

Empowerment Center represents ‘Hope in Action’

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Leaders from Hope Credit Union (HOPE) along with city officials, media and the broader Jackson community gathered

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd, 10:30 A.M. for a press conference and ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Hope Economic Empowerment Center. This center, located at 5471 I-55

North in Jackson, Mississippi, marks the expansion of HOPE’s presence in underserved communities where area residents will

*Hope
Continued on page 3*



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Hope Credit Union leaders, city officials and community leaders
PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Mt. Olive Mayoral Election results challenged

Dark no more. Bright light shines on small town mayoral contest for all to see.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Senior Status Judge Lamar Pickard has been assigned to hear the case brought by Mt. Olive business owner and former Alderwoman/Mayor Pro Tem, Marcia Hull, challenging the June 3, 2025, mayoral election where she lost by 43 votes. She alleged numerous irregularities in the process, policy, and procedure that, taken as a whole, violated the law and destroyed the election integrity, usurping the will of the voters. She was represented in her cause by Scherrie L. Prince, Esq. Hull filed suit against the now three-term incumbent mayor, James Clifton Kelly, III, the Mt. Olive municipal clerk - Breyon Magee, and the Mt. Olive Election Commission.

Attorney J. Larry Buffington, a former Simpson County Chancery Judge who was publicly reprimanded in 2011 for an abuse of authority incident in 2008, and subsequently removed from the bench by the voters, per WLBT on July 5, 2011, served as counsel for Mt. Olive mayor James Kelly. Buffington’s son, John Alan Buffington, served as the attorney for the town of Mt. Olive, and also represented the



Covington County Courthouse marker and Covington County Circuit Court building, 101 S. Dogwood Avenue, Collins, Mississippi, on November 25, 2025. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

COMMENTARY

election commission. No doubt you will see and read other news coverage of this bench trial, yet nothing will be mentioned about race. Ask yourself why that is? Don’t all eyes see and feel racial issues? Certainly, they must, but there are forces involved that would have you believe that everything is just honky dory in Mississippi. This case wasn’t about race, but

that’s not the whole story. The case was about alleged violations of law, election process irregularities, and fairness. Yet the case happened against a prominent backdrop of race. Mt. Olive is a 74 percent African American town, yet they reelected a white mayor for the third time, this past June – if all the results are to be believed. As heard from attorneys and witnesses during the trial, the Mt. Olive mayoral election had

many concerning elements. The election day ballots, the ones counted in real time by a new ballot counting machine - used for the very first time in Mt. Olive - reported the results as 120 for Alderwoman Hull and 118 for incumbent mayor Kelly. Then came the absentee ballots – 58 in total. Testimony reveals that the previous mayoral election had just 2 absentee ballots,

*Mt. Olive
Continued on page 3*

A gentle giant: Rev. John E. Cameron passes

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

Rev. John E. Cameron’s passing has left a gentle, unmistakable quiet over Greater Mt. Calvary Church, one that feels less like silence and more like the congregation collectively holding its breath, remembering a man who shaped decades of faith, family, and fellowship in Jackson, Mississippi. For more almost ten generations, Cameron stood in the pulpit with a voice that could soothe the grieving, steady the fearful, and stir the hopeful. He guided Mt. Calvary not only with sermons but with the everyday acts of kindness that revealed the true measure of his ministry, visiting the sick long after visiting hours ended, praying with families during uncertain nights, and celebrating every baptism, wedding, and milestone as if it belonged to



Cameron
IN MEMORIAM

his own family. To many, he was more than a pastor; he was a counselor, a bridge-builder, a man who believed that community was not just where we lived but how we loved one another. Even those

who only encountered him once, at a revival, a funeral, or a quick greeting in the grocery aisle, remember the warmth in his smile and the sincerity in his words. Under his leadership, Greater Mt. Calvary grew not only in number but in heart. He encouraged young people to dream boldly, reminded deacons of their worth and wisdom, and insisted that the church extend its reach beyond its doors. Food drives, mentorship programs, and neighborhood support efforts flourished because Cameron believed that faith, when it is real, must always find its way into action. In 2000, Cameron oversaw the construction of a \$1.3M state-of-the-art family life center, to meet the spiritual needs of the West Jackson community. His absence will be deeply felt. Hailing from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Cameron’s familiar ca-

dence in his prayers, his steady presence in times of joy and sorrow, and the unwavering love he carried for his congregation leaves a legacy far larger than a single lifetime. Yet even in this moment of grief, the church he nurtured holds close the lessons he taught, to stand together, to lift each other up, and to trust that God’s grace is sufficient in every season. As members gather in pews he once filled with encouragement and conviction, they do so knowing that Rev. Cameron’s life was a testament to the very faith he preached. He ran his race with humility and purpose, and the City of Jackson is better because he passed our way. May his memory be a comfort, and his legacy a light that continues to guide Greater Mt. Calvary for generations to come.

Kamesha Mumford secures the title of Senator Elect for District 26



Mumford and family. PHOTO BY KEHINDE GAYNOR

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

In a runoff that drew strong turnout across neighborhoods from Northeast Jackson to northwest Hinds County, Kamesha Mumford was declared the winner Tuesday night in the Senate District 26 special election. The victory marks a historic shift, this will be the first time in 32 years that someone other than John Horhn has held the seat. Horhn vacated the position earlier this year after being sworn in as Mayor of Jackson, triggering the special election to fill his unexpired term. Mumford, a longtime resident of the district, centered her campaign on issues she said were too often overshadowed by political noise, health care access, crime reduction, infrastructure repair, and stronger support for local public schools. While her campaign drew considerably less financial support than that of her opponent, she reminded voters that “money does not vote—people do,” emphasizing that contributions were only meaningful if they translated into real advocacy and real change for the families of District 26. Her opponent, Letitia

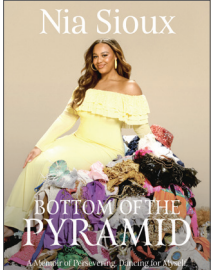
Johnson, ran an energetic campaign that resonated with some younger voters and civic-engagement groups. Johnson, known for her work within the Jackson Public Schools District, highlighted school choice as a hot button issue for the upcoming legislative session. Political observers noted that Johnson’s message gained traction in some precincts, making the runoff more competitive than early polling predicted. But in the end, Mumford’s decades-long ties to the district, her family roots, her work as a lawyer and judge, and her visibility at community events long before she decided to run—appeared to give her the advantage. Supporters said her deep familiarity with local neighborhoods, along with her willingness to meet voters on their porches and in church fellowship halls, helped solidify her lead. Mumford now enters office with little time to celebrate. The upcoming legislative session is expected to be one of the most consequential in recent years. Lawmakers will confront a stacked agenda that includes

*Mumford
Continued on page 3*

Inside
Prayer and Praise Rally held for Kamesha Mumford



Bottom of the Pyramid



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

MSFCWC, Inc. & Youth Affiliates celebrated their 115th Annual Convention and 122nd Anniversary



IDEA Women Federated Chapter of the University of Southern Mississippi (L-R) Diya Rogers, Saniyah Saddler, and Kiera Fox.



At the podium are (L-R) Mary Cooper, President of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates, and Attorney Rhonda Cooper, 1st Vice President of Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc

Special to The Mississippi Link

The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. (MSFCWC) and Youth Affiliates held its 115th Annual Convention and 122nd Anniversary Oct. 31- Nov 2, 2025, at the Hilton Hotel of Jackson, 1001 County Line Road, Jackson, MS. This annual event is designed to engage the various clubs across the state of Mississippi to share their wares, highlight their hosted activities and events, and increase awareness of the organization to the public.

This year's convention, which was hosted by the 4th District, celebrated the rich heritage, spirit of excellence, and perseverance of MSFCWC, which continues to make a difference in the community, state, and nation.



Members of Mary Church Terrell Literary Club. standing, (L-R) Dr. Ramona Cork; Mrs. Terryce Walker; Mrs. Jacquelyn Staffney; Ms. Valerie Blue; Mrs. Alberta Smith; Dr. Jolanda Roby; and Dr. Brenda Roby; Seated (L-R) Attorney Rhonda Cooper, 1st Vice President; Dr. Candice Love Jackson, President; and Mrs. Leona Bishop, Second Vice President.



(L-R) Edna Caston, member of the Forward Lookers Club and Monocia Connors, President of the Fourth District of MSFCWC along with her husband.

All For One Line Dance Instructor Sallie Vaughn continues Shameka Shelton's gift of building bridges in the Jackson community

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

Line dancing is beneficial for all ages and fitness levels. A highly social activity, it encourages teamwork, helps people meet new people, and builds relationships. Providing a holistic workout, line dancing improves physical, mental, and social health. It improves heart health, relieves stress, lowers blood pressure and cholesterol, strengthens muscles and bone density, improves coordination and balance, and builds confidence.

Eight years ago, Shameka Shelton started All For One (AFO) Line Dance Organization at Roadmap Gym in Jackson, Miss. Membership increased soon thereafter, and officers were elected. Shelton became the president and owner of the organization's name and hand logo. Under her leadership, AFO was, and continues to be officially registered with the Mississippi Secretary of State Office.

AFO joined the Golden Key line dancers at the Fannie Lou Hamer Library in 2018. Under the direction of Lorraine Hubbard, Shelton taught two classes until 2023, the year she moved to Duluth, GA where she now resides. "She taught AFO on Thursdays and Golden Key on



Sustaining AFO line dancers. Top Center: Shameka Shelton, founder; Second Row (L-R): Sam Thompson; Annie Knox; Tim Ford (in mask); Evelyn Wade. Bottom Row: (L-R): Sallie Vaughn; Alice Davis; and Liz Turner.

Wednesdays. I took it upon myself to keep the AFO class going if my AFO dancers would do their part to help. I also agreed to help Ms. Hubbard if she would continue the Golden Key class. In short, both classes came together, and we dance together every Wednesday and every Thursday from 1:30-2:30," said Sallie Vaughn.

Line dancers learn a variety of dances fit for many tunes. Some that come to mind are "2 Step on My Haters;" "In the Middle;" "Can't Get Enough;" The Wobble;" "Boots on the Ground;" "Country Girl;" Zydeco Bounce;" "Ms. Jody's Boogie Slide;" "Work It;" "Cowboy Boogie;" "Try Mattie;" Juke

Joint Love;" and "Over at Fannie Mae's." Not only do they dance during class time, but they also dance at health fairs, nursing homes, and many other community sites during the year. "We have been well-received within the community. Our presence in the community has caused our class to increase in size. Our reception within the community is always positive," stated Vaughn.

It must be a good feeling when people find themselves in an atmosphere that is stress free. Vaughn explained that positive relations exist among the dancers. They get along very well, and there is "no drama." That's one of the things that the instructor admires most about the dancers.

Vaughn credits Shelton for lifelong experiences that she is sharing with the line dancers. "AFO and Golden Key line dancers have brought me so much joy. I have met a group of people that I probably would not have known had I not started line dancing," she said.

Vaughn labels Shelton a well-equipped line dance instructor with a big heart: "I owe a big debt of gratitude to Shameka Shelton. I learned a lot from her. She instilled in me the confidence that I could pick up where she left off and carry on."

At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

we're not just about providing health insurance. We're creating a strong, supportive community that empowers every Mississippian to live their healthiest life. We make managing your health easier by empowering you with the tools and support you need to take proactive steps toward maintaining and improving your health. Working together, we're ensuring quality healthcare and wellness opportunities are within reach for all. Because when you are at your best, Mississippi is too.

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

It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Mt. Olive

Continued from page 1

and the one before that had just 1 or none. Is it noteworthy that the clerk decided to order 75 absentee ballots for this election? Of the 58, 11 had no appropriate signature, at least 12 had been duplicated (photocopied by the town clerk), 5 were reportedly received by mail yet had no postmark. The ballots were acknowledged to have been “commingled.”

The count of the absentee ballots was stunning. Despite Hull winning slightly more election-day votes, the story was completely different when it came to the absentee votes. Of the 58, 51 went to Kelly, 6 went to Hull, and 1 was thrown out. The final numbers reported to the Secretary of State were 169 for Kelly and 126 for Hull. Forty-three votes separating the two top voter getters.

There’s more. The computers at City Hall were reportedly hacked several days before the election. There was no testimony that this had ever happened before in this town of less than 900 souls. During the trial it was referred to as a ransomware attack, but apparently no ransom was demanded. This attack on Mt. Olive City Hall computers was put forth by the town clerk as the reason why the absentee ballot list turned into the Circuit Clerk, as required by law, was incomplete. The Circuit Clerk, Melissa Duckworth dated absentee ballots in SEMS (State-wide Election Management System) as having been received on June 2, 2025, the day before the election, despite not knowing the actual dates the ballots were received.

Something else discovered at the trial was an abundance of amnesia. At least half, if not a majority of the dozen witnesses in the first two days of the trial, had problems with their memory. “I don’t recall,” and “I’m not aware,” were heard repeatedly, despite just five months separating the election and the trial. The questions the witnesses were asked were almost exclusively pertaining to their official duties, yet so many memories were spotty.

The trial went on until nearly 7PM November 25th, and until 4PM November 26th, then the judge convened a pow-wow with the attorneys, where it was decided that they would go home for Thanksgiving weekend and meet again Monday morning, December 1st, to determine the next steps of the trial. Both sides now have until December 15th to provide Judge Pickard with any information they believe should be considered before he makes his ruling.

Mumford

Continued from page 1

Medicaid expansion proposals, rural hospital funding, crime-prevention legislation, infrastructure allocations, and measures addressing public-school teacher shortages. Many of these issues have immediate and long-term implications for District 26.

In brief remarks after the results were an-

nounced, Mumford said she was “ready to get to work on day one” and pledged to bring the district’s priorities to the forefront of legislative debate. “This seat belongs to the people of District 26,” she said. “My responsibility is to carry their voices into the Capitol and ensure we never lose sight of the issues that

matter most.”

With the seat changing hands for the first time in more than three decades, residents and political analysts alike say all eyes will be on how Mumford shapes the district’s next chapter.

PHOTOS BY KEHINDE GAYNOR



Hope

Continued from page 1

have access to a suite of products and services to buy homes, finance businesses and manage their daily affairs.

Mayor John Horhn stated, “Today represents ‘Hope in Action.’ Hope’s investment in our city helps ensure that Jacksonians have access to the tools, training, and financial resources they need to build a prosperous future.” The mayor congratulated CEO Bill Bynum and his team on this great milestone. Attendees laughed when Horhn encouraged the community to support Hope Credit Union. He said, “Their heart is in the right place, and they have plenty of money! I can’t think of a better combination than that.”

Another speaker at the event was Sarah Skelton, chief finance officer of The Mississippi Children’s Museum and a strategic partner with HOPE. Skelton stated, more than 20 years ago Hope’s support of the museum was much more than financial contributions. She spoke

of the wise counsel and leadership they received from Hope throughout their enduring relationship. Skelton shared that Bynum had served as president of the Children’s Museum Board of Directors and that Richard Campbell served on their finance committee both helping them make some critical decisions. Skelton stated, “I am honored to help celebrate this grand opening.”

Linell Palmer, owner of Golden Shear Hair Designs, shared that he was humbled to be at the event. He spoke warmly of Bynum as a great leader, enthusiastically saying, “HOPE is Help.”

In serving as program guide, News Anchor, Maggie Wade Dixon of WLBT described Bynum as being very humbled. Just prior to bringing him to the podium she stated, “When speaking of someone as being humbled, Bill Bynum lives this: ‘Brighter futures begin with Hope. We couldn’t ask for a better leader than Bill Bynum.’”

Bynum in his remarks stated, “The Hope Economic Empowerment Center will be a place where community comes together to help people prosper.” Before going outside in the cold, he made an exciting announcement in encouraging individuals to join Hope Credit Union. He said, “We are waiving membership into Hope Credit Union for the month of December for all residents living in the Jackson Metro Area.”

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Executive Vice President, Angelique Rawls of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership presented HOPE with a plaque in honor of the celebration.

After the ribbon cutting, attendees were able to tour the Hope Economic Empowerment Center in which space will be made available for local groups to host meetings to discuss issues and solutions related to economic mobility in the community.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Prayer and Praise Rally held for Kamesha Mumford

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

When community comes together, bridges are built, gaps are closed, and unity prevails. Combined strength produces a successful or positive outcome. That strength is a winning record of progress.

Stronger Hope Baptist Church, shepherded by Pastor R. K. Moore, welcomed citizens to a Prayer and Praise Rally that urged voters to return to the polls, challenge naysayers, and cast their ballots for Kamesha Mumford for Mississippi State Senate District 26.

Serving as program guides were Giselle Gentry, Ph.D., director of music at New Hope Baptist Church and Jamison Stokes, Sr., Assistant Principal, Old Town Middle School. The event's overarching scriptures were John 15 - "The Vine and the Branches," Psalm 34 - "Blessing the Lord at all Times" and the book of Esther. These scriptures were intended to encourage candidate Mumford to remain steadfast, despite opposition, distractions, and bullying tactics. "God inhabits power and praise," said Stokes. "Thank you for being the woman that God created you to be," voiced Gentry.

Noted Pastor Moore, "She is a Christian and a professional who loves her husband and children. We pray for her. She is called upon by God. She is not just a candidate of choice, but she is the best candidate. She is about articulation, reaching across the aisle."

"She has managed the dirty politics with grace. I am proud to be her baby brother. This campaign has been under some pressure, but my sister has persevered like a diamond. She has made me incredibly proud, and I



Kamesha Mumford, candidate for Mississippi State Senate District 26, encourages audience to vote and why she is the best candidate. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



Family members and supporters surround Kamesha Mumford (fourth from left). PHOTO BY KEHINDE GAYNOR



Dr. Jerry Young, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



Family members and supporters surround Kamesha Mumford (fourth from left). PHOTO BY KEHINDE GAYNOR.



Pastor R. K. Moore, Stronger Hope Baptist Church PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

cannot wait to see what she is going to do next," said Bro. Sammy Brown Jr.

Emphasizing that God was in control of Esther's situation, Minister Rashida Walker - member of New Horizon Church International - indicated that God is in control of Kamesha Mumford's political situation. She continued, "God is guiding you in His faith. We have victory tonight. We are victorious in God."

Dr. Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, articulated that God has candidate Mumford's back, despite any traps to deter her from being the next senator for Mississippi State Senate District 26. Gesturing to all present, he commented: "This is the choir. We just do what we are supposed to do, and then we trust God. Kamesha is competent, committed, and compassionate."

Expressing feelings of am-

bivalence, Mumford received a standing ovation and thunderous applause when she thanked her family, community, and supporters. "Esther was a woman who was moved by divine purpose. I am not perfect, but everyday I strive to live by the power of love. Now, I am asking you to show your commitment because what you know is true about me. Together, we will choose politics, unity, and a new direction. On

Tuesday, let your vote be your power to shape our future. I am dedicated, committed, and ready to press forward."

Well-wishers surrounded candidate Mumford and her family as Pastor Orlando Franklin gave the benediction. He prayed for peace and an election free of conflict and confusion. Hence, he called for "an election of integrity."

Vikki D. Mumford referenced

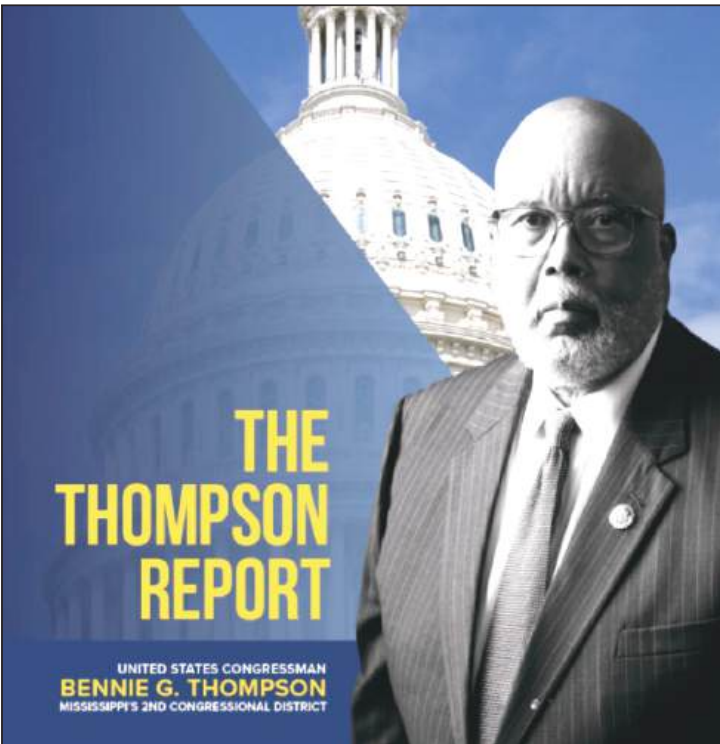
the event as a "soul stirring" one. "I believe this is a God ordained race and victory. Kamesha exemplifies all the traits that have been said and more. She is committed, competent, and caring. I am elated to see the number of pastors and supporters who have given their unwavering support to this family," she said.

See full story on our web site at www.mississippilink.com

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND KEHINDE GAYNOR



Congressman Bennie Thompson announces nearly \$10 million in disaster recovery investments for Delta Regional Communities



Mississippi's Second Congressional District eNewsletter

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced November 21, 2025 that the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) approved nearly \$10 million in Supplemental Disaster Recovery Funding (SDRF) to support communities impacted by major disaster declarations over the past two years. This federal investment will assist recovery and strengthen long-term resilience in communities

across Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Sharkey County, Mississippi, has been allocated \$2 million to improve critical road infrastructure along three major corridors severely damaged by the EF-4 tornado in March 2023. These roadways experienced significant structural failures, drainage system collapse, and extensive erosion—conditions that continue to pose safety risks for residents and emergency responders.



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-3552670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)

www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

SUNDAY
Worship Services
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. in person

Or you may worship with us via Facebook or our YouTube channel at CHMBC



Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

The Mississippi Link

For more information please call: 601-896-0084
or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net

Historic Juke Joint Makes 76 Year Anniversary - Dick's Place

The second oldest juke joint in Mississippi, in continuous operation since 1949



Dick's Place owner's Richard Anderson, Jr.



Daughter Valerie Anderson who served as MC.



Operator Miss Lorraine Henderson accepting tributes and flowers.



Roslyn Anderson, granddaughter of founder Richard Anderson, Sr., offers a toast.

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

Despite the wet and cold, about fifty people gathered at Dick's Place Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 3PM for a reunion – a celebration of the historic juke joints seventy-six-year anniversary. Steeped in proud tradition, the Anderson family makes it clear that the history of Dick's Place; how it came about, what it endured, and how it has continued to prosper – will not be forgotten or erased.

Sitting inconspicuously along the South Frontage Road in Clinton, Mississippi, Dick's Place has been a mainstay for residents of St. Thomas, Bolton, Clinton, Terry, Raymond, Edwards, and beyond – a safe place for African Americans to gather. Starting as a store selling cold drinks, beer, cheese, and cookies, it evolved into a club and then added a barbeque business. Just imagine a barbeque chicken plate for 75 cents, or a rib plate for \$1.25. When Interstate 20 was added, the original building had to be demolished, but a new building was built just a stone's throw away from the original and remains to this day.

Richard Anderson, Jr's daughter Valerie recounted three-time Grammy Award

winning bluesman Bobby Rush telling her at the 75th Anniversary of Dick's Place, that back in the day there were very few places where black people could go for food, and that he stopped at Dick's Place often because of that. She spoke about the business being targeted by law enforcement, yet her grandfather's determination to remain open and provide for his family prevailed.

Anderson spoke about his father, who passed in 1984, and about the challenges that he endured opening an African American business in 1949 in Mississippi. "My father was a bricklayer, and he was a transformative person – he kept adding on and expanding the building. He was deeply involved in the community. He got the Craftsman's Club started, the St. Thomas Water Association, the Head Start Center on S. Norrell Road. He also purchased property in St. Thomas, thereby making it possible for people to buy acreage affordably and eventually build homes. During the 50's and 60's, people couldn't go just anywhere to get food – the best thing you could do then was to pass through Clinton in a hurry because they were out to arrest black people. He had a lot of issues to deal with,

they mistreated him in any way they could, yet he succeeded. Selling whiskey was unlawful, but he did it anyway. The system was corrupt so there were shakedowns. It was tough."

In recognizing Miss Lorraine Henderson, he shared, "She has carried on the legacy of Dick's Place for over 30 years. She also faced consequences; she dealt with it and went on to do what she wanted to do. She came dutifully out here every day to open her business up and it was not easy, but she made it."

Henderson is simply one of a kind. She is at Dick's Place seven days a week, every week of the year. She is open every evening and often with flexible hours earlier in the day. She has seen it all over the years and runs a tight ship to deliver what customers have always relied on since day one, back in 1949 – a safe place to come, socialize, and be free from the rigors of daily life.

The jukebox in the back corner is filled with timeless classics from the likes of Shirley Brown, Denise LaSalle, Howlin Wolf, B.B. King, O.V. Wright, J.T. Watkins, Little Milton, Ms. Jody, and so many others. These days on Saturday and Sunday nights it's common to have DJ Drifter kick it up a

notch, getting the dance floor hoping. Large screen TV's allow patrons to keep up with the news, game shows, and of course, sports. At times you'll find a friendly card game, or that unmistakable smack of Dominos on a table.

At least two regular patrons at this year's anniversary have been coming to Dick's Place since near its beginnings. They were provided gifts, as well as two "first time" visitors, and several others who answered trivia questions correctly. A wonderful spread of food was provided, and a video montage was played following the meal – a trip down memory lane to be sure.

It's not easy making it to seventy-six, for anything or anybody, let alone an African American owned and operated business in Mississippi. A few months after the 73rd Anniversary, District 2 Congressman Bennie G. Thompson entered remarks about Dick's Place into the Congressional Record. His remarks can be viewed at <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/volume-169/issue-43/extensions-of-remarks-section/article/E181-2>, or in a framed copy at Dick's Place, 2625 S. Frontage Road, Clinton, MS, 39056.

True Light Baptist Church
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: 601.398.0915
WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG

THE Light Line PRAYER

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY
MORNING AT 6:00 AM
CALL: 559-671-2546

VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM



REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

@TRUELIGHTMBCHURCH

TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

Northwestern to pay \$75 million in deal with Trump administration to restore federal funding

The Associated Press

Northwestern University has agreed to pay \$75 million to the U.S. government in a deal with the Trump administration to end a series of investigations and restore hundreds of millions of dollars in federal research funding.

President Donald Trump’s administration had cut off \$790 million in grants in a standoff that contributed to university layoffs and the resignation in September of Northwestern president Michael Schill. The administration argued the school had not done enough to fight antisemitism.

Under the agreement announced Friday night, Northwestern will make the payment to the U.S. Treasury over the next three years. Among other commitments it also requires the university to revoke the so-called Deering Meadow agreement, which it signed in April 2024 in exchange for pro-Palestinian protesters ending their tent encampment on campus.

During negotiations, interim university president Henry Bienen said Northwestern re-



Signs are displayed outside a tent encampment at Northwestern University on April 26, 2024, in Evanston, Ill.
TERESA CRAWFORD/AP

fused to cede control over hiring, admissions, or its curriculum. “I would not have signed this agreement without provisions ensuring that is the case,” he said.

The agreement also calls

for Northwestern to continue compliance with federal anti-discrimination laws, develop training materials to “socialize international students” with the norms of a campus dedicated to open debate, and uphold a com-

mitment to Title IX by “providing safe and fair opportunities for women, including single-sex housing for any woman, defined on the basis of sex, who requests such accommodations and all-female sports, locker

rooms, and showering facilities.”

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the deal cements policy changes that will protect people on campus from harassment and discrimination.

“The reforms reflect bold leadership at Northwestern, and they are a roadmap for institutional leaders around the country that will help rebuild public trust in our colleges and universities,” McMahon said.

Trump has leveraged government control of federal research money to push for reforms at elite colleges he has decried as overrun by “woke” ideology.

The fine agreed to by Northwestern is the second-largest behind Columbia, which agreed in July to pay the government \$200 million to resolve a series of investigations and restore its funding. Brown and Cornell also reached agreements with the government to restore funding following antisemitism investigations.

Harvard, the administration’s primary target, remains in negotiations with the federal government over its de-

mands for changes to campus policies and governance. The Ivy League school sued over the administration’s cuts to its grant money and won a court victory in September when a federal judge ordered the government to restore federal funding, saying the Trump administration “used antisemitism as a smokescreen.”

This fall, the White House tried a different approach on higher education, offering preferential treatment for federal funds to several institutions in exchange for adopting policies in line with Trump’s agenda. The administration received a wave of initial rejections from some universities’ leadership, citing concerns that Trump’s higher education compact might supplant academic freedom.

The Associated Press’ education coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. AP is solely responsible for all content. Find AP’s standards for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at AP.org.

Trump’s Big ‘Ugly’ Bill strips Nursing of Professional Status as Black women across the nation brace for devastating consequences

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

The Trump administration has declared that nursing is not a professional degree, striking directly at the heart of America’s healthcare workforce and landing hardest on Black women, who make up nearly 13 percent of the national healthcare labor force and almost 10 percent of registered nurses. The administration frames the move as a technical adjustment to loan classifications. For Black women and the communities that rely on them, the consequences are far more severe.

“This is a gut punch for nursing,” Patricia Pittman of George Washington University stated. “Education from ADN to BSN and beyond is the single best way to retain nurses, especially in underserved communities.”

Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, nursing, physical therapy, physician assistants,



Female healthcare colleagues standing outside hospital

and other frontline health professions have been stripped of professional degree status. Students in these fields can borrow only \$20,500 per year with a total cap of \$100,000. Students in law, dentistry, medicine, and other protected fields can bor-

row up to \$50,000 per year and \$200,000 total. Nursing students report tuition and clinical training costs that far exceed the new caps, leaving many unable to continue their education.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing issued

a direct warning. “Excluding nursing disregards the rigorous education, licensure, and direct patient care that define our profession,” the organization stated. “This decision threatens the healthcare of patients in communities across the country.”

The nation already faces a shortage of hundreds of thousands of nurses. Graduate degrees are required for advanced practice roles. Without meaningful access to federal loans, fewer students will enter or complete these programs. Black women, who rely on student loans at far higher rates than white students, now face a barrier to financial mobility and advancement in the nursing profession.

Research shows that Black nurses often serve in underserved rural and urban communities. Studies of Black nurse practitioners describe persistent racism, heavy workloads, and limited institutional support. Participants in one national qualitative study described taking additional time to address inequities and care for patients facing social and economic barriers while contending with organizational barriers and burnout.

Kim Brundidge, a doctoral nursing student and practicing nurse, described the consequences for the next generation of providers. “If students are not able to afford advanced education, the quality and number of nurses entering the workforce will decline,” she said.

Local and national nursing groups are preparing challenges to the reclassification. Leaders across the field warn that the bill undermines the country’s ability to meet basic healthcare needs.

“In many communities across the country, advanced practice registered nurses ensure access to essential and high-quality care that would otherwise be unavailable,” Jennifer Mensik Kennedy of the American Nurses Association said. “Limiting nurses’ access to graduate education threatens the very foundation of patient care.”

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

e-Mail

CHECK ONE

☐ 1 year

☐ 2 year

☐ 3 year

\$50
1 year
subscription

\$100
2 year
subscription

\$150
3 year
subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 32 • Number 7

December 4 - 10, 2025

© copyright 2025. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Sports EditorTim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:

SAAPA

MISSISSIPPI PRESS
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES

75 YEARS

NPPA

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$50 per year; \$100 for two years or \$150 for three years.

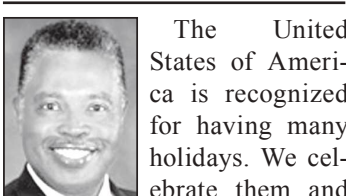
Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,
please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Did you have a Happy Thanksgiving despite the climate of fear that exists in this country?

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



The United States of America is recognized for having many holidays. We celebrate them and give honor to each of them. There are 11 permanent federal holidays that we celebrate in this country. The first holidays were New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are some holidays where food is involved, and I must admit those are my favorites. For example, we usually have barbecues when July 4th comes around.

There are even cooking contests for that national holiday to see who can prepare the best barbecue. Grills are fired up along with having ribs and chicken as the meats. According to the cooking critics, it's the ingredients in the sauce that make the taste so good. America just celebrated Thanksgiving, so family and friends gathered around the table to give thanks and to have some food. This Thanksgiving was different in some ways. If you were blessed to have bountiful food, then I hope you gave bountiful prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord. This most recent Thanksgiving should not have been taken for granted. Over the years, we begin to

take having a turkey, dressing, macaroni and cheese and other fixings for granted. Of course, there were other food items, and you always had enough. Yes, the food was important, and it was delicious. We ate all day and well into the night. To paraphrase Luther, it was never too much. Thanksgiving was also one of those holidays that brought family and friends together. Folks would travel distances to see each other and to have good fellowship. Aunts and uncles would simply pop up and bring dishes to eat, too. If you were fortunate enough recently to have your family members around the Thanksgiving table, then pause to give Him the praise and the honor

for making this happen. Today, we live in difficult and demanding times. As a result, having food and family around isn't what it used to be. Food in our America is now in short supply. Traditional access has been cut off. Getting government assistance has been shuttered for some with new rules and requirements. Reports say approximately 42 million people have been affected by these regulations. So, during this Thanksgiving many had to rely on alternative food supplies. Some families had to stand in line to receive their meals. The scene of parents and children waiting for food was repeated in many cities across this country. America, we

should be ashamed. Those in Washington DC who created this hurt and pain should cry out for forgiveness. Do you think they did? The same people who stood in line this Thanksgiving were sitting at tables during Thanksgiving 2024. What changed? Politicians began playing with the lives of citizens. Hunger does not have a color or a gender. The lingering effects of the government shutdown spilled over into Thanksgiving and made it unhappy. You see, people had less food and were missing family members. Too many children were left with empty stomachs and no smiles. Senior citizens were also at risk because of food

shortages. All around, this was simply a bad scene. The government has launched an initiative to go into certain cities and target people they believe are here illegally. If you are living in Memphis or New Orleans, you should feel uneasy. People who don't have their papers in order should be helped and not hindered. This administration in my opinion has no compassion regarding the immigration issue. Simply stated, they don't want to help them become legal citizens. America is a land of immigrants. That is a fact. Will upcoming holidays be filled with this type of meanness and retribution? Right now, that's a good question.

Praying for hope

The leadership lessons Jesse Jackson has given us are not poetic—they are practical, hard-won and urgently needed now

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



News of the Reverend Jesse Jackson's health struggles has stirred many. It has me praying. And it has me remembering the hard lessons he taught, shaped in the trenches of our people's ongoing fight for freedom. Look around the world, and it is easy to find charismatic voices rising amid liberation movements. Black America has been blessed with such figures across generations—perhaps because we have been cursed with a freedom struggle that never really ends. Through all that pain and hope, for nearly half a century, our most consequential and transformative leader has been the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. Some dismiss his leadership as style over substance. "Keep Hope Alive!" they say. Sometimes with reverence. Sometimes half-mockingly. When I hear that latter tone, I'm reminded how privileged a life one must lead to think hope is just a slogan and not sacred labor. They don't understand the discipline it takes to help a people—or a nation—maintain hope in the face of adversity. Last summer, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Jackson invited me to join him and his family in their box. I sat beside my old mentor and friend, holding his hand as Vice President Kamala Harris accepted the nomination for president. The symbolism of the location for the night was unmistakable. We were in the city that sent Barack Obama to the White House. But we were also in the city that decades before turn that empowered Jackson to show America the question was no longer whether it would elect a Black president—but when. He demonstrated that truth

not only through his presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988—campaigns that broke ceilings and forged coalitions—but through the generations of leaders he encouraged and inspired. The year after his last presidential run, Virginia elected its first Black governor, L. Douglas Wilder. New York elected its first Black mayor, David Dinkins. Both publicly named Jackson as someone who helped make their possibilities real. And just this past January, at Chicago's Martin Luther King Day celebration, his impact was visible from City Hall to the state Capitol—a reminder that his legacy is not nostalgia, but political infrastructure. A decade earlier, I was one of the few Black partners at any Silicon Valley venture-capital firm. I was told there had only been 36 Black men to hold such positions in the history of the Valley. Then Jackson showed up. He stood before the boards of some of the largest technology companies in the world and told them plainly they needed to open their doors—not because it was charity, but because it was smart business. Firms that had never once hired African American investors began doing so soon after. I asked one top executive if Jackson's public and private confrontations of their leaders had influenced that shift. He didn't hesitate: "He's right. We need to change." That's the core of Jackson's leadership—not just breaking barriers himself, but inspiring others to do so. He helped ordinary people see themselves as leaders and compelled those with resources to recognize their responsibility. In doing so, he became a beacon of hope and taught others to be beacons themselves. He continues to model that courageous hope even now. His leadership lessons still empower others to help transform our world for the better. In 2010, Jackson and I led a

delegation of African American leaders to Senegal to mark the 50th anniversary of its independence. Nearly every head of state on the continent was present including some notorious for human rights abuses. I froze, unsure how to engage them. Jackson did not. He walked forward, shaking their hands and hugging each with warmth. Later I pulled him aside. "I don't see how I can do that," I told him. He looked me in the eye. "Someday somebody's parent or wife will call me," he said. "A soldier. A missionary. A businessperson. And they will want help getting their loved one free. How will I be able to convince that president to free them if he doesn't know that I love and respect him as my brother?" It was a lesson in diplomacy that changed everything for me. But it was more than diplomacy. It was a Christian pastor living out Jesus's commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." This wasn't sentimentality. It was strategy. Integrity. Faith turned into action. I stepped back into that room and greeted every leader there—without judgment, without reservation. Not because each had earned it, but because transformation requires it. Because hope demands it. Because, as Jackson taught, the work is helping each other become our best—and never giving up on the faith that each of us can do better tomorrow than we did yesterday. As Jackson fights to regain his strength in Chicago, his lesson stands: hope is not a feeling you wait for. It is a discipline you practice. And he is still teaching us—by living it—that no matter how dark the moment may be, we must keep hope alive by continuing to fight for a better day. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and a former national president and CEO of the NAACP.

This is not the most wonderful time of the year

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



Isn't this the most wonderful time of the year? There's football, Christmas decorations, Eggnog (my favorite), Christmas bows, giftwrap, candy canes, cold temperatures, sweaters, scarves, boots, lit fireplaces whether gas or electric, listening to Christmas music, all the holiday cheer, and we sure can't forget Ole Saint Nick and his Reindeer. Or is it the most wonderful time of the year? According to various law offices, January is the number one month for divorce in America, and the contemplation of divorce begins during the holidays. During the holidays many married couples try to ignore or forget that their marriage is in serious trouble. In other words, this is not the most wonderful time of the year for many married couples. Many married couples only survive the holidays for the sake of their children, family obligations, to hide their issues from family/friends, for financial convenience, and some even hope that things will improve within their marriage, etc. Why do married couples divorce post holidays? The answer in many cases is that reality hits and many just cannot phantom being unhappily married for another year due to the following underlying reasons: lack of change – not willing to admit that change is needed/ refuse to change, lack of commitment, financial issues, infidelity, lack of empathy, lack of accountability, poor communication, lack of unity, lack of support, nagging and contention, lack of physical intimacy, addictions, and so much more. However, I want to challenge your contemplation regarding filing for divorce post holidays? If your reason for seeking a divorce does not pose any harm or danger to you and your children (domestic violence, sexual abuse) please answer the following: have you and your spouse done everything you can to prevent filing for divorce? Have you done any of the following: Pray for each other and pray together consistently Do you effectively communicate and listen to each other Pursued professional Marriage counseling Sought spiritual counseling from a spiritual leader Sought a support (accountable) group like church marriage ministry, family, etc.? Have you considered the cost and length of proceedings for divorce? Researched the chances of falling into poverty post-divorce?

Have you considered that second marriages are at higher risks of divorcing? Do you know what God feels about divorce? God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). According to God, yes, you can forgive your spouse and still pursue a divorce only when it comes to adultery. God made it clear that because man's hearts are hardened (not easy to forgive), He does grant divorce for infidelity if the spouse that was sinned against (cheated on) is not willing to reconcile – forgive and work towards restoration for the marriage (Mark 10:2-10). Have you exhausted every option that can help save your marriage? All in all, I know marriage is not easy! In fact, I believe that many or most married couples have contemplated divorcing their spouses at some point(s) throughout their marriage including me and my husband. I believe that many remain married because it's a choice – not an easy choice, but a made-up mind to fight for each other, fight for the marriage, and fight for their vows. The holidays can give a false vibe or a false sense of hope for marriage restoration. However, I am asking, whatever you did to experience joy, love, peace, and happiness during the holidays with your spouse – repeat it now, do it again, especially if you love your spouse. Will you be one of these couples to give your marriage one more chance? It is not a coincidence that you are reading this article or know someone who you need to share this article with. If there's anything in, you encouraging you to fight for your marriage then fight. Don't just give your marriage away. Don't let your marriage become another statistic. Don't let divorce become the norm in your family history, community, and society. In conclusion, many of us put forth every effort to fight for our jobs, health, and other initiatives due to its benefits – why not put forth the same fight and efforts for the person you said I do to years ago that you promised to love for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do you part . Moreover, many of the couples we witness celebrating 30 plus year wedding anniversaries and more believe it or not was just like you at some point – they however, decided to still say I do, post holidays. Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528



LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF JACKSON'S FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE TO REMOVE THE "FREEBOARD" REGULATION AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

WHEREAS, the governing authorities for the City of Jackson adopted ordinances related to the prevention of flood damage; and

WHEREAS, the ordinances are codified at Chapter 62 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, recommendations for the modification of the City of Jackson's flood plain ordinances were received from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development has considered the recommendations and determined that the best interest of the City of Jackson would be served by amending existing ordinances to implement the recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-7 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains a definition for dry floodproofing as follows: Dryflood proofing means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structure which reduce or eliminate flood damages to real estate or improved real estate property, water, and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents. Structures shall be floodproofed with a minimum of 18 inches of freeboard (more is recommended) in relation to the base flood elevation. Dry floodproofing of a pre-FIRM residential structure has not been substantially damaged or improved is allowed. Dry floodproofing of a post-FIRM residential building is not allowed. Nonresidential structures may be dry floodproofed in all flood zones with the exception of the coastal high hazard area or the coastal AE zone; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the definition of Dryflood proofing be amended to read as follows: Dryflood proofing means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structure which reduce or eliminate flood damages to real estate or improved real estate property, water, and sanitary facilities, structures, and their content.Dry floodproofing of a pre-FIRM residential structure has not been substantially damaged or improved is allowed. Dry floodproofing of a post-FIRM residential building is not allowed. Nonresidential structures may be dry floodproofed in all flood zones with the exception of the coastal high hazard area or the coastal AE zone; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-7 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains a definition for flood protection elevation as follows: Flood protection elevation means the base flood elevation plus the community freeboard. In areas where no base flood elevation exists from any authoritative source, the flood protection elevation can be historical elevations or base flood elevations determined and/or approved by the floodplain administrator plus freeboard; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the definition of flood protection elevation be amended as follows: Flood protection elevation means the base flood elevation. In areas where no base flood elevation exists from any authoritative source, the flood protection elevation can be historical elevations or base flood elevations determined and/or approved by the floodplain administrator; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-7 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains a definition for Freeboard as follows: Freeboard means a factor of safety, usually expressed in feet above the BFE, which applied for the purposes of floodplain management. Communities are encouraged to adopt at least an 18-inch freeboard to account for the one-foot rise built into the concept of designating a floodway, where floodways have not been designated; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-7 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to repeal and delete the definition of freeboard; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-32 (2)(a) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Upon establishment/placement of the lowest floor, before framing continues, to include any approved floodproofing method by whatever construction means, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of the NAVD or NGVD elevation of the lowest floor or floodproofed elevation, as built, in relation to mean sea level. Said certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer, who is authorized by the State of Mississippi to certify such information, and certified by same. When floodproofing is utilized for a particular building said certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or architect, who is authorized by the State of Mississippi to certify such information, and certified by same. Floodproofing shall be required to be 18 inches above the base flood elevation; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-32(2)(a) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: Upon establishment/ placement of the lowest floor, before framing continues, it shall be the duty

of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of the NAVD or NGVD elevation of the lowest floor or as built, in relation to mean sea level. Said certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer, who is authorized by the State of Mississippi to certify such information, and certified by the same; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-32(b) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Any work undertaken prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The floodplain administrator shall review the lowest floor and floodproofing elevation survey data submitted. The permit holder immediately and prior to further progressive work being permitted to proceed shall correct deficiencies detected by such review. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make said corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-32(b) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: Any work undertaken prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The floodplain administrator shall review the lowest floor elevation survey data submitted. The permit holder immediately and prior to further progressive work being permitted to proceed shall correct deficiencies detected by such review. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make said corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-32(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: In any lot or lots/ areas that have been removed from the special flood hazard area via a letter of map revision based on fill, and if the top of fill level is below the freeboard elevation, all new structures, additions to existing buildings or substantial improvement must meet the required community freeboard elevation; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-32(c) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended by repealing and deleting the section in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-41(5) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding, such facilities shall be located a minimum of 18 inches above the base flood elevation; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-41(5) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-41(13) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: New construction and substantial improvement of any building (both in and outside the SFHA) shall have the lowest floor (including basement) at least one foot above at the centerline of the designated street, unless the topography of the property does not allow for strict adherence as determined by the floodplain administrator; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-41(13) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: New construction and substantial improvement of any building (both in and outside the SFHA) shall have the lowest floor at the centerline of the designated street, unless the topography of the property does not allow for strict adherence as determined by the floodplain administrator; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Residential construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential building (including manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to no lower than 18 inches above the base flood elevation. Should foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, flood openings sufficient to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls of enclosures that are subject to flooding, shall be provided in accordance with standards of subsection (4) of this section. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so residential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: New construction and substantial improvement of any residential building (including manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor. Should foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, flood openings sufficient to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls of enclosures that are subject to flooding, shall be provided in accordance with standards of subsection (4) of this section. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so residential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are

located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(2) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Nonresidential construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or nonresidential building (including manufactured building) shall have the lowest floor including basement, elevated to no lower than 18 inches above the base flood elevation. Buildings located in all A zones may, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be floodproofed in lieu of being elevated provided that all areas of the building below the base flood elevation plus a minimum of 18 inches of freeboard are water tight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, and use structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy. Dry floodproofing is allowed only where flood velocities are less than or equal to five feet per second. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. A flood emergency operation plan and an inspection and maintenance plan must be provided by the design professional for the building. Such certification shall be provided to the floodplain administrator. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so nonresidential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(2) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: Nonresidential construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or nonresidential building (including manufactured building) shall have the lowest floor including basement. Buildings located in all A zones may, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be floodproofed in lieu of being elevated provided that all areas of the building below the base flood elevation are water tight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, and use structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy. Dry floodproofing is allowed only where flood velocities are less than or equal to five feet per second. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. A flood emergency operation plan and an inspection and maintenance plan must be provided by the design professional for the building. Such certification shall be provided to the floodplain administrator. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so nonresidential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(4)(d) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Property owners shall be required to execute a flood openings/venting affidavit acknowledging that all openings will be maintained as flood vents, and that the elimination or alteration of the openings in any way will violate the requirements of this section. Periodic inspections will be conducted by the floodplain administrator to ensure compliance; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(4)(d) be deleted in its entirety and the following language substituted: Property owners shall be required to execute and record with the structure's deed a flood openings/ venting affidavit acknowledging that all openings will be maintained as flood vents, and that the elimination or alteration of the openings in any way will violate the requirements of this Section. Periodic inspections will be conducted by the Floodplain Administrator to ensure compliance; and

WHEREAS Section 62-42(5) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: Detached storage buildings, sheds, or other like accessory improvements, excluding detached garages, carports, and boat houses, shall solely be used for parking of vehicles and storage. Such storage space shall not be used for human habitation and shall be limited to storage of items that can withstand exposure to the elements and have low flood damage potential. The storage space shall be constructed of flood-resistant or breakaway materials, and equipment and service utilities, such as electrical outlets, shall be limited to essential lighting and other incidental uses, and must be elevated or floodproofed. Flood openings in accordance with the standards of subsection (4) of this section shall also be required. These accessory structures shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters. Accessory improvements and other appurtenant structures shall be firmly anchored to prevent flotation that may result in damage to other structures; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(5) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended as follows: Detached storage buildings, sheds, or other like accessory improvements, excluding detached garages, carports, and boat houses, shall solely be used for parking of vehicles and storage and will be allowed up to no more than 499 square feet of unfinished,

non-partitioned and enclosed storage space. Such storage space shall not be used for human habitation and shall be limited to storage of items that can withstand exposure to the elements and have low flood damage potential. The storage space shall be constructed of flood-resistant or breakaway materials, and equipment and service utilities, such as electrical outlets, shall be limited to essential lighting and other incidental uses, and must be elevated or floodproofed. Flood openings in accordance with the standards of subsection (4) of this section shall also be required. These accessory structures shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters. Accessory improvements and other appurtenant structures shall be firmly anchored to prevent flotation that may result in damage to other structures; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(7)(a) (1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: 1. Elevated on a permanent foundation to have its lowest floor elevation to no lower than 18 inches above the base flood elevation; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(7)(a)(1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: 1. Elevated on a permanent foundation to have its lowest floor elevation; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(7)(b) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: All manufactured homes placed or substantially improved, excepting manufactured homes that have incurred substantial damage as a result of a flood, in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision must be elevated so that; and

WHEREAS it is recommended that Section 62-42(7)(b) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: All manufactured homes, excepting manufactured homes that have incurred substantial damage as a result of a flood, in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision must be elevated so that; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-42(7)(b)(1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances contains the following language: The lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated to no lower than 18 inches above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation support system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Section 62-42(7)(b)(1) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: The lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated to the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation support system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement. Dry stacked blocks (stacked without the use of mortar or cement to bond them together are not allowed within the Special Flood Hazard Area or; and

WHEREAS, Section 62-44 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances was reserved; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the following language be codified at Section 62-44 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances:

Sec. 62-44. – Standards for Shallow Flooding Zones

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as shallow flooding areas. These areas have flood hazards associated with base flood depths of one to three feet, where a clearly defined channel does not exist and the water path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate; therefore, the following provisions, in addition to the standards of Article 5, Sections A and B apply:

All new construction and substantial improvements of residential structures shall:

Have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the Flood Insurance Rate Map plus a minimum of two (2) feet if no depth number is specified, the lowest floor, including basement, shall be elevated to no less than three feet six inches above the highest adjacent grade.

All new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures shall:

Have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number in feet specified on the FIRM plus a minimum of two feet. If no depth number is specified, the lowest floor, including basement, shall be elevated to no less than three feet six inches above the highest adjacent grade.

Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities be completely floodproofed to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number in feet specified on the FIRM plus a minimum of two (2) feet so that any space below that level is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. Certification is required as stated in Article 5, Section B (2).

Adequate drainage paths shall be established around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that the following ordinance amendments are approved:

Section 62-7 Definitions:

Dryflood proofing means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structure which reduce or eliminate flood damages to real estate or improved real estate property, water, and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents. Dry floodproofing of a pre-FIRM residential structure has not been substantially damaged or improved is allowed. Dry floodproofing of a post-FIRM residential building is not allowed. Nonresidential structures may be dry floodproofed in all flood zones with the exception of the coastal high hazard area or the coastal AE zone.

Flood protection elevation means the base flood elevation. In areas where no base flood elevation exists from any authoritative source, the flood protection elevation can be historical elevations or base flood elevations determined and/or approved by the floodplain administrator.

Freeboard. Repealed.

Section 62-32(a) Upon establishment/ placement of the lowest floor, before framing continues, , it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of the NAVD or NGVD elevation of the lowest floor or as built, in relation to mean sea level. Said certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer, who is authorized by the State of Mississippi to certify such information, and certified by same. Section 62-32(b) Any work undertaken prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The floodplain administrator shall review the lowest floor elevation survey data submitted. The permit holder immediately and prior to further progressive work being permitted to proceed shall correct deficiencies detected by such review. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make said corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project.

Section 62-32(c) Repealed.

Section 62-41(5) Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

Section 62-41(13) of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows: New construction and substantial improvement of any building (both in and outside the SFHA) shall have the lowest floor at the centerline of the designated street, unless the topography of the property does not allow for strict adherence as determined by the floodplain administrator.

Section 62-42(1) New construction and substantial improvement of any residential building (including manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor. Should foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, flood openings sufficient to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls of enclosures that are subject to flooding, shall be provided in accordance with standards of subsection (4) of this section. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so residential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area.

Section 62-42(2) Nonresidential construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or nonresidential building (including manufactured building) shall have the lowest floor including basement. Buildings located in all A zones may, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be floodproofed in lieu of being elevated provided that all areas of the building below the base flood elevation are water tight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, and use structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy. Dry floodproofing is allowed only where flood velocities are less than or equal to five feet per second. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. A flood emergency operation plan and an inspection and maintenance plan must be provided by the design professional for the building. Such certification shall be provided to the floodplain administrator. New development proposals will be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, so nonresidential building sites, walkways, driveways, and roadways are located at natural grade with elevation not less than the base flood elevation and with evacuation routes leading directly out of the special flood hazard area.

Section 62-42(4)(d) Delete current language and substitute with: Property owners shall be required to execute and record with the structure's deed a flood openings/venting affidavit acknowledging that all openings will be maintained as flood vents, and that the elimination or alteration of the openings in any way will violate the requirements of this Section. Periodic inspections will be conducted by the Floodplain Administrator to ensure compliance.

Section 62-42(5) Detached storage

buildings, sheds, or other like accessory improvements, excluding detached garages, carports, and boat houses, shall solely be used for parking of vehicles and storage and will be allowed up to no more than 499 square feet of unfinished, non-partitioned and enclosed storage space. Such storage space shall not be used for human habitation and shall be limited to storage of items that can withstand exposure to the elements and have low flood damage potential. The storage space shall be constructed of flood-resistant or breakaway materials, and equipment and service utilities, such as electrical outlets, shall be limited to essential lighting and other incidental uses, and must be elevated or floodproofed. Flood openings in accordance with the standards of subsection (4) of this section shall also be required. These accessory structures shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters. Accessory improvements and other appurtenant structures shall be firmly anchored to prevent flotation that may result in damage to other structures.

Section 62-42(7)(a)(1) 1. Elevated on a permanent foundation to have its lowest floor elevation.

Section 62-42(7)(b) All manufactured homes, excepting manufactured homes that have incurred substantial damage as a result of a flood, in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision must be elevated so that: and

Section 62-42(7)(b)(1) The lowest floor of the manufactured home is elevated to base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation support system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement. Dry stacked blocks (stacked without the use of mortar or cement to bond them together are not allowed within the Special Flood Hazard Area. or

Section 62-44-Standards for Shallow Flooding Zones.

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as shallow flooding areas. These areas have flood hazards associated with base flood depths of one to three feet, where a clearly defined channel does not exist and the water path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate; therefore, the following provisions, in addition to the standards of Article 5, Sections A and B apply.

All new construction and substantial improvements of residential structures shall:

Have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the Flood Insurance Rate Map plus a minimum of two (2) feet if no depth number is specified, the lowest floor, including basement, shall be elevated to no less than three feet six inches above the highest adjacent grade.

All new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures shall:

Have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number in feet specified on the FIRM plus a minimum of two feet. If no depth number is specified, the lowest floor, including basement, shall be elevated to no less than three feet six inches above the highest adjacent grade.

Together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities be completely floodproofed to or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number in feet specified on the FIRM plus a minimum of two (2) feet so that any space below that level is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. Certification is required as stated in Article 5, Section B (2).

Adequate drainage paths shall be established around structures on slopes to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its passage and publication unless the governing authority determines that it should become effective immediately due to the immediate and temporary preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or for other good cause. Such a determination must be adopted by a unanimous vote of all members of the governing body.

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Brown-Thomas seconded.

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

ATTENT: Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting October 7, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 17-25".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of November 2025.



LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING MOBILE FOOD VENDING ORDINANCE TO ADD THE ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF MOBILE TENT VENDOR, ESTABLISH FEES FOR EACH CLASS OF VENDOR, AND INCLUDE PROVISIONS ON SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICT.

WHEREAS, Section 21-17-5 of the Mississippi Code authorizes the governing authorities of municipalities to adopt ordinances with respect to municipal affairs, property, and finances, which are not inconsistent with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other statute or law of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Section 21-17-5 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 also gives municipalities the power to alter, modify, and repeal ordinances; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the authority granted it by Section 21-17-5 of the Mississippi Code, the governing authorities for the City of Jackson passed ordinances related to the permitting of mobile food vendors; and

WHEREAS, the mobile food vending ordinances are codified in the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances at Chapter 66 in Sections 76 through 81; and

WHEREAS, the current mobile food vending ordinances do not accommodate mobile vendors or canopies, which may be utilized by tents at fairs, festivals, parades, concerts, or similar public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development recommends that the mobile food vending ordinances be amended to accommodate the use of mobile tents or canopies; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development recommends that permitting fees for mobile food vendors be established based on the various categories of vendor; and

WHEREAS, the current version of Section 66-77- Definitions. of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances reads as follows:

Sec. 66-77. - Definitions.

The following words and phrases, whenever used herein, shall be construed as defined in this section:

Mobile food vendor means any person who sells food and/or beverages from a mobile pushcart or motorized mobile food preparation vehicle on a consistent basis and for a period of more than 15 days each calendar year.

Mobile food preparation vehicle means any motorized vehicle that includes a self-contained kitchen in which food is prepared, processed or stored and used to sell and dispense food to the consumer. The unit must be on wheels (excluding boats and trailers) at all times. This definition does not include pushcarts.

Mobile pushcart means any portable vending device, pushcart or other wheeled vehicle or device which may be moved without the assistance of a motor and which is not required to be licensed and registered by the department of transportation, used for the displaying, storing or transporting of food offered for sale by a vendor. Said cart may be up to four feet in width [and] six feet in length, excluding auxiliary items such as handles or fenders, or otherwise the cart shall not occupy space greater than a total of 24 square feet.

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending that Section 66-77- Definitions. of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 66-77. - Definitions.

The following words and phrases, whenever used herein, shall be construed as defined in this section:

Mobile food vendor means any person who sells food and/or beverages from a mobile pushcart, mobile tent or motorized mobile food preparation vehicle on a consistent basis and for a period of more than 15 days each calendar year.

Mobile food preparation vehicle means any motorized vehicle that includes a self-contained kitchen in which food is prepared, processed or stored and used to sell and dispense food to the consumer. The unit must be on wheels (excluding boats and trailers) at all times. This definition does not include pushcarts.

Mobile pushcart means any portable vending device, pushcart or other wheeled vehicle or device which may be moved without the assistance of a motor and which is not required to be licensed and registered by the department of transportation, used for the displaying, storing or transporting of food offered for sale by a vendor. Said cart may be up to four feet in width [and] six feet in length, excluding auxiliary items such as handles or fenders, or otherwise the cart shall not occupy space greater than a total of 24 square feet.

Mobile tent means a not permanently anchored, temporary structure, such as a canopy or tent, used for the on-site preparation and sale of food and beverages by licensed caterers or for the sale of previously prepared food and beverages during parades, festivals, concerts, and similar public gatherings.

WHEREAS, the current version of Section 66-78. - Permits Required to Use Public Sidewalks for Mobile Food Vending.

(a) All mobile food vendors must obtain and maintain a permit for each mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle operated. All applications for permit renewal must be filed yearly. The application shall be made with the signs and licenses division of the office of code services in the planning and development department. The application may be reviewed by any department of the city as may be necessary or convenient to determine whether the application is

complete or whether the permit should be granted. Permit applications shall contain the following information:

The name, mailing address, physical address, telephone number(s), and email address of th applicant(s). If any applicant is anything other than a natural person, then all documents related to the creation and maintenance of the entity such as articles of incorporation and any similar relevant documents shall be included.

A valid City of Jackson business permit.

A food vending permit from the Mississippi Department of Health.

A scaled sketch plan or photographs showing the proposed mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle dimensions, along with the applicable license or registration and vehicle identification number of any vehicle licensed or registered with the state.

A list of products to be sold.

Proof of a valid insurance policy that provides minimum liability coverage of \$500,000.00 per mobile food preparation vehicle and \$500,000.00 per mobile pushcart, with the city named as an additional insured.

A written indemnity agreement that will hold harmless the city, its officers, and employees, for any loss or liability or damage, including costs, for bodily injury or property damage sustained by a person as a result of the negligent installation, use, or maintenance of a permitted space.

Copies of all letters and other notices from any governmental, quasi-governmental, professional, or business association or entity, related directly or indirectly to alleged or actual improper conduct in the food service business, issued to applicant or any person who will have responsibility for operations of the mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle for which a permit is requested. This shall include all related response and follow-up documents showing any results, findings or actions.

The dates, jurisdiction, court, and disposition of the following:

All felony charges related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant; and

All misdemeanors and violations directly or indirectly related to food, food preparation, permit operations, and/or business operations, related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant.

Such other additional information required by law, rule, or ordinance, or that any department of the city or city council, or the permit applicant reasonably deems appropriate to assist the city in determining whether the permit should be granted. The applicant shall be provided reasonable time to supplement the application.

(b) No public vending permit or public vending management contract shall convey any interest in the real property under the jurisdiction of the City of Jackson which is identified in any permit or contract and such permit shall only convey the right to use the property for the purposes allowed in this article.

(c) Permits cost \$500.00 per year which covers the administrative cost of processing the application and regulating each mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle.

(d) Permit holders may be required to remove private materials or accessories to allow street, sidewalk, or utility access for emergency and maintenance operation or both.

(e) This permit does not allow permit holders to operate within 300 feet of any public space during city appointed special events without proper notarized written authorization from the special event organizers. This notarized written authorization shall be posted while operating during the special event.

(f) The vendor shall not receive compensation for relocating.

(g) The permit must be displayed on the mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle at all times.

(h) Permits are non-transferable.

(i) A damaged or destroyed mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle may be replaced if and only if approval for its replacement is obtained from the departments planning and development. Any such replacement pushcart or vehicle must be of substantially the same type, size, and dimension and with the same general characteristics as the original. Such replacement may be disallowed if the original vendor permit would not have approved the use of the replacement pushcart or food preparation vehicle.

(j) Any permit granted pursuant to this article shall be nonexclusive. The city may grant any number of such permits as the city deems appropriate. The grant of a permit shall not limit or abridge any power or authority of the city and shall not limit the authority of the city to commence appropriate civil, criminal, or other enforcement actions. The city retains full authority to amend the ordinances, rules and regulations that apply to any permit.

(k) The city may revoke and terminate the permit in the event the vendor violates any term, condition, or provision of the permit, the Jackson Code of Ordinances and/or zoning ordinances, state and/or federal law, or if the business license issued by the city for the permitted activity is revoked. The procedures for revoking or terminating a permit shall be the same as revoking or terminating a business license. The revocation may be sought as a remedy in a civil action. The vendor may terminate or surrender the permit at will any time prior to the expiration of the permit by providing written notice to the signs and license division of the office of code services in the planning and development department. Termination of the permit shall not operate to relieve the vendor of the obligation to release, hold harmless, and indemnify the city and its officers, agents, and employees.

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and

Economic Development is recommending that Section 66-78. Permits required to use public sidewalks for mobile food vending. of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 66-78. - Permits Required to Use Public Sidewalks for Mobile Food Vending.

(a) All mobile food vendors must obtain and maintain a permit for each mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle operated. The application shall be made with the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Economic Development. The application may be reviewed by any department of the city as may be necessary or convenient to determine whether the application is complete or whether the permit should be granted. Permit applications shall contain the following information:

The name, mailing address, physical address, telephone number(s), and email address of the applicant(s). If any applicant is anything other than a natural person, then all documents related to the creation and maintenance of the entity such as articles of incorporation and any similar relevant documents shall be included.

A valid City of Jackson business permit.

A food vending permit from the Mississippi Department of Health.

A scaled sketch plan or photographs showing the proposed mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle dimensions, along with the applicable license or registration and vehicle identification number of any vehicle licensed or registered with the state.

A list of products to be sold.

Proof of a valid insurance policy that provides minimum liability coverage of \$500,000.00 per mobile food preparation vehicle, \$500,000 for mobile tent, and \$500,000.00 per mobile pushcart, with the City of Jackson named as an additional insured.

A written indemnity agreement that will hold harmless the city, its officers, and employees, for any loss or liability or damage, including costs, for bodily injury or property damage sustained by a person as a result of the negligent installation, use, or maintenance of a permitted space.

Copies of all letters and other notices from any governmental, quasi-governmental, professional, or business association or entity, related directly or indirectly to alleged or actual improper conduct in the food service business, issued to applicant or any person who will have responsibility for operations of the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle for which a permit is requested. This shall include all related response and follow-up documents showing any results, findings or actions.

The dates, jurisdiction, court, and disposition of the following:

All felony charges related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant; and

All misdemeanors and violations directly or indirectly related to food, food preparation, permit operations, and/or business operations, related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant.

Such other additional information required by law, rule, or ordinance, or that any department of the city or city council, or the permit applicant reasonably deems appropriate to assist the city in determining whether the permit should be granted. The applicant shall be provided reasonable time to supplement the application.

(b) No public vending permit or public vending management contract shall convey any interest in the real property under the jurisdiction of the City of Jackson which is identified in any permit or contract and such permit shall only convey the right to use the property for the purposes allowed in this article.

(c) The cost of a permit for a mobile food preparation vehicle is \$300.00. The cost of a permit for a mobile pushcart is \$150.00, and the cost of a permit for a mobile tent is \$300.00 per event. Permits for mobile food preparation vehicles and mobile pushcarts may be renewed annually for the same fee as the initial permit. The permitting fees cover the administrative costs associated with processing the applications and regulating mobile food preparation vehicles, mobile pushcarts, and mobile tents.

(d) Permit holders may be required to remove private materials or accessories to allow street, sidewalk, or utility access for emergency and maintenance operation or both.

(e) This permit does not allow permit holders to operate within 300 feet of any public space during city appointed special events without proper notarized written authorization from the special event organizers. This notarized written authorization shall be posted while operating during the special event.

(f) The vendor shall not receive compensation for relocating.

(g) The permit must be displayed on the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle at all times.

(h) Permits are non-transferable.

(i) A damaged or destroyed mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle may be replaced if and only if approval for its replacement is obtained from the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Development. Any such replacement mobile pushcart mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle must be of substantially the same type, size, and dimension and with the same general characteristics as the original. Such replacement may be disallowed if the Zoning Division would not have approved the use of the replacement mobile pushcart, mobile food preparation vehicle, or mobile tent on an original application.

(j) Any permit granted pursuant to this article shall be nonexclusive. The city

may grant any number of such permits as the city deems appropriate. The grant of a permit shall not limit or abridge any power or authority of the city and shall not limit the authority of the city to commence appropriate civil, criminal, or other enforcement actions. The city retains full authority to amend the ordinances, rules and regulations that apply to any permit.

(k) The city may revoke and terminate the permit in the event the vendor violates any term, condition, or provision of the permit, the Jackson Code of Ordinances and/or zoning ordinances, state and/or federal law, or if the business license issued by the city for the permitted activity is revoked. The procedures for revoking or terminating a permit shall be the same as revoking or terminating a business license. The revocation may be sought as a remedy in a civil action. The vendor may terminate or surrender the permit at will any time prior to the expiration of the permit by providing written notice to the signs and license division of the office of code services in the planning and development department. Termination of the permit shall not operate to relieve the vendor of the obligation to release, hold harmless, and indemnify the city and its officers, agents, and employees.

(l) A photo of the tent or canopy to be used for tent vendors.

(m) If heat, gas, or flame will be utilized, a report of the fire department's inspection.

(n) A copy of the Mississippi State Department of Health's inspection if perishable food will be sold.

(o) Permits must be renewed annually thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the permit.

WHEREAS, the current version of Section 66-79. - Location and operation. of the Code of Ordinances reads as follows:

Sec. 66-79. Location and operation.

(a) Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles shall only conduct business in designated areas approved by the department of public works and the department of planning and development. These areas include NMU 1—neighborhood mixed use districts, CMU 1—community mixed use districts, C4—central business district, UTC—urban town center mixed use districts, Old Capitol Green district, and SUD—special use districts. All other areas must receive prior approval by the department of public works and the department of planning and development. The mobile food vendor is responsible for initiating a request to utilize such locations, and the department of public works and the department of planning and development shall have complete discretion as to which locations to approve considering the needs of traffic, pedestrians, public safety, public works, public convenience, the general uses of adjacent private property, and any other factor that is proper and lawful for the city to consider in approving or disapproving such locations. The City of Jackson Police and Fire Departments shall have concurrent authority to oversee locations and setup of mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles. If an applicant is denied and wishes to appeal his grievance, he may request an order approving his application to the city council at a regular scheduled meeting and said item will be considered “approved or disapproved.”

(b) Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles shall conform to the following regulations regarding location and operation:

Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must be located at least 300 feet in all directions from the entrance to any non-mobile business selling food unless the owner of the other business gives notarized written permission for the infringement of the no-vending area. Proof of said permission must be filed with the signs and licenses division.

Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must not be locked or attached to trees, garbage receptacles, or street furniture.

Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within 20 feet of any bus stop.

Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within three feet of a building or structure unless the sidewalk is not less than 11 feet wide.

Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within any area which would block the view of traffic or traffic signals or traffic signs.

(6) Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within ten feet of any fire hydrant.

(c) In no event shall any mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle, display device, or accessory container be located inside any public building or structure or at any place the general public is prohibited.

(d) Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may only be operated between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. Cleanup and removal of the pushcart or vehicle must be completed by 3:30 a.m.

(e) The operators must be present at all times.

(f) Mobile food vendors are responsible for all waste and trash removal. The containment area must be kept clear of grease, trash, paper, cups or cans associated with the operation. No liquid waste or grease is to be disposed of in tree pits or onto sidewalks, streets, or other public places.

(g) Mobile food vendors shall not vend from mobile vending units within 300 feet or elementary, middle or high school grounds from one hour before schools starts, during the time school is in session, or one hour after regular school hours ends.

(h) The mobile food vendor shall contain all refuse, trash and litter within the mobile food service unit or within a small moveable trash can maintained by the vendor, and located adjacent to the mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle in such a manner as not to block or otherwise obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The vendor

shall be responsible for the proper disposal of such refuse, trash, and litter, and shall place it in the public trash container, or in any private container with proper permission. The vendor is responsible for all litter and trash within 15 feet of the mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle at any time the vendor is selling or offering to sell any merchandise or service.

(i) The mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle must have self-contained utilities and shall not use the city's utilities or private utilities that are not self-contained and integral to the vendor unit.

(j) No mobile food vendor shall sell or attempt to sell any item to the occupant of any motor vehicle, unless it is parked in a lawful parking space. Parking a mobile vending unit on commercially zoned, private property is permitted with written, notarized, permission from the owner and toilet facilities that are available and convenient. The mobile vending unit must be moved daily.

(k) Every mobile food vendor shall keep records utilizing generally accepted accounting practices for the purposes of compliance with all federal, state and local tax laws.

(l) All approved mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must pay the two percent sales tax required by all food providers in the City of Jackson, along with all other tax and licensing fees required by the State of Mississippi.

(m) All approved mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must be licensed businesses within the City of Jackson with all operations pertinent to the mobile pushcart or vehicle operated within the City of Jackson.

(n) All mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must be issued a state tax number by the Mississippi Department of Revenue designating them as a City of Jackson business.

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending that Section 66-79. - Location and operation. of the Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 66-79. Location and operation.

(a) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents and mobile food preparation vehicles shall only conduct business in designated areas approved by the Department of Public Works and the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Development. These areas include those areas zoned commercial; the C80 Corridor; NMU 1 - neighborhood mixed use district , pedestrian oriented) CMU 1 - community mixed-use district -pedestrian oriented, C4—(Central Business District), UTC - urban town center mixed-use districts, Old Capitol Green Mixed Use District, and SUD—special use districts. All other areas must receive prior approval of the Public Works and the Planning and Development Departments. The mobile food vendor is responsible for initiating a request to utilize such locations, and the department of public works and the department of planning and development shall have complete discretion as to which locations to approve considering the needs of traffic, pedestrians, public safety, public works, public convenience, the general uses of adjacent private property, and any other factor that is proper and lawful for the city to consider in approving or disapproving such locations.

(b) The City of Jackson Police and Fire Departments shall have concurrent authority to oversee locations and setup of mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles. If an applicant is denied and wishes to appeal his grievance, he may request an order approving his application to the city council at a regular scheduled meeting and said item will be considered “approved or disapproved.”

(c) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles shall conform to the following regulations regarding location and operation:

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be located at least 300 feet in all directions from the entrance to any non-mobile business selling food unless the owner of the other business gives notarized written permission for the infringement of the no-vending area. Proof of said permission must be filed with the signs and licenses division. Proof of waiver must be submitted annually. These provisions shall not apply for city-sanctioned parades or festivals if the vendor has (a) written approval from the event organizer and (b) a temporary operating permit from the Office of Planning and Development.

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must not be locked or attached to trees, garbage receptacles, or street furniture.

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within 20 feet of any bus stop.

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within three feet of a building or structure unless the sidewalk is not less than 11 feet wide.

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within any area which would block the view of traffic or traffic signals or traffic signs.

Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within ten feet of any fire hydrant.

(d) In no event shall any mobile pushcart, mobile tents, or mobile food preparation vehicle, display device, or accessory container be located inside any public building or structure or at any place the general public is prohibited.

(e) Mobile pushcart, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may only be operated between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. unless the event permit designates specific hours. If the permit specifies designated hours, then the vendor must adhere to the designated hours. Cleanup and removal of the pushcart vehicle or tent must be completed by 11:30 p.m. or thirty minutes following the last hour specified by the permit when designated.

(f) The operators must be present at all times.

(g) Mobile food vendors are responsible for all waste and trash removal. The containment area must be kept clear of grease, trash, paper, cups or cans associated with the operation. No liquid waste or grease is to be disposed of in tree pits or onto sidewalks, streets, or other public places.

(h) Mobile food vendors shall not vend from mobile vending units within 300 feet of elementary, middle or high school grounds from one hour before schools start, during the time school is in session, or one hour after regular school hours ends.

(i) The mobile food vendor shall contain all refuse, trash and litter within the mobile food service unit or within a small moveable trash can maintained by the vendor, and located adjacent to the mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle in such a manner as not to block or otherwise obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The vendor shall be responsible for the proper disposal of such refuse, trash, and litter, and shall place it in the public trash container, or in any private container with proper permission. The vendor is responsible for all litter and trash within 15 feet of the mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle at any time the vendor is selling or offering to sell any merchandise or service.

(j) The mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle must have self-contained utilities and shall not use the city's utilities or private utilities that are not self-contained and integral to the vendor unit.

(k) No mobile food vendor shall sell or attempt to sell any item to the occupant of any motor vehicle, unless it is parked in a lawful parking space. Parking a mobile vending unit on commercially zoned, private property is permitted with written, notarized, permission from the owner if toilet facilities are available and convenient. The mobile vending unit must be moved daily.

(l) No speakers or other noise production devices are allowed. This does not apply to vendor parks.

(m) Every mobile food vendor shall keep records utilizing generally accepted accounting practices for the purposes of compliance with all federal, state and local tax laws.

(n) All approved mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must pay the two percent sales tax required by all food providers in the City of Jackson, along with all other tax and licensing fees required by the State of Mississippi.

(o) All approved mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be licensed businesses within the City of Jackson with all operations pertinent to the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle operated within the City of Jackson.

(p) All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be issued a state tax number by the Mississippi Department of Revenue designating them as a City of Jackson business.

(q) The permit must be visibly displayed during all hours of operation.

(r)Traffic, pedestrian walkways, and utilities may not be impeded.

(s) All state retail tax and health laws and regulations must be followed.

(t) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must comply with all local, state, and federal rules regarding sanitation and protection of food from airborne contamination.

(u) Sales of goods are limited to food and beverage. The sale of beer, wine and alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

(v) Mobile food vendors may place a maximum of three coolers within their containment area so long as the coolers are neatly stacked to avoid visual clutter.

(w) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not be store parked or left overnight on city property.

(x) All permit applicants must operate an existing licensed restaurant within the City of Jackson or have a central kitchen approved by the Mississippi Department of Health for food service.

WHEREAS, the current version of Section 66-80. - Design standards. of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances reads as follows:

Sec. 66-80. Design standards.

All mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must meet the following design standards:

All mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must be self-contained. This requires that the pushcart or food preparation vehicle is not connected or attached to any building or structure, and does not receive power from any building by means of wires, hoses, or other connections.

(2) Umbrellas or canopies must be attached to the pushcart or vehicle and must not exceed eight feet in height above grade. Maximum diameter of canopies and umbrellas shall not exceed six feet and shall not interfere with pedestrian movement. No mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle shall have more than two umbrellas.

All signage on mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles shall comply with the City of Jackson Sign Ordinance. No freestanding signage is permitted.

(4) Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles must comply with all local, state, and federal rules regarding sanitation and protection of food from airborne contamination.

Sales of goods are limited to food and beverage.



LEGAL

<p>ORDINANCE AMENDING MOBILE FOOD VENDING ORDINANCE TO ADD THE ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF MOBILE TENT VENDOR, ESTABLISH FEES FOR EACH CLASS OF VENDOR, AND INCLUDE PROVISIONS ON SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICT. (CONTINUED)</p> <p>Mobile food vendors may place a maximum of three coolers within their containment area so long as the coolers are neatly stacked to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>No accessory container shall be more than three feet from the unit.</p> <p>Accessory containers must be made of hard substances such as hard plastic or a metal and may not be made by expanded polystyrene plastic, paper, paperboard, or cardboard.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts and mobile food preparation vehicles may not be stored, parked or left overnight on city property.</p> <p>All permit applicants must operate an existing licensed restaurant within the City of Jackson or have a central kitchen approved by the Mississippi Department of Health for food service.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending that Section 66-80.-Design standards, of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:</p> <p>Sec. 66-80. Design standards.</p> <p>All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must meet the following design standards:</p> <p>All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be self-contained. This requires that the pushcart, tent or food preparation vehicle is not connected or attached to any building or structure, and does not receive power from any building by means of wires, hoses, or other connections.</p> <p>Umbrellas or canopies must be attached to the pushcart tent or vehicle and must not exceed eight feet in height above grade. Maximum diameter of canopies and umbrellas shall not exceed six feet and shall not interfere with pedestrian movement. No mobile pushcart mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle shall have more than two umbrellas.</p> <p>All signage on mobile pushcarts mobile tents and mobile food preparation vehicles shall comply with the City of Jackson Sign Ordinance. No freestanding signage is permitted.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must comply with all local, state, and federal rules regarding sanitation and protection of food from airborne contamination.</p> <p>Mobile food vendors may place a maximum of three coolers within their containment area so long as the coolers are neatly stacked to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>No accessory container shall be more than three feet from the unit.</p> <p>Accessory containers must be made of hard substances such as hard plastic or a metal and may not be made by expanded polystyrene plastic, paper, paperboard, or cardboard.</p> <p>Mobile food preparation vehicles may not have exterior plug-ins, and visual clutter must be minimal.</p> <p>Mobile tents may not exceed a 10 ft x 10 ft footprint unless the event allows a larger size. The canopy must be flame-retardant. The use of offsite power is prohibited absent approval by the Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Jackson Fire Department.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the current version of Section 66-81.- Violations and penalties. of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances reads as follows:</p> <p>Sec. 66-81. Violations and penalties.</p> <p>All mobile food vending must be performed in compliance with said ordinance. Failure to abide by said ordinance shall result in the following:</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$150.00 for a first violation.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$250.00 for a second violation within one year of any prior violation.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for a third or more violation within one year of the first.</p> <p>Any offense shall be considered a misdemeanor and is subject to being cited by any authorized law enforcement official in the City of Jackson or with authority to do so in the City of Jackson.</p> <p>Violation of this article may result in the suspension or revocation of any city permit or license issued to the owner or operator of the mobile pushcart or mobile food preparation vehicle.</p> <p>Each day on which an infraction of the ordinance occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation.</p> <p>All fines collected shall go to the city's general fund.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending that Section 66-81 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:</p>	<p>Sec. 66-81. Violations and penalties.</p> <p>(a) All mobile food vending must be performed in compliance with said ordinance. Failure to abide by said ordinance shall result in the following:</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$150.00 for a first violation, which does not constitute operating with a permit.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$250.00 for a second violation within one year of any prior violation if the violation does not constitute operating without a permit.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for a third or more violation within one year of the first and revocation of permit for violations which do not constitute operating without a permit.</p> <p>A fine of \$500 and impoundment of equipment for operating without a permit.</p> <p>Operating in violation of health and fire codes will result in immediate closure and revocation of the permit.</p> <p>(b) Any offense shall be considered a misdemeanor and is subject to being cited by any authorized law enforcement official in the City of Jackson or with authority to do so in the City of Jackson.</p> <p>(c) Violation of this article may result in the suspension or revocation of any city permit or license issued to the owner or operator of the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle.</p> <p>(d) Each day on which an infraction of the ordinance occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation.</p> <p>(e) All fines collected shall go to the city's general fund.</p> <p>(f) A permit may be revoked if it is determined that a false or misleading application was submitted.</p> <p>(g) A permit may be revoked for violating state or local safety or sanitation laws and regulations.</p> <p>WHEREAS, Article III.- Mobile Food Vending, Chapter 66 of the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances does not contain a provision addressing severability and conflict; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending that the following provisions be added to the ordinance governing severability and conflict:</p> <p>Severability. If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the same shall not operate to invalidate other provisions of the ordinance. The ordinance will remain in effect but for the invalid provision.</p> <p>Conflict. With the exception of transit vendor ordinances or other ordinances related to mobile service vendors, mobile holiday vendors, and mobile tent vendors engaged in the selling of non-food items, this ordinance shall control and govern conflicts and inconsistencies existing in other ordinances of the City of Jackson.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the recommended amendments and additions to the mobile food vending ordinances are reasonable and protect public health while promoting the economic interests of the City of Jackson; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the recommended amendments and additions are not inconsistent with the Mississippi Constitution, statutes of the State of Mississippi, or any other law of the State of Mississippi.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that the following ordinance amendments are approved:</p> <p>Sec. 66-77. - Definitions.</p> <p>The following words and phrases, whenever used herein, shall be construed as defined in this section:</p> <p>Mobile food vendor means any person who sells food and/or beverages from a mobile pushcart, mobile tent or motorized mobile food preparation vehicle on a consistent basis and for a period of more than 15 days each calendar year.</p> <p>Mobile food preparation vehicle means any motorized vehicle that includes a self-contained kitchen in which food is prepared, processed or stored and used to sell and dispense food to the consumer. The unit must be on wheels (excluding boats and trailers) at all times. This definition does not include pushcarts.</p> <p>Mobile pushcart means any portable vending device, pushcart or other wheeled vehicle or device which may be moved without the assistance of a motor and which is not required to be licensed and registered by the department of transportation, used for the displaying, storing or transporting of food offered for sale by a vendor. Said cart may be up to four feet in width [and] six feet in length, excluding auxiliary items such as handles or fenders, or otherwise the cart shall not occupy space greater than a total of 24 square feet.</p> <p>Mobile tent means a not permanently anchored temporary structure such as a canopy or tent used for the onsite preparation and sell of food and beverages by licensed caterers or for the sell of previously prepared food and beverages during parades, festivals, concerts, and similar public gatherings.</p> <p>Sec. 66-78. - Permits Required to Use Public Sidewalks for Mobile Food Vending.</p>	<p>(a) All mobile food vendors must obtain and maintain a permit for each mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle operated. The application shall be made with the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Economic Development. The application may be reviewed by any department of the city as may be necessary or convenient to determine whether the application is complete or whether the permit should be granted. Permit applications shall contain the following information:</p> <p>The name, mailing address, physical address, telephone number(s), and email address of the applicant(s). If any applicant is anything other than a natural person, then all documents related to the creation and maintenance of the entity such as articles of incorporation and any similar relevant documents shall be included.</p> <p>A valid City of Jackson business permit.</p> <p>A food vending permit from the Mississippi Department of Health.</p> <p>A scaled sketch plan or photographs showing the proposed mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle dimensions, along with the applicable license or registration and vehicle identification number of any vehicle licensed or registered with the state.</p> <p>A list of products to be sold.</p> <p>Proof of a valid insurance policy that provides minimum liability coverage of \$500,000.00 per mobile food preparation vehicle, \$500,000 for mobile tent, and \$500,000.00 per mobile pushcart, with the City of Jackson named as an additional insured.</p> <p>A written indemnity agreement that will hold harmless the city, its officers, and employees, for any loss or liability or damage, including costs, for bodily injury or property damage sustained by a person as a result of the negligent installation, use, or maintenance of a permitted space.</p> <p>Copies of all letters and other notices from any governmental, quasi-governmental, professional, or business association or entity, related directly or indirectly to alleged or actual improper conduct in the food service business, issued to applicant or any person who will have responsibility for operations of the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle for which a permit is requested. This shall include all related response and follow-up documents showing any results, findings or actions.</p> <p>The dates, jurisdiction, court, and disposition of the following:</p> <p>All felony charges related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant; and</p> <p>All misdemeanors and violations directly or indirectly related to food, food preparation, permit operations, and/or business operations, related to the applicant or any principal of the applicant</p> <p>Such other additional information required by law, rule, or ordinance, or that any department of the city or city council, or the permit applicant reasonably deems appropriate to assist the city in determining whether the permit should be granted. The applicant shall be provided reasonable time to supplement the application.</p> <p>(b) No public vending permit or public vending management contract shall convey any interest in the real property under the jurisdiction of the City of Jackson which is identified in any permit or contract and such permit shall only convey the right to use the property for the purposes allowed in this article.</p> <p>(c) The cost of a permit for a mobile food preparation vehicle is \$300.00. The cost of a permit for a mobile pushcart is \$150.00, and the cost of a permit for a mobile tent is \$300.00 per event. Permits for mobile food preparation vehicles and mobile pushcarts may be renewed annually for the same fee as the initial permit. The permitting fees cover the administrative costs associated with processing the applications and regulating mobile food preparation vehicles, mobile pushcarts, and mobile tents.</p> <p>(d) Permit holders may be required to remove private materials or accessories to allow street, sidewalk, or utility access for emergency and maintenance operation or both.</p> <p>(e) This permit does not allow permit holders to operate within 300 feet of any public space during city appointed special events without proper notarized written authorization from the special event organizers. This notarized written authorization shall be posted while operating during the special event.</p> <p>(f) The vendor shall not receive compensation for relocating.</p> <p>(g) The permit must be displayed on the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle at all times.</p> <p>(h) Permits are non-transferable.</p> <p>(i) A damaged or destroyed mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle may be replaced if and only if approval for its replacement is obtained from the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Development. Any such replacement mobile pushcart mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle must be of substantially the same type, size, and dimension and with the same general characteristics as the original. Such replacement may be disallowed if the Zoning Division would not have approved the use of the replacement mobile pushcart, mobile food preparation vehicle, or mobile tent on an original application.</p> <p>(j) Any permit granted pursuant to this article shall be nonexclusive. The city may grant any number of such permits as the city deems appropriate. The grant of a permit shall not limit or abridge any power or authority of the city and shall not limit the authority of the city to commence appropriate civil, criminal, or other enforcement actions. The city retains full authority to amend the ordinances, rules and regulations that apply to any permit.</p> <p>(k)The city may revoke and terminate the permit in the event the vendor violates any term, condition, or provision of the permit, the Jackson Code of Ordinances and/or zoning ordinances, state and/or federal law, or if the business license issued by the city for the permitted activity is revoked. The procedures for revoking or terminating a permit shall be the same as revoking or terminating a business license. The revocation may be sought as a remedy in a civil action. The vendor may terminate or surrender the permit at will any time prior to the expiration of the permit by providing written notice to the signs and license division of the office of code services in the planning and development department. Termination of the permit shall not operate to relieve the vendor of the obligation to release, hold harmless, and indemnify the city and its officers, agents, and employees.</p> <p>A photo of the tent or canopy to be used for tent vendors.</p> <p>If heat, gas, or flame will be utilized, a report of the fire department's inspection.</p> <p>A copy of the Mississippi State Department of Health's inspection if perishable food will be sold.</p> <p>Permits must be renewed annually thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the permit.</p> <p>Sec. 66-79. Location and operation.</p> <p>(a) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents and mobile food preparation vehicles shall only conduct business in designated areas approved by the Department of Public Works and the Zoning Division of the Department of Planning and Development. These areas include those areas zoned commercial; the C80 Corridor; N MU 1 - neighborhood mixed use district , pedestrian oriented) CMU 1 - community mixed-use district -pedestrian oriented, C4—(Central Business District), UTC - urban town center mixed-use districts, Old Capitol Green Mixed Use District, and SUD—special use districts. All other areas must receive prior approval of the Public Works and the Planning and Development Departments. The mobile food vendor is responsible for initiating a request to utilize such locations, and the department of public works and the department of planning and development shall have complete discretion as to which locations to approve considering the needs of traffic, pedestrians, public safety, public works, public convenience, the general uses of adjacent private property, and any other factor that is proper and lawful for the city to consider in approving or disapproving such locations.</p> <p>(b) The City of Jackson Police and Fire Departments shall have concurrent authority to oversee locations and setup of mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles. If an applicant is denied and wishes to appeal his grievance, he may request an order approving his application to the city council at a regular scheduled meeting and said item will be considered "approved or disapproved.</p> <p>(c) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles shall conform to the following regulations regarding location and operation:</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents and mobile food preparation vehicles must be located at least 300 feet in all directions from the entrance to any non-mobile business selling food unless the owner of the other business gives notarized written permission for the infringement of the no-vending area. Proof of said permission must be filed with the signs and licenses division. Proof of waiver must be submitted annually. These provisions shall not apply for city-sanctioned parades or festivals if the vendor has (a) written approval from the event organizer and (b) a temporary operating permit from the Office of Planning and Development.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must not be locked or attached to trees, garbage receptacles, or street furniture.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within 20 feet of any bus stop.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within three feet of a building or structure unless the sidewalk is not less than 11 feet wide.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within any area which would block the view of traffic or traffic signals or traffic signs.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not locate within ten feet of any fire hydrant.</p> <p>(d) In no event shall any mobile pushcart, mobile tents, or mobile food preparation vehicle, display device, or accessory container be located inside any public building or structure or at any place the general public is prohibited.</p> <p>(e) Mobile pushcart, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may only be operated between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. unless the event permit designates specific hours. If the permit specifies designated hours, then the vendor must adhere to the designated hours. Cleanup and removal of the pushcart or vehicle must be completed by 11:30 a.m. or thirty minutes following the last hour specified by the permit when designated.</p> <p>(f) The operators must be present at all times.</p> <p>(g) Mobile food vendors are responsible for all waste and trash removal. The containment area must be kept clear of grease, trash, paper, cups or cans associated with the operation. No liquid waste or grease is to be disposed of in tree pits or onto sidewalks, streets, or other public places.</p> <p>(h) Mobile food vendors shall not vend from mobile vending units within 300 feet of elementary, middle or high school grounds from one hour before schools start, during the time school is in session, or one hour after regular school hours ends.</p> <p>(i) The mobile food vendor shall contain all refuse, trash and litter within the mobile food service unit or within a small moveable trash can maintained by the vendor, and located adjacent to the mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle in such a manner as not to block or otherwise obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The vendor shall be responsible for the proper disposal of such refuse, trash, and litter, and shall place it in the public trash container, or in any private container with proper permission. The vendor is responsible for all litter and trash within 15 feet of the mobile pushcart, mobile tent, or mobile food preparation vehicle at any time the vendor is selling or offering to sell any merchandise or service.</p> <p>(j) The mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle must have self-contained utilities and shall not use the city's utilities or private utilities that are not self-contained and integral to the vendor unit.</p> <p>(k) No mobile food vendor shall sell or attempt to sell any item to the occupant of any motor vehicle, unless it is parked in a lawful parking space. Parking a mobile vending unit on commercially zoned, private property is permitted with written, notarized, permission from the owner if toilet facilities are available and convenient. The mobile vending unit must be moved daily.</p> <p>(l) No speakers or other noise production devices are allowed. This does not apply to vendor parks.</p> <p>(m) Every mobile food vendor shall keep records utilizing generally accepted accounting practices for the purposes of compliance with all federal, state and local tax laws.</p> <p>(n) All approved mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must pay the two percent sales tax required by all food providers in the City of Jackson, along with all other tax and licensing fees required by the State of Mississippi.</p> <p>(o) All approved mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be licensed businesses within the City of Jackson with all operations pertinent to the mobile pushcart, mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle operated within the City of Jackson.</p> <p>(p) All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be issued a state tax number by the Mississippi Department of Revenue designating them as a City of Jackson business.</p> <p>(q) The permit must be visibly displayed during all hours of operation.</p> <p>(r) Traffic, pedestrian walkways, and utilities may not be impeded.</p> <p>(s) All state retail tax and health laws and regulations must be followed.</p> <p>(t) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must comply with all local, state, and federal rules regarding sanitation and protection of food from airborne contamination.</p> <p>(u) Sales of goods are limited to food and beverage. The sale of beer, wine and alcoholic beverages is prohibited.</p> <p>(v) Mobile food vendors may place a maximum of three coolers within their containment area so long as the coolers are neatly stacked to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>(w) Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles may not be stored, parked or left overnight on city property.</p> <p>(x) All permit applicants must operate an existing licensed restaurant within the City of Jackson or have a central kitchen approved by the Mississippi Department of Health for food service.</p> <p>Sec. 66-80. Design standards.</p> <p>All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must meet the following design standards:</p> <p>All mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must be self-contained. This requires that the pushcart, tent or food preparation vehicle is not connected or attached to any building or structure, and does not receive power from any building by means of wires, hoses, or other connections.</p> <p>Umbrellas or canopies must be attached to the pushcart tent or vehicle and must not exceed eight feet in height above grade. Maximum diameter of canopies and umbrellas shall not exceed six feet and shall not interfere with pedestrian movement. No mobile pushcart mobile tent or mobile food</p>	<p>preparation vehicle shall have more than two umbrellas.</p> <p>All signage on mobile pushcarts mobile tents and mobile food preparation vehicles shall comply with the City of Jackson Sign Ordinance. No freestanding signage is permitted.</p> <p>Mobile pushcarts, mobile tents, and mobile food preparation vehicles must comply with all local, state, and federal rules regarding sanitation and protection of food from airborne contamination.</p> <p>Mobile food vendors may place a maximum of three coolers within their containment area so long as the coolers are neatly stacked to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>No accessory container shall be more than three feet from the unit.</p> <p>Accessory containers must be made of hard substances such as hard plastic or a metal and may not be made by expanded polystyrene plastic, paper, paperboard, or cardboard.</p> <p>Mobile food preparation vehicles may not have exterior plug-ins, and visual clutter must be minimal.</p> <p>Mobile tents may not exceed a 10 ft x 10 ft footprint unless the event allows a larger size. The canopy must be flame-retardant. The use of offsite power is prohibited absent approval by the Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Jackson Fire Department.</p> <p>Sec. 66-81. Violations and penalties.</p> <p>(a) All mobile food vending must be performed in compliance with said ordinance. Failure to abide by said ordinance shall result in the following:</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$150.00 for a first violation which does not constitute operating with a permit.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$250.00 for a second violation within one year of any prior violation if the violation does not constitute operating without a permit.</p> <p>A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for a third or more violation within one year of the first and revocation of permit for violations which do not constitute operating without a permit.</p> <p>A fine of \$500 and impoundment of equipment for operating without a permit.</p> <p>Operating in violation of health and fire codes will result in immediate closure and revocation of the permit.</p> <p>(b) Any offense shall be considered a misdemeanor and is subject to being cited by any authorized law enforcement official in the City of Jackson or with authority to do so in the City of Jackson.</p> <p>(c) Violation of this article may result in the suspension or revocation of any city permit or license issued to the owner or operator of the mobile pushcart mobile tent or mobile food preparation vehicle.</p> <p>(d) Each day on which an infraction of the ordinance occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation.</p> <p>(e) All fines collected shall go to the city's general fund.</p> <p>(f) A permit may be revoked if it is determined that a false or misleading application was submitted.</p> <p>(g)A permit may be revoked for violating state or local safety or sanitation laws and regulations.</p> <p>Severability. If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the same shall not operate to invalidate other provisions of the ordinance. The ordinance will remain in effect, but for the invalid provision.</p> <p>Conflict. With the exception of transit vendor ordinances or other ordinances related to mobile service vendors, mobile holiday vendors, and mobile tent vendors engaged in the selling of non-food items, this ordinance shall control and govern conflicts and inconsistencies existing in other ordinances of the City of Jackson.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the approved ordinances shall become effective thirty (30) days after passage and publication, unless the governing authority finds that this ordinance is for the immediate and temporary preservation of public peace, health, or safety, or for other good cause, and it is adopted by a unanimous vote of all members of the governing body. In such cases, the ordinance may be made effective from and after its passage.</p> <p>Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.</p> <p>Yeas – Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes. Nays – None. Absent – Brown-Thomas.</p> <p>ATTEST: Angela Harris Municipal Clerk</p> <p>I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting October 7, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 17-25".</p> <p>WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of November 2025.</p>
--	---	---	--

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, RENAMING PEARL STREET FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO FRANK MELTON DRIVE.

WHEREAS, Frank Melton, a native of Texas, arrived in Jackson, MS in 1984; he was chosen to head WLBT as the station's president and CEO, with longtime NAACP leader and state legislator, Aaron Henry as chairman; he became Mayor of Jackson on July 4, 2005 and remained until his death on May 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton fought fearlessly against crime, illegal drugs and negligent parents; he was well known for his editorial, the Bottom Line; and

WHEREAS, because of the tough stance of Mr. Melton, Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed him to lead the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics in 2002; Melton's statement was clear in reference to illegal drugs, "We can't win this war if we're worried about what people think or what people are going to write or what people are going to say;" with that he proceeded to confront illegal drugs, for which some believed to be unconventional means; and

WHEREAS, renaming the Pearl Street Bridge from I-55 to Pearl Street to North State Street to the Frank Melton Bridge serves as a tribute to his unwavering dedication, commitment, and loyalty to the City of Jackson, Mississippi and its citizen. It honors an individual who consistently acted in accordance with what was right, even when doing so was not popular or accepted by others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby renames a portion of East Pearl Street to North State Street to Frank Melton Drive.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting October 21, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pg. 128".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of November, 2025.

12/4/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI RENAMING THE PEARL STREET BRIDGE FROM I-55 TO PEARL STREET TO NORTH STATE STREET TO THE FRANK MELTON BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, Frank Melton, a native of Texas, arrived in Jackson, MS in 1984; he was chosen to head WLBT as the station's president and CEO, with longtime NAACP leader and state legislator, Aaron Henry as chairman; he became Mayor of Jackson on July 4, 2005 and remained until his death on May 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton fought fearlessly against crime, illegal drugs and negligent parents; he was well known for his editorial, the Bottom Line; and

WHEREAS, because of the tough stance of Mr. Melton, Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed him to lead the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics in 2002; Melton's statement was clear in reference to illegal drugs, "We can't win this war if we're worried about what people think or what people are going to write or what people are going to say;" with that he proceeded to confront illegal drugs, for which some believed to be unconventional means; and

WHEREAS, renaming the Pearl Street Bridge from I-55 to Pearl Street to North State Street to the Frank Melton Bridge serves as a tribute to his unwavering dedication, commitment, and loyalty to the City of Jackson, Mississippi and its citizen. It honors an individual who consistently acted in accordance with what was right, even when doing so was not popular or accepted by others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby renames the Pearl Street Bridge from I-55 South to Pearl Street to North State Street to the Frank Melton Bridge.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting October 21, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pg. 128".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of November, 2025.

12/4/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING OF ROBINSON STREET (FROM BROAD STREET TO PRENTISS STREET) TO REVEREND DR. JOHN E. CAMERON, SR. DRIVE.

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. John E. Cameron, Sr. is a native of Hattiesburg, MS; he pursued the Bachelor of Theology in Nashville, TN; he served as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Oxford, MS; New Hope Church, Meridian, MS; Calvary Baptist Church, Laurel, MS; Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS; in 1970, he came to the helm of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, MS, later renamed Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Cameron provided spiritual nurture for hundreds of students at Jackson State University; overseeing the construction of a \$1.3 million "state-of-the art" family life center, the church was empowered to more adequately meet the needs of the West Jackson community; and

WHEREAS, he received a bachelor degree in Social Science and an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Rust College, Holly Springs, MS; his citations are numerous and most importantly, his role as trailblazer in the Civil Rights movement stands constant as his work deflated the slogan, "Segregation now, segregation forever;" his reach has touched lives in Korea, Tokyo, Athens, Greece and South Africa; he has preached God's Word for over 73 years and served Greater Mt. Calvary for 56 years; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT OEDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby honorary renames Robinson Street (from Broad Street to Prentiss Street) to Reverend Dr. John E. Cameron, Sr. Drive.

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Council Member Clay seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 4, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 183-184".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 1st day of December, 2025.

12/4/2025

LEGAL

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, HONORARILY RENAMING THE PROTION OF NORTHVIEW DRIVE FROM HARTFIELD STREET TO EAST MAYES STREET AS "MARTIN L. SHIELDS, JR. MEMORIAL WAY" IN HONOR OF FALLEND DEPUTY SERGEANT MARTIN L. SHIELDS, JR.

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers dedicate their lives to protecting and serving their communities, facing danger daily to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, our city and county communities have been profoundly impacted by the tragic loss of Deputy Sergeant Martin L. Shields, Jr., a dedicated member of the Hinds County, Mississippi Sheriff's Office who was killed in the line of duty on February 23, 2025 while selflessly performing his duties; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sergeant Martin L. Shields, Jr. bravely and professionally served the citizens of Jackson and Hinds County, Mississippi with compassion and dedication, fulfilling his duty to "protect and serve"; and

WHEREAS, as a Police Officer in Jackson, Mississippi, in August, 2019, Officer Shields received the IAM COJ award, an employee recognition program that acknowledges the exemplary service and commitment to the job; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sergeant Martin L. Shields, Jr. served with distinction and unwavering dedication as a Police Officer initially with the City of Jackson, Mississippi, then with the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi and lastly, as a Deputy Sergeant with the Hinds County, Mississippi Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sergeant Shields leaves behind a legacy of integrity, dedication, and unwavering loyalty to public safety, and will be deeply missed by colleagues, family members, friends, and the entire community he served; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice made by Deputy Shields and to express our deepest gratitude for his service and heroism; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi extends its sincere condolences and appreciation to his wife and daughter and other family and loved ones of Deputy Sergeant Shields; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi desires to establish a lasting memorial to honor the life and service of Deputy Sergeant Martin L. Shields, Jr. and to ensure his sacrifice is never forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, hereby renames Northview Drive between Hartfield Street and East Mayes Street to "Martin L. Shields, Jr. Memorial Way" as a perpetual reminder of his heroism and commitment to duty this 26th day of August 2025.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

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

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

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

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 25th day of November, 2025.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

12/4/2025

Olshan

Since 1933

Foundation Solutions

90

Celebrating 90 Years Of Service

Foundation cracks getting worse?

Our Services:

Foundation Repair

Crawl Space Recovery

Water Management

Basement Waterproofing

Concrete Lifting

Basement Wall Recovery

Payment Plans as Low as \$125/mo

FREE Home Evaluations

Industry-Leading Warranty Options

Patented Technology

Limited Time Offer

Up to **\$250 off**

Foundation Repair

Schedule Your Free Evaluation!

(866) 264-5115

Offer valid from 9/1/2024 to 1/1/2026. Only valid to new customers. \$250 savings valid on projects \$2,999 or more. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Offer is non-transferable, has no cash value and cannot be applied to previous purchases. Void where prohibited by law. Terms of offer are subject to change.

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-855-532-0066

safestep®

*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1092165 NSCB 0082959 0052445 13VH11096000

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 844-316-8630 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

Automobiles

WE BUY 8,000 CARS a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-758-1344

For Sale

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. **Call 1-844-316-8630** today to schedule a free quote. It is not just a generator. It is a power move.

Home Improvement

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-764-2473

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-264-5115

SAFE STEP. North America is #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

Insurance

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-584-8517
www.dental50plus.com/mspress #6258

Medical Supplies

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-833-641-4206

Miscellaneous

DONATE your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-428-0305 today!

Real Estate

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-601-273-8545.

Services - General

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021

Services - General

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143



Make It Happen With Classified Advertising

STATEWIDE RATES:
Up to 25 words.....\$230
1 col. x 2 inch.....\$525
1 col. x 3 inch.....\$785
1 col. x 4 inch.....\$1050

Call MS Press Services
601-981-3060

Week of November 2, 2025

Cat scratches: What really happens when the claws come out

By Vince Faust
Tips to Be Fit

A sudden swipe, a sharp sting and a thin red line develops across your skin. Being scratched by a cat can seem like a minor inconvenience. But beneath that seemingly superficial wound lays a complex interplay of biology, behavior and potential health risks. Whether it's a playful kitten or a startled stray, understanding what happens when a cat's claws meet human skin is essential for your health and peace of mind.

The Scratch Heard Around the Living Room

Cats are beloved companions, but they are also predators by nature. Their claws are finely tuned tools. They are used for climbing, hunting and self-defense. When a cat scratches, it's not just a physical act, it's often a response to fear, overstimulation or territorial instincts. Even during play, a cat's claws can unintentionally break your skin.

The moment a scratch occurs, your body springs into action. The skin, your first line of defense, is breached. Blood vessels may rupture, causing bleeding. Nerve endings are exposed, triggering pain. But the real concern isn't just the scratch itself, it's what might be riding along with it.

What's on a Cat's Claws? Cat claws are not sterile. They can harbor a host of bacteria, including *Bartonella henselae*, the culprit behind cat scratch disease (CSD), as well as *Pasteurella multocida*, *Staphylococcus* and *Streptococcus* species.



These bacteria can enter the body through even the smallest scratch, especially if the skin is not promptly cleaned.

In the case of a stray or feral cat, the risk increases. Outdoor cats are more likely to carry parasites, bacteria or even rabies if they've been in fights with infected animals.

Immediate First Aid: The Golden Window

The first few minutes after a scratch are crucial. Here's what experts recommend:

- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and warm water. Avoid scrubbing, which can irritate the tissue further.
- Use a mild antiseptic or saline solution to disinfect the area. A homemade saline rinse (1 teaspoon of salt in 2 cups of water) can help.
- Apply pressure with a clean cloth if the scratch is bleeding.
- Cover the wound with a sterile bandage to protect it from dirt and bacteria.

These steps can significantly

reduce the risk of infection. But the story doesn't end there.

When a Scratch Turns Serious

Most cat scratches heal without incident. But in some cases, complications arise. Here are the key conditions to watch for:

1. Cat Scratch Disease (CSD)
Caused by *Bartonella henselae*, CSD is transmitted through scratches, bites or even licking of broken skin. Symptoms typically appear 3–14 days after exposure and may include:
 - A raised bump or blister at the scratch site
 - Swollen lymph nodes, especially near the scratch
 - Fever, fatigue and headache
 - In rare cases, complications like encephalitis or eye infections.

Children and people with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable.

2. Bacterial Infections
Even without *Bartonella*, other bacteria can cause localized infections. Signs include:
 - Redness, warmth and swelling around the wound
 - Pus or discharge
 - Increasing pain
 - Fever or chills

If untreated, these infections can spread to deeper tissues, leading to cellulitis or even sepsis in severe cases

3. Tetanus and Rabies
While rare, tetanus is a concern if the scratch is deep and the person is not up to date on vaccinations. Rabies, though extremely uncommon in cats, is a medical emergency. If the cat is unknown or acting strangely, seek medical attention immedi-

ately.

When to See a doctor
You should seek medical care if:

- The scratch is deep, bleeding heavily or won't stop bleeding
- Signs of infection appear within a few days
- You develop a fever or swollen lymph nodes
- The cat was a stray or its vaccination status is unknown
- You are immunocompromised or have a chronic illness

Doctors may prescribe antibiotics, update your tetanus shot or recommend rabies post-exposure prophylaxis depending on the situation.

Prevention: Claws and Courte's

While you can't always predict a cat's behavior, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of scratches:

- Trim your cat's nails regularly to reduce the severity of scratches.
- Use toys, not hands, during play to avoid accidental swipes.
- Learn feline body language: a twitching tail, flattened ears or dilated pupils can signal agitation.
- Teach children how to interact gently and respectfully with cats.

- Avoid rough play or startling a sleeping or eating cat.

If you work with cats professionally or volunteer in shelters, wearing long sleeves and gloves can offer added protection.

The Emotional Scratch: Understanding Feline Behavior

Scratches aren't just physical, they're also a form of commu-

nication. A cat that lashes out may be expressing fear, pain or overstimulation. Understanding the context of the scratch can help prevent future incidents and strengthen your bond with your feline friend.

- Cats often scratch when:
- They feel cornered or threatened
 - They're over stimulated during petting
 - They're asserting dominance or territory
 - They're playing too roughly

Respecting a cat's boundaries and providing outlets for natural behaviors, like scratching posts and interactive toys, can go a long way in preventing conflict.

Being scratched by a cat is a common experience, but it's not one to take lightly. While most scratches are harmless, they carry the potential for infection and disease. Prompt first aid, awareness of symptoms and understanding feline behavior are your best defenses.

Cats are complex creatures, equal parts cuddly and cunning. Their claws are a reminder of their wild ancestry, but also of the responsibility we bear as their companions. With care, respect and a bit of caution, we can coexist safely, even when the claws come out.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

Quit Vaping to improve your dental and overall health

StatePoint

Did you know tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States? While some forms of tobacco may be marketed as less harmful than others, the truth is that there's no safe tobacco product. Each one threatens your dental and overall health, including e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes (or vape pens) are used by around 8 percent of people in the United States and have been the most commonly used tobacco product among American youth for the last decade. Results of the 2024

National Youth Tobacco Survey show that almost 6 percent of middle and high school students use e-cigarettes and more than 1 in 4 youth e-cigarette users reported vaping daily. These are concerning statistics because e-cigarettes contain harmful substances like nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals that put the user's health at risk. Youth who vape may also be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

"There's no 'better for you' cigarette out there in the marketplace. Whether you choose to vape or smoke, you still risk becoming addicted to nicotine,

which can negatively impact your oral and overall health greatly over time," said American Dental Association (ADA) dentist, Mirissa Price, D.M.D.

Here's what to know about vaping, and why you shouldn't use e-cigarettes.

Vaping is breathing in the aerosol (or vapor mist) created by an e-cigarette. The aerosol is formed when the e-cigarette's battery heats up the liquid (or e-juice) inside its special cartridge. The liquid in this cartridge often contains nicotine, along with flavorings and other chemicals that can be harmful when inhaled.

Nicotine is the highly addictive substance found in tobacco. It's known to affect brain development related to memory, attention, and emotional regulation in children, teens and young adults, and can cause illness — and in severe cases, coma or death — if swallowed. Average nicotine strength in e-cigarettes has increased with vaping's popularity, and research shows that it's now double the amount of nicotine inhaled from a pack of cigarettes. Even cartridges claiming to be nicotine-free have been shown to contain some nicotine.



5 ways filtered water can elevate your life

StatePoint

Water isn't just something to drink; it flows through every aspect of life – from your morning coffee to your nightly skincare routine. The cleaner it is, the more it supports your health, beauty, your family's well-being, home and even the environment. Enhancing your home's water purity can make an impact every day.

1. The Foundation of Wellness

If you've ever filled a glass of water from the tap, taken a sip and thought something tasted off, it may have contained elevated levels of chemicals such as iron, manganese and hydrogen sulfide. Elevated levels of these contaminants not only make water less enjoyable to drink but also pose potential health hazards. Water filters, such as the Moen Whole Home Water



Filtration System, can enhance water quality by helping remove elevated levels of contaminants, reducing odors and producing better-tasting water. This means quality meals, enjoyable drinks and a natural boost to your hydration. And when you drink more water, you support digestion, energy and overall health.

2. Beauty Boost from the Tap

The benefits of clean water don't end in the kitchen. Chlorine and other harsh contaminants can strip your natural oils, leaving skin dry and hair dull. Have you ever wondered why your skin feels tight after a shower, no matter the products you use? That culprit is likely those contaminants. When your home uses purified water, your

shower can become a more enjoyable experience. In addition to filtering water, you can also consider a water softener to help with skin sensitivity by reducing irritation and maintaining your body's natural moisture balance. With cleaner water, every shower can be transformed into a beauty ritual, creating a spa-like experience at home.

3. Pure Water for Peace of Mind

Kids and pets can be especially sensitive to what's in the water they consume and bathe in. Cleaner filtered water can help support healthy growth, strong immune systems and development in kids, while four-legged family members benefit through better digestion, more hydration and a shinier coat of fur. Whether it's a sippy cup at dinner or bath time before bed, a whole-home water filtration system

can provide peace of mind.

4. Preserve Your Home, Protect Your Family

Purified water is better for your home's functionality. Contaminants and minerals such as chlorine, calcium and magnesium can cause scale buildup and corrosion in appliances, affecting their efficiency and leading to stains on sinks and fixtures. Straining out these sediments helps appliances run smoothly and last longer, while keeping your home looking its best.

To further safeguard your home where water is concerned, consider installing the Flo Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff device, which constantly monitors water pressure and flow rate, helping detect and alert you of leaks as small as a drop per minute.

5. Water Without Waste

When tap water isn't up to

par, it can be tempting to turn to bottled water. Filtration systems eliminate the need for single-use plastic, cutting down on waste and reducing your household's overall environmental footprint. In fact, water filters can save you up to 92 percent compared to buying bottled water, translating to \$354.05 per year per person. Additionally, whole-home systems eliminate the need for individual, short-term filters on pitchers, sinks and showerheads for less waste, more savings, and a more consistent experience throughout the house.

For more information on how water can enhance your life, visit moen.com.

Whether it's drinking, cooking, bathing or protecting your home, improving your water quality has the power to elevate daily life.



Nissan believes in
the power of education.



nissan-canton.com

Celebrating
20 years of service
in the Greater
Jackson Area.

Veteran JPS Educator Erica Taylor-Joyner surprised with Alyce Clarke Award



Erica Taylor-Joyner

JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools celebrates Erica Taylor-Joyner, a veteran educator, mentor teacher, and proud JPS alumna, who received the Alyce Clarke Award during a surprise announcement at McLeod Elementary Tuesday, November 19.

The moment she opened her classroom door; Erica stopped in disbelief. The media was there; her family and friends were there, and all 51 of her fifth-grade scholars filled the room. She was speechless and moved to tears, calling her scholars, “her reasons why.”

The Alyce Clarke Award, presented by 16 WAPT, honors exceptional educators across the viewing area. Monthly recipients are chosen from public nominations, and the award recognizes those who make a powerful impact in their schools and communities. It is named for Alyce G. Clarke, a trailblazing Mississippi lawmaker, former teacher, and the first Black woman elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Erica brings that same spirit of service to her work. She is a Jackson native and lifelong JPS scholar who attended Bradley

Elementary, Northwest Middle School, and Provine High School before earning her education degrees from Jackson State University and Mississippi College. She began teaching in 2007 at Oak Forest Elementary, spent 13 years at Bates Elementary, and is now in her third year at McLeod Elementary teaching fifth grade ELA.

Teaching is her calling. She creates a classroom grounded in warmth, consistency, and a family feel. As McLeod’s mentor teacher, she supports new educators, shares best practices, and helps build a strong culture of collaboration.

Her achievements include Best of Mississippi Teacher of the Year in 2023 and McLeod Teacher of the Year. Still, this recognition feels special. “I am truly honored and humbled to receive the Alyce Clarke Award,” she said. “My commitment to education is unwavering. I am grateful to live out my purpose in Jackson Public Schools.”

Erica hopes her scholars always remember the love, stability, and encouragement found in her classroom. “I want them to say, because of you I did not give up.”

Early is awarded a \$3K NNPAF scholarship

By Hillary Victor
Sports Writer, The Delta Devils Gazette

Mississippi Valley State University Mass Communications student and baseball player Thomas Early was recently awarded the National Newspaper Publishers Association Fund (NNPAF) scholarship, recognizing his academic excellence and dedication.

Early said he was both honored and surprised to be chosen. “Although I worked hard last year, I didn’t think I’d receive such a prestigious scholarship,” he said.

He credits the award with motivating him to keep striving for success. “It’s encouraged me to work even harder because I know that hard work brings opportunities like this,” Early said.

Early also expressed gratitude to Chairman of the NNPAF Scholarship Committee Jackie Hampton and Assistant Professor of Mass Communication Dr. Gail H. Marshall Brown for their support. “I’m very honored and thankful to Ms. Hampton for selecting me, and Dr. Brown



PHOTO CREDIT: MVSU ATHLETICS

for recommending me and being such a great professor,” he said.

Hampton said the NNPAF has awarded journalism scholarships to HBCU students for

over 20 years because of their “storied legacy of nurturing talent.” Hampton is also the publisher of The Mississippi Link, an NNPA-member newspaper.

She notes it was a pleasure to award MVSU student Thomas Early a \$3,000 scholarship and appreciated his note saying he was “honored” and “extremely grateful.”

“Though in the past, we have awarded several \$1,000 and \$2,500 scholarships. This time, thanks to our sponsor, Google Initiative, we were able to increase this year’s award to \$3,000,” Hampton added.

The grateful Early, who is excelling on and off the baseball field, said that receiving this scholarship is helping him to balance the two. Last spring during the departmental honors luncheon, he was presented the outstanding achievement in mass communication and special recognition in radio awards.

Looking ahead, Early hopes to build a successful career in Mass Communications, using his education and experiences at MVSU to inspire and inform others.

The Delta Devils Gazette is the award-winning campus newspaper of Mississippi Valley State University.

Alcorn State radio station receives \$50,000 anonymous donation

ASU Newswire

Alcorn State University’s WPRL 91.7 FM recently received a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor to upgrade broadcasting equipment and support student education programs.

The unrestricted funding provides resources to operate the station and serve the community, reinforcing the station’s mission of innovation and public service.

Jerome Myles, production director, was notified of the gift by administrative assistant Myrtle Hedrick.

“Our funding had been cut drastically, but now we can continue to function for a while longer at our radio station,” said Myles. “We truly thank God for the anonymous donor who thought about public radio stations like WPRL 91.7 FM.”

Charles Edmond, operations manager, noted the gift



will upgrade station equipment significantly.

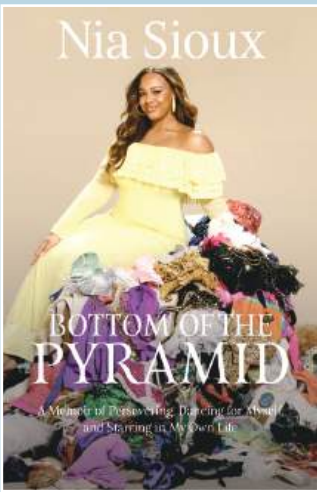
“This was a pleasant and unexpected surprise,” said Edmond. “The students and staff will put this to good use,

as it will help us grow and serve the community with up-to-date materials.”

Hedrick expressed gratitude for the generosity.

“If I could see the donor in

person, I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart,” said Hedrick. “They have no idea how much this will help us.”



BOOK REVIEW:

BOTTOM OF THE PYRAMID:

A MEMOIR OF PERSEVERING, DANCING FOR MYSELF, AND STARRING IN MY OWN LIFE

BY NIA SIOUX

C.2025, HARPER HORIZON

\$29.00 • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Every solid building has a strong foundation. And when you’re hired for a new job, that’s where you start: at the bottom, in the back office, the least position, the lowest rung. You won’t stay there long, if you can overcome the obstacles and seize all opportunities. It won’t be easy but you can do it. As in the new memoir, “Bottom of the Pyramid” by Nia Sioux, when you’re in last place, there’s nowhere to go but up.

Nia Sioux always loved the

stage.

Born into an upper-middle-class family, Sioux remembers how much she wanted to take dance classes when she was a preschooler, and that her parents were happy to support her interests. Fortunately, there was a dance studio just down the road from their Pittsburgh home, and so Sioux started classes at Dance Masters of Pennsylvania, later renamed Abby Lee Dance Company (ALDC). There, she worked hard and gradually moved up in the team’s lineup, garnering praise and solo dances.

Quickly, the solos, she says, made her mother very uncomfortable. There seemed to be racial undertones to the costumes Sioux was made to wear, and the music didn’t seem appropriate for a little Black girl.

Mother and daughter discussed it, and Sioux’s eagerness overcame any doubt.

Later, when Lifetime Channel interviewed ALDC dancers for a TV show that was eventually called Dance Moms, Sioux was overjoyed to be chosen as one of the show’s performers. For awhile, she was the only Black

dancer in the team – and that became a problem.

Infamously, the show introduced a “pyramid” in which Abby ranked the dancers, and Sioux was almost always at the bottom. Drama was encouraged, criticism was swift, and there seemed to be a lot of favoritism within the dancers’ hierarchy. She endured the pain of it but ultimately, she seized other opportunities and decided to quit Dance Moms.

“I’d gotten a glimpse of what my life could look like without the show,” she says, “and it was


beautiful.”

No one who’s ever watched a half-hour of reality TV should be surprised that author Nia Sioux has written this book, or that what she says happened, happened. The surprise is that “Bottom of the Pyramid” is so entertaining and so satisfying.


Going beyond the usual memoir and past the show’s curtain, Sioux shares her life story and its ups and downs, professionally and otherwise. There’s a lot of gratitude in that, plus strength and determination – but also some swiping, sniping, and re-

sentment, all of which are like catnip to reality fans. Still, Sioux reminds readers that there were actual humans, young women, behind the lines and second-takes for the camera, and that the over-the-top theatrics could be negatively impactful on their tender lives.

For a reality TV watcher or a fan of the show, past or present, that’s a good reminder to watch for authenticity inside the drama. If you never missed an episode of the show or you want to follow the stars, “Bottom of the Pyramid” is a good place to start.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:

First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

Jury Duty Recording:

Second Judicial District
(601) 857-8869

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

VOTER INFORMATION

Verify/Update your Registration Today

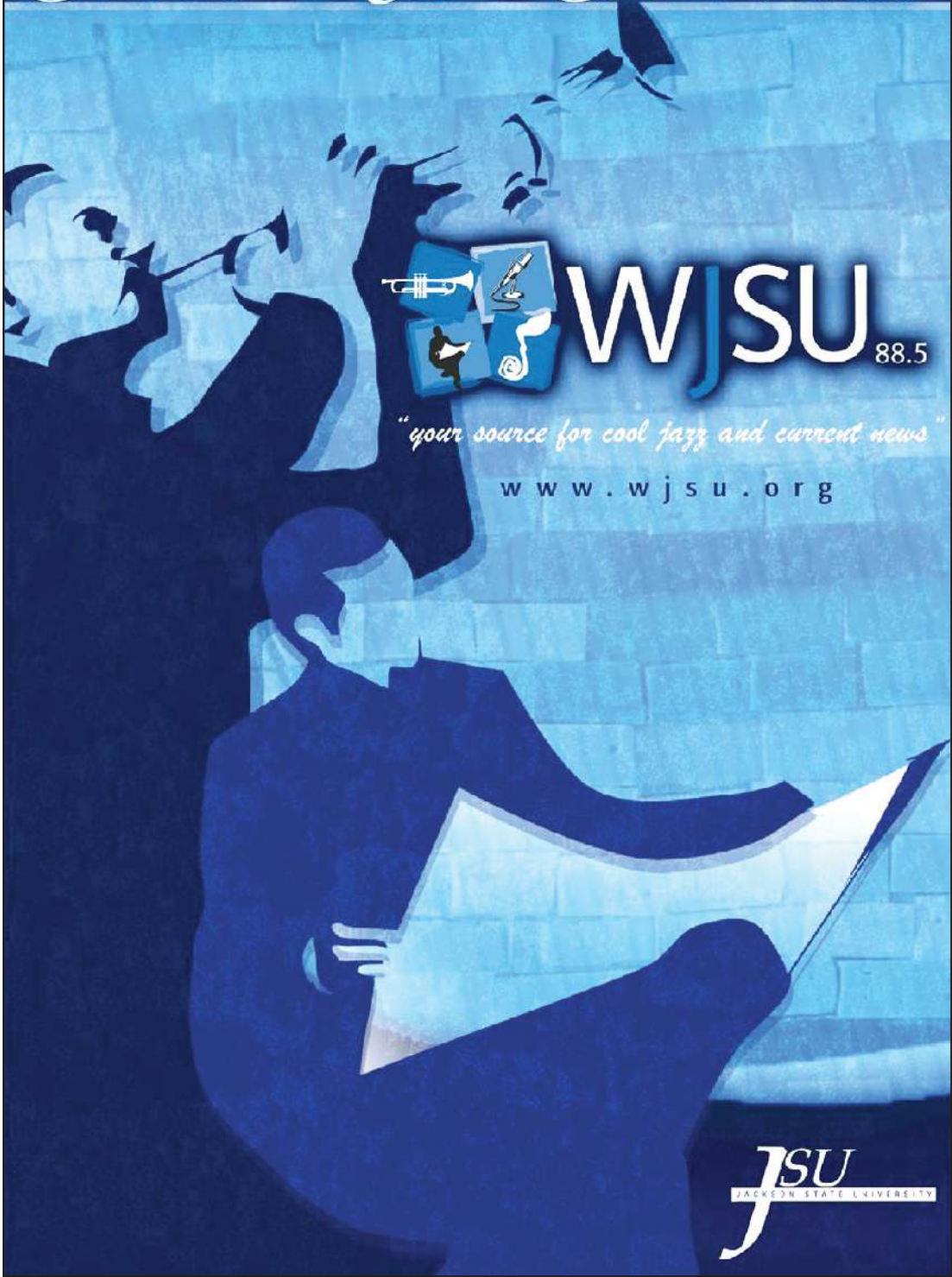
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

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

Website: www.hindscountymys.com
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

Cool And Current



WJSU 88.5
"your source for cool jazz and current news"
www.wjsu.org

JSU
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



WRTM
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON’S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

Hinds County Male Teen Summit

#MaleEmpowerment #TeenSummit
#LoveHopeLeadership
#HCSDExcellence
#BuildingYoungMen
#PurposePassionPower



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON





2026 CHEVY EQUINOX

**IT'S MORE
THAN AN SUV
IT'S YOUR
STATEMENT**



CHEVROLET