deeply-held conviction that a quality education for every child is a civil right, Paige worked tirelessly to help architect and design the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, subsequently signed into law January 8, 2002. NCLB represented an historic moment as some of the most impactful federal legislation ever created for the improvement of K12 education in the country's history. Paige led the implementation effort for NCLB in close partnership with states and districts with a focus on improving student academic achievement for all children.

On the day of our national tragedy September 11, 2001, Paige was with President Bush at the Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida when the president first received word of the attack on our country. He spoke often of that moment and its significance. Paige returned to visit Emma E. Booker Elementary School on the first anniversary of September 11. When speaking to children after that tragedy, he would say to them, "You are told that you are our future. This is true. But you are also our here and now. We owe it to you to insist that you are

an equal part in our national healing."

Prior to his elevation as the nation's top educator, Paige was elected as trustee for the Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education where he served for two elected terms before being appointed HISD superintendent of schools in 1994. He is credited with significant increases in test scores, across all student demographics, in an urban district that was experiencing substantial growth in enrollment comprised of rich diversity. Paige was renowned for his visionary, dignified leadership. As superintendent, he helped support the launch of KIPP schools from a powerful idea into a celebrated charter school organization with a vast national footprint as well as providing HISD as a launch-pad for another great national success story, Teach for America.

Paige is a graduate of Jackson State University and Indiana University, earning his BA, MA, and Ed.D. He served in the United States Navy before commencing a career as a NCAA

Division I football coach, athletic director, university professor, and Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University. From November 2016 to June 2017, Paige served as the interim President at his alma mater, Jackson State University.

In the years after his public service as Secretary of Education, Paige served on numerous boards including: Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, News Corp, the Chartwell Education Group, the Broad Foundation, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Universal Technical Institute, American College of Education, the New England College of Finance and Business, Strake Foundation, Texas Charter School Association, the National Council on Economic Education's Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, the Foundation of Blended and Online Learning, Lone Star Flight Museum, and Patten University. In addition, he was a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boule) and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Paige received numerous distinguished honors in his life. Among them are the 2000 Harold W McGraw Jr. Prize in Education, National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators in 2001, and one of two top educators in the country by the Council of the Great City Schools in 1999. Above all, he was honored to have his legacy enshrined through the Roderick R. Paige Elementary School in HISD, the Rod Paige Middle School in Monticello, Mississippi, and the Roderick R. Paige Building housing the College of Educa-

tion at Texas Southern University.

In 2006 he authored *The War Against Hope* and in 2010 published *The Black-White Achievement Gap: Why Closing it is the Greatest Civil Rights Issue of Our Time*.

Roderick Raynor Paige, Sr. was born in Monticello, Mississippi June 17, 1933, the oldest of five children of Raynor C. Paige and Sophie E. Stephen Paige. Having parents who were educators, his father as a public-school principal, and his mother as a school Librarian, Rod and his siblings, Elaine, Alphretta, Raygene, and James, were taught the importance of education at an early age. After graduation from a public high school, Rod's skills as a football player earned him an athletic scholarship from Jackson State University, where he attended, majored in physical education, and earned a bachelor's degree in 1955. Rod joined the Brentwood Baptist Church when he moved to Houston serving on the Deacon and Usher boards. He was a member for more than 55 years.

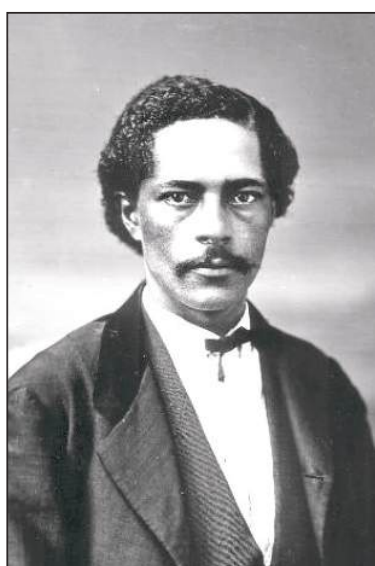
Paige is survived by his devoted, loving wife, Stephanie; his children, Rod Paige, Jr. and Danielle Robinson; siblings, Elaine Witty and Raygene Paige; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and, his longest living friend of over 74 years, Dr. Walter Reed.



Adams County supervisors approved marker for Black legislators of Reconstruction



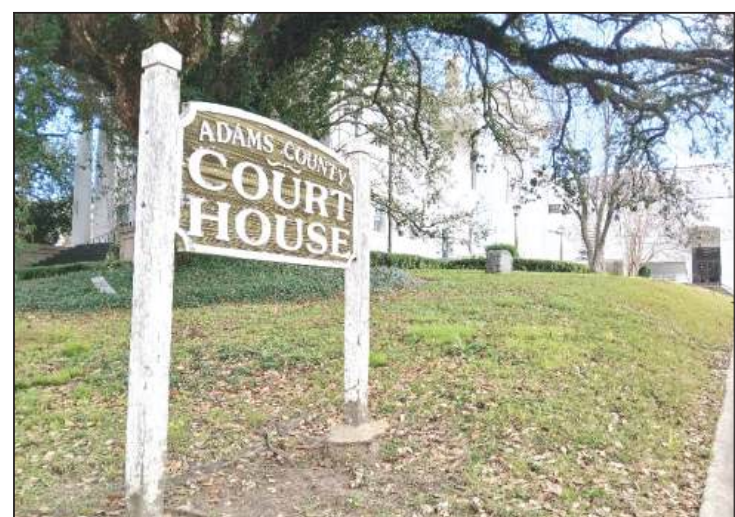
Adams County's earliest Black legislators will be honored with a new state historical marker on the grounds of Adams County Courthouse.



Hiram Rhodes Revels



John Roy Lynch



Adams County Courthouse will be the site of a new historical marker honoring 10 Black legislators from Adams County who were elected after the Civil War.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Adams County is poised to install a new state historical marker on the grounds of the Adams County Courthouse that will honor its 10 Black legislators elected during Reconstruction. The marker is part of the "Making Their Mark" project, a statewide, grant-funded initiative to recognize the first African Americans to hold legislative office in Mississippi after the Civil War.

The Adams County Board of Supervisors approved a request for the marker, presented by DeeDee Baldwin of Mississippi State University, November 17.

"This marker recognizes an important chapter in Adams County's history and the men who served during a transfor-

mative period in Mississippi," said Board President Kevin Wilson. "By acknowledging their service, we are helping preserve the full historical record for future generations and providing an opportunity for education, reflection, and community dialogue."

The marker will be acquired through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Installation is planned for late 2026. The exact location on the courthouse grounds will be determined later as the matter is reviewed by the Natchez Preservation Commission.

According to Baldwin, the unveiling of the marker will be accompanied by a community event featuring creative performances by local students. All costs for its manufacture and installation will be cov-

ered by the "Making Their Mark" project through a grant from Monument Lab, a public arts nonprofit based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

As of December 11, a total of 11 markers has been approved by county boards of supervisors across the state.

"We are so appreciative of the county supervisors who have worked with us so far to make this project a reality," said Baldwin. "The support we've encountered is wonderful to see."

The draft text for the front side of the marker reads:

The First Black Legislators After the Civil War, the 14th Amendment and a new state constitution enabled the people of Mississippi to elect 162 Black men to state or national office over the next 20 years,

more than any other state. Ten of these legislators represented Adams County, including Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first African American to serve in either house of the U.S. Congress. The overthrow of Reconstruction and passage of the 1890 state constitution ended multiracial democracy in Mississippi for over 70 years.

The text proposed for the back side reads:

The following Black Men from Adams County served in the legislature from 1870-1891: United States Congress: John Roy Lynch and Hiram Rhodes Revels

State Senate: Jeremiah M.P. Williams

State House of Representatives: George F. Bowles, Felix L. Cory, Willis Davis, William W. Hence, Henry P. Jacobs,

William H. Lynch, George R. Washington

Baldwin and Chuck Yarborough of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science are co-directors of the "Making Their Mark Project" team, which comprises researchers and historians working to install markers and spearhead community programming in 22 counties.

Team members include Brother Rogers, historian and former employee of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Dr. Roscoe Barnes III, cultural heritage tourism manager at Visit Natchez; Dr. Robby Luckett, professor and director of the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University; Heather Denne, executive director for Community Engagement at

Jackson State University; and Vickie Roberts Ratliff of Land, Literacy, Legacy LLC.

Baldwin, who serves as associate professor and engagement librarian at Mississippi State University Libraries, is a leading authority on the Black legislators who served during Reconstruction. Her website, "Against All Odds: The First Black Legislators in Mississippi," provides biographies, photos, newspaper clippings, and other resources to assist people researching these elected officials.

For her work on the website, Baldwin received an Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society in 2025 and has been honored with the 2026 Humanities Scholarship Award by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Judge orders special elections for Mississippi Supreme Court after Voting Rights Act violation

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

A judge last week ordered special elections for the Mississippi Supreme Court after earlier finding that the electoral map used to select justices violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

U.S. District Judge Sharon Aycock in August ordered Mississippi to redraw the map, which was enacted in 1987, concluding the current configuration dilutes the power of Black voters. Last week's ruling gives the Mississippi Legislature until the end of its 2026 regular session to redraw the map.

Section 2, which is the primary way plaintiffs can push back against racially discriminatory election practices, is currently being challenged at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Once the legislature approves a new map, Aycock wrote that

she will move quickly to meet any deadlines necessary to hold the special elections in November 2026.

Aycock also wrote that she will defer deciding which seats will be subject to a special election until after the new map has been adopted.

The order follows a 2022 lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, which argued the current map cuts Mississippi's Delta region — a historically Black area — in half, diminishing the Black vote in the Central District.

"Mississippi is nearly 40 percent Black, but has never had more than one Black Justice on the nine-member Court," Ari Savitzky, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, wrote in a statement. "We couldn't be happier to see justice on the horizon."

In her August ruling, Aycock

noted only four Black people have served on Mississippi's Supreme Court. All of them held the same seat in the Central District and were first appointed to the position by a sitting governor.

The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is appealing Aycock's August ruling. The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has stayed its proceedings pending the outcomes of the SCOTUS case and other related cases.

The Mississippi Secretary of State and Attorney General's offices did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In December, two Mississippi Supreme Court justices were appointed to federal judgeships. Gov. Tate Reeves will appoint replacements to serve until new justices can be elected. In Mississippi, Supreme Court elections are nonpartisan.



Mississippi Supreme Court justices, right, listen to arguments in Jackson, Miss., July 6, 2023. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS, FILE

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Can the US gain ground on mass shootings and gun violence?

In partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Mass shootings and gun violence have become a grim and recurring feature of life in the United States. Even as the number of mass shootings have declined to their lowest levels in 2 decades, the US still has the highest number of gun-related deaths than any of its peer nations. Yet despite national outrage that follows every mass shooting, policy responses remain uneven and polarized, constrained by constitutional debates and American gun culture.

Speakers in this week's national briefing focused on the factors behind mass shootings, necessary policy interventions at the federal level, and successful community initiatives at the local level, including Baltimore and New York. Sunita Sohrabji, co-producer of American Community Media's National Briefing Series, served as moderator, leading three panelists and over 75 media outlets in the discussion. She first introduced Sarah Lerner, Co-founder of Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence, a teacher and survivor of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

"I have been a teacher since 2002. I taught elsewhere before going to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and I have been there since 2014. I was on campus on February 14th, 2018, when a gunman opened fire, killing 17, injuring 17, and traumatizing an entire community. I was in my class with my seniors,



Sarah Lerner.
PHOTO: MOMENTSTHATSURVIVE.ORG.

we had a fire drill, a planned fire drill that day. At 2:20, which was about 20 minutes before school was over, the fire alarm went off, I was giving a quiz to my senior English class. And we all kind of shrugged our shoulders and looked at each other quizzically, and I grabbed my phone and my keys and went outside, I heard what sounded like firecrackers, which was the sound of the gunshots bouncing off the buildings. I didn't know where to go. I saw everyone running. My gut instinct was to go home, which on campus is my classroom. So, I went back upstairs to my classroom. I had about 10 of my students and 5 from the class next door. I got everybody in and we were on lockdown for at least 3 hours before the SWAT team let us out. It was the



Dr. Ragy Girgis. PHOTO: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

most horrific experience I have had in my entire life...my son, who was 12 was in the middle school next door. His school was on lockdown and having to text your tween. that there's an active shooter on campus, I'm okay, I'm not shot. It is nothing that you ever think you're going to text your children. I lost 2 students that day, Meadow Pollock, I had, when she was a freshman, she was a senior the day of the event and Jamie Guttenberg, I had that year as a freshman. She was in my Intro to journalism class."

Speaking about her organization, Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence, she added, "a goal is to amplify these educator voices, because it isn't just the school shootings, the teachers deal with students who have community gun violence, domestic vio-

lence, anti-Semitic, anti-Asian, anti, you know, whatever, gun violence...we are the ones in the classrooms every single day listening to the stories, wiping the tears, giving the hugs."

Dr. Ragy Girgis, a psychiatrist and Director of The Center of Prevention and Evaluation (COPE) at Columbia University spoke about the relationship between mental illness and mass shootings. His center has developed the largest database in existence from 1900 to present and has discovered that "95 percent of mass shootings are conducted by people with no documented mental illness. What that means is that there's a lack of a specific relationship between mental illness and using a firearm to perpetrate a mass murder. So why is it that people doing these acts

choose firearms? It turns out the number one reason people choose firearms by far, is because firearms are the method that they use to take their life. The other critical thing to understand about the importance of suicide to mass shootings is that the way we understand things is that there are kind of 3 bars to perpetrating a mass shooting, or any sort of major event, but a mass shooting in particular in this case. Number one is one's own conscience or moral system or belief in God and religious system or whatever – moral values basically. Number two are those kinds of values that you internalize from family, those close to you, friends, society. And number three is the fear of being caught and incarcerated. Once you decide to take your life, these people plan their attacks

weeks, months, sometimes years ahead of time."

Dr. Daniel Webster, Bloomberg Professor of American Health at Johns Hopkins University, emphasized the downward trend in gun violence and shared, "homicide rates in the United States dwarf those in other high-income countries – eight times higher rates, and twenty-five times higher for those conducted by gun violence. 80 percent of homicides are committed with a firearm. There has been a 40 percent drop since 2020-21, and the declines began long before government surges in immigration control. President Biden's order restricting ghost gun kits was very helpful because we have evidence that those types of guns were going to youth, primarily."

Among many questions asked by media outlets, The Mississippi Link newspaper asked, what opportunities do you have to speak directly to national legislators about gun violence? Dr. Webster replied, "Yes, sometimes I get that opportunity. Sometimes I'm invited specifically by legislators to hearings, and sometimes I invite myself. I also put together a book after Sandy Hook on everything we know about gun violence and how to prevent it and delivered both hard and electronic copies to every member of the U.S. Congress."

To view the entire briefing, please go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/can-the-us-gain-ground-on-mass-shootings-and-gun-violence>.

Jimmie C. Gardner, exonerated after 27 years in prison; forms foundation for Social Justice

By D. Kevin McNeir
Journalist

In 1990, Jimmie C. Gardner, now 59, was a member of the Chicago Cubs Minor League team in Charleston, W.Va., pursuing his lifelong dream of playing professional baseball. But after two elderly White women falsely accused him of sexual assault and robbery, he was arrested, convicted and sentenced to 110 years in prison.

After serving 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, Gardner's conviction was overturned – one of more than 140 cases in which the state relied on falsified forensic evidence testimony by the chief serologist to secure a conviction.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, while overturning the conviction, said Gardner's conviction was "not only a total miscarriage of justice," but that he "had been held in legal purgatory for 27 years."

In 2023, the Dawson, Ga., native found himself again accused, arrested and put on house arrest for 17 months before being exonerated after a witness retracted her statement. Gardner said his faith in God and the support of his fam-



Jimmie C. Gardner was on his way to stardom with the Chicago Cubs before being falsely accused by two elderly White women of sexual assault and robbery. After 27 years in prison, his conviction was overturned. Today, he has established a foundation to support others facing similar injustices. PHOTO COURTESY JIMMIE C. GARDNER

ily and friends have made him stronger, convincing him that he needed to do something to help others who have undergone or continue to face similar experiences of injustice.

"I was given a second chance twice and I'm grateful, but I never allowed it to make me bitter," he said. "Being in pris-

on for so long taught me patience and I realized that I had to forgive those who knowingly sought my conviction. That wasn't easy, but I knew that anger, like cancer, would only rot and destroy me from within if I allowed it."

Today, Gardner is a highly sought after motivational

speaker who shares his testimony in prisons, at churches, and at business meetings across the U.S. He has also formed a non-profit, Gardner House LLC, as a means of providing support and resources to others wrongfully trapped within the prison industrial complex.

"I knew that I had to sound



Gardner, pictured with his wife, federal Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner.

the alarm because it's clear to me that America does not want Black men to succeed," he said. "I see it as an attack on Blackness, and we need to be more aware so we can fight the evil forces that seek our demise. The success we achieved during the Civil Rights Movement now stands in jeopardy and it's not by chance but by design." Gardner said he has been fortunate to have the financial resources and other means of support to finally overcome the injustice he faced. But others are less fortunate.

History illustrates the inordinate examples of injustice faced by Blacks. Black men are disproportionately affected by false accusations and wrongful convictions in the U.S. justice system, facing higher rates of police misconduct, racial bias in charging and sentencing, and wrongful convictions for drug crimes and murder compared to their White counterparts.

Historical examples, like the Scottsboro Boys and the case of Ronnie Long, illustrate the devastating impact of racial bias, which can be exacerbated by factors such as faulty eyewitness identifications, prosecutorial misconduct and inadequate legal representation.

A report by the National Registry of Exonerations found that Black individuals are about seven times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of serious crimes than White people.

Gardner said he hopes his foundation will support efforts led by organizations like the Innocence Project (<http://www.innocenceproject.org>) that have helped to free or exonerate people since 1992, nearly 60 percent of whom are Black.

"It cost me more than \$1 million to gain my release," he said. "I think a lot of it had to do with my family, specifically my wife, the Honorable Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner being the chief U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Georgia, and my sister-in-law, former Georgia Congresswoman Stacey Abrams, who continues to fight against voter suppression."

"But I'm still here – we're still here. And no matter how far you fall, you can always get back up. Blacks stand on the shoulders of our ancestors who achieved greatness despite the odds against them. It's my duty to give back and to lend a hand for the next generation."

Dominic Kevin McNeir is an award-winning journalist with more than 25 years of service for the Black Press (NNPA).

Knowing the reason for the season keeps us prayerful and thankful

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



Songs like Silent Night, Joy to the World and Come All Ye Faithful are timeless classics that celebrate this time of the year.

Our spirits are lifted when we hear them.

Listening to them makes us realize how far we have come and how far we must go. When Christmas comes every year, I am more reflective about them now.

As a boy, my parents convinced me that Santa Claus was coming to our town and that there really was a naughty or nice

list. Of course, I put out milk and cookies for him on Christmas Eve.

Well, when I woke up on Christmas Day, the milk and cookies were gone. Only crumbs were left on the table. Of course, I did have some questions about Santa, but I didn't dare ask them.

My parents taught me about the importance of Christmas from a biblical perspective. I knew about the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the city of Bethlehem. So, my upbringing was Christian-centered and early on I knew the meaning of Christmas. My friends and I went to an elementary school where we had religion classes and prayed each day.

I was blessed to have had a

Christian environment in both my home and at school. I never thought much about the significance of it at the time. Now I do.

It is difficult to get little children during this time to understand the importance of the Christmas season. While it is, as parents and grandparents, we must be the truth tellers about this holiday season.

Places of worship give us the biblical foundation and perspective through the scriptures. They give us the needed interpretation of what happened during this period.

Reverend Ajani K. Gibson, pastor of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in New Orleans Louisiana has been giving us messages of spiritual guidance and

fulfillment during this Advent Season.

In his sermon Sunday, December 21st, he began by saying, "Hope is on the way". The theme of his message was that the birth of Jesus brought hope to the world. That is the good news of the season.

Christmas is a time of fellowship and thanksgiving. As we grow older and gain wisdom, gifts become less important.

Enjoying each other's company and reflecting upon childhood memories become more satisfying. Listening to others talk about their Christmas experiences is both fun and interesting. For example, a northern Christmas will most likely feature snow and of course mak-

ing a snowman. A southern Christmas might be celebrated in 70-degree weather, and a western Christmas might be celebrated on the beach.

The weather in my hometown of Winston-Salem North Carolina during Christmas was usually cold. Every child in my East Winston neighborhood got a pair of union skates, and some other presents.

Getting clothes was something our parents got for us. We didn't necessarily ask for a pair of Buster Brown shoes or a pair of pants. I guess at that age, we didn't know what we needed. My growing up during this time was care-free and joyous. We took being blessed for granted.

Some of my friends and I have

lengthy conversations about our Christmas times. We are now on the cusp of being in overtime in our lives. As a result, our memories create smiles and happy hearts.

We must know who is in charge and it is not us. It is Christ, the solid rock that we must stand on as this Christmas season is upon us. Caring, faith and love must be words that people see in us when we are with them. They must anchor us during both the good and the challenging times.

Read about the power of prayer in James chapter 5 and verse 16. Prayer is powerful as we move through this life. Jesus Christ was born for us. Let us honor Him during this season.

HBCU attacks continue misinformation about America's top talent producing institutions

By Kevin Harris and Richard McDaniel
Co-host, "Maroon Bison Presents: The Southern Comfort Podcast."



There is a dangerous misinformation campaign about Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The false narrative that HBCUs are somehow fragile, dependent on foreign students, or lesser-tier institutions was most recently



pushed when Donald Trump suggested HBCUs would go out of business without students from China.

Like most of what Trump says, his take on HBCUs is false. International students are not the financial backbone of HBCUs, and foreign students make up a very small fraction of the typical HBCU population. While Trump's HBCU claims are easily disproved, the need to articulate who and what HBCUs are still remain.

HBCUs are not charity cases. HBCUs are engines of excellence, and the legacy — and future — of these institutions profoundly counters the lies and misinformation about who HBCUs are and their many contributions to society.

The misinformation that HBCUs are "fragile charity cases" or "unsustainable without foreign students" is not simply wrong, it subtly reinforces a paternalistic mindset, reducing Black institutions to dependencies rather than celebrating them as the self-sustaining, job creating, educational pillars of excellence that they are. These institutions have persisted, thrived, and evolved into powerhouses of academic excellence that shape American

leadership and economic growth at home and abroad.

And while HBCUs were born out of necessity — providing Black Americans access to higher education during segregation — they do not discriminate against white Americans.

HBCUs are institutions deeply rooted in U.S. history, community, and leadership that are open and accessible to all while proudly embracing their principal mission of educating Black Americans. Students of all ethnic backgrounds are welcome at HBCUs, and non-Black students make up a meaningful portion of HBCU enrollment, particularly at the graduate level in critical fields such as engineering, law, and medicine.

HBCUs more than carry their economic weight. According to a recent report from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), HBCUs generate \$16.5 billion annually in economic impact and support over 136,000 jobs across the country. If HBCUs were a company, their job creation would rank them among the Fortune 500 where many of their alumni currently serve in the corporate c-suite with distinction.

Research also shows that HBCUs are especially effective in promoting social mobility. The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) reported that about 30% of HBCU students move up at least two income quintiles by age 30, nearly double the rate at non-HBCUs.

HBCUs have produced some of America's most important leaders across sectors: government, science, academia, business, and more. From Thurgood Marshall to Martin Luther King Jr and Kamala Harris, from educators to medical researchers — HBCU graduates do not just contribute, they lead. And HBCUs

collaborate with the private sector to build a diverse workforce that allows America to compete globally.

But if we are being honest, we must acknowledge that Black people also need to know who and what HBCUs are. Too many within the Black community misunderstand HBCUs' value, perpetuating ignorance such as HBCUs "don't prepare you for the real world" or are "lesser than predominantly white institutions (PWIs)."

HBCUs are not fallback options. HBCUs do not exist for Black students who were not "good enough" for predominantly white schools. HBCU graduates are not disadvantaged in the workplace. HBCUs exist because they are powerful, enduring, and transformational. HBCU graduates are more than prepared for the real world as evidenced by the impressive roster of achievement from their alumni.

HBCUs are not fragile, dependent, or second-rate. HBCUs are powerhouses — educating, innovating, and generating economic and social impact. When we speak of HBCUs, we should speak with respect, with truth, and with the full understanding that the HBCU legacy of Black excellence benefits all of America even when America seeks to delegitimize our skill and accomplishment.

To misrepresent who and what HBCUs are, is an attempt to disrespect generations of resilience, excellence, and achievement. HBCUs deserve better than that — and all of America should recognize our power.

Kevin Harris and Richard McDaniel are veteran Democratic strategists and proud alumni of Howard University and Morehouse College. They co-host "Maroon Bison Presents: The Southern Comfort Podcast."

Christmas won't be the same this year

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



As you know, I absolutely love Christmas. In fact, Christmas is my favorite holiday for the following reasons: weather, the music especially the classics/oldies sung by musical greats like

Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and others, boots on the ground, scarves, and sweaters — oh my, Eggnog, mother's gumbo, family gatherings, gift exchanges (husbands think like the Wisemen did for Christmas), the decorations — we decorated the interior of our home in late October — I completely transformed the kitchen, family room, main bathroom, and got several trees in several rooms (I can't help it — my family loves it especially Big Daddy). I also love this time of year because this is the month I got married — we recently celebrated twenty years of marriage (Christmas in July in Alaska/Canada). Furthermore, I can't forget the chocolate — this is the only time of the year that I indulge in consuming chocolate. My list probably could continue but I certainly do not want to bore you with why I love Christmas.

Although I love Christmas with my whole soul it also brings a solemn sense of sadness. It breaks my heart knowing that Christmas won't be the same this year for many families. Many homes are broken due to spouse abandonment- Prodigal Spouses. Prodigal Spouses are spouses who abandon (move out/desert) their spouses and family to pursue a life with no regard for their spouses and families. Prodigal spouses can become prodigal for many reasons. Some of these reasons include infidelity (pursuing a non-covenant relationship — a relationship that was not ordained by God/Marriage Vows), addictions, financial pursuits, etc. Whatever the reason for the Prodigal's departure, wives, husbands, and children are lonely, hurting, experiencing unbearable pain, excruciating agony, anguish, and turmoil because Papa Bear or Mama Bear is gone. Yes, of course, every spouse, especially those in miserable and unhappy marriages don't feel upset — some are relieved that their spouses have left. They only regret that their spouse didn't leave sooner (Hello).

However, imagine being married to your soulmate, a happy marriage at least on most days — he or she wakes up one day and expresses they no longer desire to be married to you and want to leave you for whoever or whatever (Hello again!), and then they leave; this is reality for many. Unfortunately, some spouses don't receive any type of warning

— they discover a brief note or a confusing text, a nonchalant voicemail, short and even detailed email, or no explanation at all. Moreover, in some instances, some spouses never hear from their spouses again, some hear often or seldom from their spouses, and some experience their Prodigals returning and leaving again. Therefore, the abandoned spouse is often forced to contemplate the following: wait for their spouse to return home, pursue a new relationship (non-covenant), file for a divorce, while others unfortunately take extreme measures (this is not a solution — only make matters worse).

I can't tell any spouse what to do in these situations, but I can offer several suggestions for those fighting for their Prodigal spouse and their marriage:

- Let go and let God
- There is nothing impossible for God to do — He restored/is restoring our marriage
- Seek God's guidance for direction
- Pray that your spouse give their hearts to God — a Godly Heart will not want to continue pursuing darkness — some pray that God remove the thing or person out of their spouse's life that helped caused the spouse to leave but that doesn't solve anything because a new thing or new person can pop up at any time and sway them away again — your spouse needs a heart change
- Seek Godly counsel/professional marriage counseling
- Trust God that He knows what is best for you
- Focus on Romans 8:28

In conclusion, if you happen to be a prodigal spouse reading this article— Christmas won't be the same for your family this year without you. Your husband/wife and/or children are hurting — their hearts have been ripped out and nothing, but God can heal their hearts. They have been praying for you consistently and want you to come home today. Therefore, please go home and seek God and professional help for you and your marriage. And for those who are in a good place — please continue praying for your marriage and every married couple you know — if we do this Christmas won't be the same because many married couples and families will be happy together and restored.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstaytogether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING CHARLOTTE REEVES DBA MOVIE GARDEN STUDIOS A REZONING FROM R-5 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, C-1 (RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, C-2 (LIMITED) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, C-3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT & I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO COMMUNITY MIXED USE, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED DISTRICT TO ALLOW FOR A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 605 CLIFTON ST. (PARCEL 170-12) and 21 PARCELS (170-4, 170-18, 170-19-1, 170-20, 170-21, 170-21-4, 170-21-5, 170-24, 169-3, 169-4, 169-5, 169-11, 169-120, 170-76, 169-112,142-24,142-40,141-4,141-5,142-58 & 170-32). CASE NO. 4303.

WHEREAS, Charlotte Reeves DBA Movie Garden Studios has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at 605 Clifton St. (Parcel 170-12) and 21 Parcels (170-4, 170-18, 170-19-1,

170-20, 170-21, 170-21-4, 170-21-5, 170-24, 169-3, 169-4, 169-5, 169-11, 169-120, 170-76, 169-

112, 142-24, 142-40, 141-4, 141-5, 142-58 and 170-32), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-5 (Multi-Family) Residential District, C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District, C-2 (Limited) Commercial District, C-3 (General) Commercial District & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to Community Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented District to allow for a mixed use development; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the properties from R-5 (Multi-Family) Residential District, C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District, C-2 (Limited) Commercial District, C-3 (General) Commercial District & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to Community Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented District to allow for a mixed-use development; 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, October 20, 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 September 4, 2025 and September 18, 2025 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on September 24, 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 properties from R-5 (Multi-Family) Residential District, C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District, C-2 (Limited) Commercial District, C-3 (General) Commercial District & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to Community Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented District to allow for a mixed use development; 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:

Parcel No. 170-12

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN LOTS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 9 OF HOOKER SURVEY, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE

CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK "A" AT PAGE 252, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BY METES AND BOUNDS:

COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIN IN THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET WHICH IS 20 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTER LINE OF THEY. & M. V. RAILROAD TRACKS, ALSO KNOWN AS "LITTLE J." AS SAID STREET AND AS SAID RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ARE LAID OUT, IMPROVED AND EXISTING, AND FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, RUN THENCE WESTERLY ALONG A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER LINE OF SAID RAILROAD TRACKS A DISTANCE OF 795 FEET MORE OR LESS TO A POINT; THENCE TURN SOUTH AND RUN A DISTANCE OF 359.9 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET IN SAID CITY OF JACKSON, THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 76.9 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF 127.5 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST ALONG A LINE PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 371 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF 52 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 209 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL OF LAND PURCHASED BY GRANTOR HEREIN FROM W.O. JONES BY WARRANTY DEED DATED DECEMBER 21, 1972 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 2076 AT PAGE 581 IN THE RECORDS OF THE AFORESAID CHANCERY CLERK; THENCE TURN SOUTH AND RUN PARALLEL WITH CLIFTON STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.5 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL PURCHASED FROM W. O. JONES; THENCE TURN EAST AND RUN PARALLEL WITH HOOKER STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 136 FEET; MORE OR LESS TO THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET; THENCE TURN NORTH AND RUN ALONG THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF

243.5 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LESS AND EXCEPT:

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN LOTS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 9 OF HOOKER SURVEY, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF WHICH IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK "A" AT PAGE 252, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BY METES AND BOUNDS:

COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIN IN THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET WHICH IS 20 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTER LINE OF THE Y. & M. V. RAILROAD TRACTS, ALSO KNOWN AS "LITTLE J." AS SAID STREET AND AS SAID RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ARE LAID OUT, IMPROVED AND EXISTING; RUN THENCE WESTERLY ALONG A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE CENTER LINE OF SAID RAILROAD TRACKS A DISTANCE OF 795 FEET MORE OR LESS TO A POINT, THENCE TURN SOUTH AND RUN A DISTANCE OF 359.9 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET IN SAID CITY OF JACKSON; THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 76.9 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF

127.5 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST A LONG A LINE PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 371 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF 52 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 209 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL OF LAND PURCHASED BY GRANTOR HEREIN FROM W. O. JONES BY WARRANTY DEED DATED DECEMBER 21, 1972 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 2076 AT PAGE 581 IN THE RECORDS OF THE AFORESAID CHANCERY CLERK WHICH IS THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE TURN SOUTH AND RUN PARALLEL WITH CLIFTON STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.5, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL PURCHASED FROM W. O. JONES, THENCE TURN EAST AND RUN PARALLEL WITH HOOKER STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 136 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET; THENCE TURN NORTH AND RUN ALONG THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 98.5 FEET; THENCE RUN WEST AND PARALLEL WITH HOOKER

STREET A DISTANCE OF 170 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH AND PARALLEL TO CLIFTON STREET A DISTANCE OF 32 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Parcel No. 170-4

LOT 10 LESS 10 FEET OFF THE NORTH SIDE, AND LOT 11, R.J. SEARCY SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

Parcel No. 170-18

A LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET AND BEGINNING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID HOOKER STREET 260 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HOOKER STREET AND CLIFTON STREET; FROM THIS POINT RUN NORTH PARALLEL WITH CLIFTON STREET 171 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROPERTY OF W.G. RAINES; THENCE RUN WEST 85 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 171 FEET TO HOOKER STREET; THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET 85 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH: THE RIGHT TO THE DRIVEWAY LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF SAID LOT BEING 12 FEET WIDE OPENING OUT INTO HOOKER STREET AND RUNNING BACK 100 FEET, THE SAME TO BE ALWAYS OPEN AND CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION AND TO REMA IN THE COMMON PROPERTY FORTH EASE OF ALL PARTIES WHO MAY NOW OR HEREAFTER BE THE OWNERS OF EITHER THE E ½ OR W ½ OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LOT. BEING PART OF LOTS 6 AND 9, HOOKER SURVEY.

Parcel No. 170-19-1

THAT CERTAIN LOT ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HOOKER AVENUE, HAVING A FRONTAGE OF FIFTY (50) FEET ON SAID AVENUE WITH A DEPTH OF ONE

HUNDRED AND SEVENTY (170) FEET PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF LOTS EIGHT (8) AND TWENTY-THREE (23) AND TEN (10) FEET OFF THE WEST SIDE OF LOTS NINE (9) AND TWENTY-TWO (22) AND TEN (10) FEET OFF THE EAST SIDE OF LOTS SEVEN (7) AND TWENTY-FOUR (24), ALL IN BLOCK "F" OF CRISLER SUBDIVISION (AMENDED) ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY AT JACKSON IN PLAT BOOK 1, AT PAGE 74 THEREOF;ANDTHIS BEING THE SAMEPROPERTYTHATWAS CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS HEREIN BY DEED FROM MRS. LOUISE MARY MCLAUGHLIN STRONG, SAID DEED DATED JULY 15, 1943, AND BEING OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 369, PAGE 501, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, REFERENCE TO WHICH DEED IS MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION. ALSO KNOWN AS 628 HOOKER STREET, JACKSON, MS.

COMMENCING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE WEST LINE OF GALLATIN STREET WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET, AS BOTH STREETS ARE NOW LAID OUT, IMPROVED AND USED IN THIS CITY, RUN THENCE WESTERLY ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 613.6 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; RUN THENCE WESTERLY ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF 89 FEET; TURNING THENCE TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES 08 MINUTE SAND RUNT HEN CE SOUTHERLY ADISTANCE OF 560 FEET TO THE PRESENT CENTER OF CAMP CREEK; RUN THENCE EASTERLY ALONG THE MID THREAD OF CAMP CREEK A DISTANCE OF 89.15 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS 554.8 FEET SOUTHERLY FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; RUN THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG A LINE PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF THE LOT HEREIN CONVEYED A DISTANCE OF 554.8 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

BEGIN AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE (193) FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 9, HOOKER SURVEY, RUN IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET 174.5 FEET; THENCE RUN IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET 65.6 FEET; THENCE RUN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION 174.5 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET 67 FEET WEST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET 67 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; BEING PART OF LOTS 6 AND 9 HOOKER SURVEY IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, ACCORDING TO A RECORD THEREOF IN PLAT BOOK A AT PAGE 252 OF THE RECORDS OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

BEGIN AT A POINT OF THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 9, HOOKER SURVEY, RUN WEST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET FIFTY SEVEN FEET; THENCE RUN IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FOUR AND ONE-HALF FEET; THENCE RUN IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET FIFTY SEVEN FEET; THENCE RUN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF CLIFTON STREET ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FOUR AND ONE-HALF FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGGING; BEING A PART OF LOTS 6 AND 9 OF HOOKER SURVEY IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ACCORDING TO A RECORD THEREOF IN PLAT BOOK A AT PAGE 252 OF THE RECORDS IN THE CHANCERY CLERK'S OFFICE OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

LOT 3, SMITH ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT WHICH IS ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK 2 AT PAGE 110, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOOKER AVENUE 141 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHWEST PROPERTY LINE CORNER OF HOOKER AVENUE AND SOUTH GALLATIN STREET, AS THE SAME IS NOW FIXED AND ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF JACKSON, AND MARKED BY THE BACK LINES OF THE CONCRETES IDE WALK AT SAID CORNER AND RUNNING WEST ALONG SAID HOOKER AVENUE, 200 FEET (MORE OR LESS, AND EXTENDING SOUTHWARD FROM SAID HOOKER AVENUE AT AN ANGLE APPROXIMATELY NINETY DEGREES BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES TO THE CENTER OF THE CREEK, OR ROCKY BRANCH, THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SAID LOT BEING DETERMINED BY THE MEANDER OF SAID BRANCH, THIS LOT BEING A PART OF LOT 13 OF THE HOOKER SURVEY IN SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, COUNTY OF HINDS, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

LOT 3, BLOCK 1, SCOTLAND HEIGHTS, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, WHICH IS ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK B AT PAGE 13, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

BEGINNING AT A POINT SEVEN HUNDRED TENT AND ONE-HALF (710 ½) FEET WEST OF WHERE THE WEST LINE OF GALLATIN STREET INTERSECTS THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET, RUNNING THENCE WEST EIGHT (80) FEET, THENCE SOUTH ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) FEET, THENCE EAST EIGHTY (80) FEET, THENCE NORTH

A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THE SAME BEING A LOT FRONTING EIGHTY (80) FEET ON HOOKER STREET AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) FEET; SAID TRACT OF LAND IS THE SAME INHERITED BY MRS. WILLIE SMITH COOK AS THE SOLE HEIR OF HER SISTER, MISS DOLLIE SMITH, DECEASED, AND IS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS NO. 523 HOOKER STREET IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

Parcel No. 170-20

LOT 1, SMITH ADDN., FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI TAX

Parcel No. 170-21

LOTS 2, 3 AND 4 SMITH ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT THEREOF WHICH IS ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK 2 AT PAGE 110, REFERENCE TO WHICH HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

Parcel No. 170-21-4

LOT 5, SMITH ADDN., FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 170-21-5

LOT 6 LESS 10 FT W/S SMITH ADDN, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 170-24

A LOT FRONTING 120 FEET ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES 160 FEET, BEING A PART OF LOTS FOURTEEN (14) AND FIFTEEN (15) OF THE ORIGINAL HOOKER SURVEY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SURVEY, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET 60 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF MRS. E.H. GREEN'S LOT, WHICH POINT IS ALSO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF A LOT DEEDED FROM A.H. LONGINO TO MRS. M.E. GOODE, DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 1908; RUNNING THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET 120 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A LOT DEEDED FROM

A.H. LONGINO TO THOMAS AND LILLIAN REDDINGTON ON NOVEMBER 6, 1912; RUNNING THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE REDDINGTON LOT

160 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SAID REDDINGTON LOT; RUNNING THENCE WESTERLY PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE

OF HOOKER STREET 120 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF

THE SAID GOODE LOT; RUNNING THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID GOODE LOT 160 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE PROPERTY BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET 60 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE E.H. GREEN HOMESTEAD SURVEY, A PLAT WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN PLAT BOOK 3 AT PAGE 3, AND GOING THENCE EAST ON HOOKER STREET, 120 FEET; THENCE SOUTH AT RIGHT ANGLE 160 FEET; THENCE WEST AT RIGHT ANGLES PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET 120 FEET; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES 160 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND BEING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY CONVEYED TO MILLAPS COLLEGE BY JULIE WITHERS RING AND ANN WITHERS MCNEILL BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 1987, AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1418, PAGE 697-699, LAND

DEED RECORDS OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Parcel No. 169-3

LOT 3, BLOCK 1, SCOTLAND HEIGHTS, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF WHICH IS ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN PLAT BOOK B AT PAGE 13, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

Parcel No. 169-4

LOT 4, BLOCK 1, SCOTLAND HEIGHTS, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

Parcel No. 169-5

LOT 5, BLK. 1, SCOTLAND HEIGHTS, PARCEL# 169-5, HOOKER ST., HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 169-11

LOT 1, BLK 2, SCOTLAND HEIGHTS & ½ALLEYS OF & ADJ PARCEL# 169-11, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 169-120

BEG AT PT ON N/S HOOKER ST 30.5 FT W OF MINERVA ST W 52.9 FT N 170 FT E 79.4 FT S 104 FT W 30.5 FT S 66 FT TO BEG POT LOTS 12, 17, 18 & 19 & ALL LOTS 14, 15 & 16 BLK F CRISLERS, PARCEL # 169.20, HOOKER ST., JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 170-76

23 1/3 FT E/S LOT 48 & 23 1/3 FT W/S LOT 49, VIRDENIS SUBN OF HOOKER SY, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 169-112

71 FT S/S Y & M VR RX 99 FT N & SE OF ST & 66 FT S/S Y & M V RR X 99 FT N & SW OF ST IN SEC 9 5 IE, PARCEL# 16-112, RAILROAD AVE. SEC. 9, T5N, RANGE 1 EAST, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 142-24

LOT 24, BURNS SUB OF LOT 58 SWJ, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 142-40

N ½ LOTS 1 & 2, BLK B, BROUGHER SUBN, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 141-4

LOT 4, BLK A, BROUGHER SUBN, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 141-5

LOT 5, BLK A, BROUGHER SUBN, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Parcel No. 142-58

PARCEL 1: LOT ONE (1), LESS SEVENTY (70) FEET OFF THE SOUTH END THEREOF, OF BLOCK "E" OF MRS. M.L. BROUGHER'S SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF WHICH IS RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN PLAT BOOK "A" AT PAGE 225 THEREOF, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE.

PARCEL II: THE EAST HALF (E ½) OF LOT TWO (2), BLOCK "E" MRS. M.L. BROUGHER'S SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF WHICH IS ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SURVEYOR'S RECORD "A" AT PAGE 207 AMENDED IN SURVEYOR'S RECORD BOOK "A" AT PAGE 255, REFERENCE TO WHICH IS HEREBY MADE IN AID OF AND AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.PARCEL III: PROPERTY CONVEYED TO CODA DAVIS BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 486 AT PAGE 90 THEREOF OF THE RECORDS OF THE CHANCERY CLERK OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED THEREIN AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

PROPERTY LOCATED ON CLIFTON STREET IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF CLIFTON STREET AND EARL STREET AND RUNNING SOUTH ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF CLIFTON STREET A DISTANCE OF 100 FEET AND 4 INCHES, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, RUNNING THENCE WEST A DISTANCE OF 75 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 70 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 79 FEET TO THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF CLIFTON STREET, THENCE A DISTANCE OF 70 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THIS BEING A PART OF LOT ONE (1), BLOCK E OF BELL'S SURVEY OF M.F. BROUGHER'S SUBDIVISION, LOTS 59 AND 60, DANIEL SURVEY OF WEST JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

Parcel No. 170-32

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET A DISTANCE OF

782.6 FEET MEASURED WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST LINE OF GALLATIN STREET, AS BOTH STREETS ARE NOW LAID OUT AND IMPROVED IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; AND WHICH POINT IS AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SMITH PROPERTY; RUN THENCE WESTERLY 79.4 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF HOOKER STREET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE TURNING TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES RUN SOUTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 386 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE IN THE PRESENT CHANNEL OF CAMP CREEK, THENCE WITH THE MEANDERINGS OF THE PRESENT CHANNEL OF CAMP CREEK TURN TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 29 DEGREES 04 MINUTES RUN SOUTHEASTERLY 39 FEET; THENCE TURNING TO THE RIGHT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 41 DEGREES 12 MINUTES RUN SOUTHERLY 70 FEET; THENCE TURNING TO THE LEFT, THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 57 DEGREES RUN SOUTHEASTERLY 60 FEET; THENCE TURNING TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 97 DEGREES RUN NORTHEASTERLY 65 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE IN THE PRESENT CHANNEL OF CAMP CREEK; THENCE TURNING TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 39 DEGREES LEAVE SAID CREEK RUN NORTHERLY FOR A DISTANCE OF 481 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LOT FRONTING

79.4 FEET ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOOKER STREET, IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the properties located at 605 Clifton St. (Parcel 170-12) and 21 Parcels: 170-4, 170-18, 170-19-1, 170-20, 170-21, 170-21-4, 170-21-5,

170-24, 169-3, 169-4, 169-5, 169-11, 169-120, 170-76,169-112, 142-24, 142-40, 141-4, 141-5,

142-58 and 170-32 from R-5 (Multi-Family) Residential District, C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District, C-2 (Limited) Commercial District, C-3 (General) Commercial District & I-1 (Light)

Industrial District to Community Mixed Use, Pedestrian Oriented District to allow for a mixed use development. 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 Parkinson moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded. Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson. Nays-None. Absent - Clay and Stokes.

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 October 20, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 84-91".

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 probate and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 19 day of September, 2025.

Jessica Carr, Administrator

Jessica Carr

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.



Ann James
NOTARY

12/18/2025, 12/25/2025

LEGAL



**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 8:00 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) 960-1164 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

12/18/2025, 12/25/2026

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- CASH & CARRY**
Capitol Street and Monument Street
- CITY HALL**
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- GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**
2659 Livingston Road
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
2030 N Siwell Rd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
4331 Highway 80W
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
304 Briarwood Dr
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
2855 McDowell Rd
- DOLLAR GENERAL**
104 Terry Rd
- J & A FUEL STORES**
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
- LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**
2325 Livingston Rd.
- MCDADDE'S MARKET**
Northside Drive
- MCDADDE'S MARKET #2**
653 Duling Avenue
- PICADILLY CAFETERIA**
Jackson Medical Mall
- SHELL FOOD MART**
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
- SHELL FOOD MART**
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CANTON

- A & I**
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
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Church Street - Canton, MS
- COMMUNITY MART**
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
- HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY**
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
- K & K ONE STOP**
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
- LACY'S INSURANCE**
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
- TRAILER PARK GROCERY**
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

- DOLLAR GENERAL**
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
- HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

- 5777 Terry Road
- CITY HALL**
Terry Road

CLINTON

- DOLLAR GENERAL**
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY

- SERVICE STATION**
at Exit 78
- CITY HALL**
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND

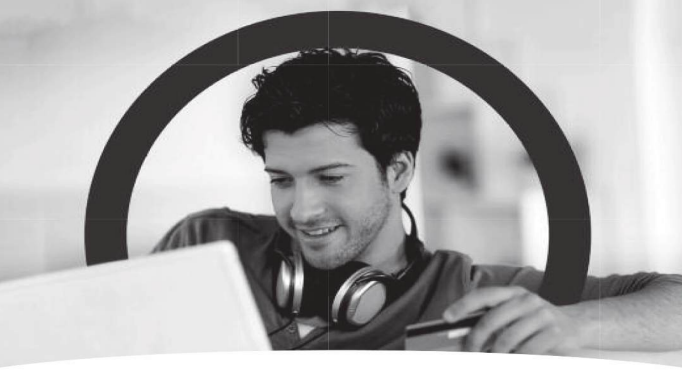
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P R E S E R V E D

Most wonderful time of the year

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"It's the most wonderful time of the year" are words from one of my favorite Christmas songs. Every time I hear it, I think about waking up Christmas morning, opening presents with my family and listening to my father's favorite singer, Johnny Mathis, singing the best Christmas songs.

However, this time of the year isn't just about thinking ahead to joyous Christmas celebrations. For me, it's also a time where I excitedly reflect on how many of my goals I met and didn't meet for the year. Did I lose weight like I wanted to? (Some but not enough). Did I save money like I said I would? (Some but not as much as I wanted).

There's still so much I set out to do but haven't done yet. However, rather than think about what goals I didn't meet, I am thankful for the goals I did meet. And instead of considering the other goals as unmet, I still consider them goals "in progress." It sounds crazy but it keeps me encouraged.

I also think about whether I met my writing goals for the year. Even if you are not a writer, being able to seek and trust God's plan might make the important difference in how you see your ability to reach your goals persistently. Here's a prayer

about trusting God's plan from my book, "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: Inspirational Prayers for Writers:"

"I thank you God for showing me your plan and your direction. I may sometimes struggle following you with my cloudy eyes of faith. But I pledge to trust you and your

plan for my life (as a writer.) I thank you God for loving me enough to plan with meticulous care every detail of my life. I trust you in the good and bad times and when I don't know how to take my life's circumstances. I trust your hand to guide me through the sometimes dark, unclear areas of my life."

Jeremiah 29:11-13 is a great scripture that also reminds us of this. "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen." When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."

One of my favorite quotes that also encourages me as I

think about those "goals in progress" is by Saint Francis de Sales, patron saint of writers. "Have patience with all things but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew." Perhaps one of the best presents we can give

ourselves as we celebrate the holidays and prepare to begin another year working on those "in progress" goals is the gift of patience.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Being Anchored: in faith, in integrity, in peace, in humbleness, in love

By Von C. Howard
Westside Gazette



There's something powerful about being anchored. Not just physically, but spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. It's what has kept our people grounded through generations, when the world shifted, when the winds blew, when the storms of life seemed too heavy to bear. Whether you picture a small ship fighting to stay steady in deep waters, or a palm tree bending but not breaking beneath fierce winds, the message remains timeless: when your roots run deep, you may bend, but you will not break.

Life, much like the sea, is unpredictable. Some days bring calm waters; others toss us about with no warning. There are moments when peace feels distant, and strength feels spent. But being anchored in faith means trusting that no matter how rough the seas, God still has His hands on the wheel. Faith whispers, "I may not see it now, but I know God is guiding me through." That's what has sustained us over the years, faith that carried our ancestors through storms we can only imagine, faith that keeps us moving when our own feet grow tired.

To be anchored in integrity is to remember who we are and whose we are. It's standing firm on what's right, even when compromise seems convenient. Integrity is what held our families and communities together, when our word meant something, when our name carried weight, and when we taught our children that character counts even when nobody's looking. Like an anchor beneath the surface, integrity holds us steady when life's waters rise.

Being anchored in peace doesn't mean life is calm, it means we've learned how to find calm in life. It's the unboth-

ered heart that stays grounded when chaos tries to take over. Like a palm tree rooted deep in Florida soil, peace allows us to move with life's winds instead of breaking beneath them. We may lose a few leaves along the way, but our roots, our connection to God, to family, and to community, keep us strong.

To be anchored in humbleness is to recognize that real strength often shows up as quiet surrender. Palm trees don't resist the wind; they bend with it. Likewise, humility allows us to yield, when necessary, to learn when we'd rather lead, and to trust God's timing over our own. Humility reminds us that success doesn't have to shout; it just has to stand tall and steady.

And then there's love, the anchor of all anchors. Love is what binds faith, integrity, peace, and humility together. It's the thread that ties families across generations, the glue that holds communities in unity, the heartbeat of every good thing we've been blessed to see. Love steadies us when storms rage, softens our hearts when pride rises, and strengthens our spirits when fear creeps in. It's what's kept us, through every trial, every test, and every triumph.

So, when the waves of life crash hard and the winds blow strong, remember this: even when the ship shakes, the anchor holds. Even when the palm tree bends, the roots remain. The same is true for you. You are built to withstand what you're going through, not because of your strength alone, but because of the

One who anchors you.

Stay anchored in faith.

Walk in integrity.

Protect your peace.

Move with humility.

And love without measure.

Because when you are anchored in these things, no storm, past, present, or future, can pull you away from your purpose.

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How do we clear the air: A guide to air purifiers

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

It's awful to think our air is full of contaminants. We inhale about 35 pounds of air per day. But did you know the air inside your home could be more polluted than the air outside? Dust, pet dander, smoke, mold spores and even chemicals from cleaning products can float around your house without you even noticing. Air is the number one way that our bodies are exposed to contaminants in our home. That's where air purifiers come in.

An air purifier is a machine that helps clean the air in your home. It pulls in dirty air, filters out harmful particles and pushes clean air back into the room. Think of it like a vacuum cleaner for the air.

Air purifiers are especially helpful for a person with allergies, asthma or anyone who wants to breathe cleaner air. They can also help during wildfire season or if someone in your home smokes.

Most air purifiers work in three basic steps:

1. Air Intake: A fan pulls air into the machine.

2. Filtration: The air passes through one or more filters that trap dust, pollen, smoke and other pollutants.

3. Clean Air Output: The purified air is pushed back into the room.

Some purifiers also use special technologies like UV light or ionizers to kill germs or trap even smaller particles.

There are several types of air purifiers, and each works a little differently:

- **HEPA Filters:** These are the most common and most trusted. HEPA stands for "High Efficiency Particulate Air." These filters can trap 99.97 percent of particles as small as 0.3 microns. That includes dust, pollen, mold spores and even some bacteria.

- **Activated Carbon Filters:** These filters are great at removing odors, smoke and chemicals. They don't catch dust or pollen, so they're often used with HEPA filters.

- **UV-C Light Purifiers:** These use ultraviolet light to kill bacteria and viruses. They're often used in hospitals but are becoming more common in homes.

- **Ionic Purifiers:** These release charged particles (ions) that attach to pollutants, making them fall to the ground or stick to surfaces. Some models can produce ozone, which can be harmful in large amounts.

- **Hybrid Purifiers:** These combine two or more technologies, like HEPA and carbon filters, for better performance.

When shopping for an air purifier, here are some important things to consider:

- **Room Size:** Make sure the purifier is powerful enough for the size of your room. A small purifier won't work well in a large living room. Look for the Clean Air Delivery Rate (CADR) on the label, it tells you how fast the purifier can clean the air in a certain space.

- **Filter Type:** If you have allergies, go for a HEPA filter. If you want to remove smells or smoke, look for one with an activated carbon filter.

- **Noise Level:** Some purifiers can be loud, especially on high settings. If you're using it in a bedroom, look for one that's quiet.

- **Maintenance:** Filters need to be replaced regularly. Check how often and how much replacement filters cost.

- **Energy Use:** Some purifiers use more electricity than others. Look for Energy Star-rated models to save on your electric bill.

- **Smart Features:** Some newer models come with apps, air quality sensors or timers. These can be helpful but may cost more.

We should also take our air exchange rate per hour into consideration. Air Changes per Hour (ACH) measures how many times the air inside your home is replaced with outdoor air in one hour.

- It's a key factor in maintaining indoor air quality (IAQ) by diluting pollutants, moisture and odors.

Recommended Residential Standards

According to ASHRAE Standard 62.2, which sets ventilation guidelines for homes:

- Minimum ACH: 0.35 air changes per hour.

- Minimum per person: 15 cfm of fresh air per occupant.

This means:

- For a 2,000 sq ft home with 8 ft

ceilings (16,000 cubic feet), 0.35 ACH equals about 93 cfm of fresh air.

- If four people live there, the per-person minimum would be 60 cfm (4 x 15 cfm), so the higher value—93 cfm—would apply.

Why It Matters

- Too little ventilation can lead to buildup of indoor pollutants like carbon dioxide, VOCs and moisture, increasing risks of respiratory issues and mold.

- Too much ventilation can waste energy and strain HVAC systems.

Tips for Achieving Proper Ventilation

- Use mechanical ventilation systems like HRVs or ERVs to control airflow efficiently.

- Ensure bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans are functional and vent to the outside.

- Consider air quality monitors to track CO2 and humidity levels

Who Needs an Air Purifier?

Air purifiers can help almost anyone, but they're especially useful for:

- People with allergies or asthma

- Homes with pets

- Smokers or homes with second-hand smoke

- People living near highways or factories

- Families with young children or older adults

- Areas with wildfire smoke or high pollution

Even if you don't have health issues, breathing cleaner air can help

you sleep better, focus more and feel healthier overall.

Tips for Using an Air Purifier

- Keep doors and windows closed when the purifier is on. This helps it clean the air more efficiently.

- Place it in the right spot—usually in the room where you spend the most time, like the bedroom or living room.

- Change the filters as recommended. A dirty filter won't work well.

- Vacuum and dust regularly to help your purifier do its job.

Air purifiers come in many price ranges. You can find small models for under \$100, while larger or smarter ones can cost \$300 or more. Don't forget to factor in the cost of replacement filters, which can add up over time.

If you're just getting started, a HEPA air purifier with an activated carbon filter is a great choice. It covers most common needs like dust, pollen, smoke and odors. Look for a model that fits your room size and has good reviews.

Some top-rated brands include Honeywell, Levoit, Coway, and Blueair. But the best purifier for you depends on your space, your needs and your budget.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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Catch "Tips to be Fit" on "Good Day Good Health" everyday

Unresolved Respiratory Symptoms? Get the right tests and care

StatePoint

Each year, 500 to 1,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a rare lung disease that can be fatal if left untreated.

To encourage earlier diagnosis of PAH, the American Lung Association, with support from Johnson & Johnson, is sharing information about the disease, its symptoms, and the importance of testing and proper treatment. Here's what the Lung Association wants you to know:

What is PAH? PAH is a rare, progressive lung disease caused when the tiny arteries in your lungs become thickened and narrowed. This blocks blood flow through your lungs, causing the blood pressure in your lungs to rise.

The heart has to work harder to pump blood through the narrowed arteries. Over time, your heart has difficulty effectively pumping blood through your body.

What are the symptoms of PAH? In the early stages, you may not notice symptoms. As PAH progresses, common symptoms include shortness of breath, especially with activities like walking up the stairs or long distances, fatigue, edema (swelling of the feet, legs and eventually the abdomen and neck), dizziness and fainting spells, chest pain, heart palpitations, and lips and fingers turning blue. Contact your healthcare provider if you're experiencing these or any worrisome symptoms.

Who is most at risk? While anyone can get PAH, those most at risk are women ages 30-60, and Black and Hispanic women.

Why is PAH difficult to diagnose? Because symptoms of PAH are similar to other diseases, the average time it takes to get a diagnosis is about 3 years. This delay can be frustrating for patients and their families and can result in poorer health outcomes. Unfortunately, health disparities exist due to a wide range of factors, like lack of



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) SUPER SCOUT / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

access to healthcare, health insurance coverage, transportation to specialists, and health literacy, and can exacerbate these delays. Increasing awareness of this rare disease can help patients get a quicker diagnosis so they can get the treatment they need.

Elva V., a mom and nurse, has been living with PAH since she was 23. She shares that getting the correct diagnosis and treatment plan has been a "game changer," helping her "feel well enough to do the things I enjoy and live a good life with my daughters."

How can the path to diagnosis be shortened? Your provider may order several tests to help with diagnosis:

- A simple blood test, the BNP test (also called B-type natriuretic peptide test) or NT-proBNP test, can help determine if your heart is working harder than it should, a sign that you may have PAH. Getting this test done early can help speed the path to diagnosis.

- Electrocardiogram to show the electrical activity of your heart.

- Echocardiogram to check the size and condition of your heart.

- Lung function tests.

- A right heart catheterization to confirm PAH, once your provider suspects it.

How is PAH treated? PAH-specific medications come in multiple forms: oral, inhaled and subcutaneous. Some allow blood to flow more easily through the arteries of your lungs. Others improve heart and lung function. PAH medications help slow how quickly your disease worsens. For optimal health outcomes when dealing with a rare disease like PAH, it's best to see a specialist.

"When seen by a specialist, you'll receive the latest treatment and resources to help you live your best life," says Dr. Michael Cuttica, a pulmonary hypertension specialist.

That is certainly the case for Lindsay T., who has been living with PAH since her early twenties and works with her doctor to manage her care. "My BNP has been within a normal range since I alerted my specialist that my symptoms were getting worse and he adjusted my medications," she says.

If you have unresolved respiratory symptoms that are not improving with your current treatment, learn more about PAH at Lung.org/pah.

A PAH diagnosis doesn't have to be delayed. With the right tests and care from a specialist, you can get on the path to the treatment you need.

Measles Vaccination as a public health investment, not an expense

By Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA, PhD
Guest Writer

COMMENTARY

As of this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recorded more than 1,700 measles cases, the most in three decades. These cases stemmed from 45 reported outbreaks, a sharp increase from just 16 in 2024. Over 200 patients have been hospitalized and three have died.

The human toll of these outbreaks is significant -- especially given that measles is entirely preventable when vaccination rates remain near the 95 percent threshold needed for herd immunity.

But beyond the devastating health consequences, the spread of measles creates an economic burden for patients, health insurance companies, and our government. My math suggests that a 1,500-case outbreak costs the United States anywhere from \$16 million to \$199 million in direct medical expenses, lost productivity, and public health spending.

This financial toll could grow exponentially in the years ahead if vaccination rates continue dropping further below the herd immunity threshold, resulting in more outbreaks. Currently, less than 93 percent of kindergarteners are vaccinated against the measles. If measles vaccination rates decline by just another 10 percent, the economic challenges could grow exponentially.

This reality underscores the need to redouble vaccination efforts against the measles and other once-common childhood diseases -- so that Americans don't waste hundreds of millions of dollars responding to infections that could have been prevented for pennies on the dollar with vaccines.

The measles virus is extraordinarily contagious. One infected person spreads the disease to 15 others, on average. Before the first measles vaccine became available in 1963, the disease infected three to four million Americans each year, hospitalizing tens of thousands and killing hundreds. That's why herd immunity is so essential: it's harder for a disease to tear through a community if most people are immune.

The direct costs of any measles out-

breaks are relatively easy to measure -- simply add up all the medical bills tied to treating the disease.

Measuring indirect costs is a bit trickier, since the figure must account for lost productivity and lost wages while patients recover and the resources that families devote to caregiving.

Then there's the costs to health departments and state and local governments for expenses related to contact tracing, emergency pop-up clinics, and surge staffing.

Using the midpoint estimates from past measles outbreaks, modeling suggests that a 1,500-case outbreak this year would require about \$9 million in direct healthcare spending, would cause productivity losses of \$26 million, and necessitate public health spending of \$55 million -- for a total cost of \$90 million. But that figure could be as low as \$16 million or as high as \$199 million, depending on variables such as the share of infections that require hospitalization.

Michael Baker of the American Action Forum recently arrived at similar numbers when analyzing this year's largest single outbreak, where 762 people in West Texas fell sick, 99 were hospitalized, and two sadly succumbed to the highly infectious virus.

By his estimate, the Texas outbreak generated an estimated price tag of \$35.4 million.

Vaccinating those 762 people, by contrast, would have cost between \$40,000 and \$115,000 in total.

And that's just for the measles.

Simply put, government spending on immunization programs offers taxpayers a staggering return on their investment by preventing exponentially greater expenses in the future. Reversing the decline in vaccination rates won't just save lives. It'll save our economy too.

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA, PhD, is an associate professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Pharmacotherapy at The University of Utah College of Pharmacy. This article originally appeared in RealClearHealth.

One Voice and Jackson Public Schools announce the acquisition and repurposing of Marshall Elementary School into Community Resiliency Hub

Mississippi Link Newswire

One Voice, Inc. is proud to announce its selection through the Jackson Public Schools (JPS) Repurposing Initiative, to acquire and transform the former Marshall Elementary School into a multi-purpose community Resiliency Hub.

This initiative marks a significant step in One Voice's mission to empower historically silenced communities and address systemic inequities by providing essential services and resources in a centralized, accessible location.

The planned Resiliency Hub is designed to be a cornerstone for the Jackson community, main-

taining stability before, during, and after times of crisis. By shifting power directly to neighborhoods, the hub will ensure residents are self-determining and resilient in the face of frequent climate disruptions and other emergencies.

"Our long-term goal has been to establish a setting that offers families more than just a temporary hotel room during a crisis," said Nsombi Lambright-Haynes, Executive Director of One Voice. "The Jackson Hub will provide a family-oriented environment where residents can store food, prepare meals, and access a wide range of services, from legal aid to



job training, all under one roof?," deeply committed to ensuring that our closed properties continue to serve a meaningful purpose for the communities they once supported," said Earl Burke, Chief Operations Officer

Mayor John Horhn appoints Angela Brown as Planning and Development Department Director



Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor John Horhn has appointed Angela Brown as Director of the City of Jackson's Planning and Development Department, bringing more than 20 years of experience in public health leadership, systems change, and policy innovation to advance growth and community-centered development in Jackson.

Brown is a Jackson native and graduate of Jim Hill High School with deep roots in Georgetown and South Jackson. She returned home after two decades in St. Louis, where she served as Chief Executive Offi-

cer of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission. She played a key role in the development and implementation of Gateway to Health, a 30-million-dollar-per-year federal initiative in St. Louis City and County.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Stillman College and a Master of Public Health from Saint Louis University.

"Angela Brown brings a proven record of building partnerships, aligning complex initiatives, and centering equity in every decision," said Horhn. "Her expertise and her deep roots in Jackson will help us

strengthen neighborhoods, guide responsible development, and ensure growth benefits the residents who have sustained this city for generations."

"Coming home to serve Jackson in this role is an honor and a responsibility," Brown said. "I am grateful to Mayor Horhn for the opportunity to lead the Planning and Development Department, and I look forward to working alongside residents, developers, and business owners to build a more thriving Jackson."

She is committed to ensuring that development in Jackson benefits the

people and neighborhoods who have sustained the city for generations.

Brown previously served as the Innovation Team Director for the City of Jackson, where she helped launch data-driven initiatives focused on workforce development and economic inclusion. Her work has leveraged philanthropic and public investment to build local capacity and position Jackson for long-term revitalization.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office of Communications at (601) 960-0462.

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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+

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- Verbal acknowledgment during the conference
- Recognition in thank-you communications

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JTECHS Mock Trial team captures first place at Magnolia Bar Association competition



The JPS–Tougaloo Early College High School (JTECHS) Mock Trial Program has once again proven its excellence, securing first place at the annual Magnolia Bar Association Mock Trial competition. Competing against students from across the state, JTECHS' victory highlights the team's dedication, skill, and growing reputation in the mock trial community.

The JPS Newswire

This year, JTECHS entered three teams in the competition, with two advancing all the way to the Championship Round—facing each other for the top honor. The winning championship team included Anna Martin, Marvin Sanders, Morgan Sanders, Ariel Bell, Makaila Nixon, and Kelsey Frazier. The second-place team featured Clarissa Coleman, Nicholas Sivak, Christian Steverson, Travis Collins, Nadia Harper, and Kylie Gillion.

Individual awards also celebrated exceptional talent. Clarissa Coleman was named Top Attorney of the competition, earning a \$1,100 scholarship,

while Marvin Sanders received Third-Place Top Attorney honors and a \$600 scholarship. Other contributing team members included Faith Malembeka, Marvin Summers, Nadia Davis, Jeremy White, Lindsey Anderson, and Kadience Tabb. Since its inception in 2023, the JTECHS Mock Trial Program has rapidly built a legacy of success:

- 2023: Second Place, Magnolia Bar Mock Trial Competition
- 2024: Champion, Magnolia Bar Mock Trial Competition
- 2024: Sixth Place, Mississippi Bar Mock Trial Competition
- 2025: Third Place, Missis-

siippi Bar Mock Trial Competition

- 2025: Champion, Magnolia Bar Mock Trial Competition

The teams are guided by Attorneys Gayla Carpenter-Sanders and Catouche Body, both proud alumni of Tougaloo College, with Ms. Felicia Burton serving as Teacher and Administrative Coach.

With consecutive victories at the Magnolia Bar Association competition and consistent performances statewide, the JTECHS Mock Trial Program continues to demonstrate the talent, determination, and teamwork that define the school's commitment to academic excellence.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity presents scholarships to high school students

By Clarence Irby
Guest Writer

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly presented awards to the 2025 Essay Scholarship recipients for the 2025–2026 school year.

The essay topic, “In a World Powered by Artificial Intelligence, What Does it Mean to Lead with Integrity and Purpose?,” challenged students to reflect on leadership and ethics in a changing world.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter received qualifying essays from 15 high schools, totaling 27 students who met all International Headquarters (IHQ) requirements. The scholarship recipients were:

- 1st Place: Layla Smith — Canton High School — \$2,500
- 2nd Place: Azaria Williams — Canton High School — \$1,500
- 3rd Place: Savannah Morton — Hartfield Academy — \$500
- 4th Place: Calyn Sharp — Kosciusko High School — \$300

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter remains committed to supporting future leaders as they advance to higher education.



Layla Smith 1st Place Winner



Azaria Williams 2nd Place Winner



Savannah Morton 3rd Place Winner



Calyn Sharp 4th Place Winner

JPS Recognizes Excellence: 2025–26 “Of the Year” Award Winners

The JPS Newswire

Each year, Jackson Public Schools celebrates the people who go above and beyond for our scholars... those who show up early, stay late, inspire big dreams, and keep our schools moving forward. At our Night of Stars Gala in November 2025, we recognized this year's Teacher, Administrator, and Support Staff Honorees. And on December 5, we surprised our Parent of the Year with an unforgettable announcement during a special press conference.

These honorees represent the very best of JPS, and we're proud to share their stories.

Teacher of the Year: Rakesia Gray

Rakesia Gray is an eighth-year educator at North Jackson Elementary who brings intention, heart, and high expectations to every scholar she teaches. After discovering her passion for working with young people through coaching at Belhaven University, she transitioned into K–12 education, where she found her calling in the third-grade ELA



Rakesia Gray



Jocelyn Smith



Dr. Janet Wallace



Cianna Jones



Sergeant Judah Jamison

classroom. She holds degrees from Belhaven University and Jackson State University, along with National Board Certification in Early and Middle Childhood Literacy. Outside her classroom, she pours into the school community through leadership roles, mentoring new teachers, and coordinating programs that support scholars in need. Guided by the belief that every child deserves a champion, she strives daily to cultivate confident, curious, goal-driven learners.

Administrator of the Year: Jocelyn Smith

Principal Jocelyn Smith has led North Jackson Elementary since 2019, guiding the school

to an “A” rating through a clear vision, steady leadership, and a deep belief in what scholars can achieve. With more than 30 years of service in JPS, her career reflects unwavering dedication to the district and its families. She holds advanced degrees in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership, and her commitment to personal growth mirrors the expectations she sets for her staff and scholars. Smith is known for building strong relationships, creating a nurturing school culture, and empowering educators to deliver their best work. Her leadership has made a lasting impact on countless scholars and colleagues.

District Leader of the Year: Dr. Janet Wallace

Dr. Janet Wallace is a 14-year JPS educator whose work has strengthened teaching, mentoring, and educator retention across the district. A former award-winning classroom teacher at Barack Obama Magnet Elementary, she helped propel the school to #1 in Mississippi through strong instruction and scholar growth. Now serving as Manager of Teacher Support and Retention, she leads key initiatives such as the New Teacher Academy, Mentor Program, and TEACH JPS Scholarship; all designed to build and sustain a thriving teacher pipeline. Dr.

Wallace is a respected voice on mentorship and resilience, presenting statewide and serving on multiple advisory councils that support future educators. Her leadership reflects her commitment to ensuring every scholar benefits from highly supported, well-prepared teachers.

Parent of the Year: Cianna Jones

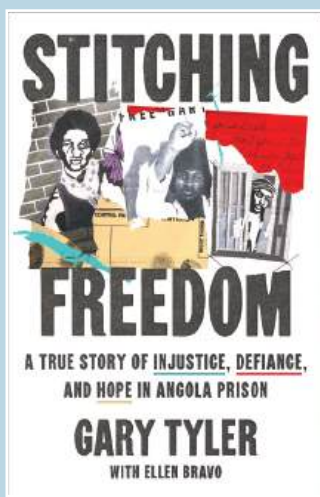
Cianna Jones embodies JPS's core values through her advocacy, involvement, and genuine care for all scholars. As the parent of a child with exceptionalities, she champions inclusion and works tirelessly to ensure every scholar receives equitable support and access. She is deeply engaged in school initiatives, most notably helping lead efforts that funded stage curtains, chairs, and other resources that enrich scholars' day-to-day experiences. Jones builds strong, respectful relationships with staff and families, always showing up with solutions and a growth-minded approach. Her commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive school cul-

ture made her a standout choice for Parent of the Year.

Support Staff of the Year: Sergeant Judah Jamison

Sergeant Judah Jamison is a proud JPS graduate who has dedicated his career to serving the district that shaped him. Since joining JPS in 2020, he has built strong relationships with scholars and staff, first at Wingfield High School and now as a member of the Jackson Public Schools Police Department. After completing the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy, he continued expanding his skills, earning certifications in crisis intervention, firearms instruction, CPR instruction, and more. Jamison brings steady leadership, compassion, and a commitment to safety that strengthens every school he serves. He credits the administrators and colleagues who invested in him and says his mission is simple: make an impact on scholars and help JPS continue to rise.

Congratulations to all of our honorees of excellence!



BOOK REVIEW: **STITCHING FREEDOM: A TRUE STORY OF INJUSTICE, DEFIANCE, AND HOPE IN ANGOLA PRISON** BY GARY TYLER WITH ELLEN BRAVO C.2025, ONE SIGNAL PUBLISHERS \$29.00 • 288 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

The seams are textbook straight. You made sure of it. There'll be no need for a thread-ripper for you. No, you planned before you picked up a needle, and you were careful with each poke of the thread. A few snips here, a quick tack there, and you'll be done. As in the new book "Stitching Freedom" by Gary Tyler (with Ellen Bravo), this project almost took a lifetime.

Growing up in St. Rose, Louisiana, Gary Tyler tried to

avoid major trouble. He says he was often the victim of racism in school, though, and he didn't put up with it so he ran afoul of authority now and then. On the day he was suspended for "causing problems in the classroom," he wasn't worried; he considered it another day off.

He didn't know that it would be his last day of freedom for more than forty-one years.

After wandering around awhile, visiting with friends and a cousin, Tyler went back to the school that day, where

an altercation on a bus ended in the death of a white teenager. Tyler was there, but he wasn't involved; witnesses confirmed it, before telling different stories at trial, then recanting. Still, he was arrested for the murder, taken to jail, tried, and sent to Angola Prison, sentenced to die by electric chair.

Still a teenager, Tyler was careful who he befriended in Angola, keeping away from trouble and finding mentors in the OGs who'd been there awhile. With their guidance, he learned things he hadn't

known, legal terms, how to find the right lawyer, how to raise money and get by. They corrected his grammar and his thinking. They taught him how to present himself. He learned the value in service, and he became a prison seamster.

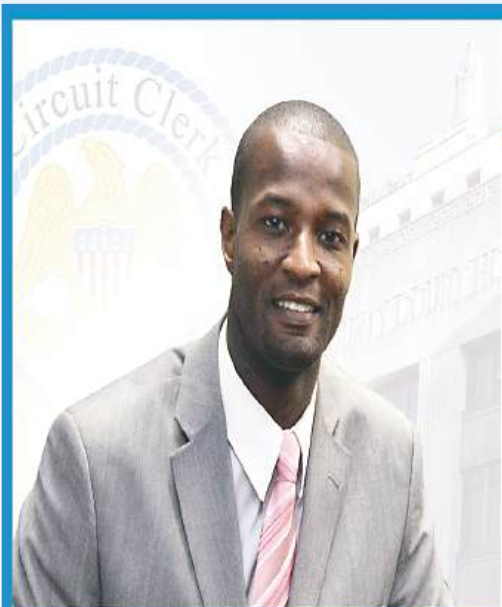
Tyler says he knew prison would be bad, but despite that he knew other young men who'd been there, he underestimated how bad it would get. And he never would've believed he'd find men who'd become his family and who'd save his life.

Crime features big in the news lately, doesn't it? You could be forgiven if you're feeling fatigue from it, but check out "Stitching Freedom." Here, the crime is racism.

Surprise: you won't get the sense that author Gary Tyler needed a halo; no, he admits to being a bit of a rascal sometimes, with rather typical teen behavior before his incarceration. This honesty stretches: he also presents believable, abundant evidence that despite his proximity to where the crime occurred, he didn't do what he

was accused of doing. Through that account and beyond, he shows readers how racism kept him down, and how he kept his hopes up and his head high.

"Stitching Freedom" isn't scary or particularly scared-straight-ish, and there's a bit of humor at the end in Tyler's post-prison memories of learning about modern life. That means you can read his story yourself, and feel comfortable giving it to a teenager who needs it. Find this book, and then watch your time get all sewn up.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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- Marriage License
- Medical License
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Fax: (601) 973-5547

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First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
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Jury Duty Recording:

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Office Hours:

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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

MEN ON A MISSION

Ranger Nation, what an incredible night! Our Men on a Mission: Monday Night Lights Edition was a huge success, and I want to personally thank everyone who attended and made it such a powerful experience. We truly had a blast!

Special thanks to the RHS Cheerleaders and the RHS Ultimate Soul Marching Band for bringing energy, pride, and school spirit to the event. You helped make the night unforgettable!

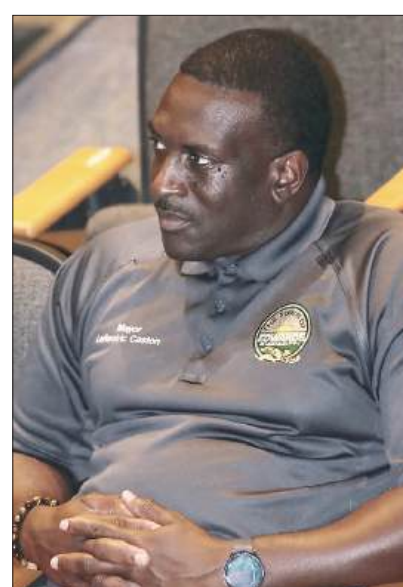
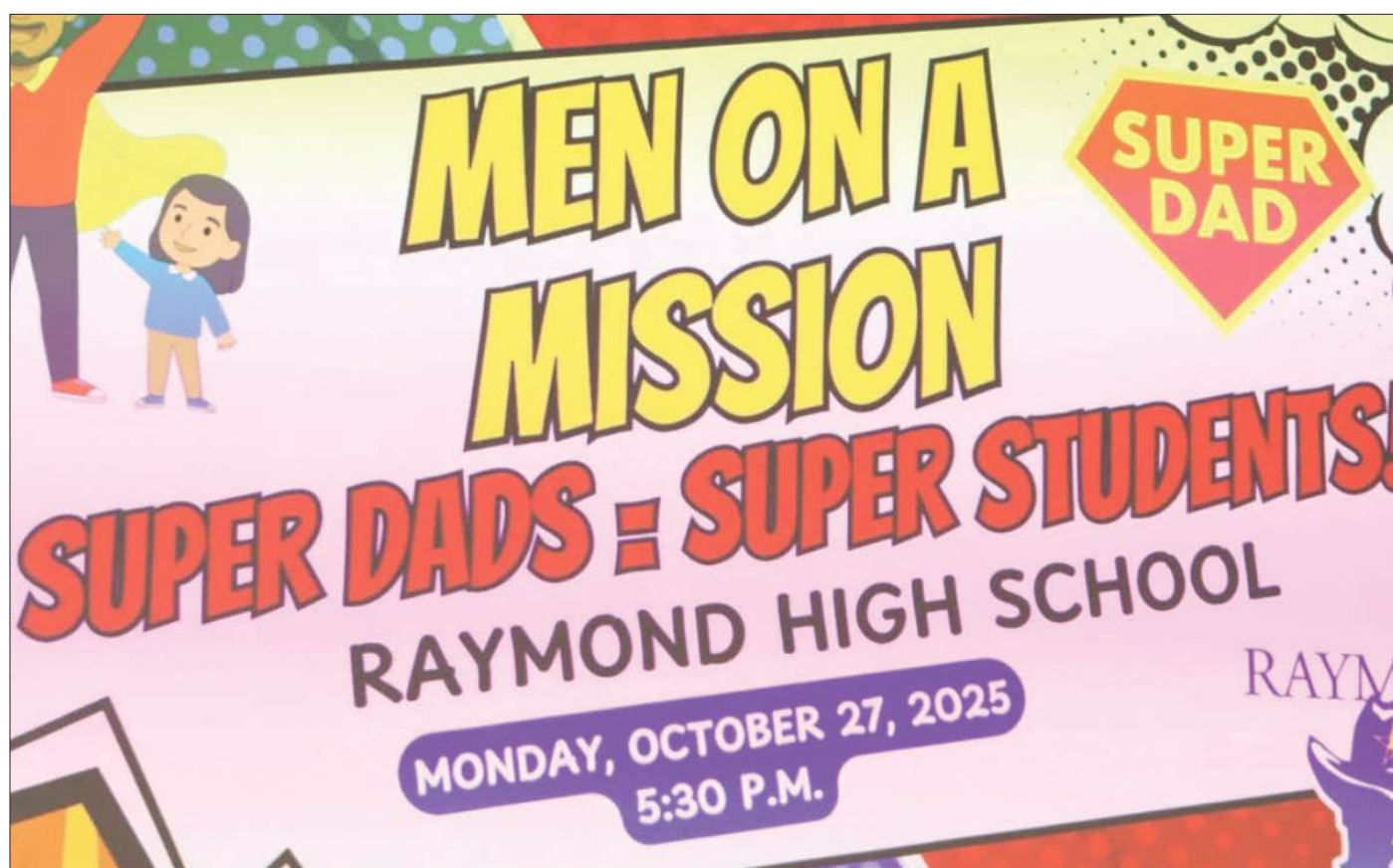
We're also deeply grateful to our amazing speakers: Superintendent Dr. Mitchell Shears, Coach Tony Tadlock, Mr. Fults, Mr. Schuller, Mr. Stephen Brown, and Mr. Benjamin Torrey for inspiring and challenging us with messages of purpose, leadership, and community support.

And thank you to the Ranger Pride PTSO for helping make this vision a reality. Your support means so much to our school and our students.

The feedback has been incredible. Everyone left informed, inspired, and already asking, "When's the next one?" Don't worry, we plan to do it again!

Raymond High School continues to show that Love, Hope, and Leadership live here. We are Respectful, Responsible, and Ranger Ready!

Photos taking by Sophomore Raymond High and HC CTE Digital Media student Caiden Willis



Keepers of the knowledge for those who speak the truth since 1993
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

May peace be your gift at Christmas, and your blessing throughout the New Year.

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOR WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD -

LUKE 2:11

From

The Mississippi Link

