

*"We may have all come  
on different ships,  
but we're in the  
same boat now."*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Legislative Black Caucus opens new Session with prayer



L-R: Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus at Prayer Vigil, Thursday, January 8, 2026, on the steps of the Capitol.

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Close to one hundred gathered to participate in and observe the annual Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Prayer Vigil, Thursday, January 8, 2026, on the steps of the Mississippi Capitol. These legislators are acutely aware of what's at stake each day they toil for equity, justice, and basic decency during the legislative session. It's been said that their colleagues on the other side of the aisle begin each day of the session with prayer and then turn around and do just the opposite of what was called for in the prayer. These legislators are beacons in their communities and cast their votes for the well-being of African Americans across

the state who represent 40+ percent of Mississippi's population. They know from whence their help comes, and for them each new session begins with group prayer.

The current Chairman of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, Representative Kabir Karriem (D-41 – Lowndes County), served as emcee of the Prayer Vigil, and after welcoming the attendees, he spent time outlining the 2026 Legislative Agenda, before calling on three prominent pastors to lead prayer.

The agenda for this session includes the following for the 1.2 million Black Mississippians:

Advancing Educational Equity and Protecting Public Schools  
Reforming the Criminal Legal

System  
Expanding Access to Quality, Affordable Healthcare  
Increasing Workforce Participation and Opportunity  
Rectifying Budget Inequities and Ensuring Equitable Resource Allocation  
Proactively Redistricting to Protect and Strengthen Democracy  
Protecting and Expanding Voting Rights  
Strengthening Social Safety Nets and Nutrition Supports  
Environment and Climate Justice, and  
HBCU Advocacy  
Reverend CJ Rhodes, Senior Pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church, in Jackson led the prayers, and Senator Gary

Brumfield (D-38), Chaplain for the Black Caucus, concluded the prayers - wondrous bookends to thunderous remarks of Reverend Reginald Buckley, Senior Pastor at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, and current President of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. Summoning a call and response of the Black church – Have you got good religion? Certainly, Lord! “People of good faith work together for the welfare of other people...to make real the promise of liberty and justice for all who call this great state home. Good faith shows up when we protect the sacred right to vote....

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## The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



King

By Matthew C. Caston  
Guest Writer, CEO & Founder, Freedman Society

“Who is it that is supposed to articulate the longings and aspirations of the people more than the preacher?” Dr. Martin Luther King asked a crowd of almost 2,000 people April 3, 1968, at Bishop Charles Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn. It was the height of the sanitation worker’s strike where 1,300 Black men had been protesting for fair wages, equal treatment and union recognition since the death of two fellow employees February 1.

Although exhausted from traveling and leading and organizing civil rights efforts across the Deep South, King was persuaded by the crowd to speak.

In his famous I’ve Been to the Mountaintop speech, King breathed new life into

the movement in Memphis. “Somehow the preacher must have a kind of fire shut up in his bones,” he said. Fire he had.

Born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Ga., King grew up in a nation that refused to recognize him as a citizen deserving of the same rights and privileges granted to his white counterparts. Attending segregated schools, living in the apartheid South and watching his father challenge the Jim Crow system directly influenced King from an early age.

Channeling his anger and focusing his fire would be a key part of King’s development into the legend he would become.

King’s legacy began with the love and teachings of his family. He attended Ebenezer

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## Venezuela after U.S. military action: What comes next for the country and the world

*In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

After months of escalating U.S. military pressure against Venezuela, events shifted dramatically a few days ago with direct U.S. military action and the removal of the country’s ruler, Nicolas Maduro. The move has abruptly ended one phase of

Venezuela’s long political crisis and opened a far more uncertain one.

Venezuela now faces urgent questions about governance, legitimacy, and democratic recovery. Who exercises authority next, how institutions are rebuilt, and whether Venezuelans can move toward a stable and inclusive political transition remain unresolved in a country already weakened by years of economic collapse and institutional erosion.

The consequences extend beyond Venezuela. The use of military force to remove a government raises fundamental questions about the direction of U.S. foreign policy and whether



Dr. Alejandro Velasco. PHOTO: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Mariano de Alba. PHOTO: TRANSPARENCEIA.ORG



Roxanna Vigil. PHOTO: COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

ized Study and the Department of History at New York University.

The first question - after years of political crisis and institutional erosion, how are Venezuelans interpreting this moment following the removal of the country’s present through military action, but leaving their regime in charge? “First, is just anxiety...the crisis has been going on for decades in various ways, we’ve now entered an entirely new phase. The idea that the United States has actually taken direct military intervention...sort of intervention through extortion...the sec-

Venezuela  
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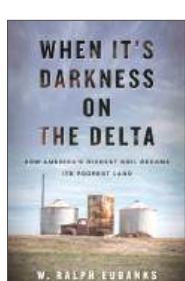
**Inside**

From academic setbacks to entrepreneurial success: Tim C. Lee's pivotal journey



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When It's  
Darkness on  
the Delta



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# Legislative Forum: We need unification among our HBCUs

## *Changes in funding formula could be detrimental*

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

Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church located at 1245 Tunica Street in Jackson, MS was the perfect setting for the Mississippi HBCU Legislative Forum which was held this week. Hundreds of alumni from Mississippi Valley State University, Alcorn State University, and Jackson State University listened to state senators and state representatives express their concerns about the fate of these institutions. More than 200 individuals viewed the forum online. The need for alum to unite, pay alumni dues, and vocalize collectively against underfunding and misrepresentation was the overarching theme.

Senator Sollie B. Norwood, Dist. 28 (JSU) set the tone when he took everyone down memory lane to the days of singing "We Shall Overcome." He then noted swiftly that "We can't overcome until we wake up. Wake up everybody. The preachers got to preach. The teachers got to teach, and the alumni got to get up and go to work. We need to come together."

Mount Nebo's shepherd – the Rev. John Wicks (ASU) - made a solemn prayer to the Lord: "We believe," he said, "that HBCUs



PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

matter, and we ask you to intervene...and put your hand on this matter. Calling the names of the three HBCUs in the state, the shepherd quoted Rom. 8:28: "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord." He then thanked the Lord for alumni such as Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr. Walter Payton, and Jerry Rice.

History of the Ayers Case was summarized by Senator Hillman Frazier, Dist. 27 (JSU). He explained that the landmark 1975 lawsuit (Ayers v. Fordice) was filed by Jake Ayers Sr. against Mississippi for maintaining a dual, segregated higher education system, thereby forcing Alcorn State, Jackson State, and MVSU to remain underfunded and predominantly Black. At the same time, predominantly white universities

got better resources, resulting in a 2002 settlement for \$503 million to improve HBCUs, correct discriminatory admissions, and foster diversity, though its implementation remains debated.

"The Ayers Case ended in 2022, but there are still wide disparities on these Black campuses. White institutions did not and still do not want to integrate. Once we allocate money to IHL, they're to allocate programs to Alcorn, Valley, and JSU to increase enrollment. We need people to let IHL know that we are institutions and will fight until things are better. Funding changes will be detrimental to HBCUs," quipped Frazier.

Rep. Bryant W. Clark, Dist. 47 (serving Holmes, Yazoo, and Attala Counties) indicated that there

is a push at the State Legislature to provide funding for efforts made by Institutions of Higher Learning. "When you do a performance base, you look at how many people graduate during a 6-year period. Many transfer students won't be counted. Forty one percent who enter Valley State are not failing as students. They encounter situations that cause them to drop out. Despite the population decline, MVSU has found ways to increase enrollment," said the representative.

"This is about survivorship. Every so often this conversation comes up about our HBCUs, and it emanates from the folks in Oxford, Miss. It appears that the larger PWIs (Predominantly White Institutions) are subsidizing the HBCUs. They don't seem

to think that we're relevant, [but] the majority of the HBCU grads stay in MS while many of the white grads leave," stated Representative Gregory Holloway (ASU) of Hazlehurst. Holloway noted further that often a group of legislators who don't think that HBCUs are relevant to Mississippi come on the scene. "We're here to stay because we deserve more. Equity should be put to the formula, and if that's not done, that would be detrimental to MVSU," Holloway maintained.

Senator Derrick Simmons (JSU) of Greenville informed the crowd that the need for renovations and repairs at the HBCUs exceed the funding that they receive. He remarked, "Those in charge are going to fund less to the HBCUs. There will be even more policies to take away from the money for health care. JSU needs \$10 million per year just for the backlog of work for buildings to avoid their deterioration."

"None of this is good. We're going to be talking about what we need to build these institutions up. Everything that's happening to our universities is not about what we haven't done, but we need to talk about how to eliminate these community colleges to put high schools on the college campuses

to provide a feeder to our universities. I think showing up like we're here tonight, and showing up at the Capitol will demonstrate that we're not going to tolerate this," chimed Holloway.

Representative John Hines, Dist. 50 (MVSU) asserted that silence is consent to the state legislators' mistreatment of the HBCUs. "They do for us what we allow them to do. We should not allow them to erase our history. We should be sending emails, writing letters, and challenging them to do what we want them to do. We have to stop standing still," he appealed to the crowd and then recommended that they get to know their legislators and their legislators' friends.

"The only thing that's stopping the communication is you. I encourage you to fight. They're thinking you're not saying anything. Hold us accountable too," Hines concluded while referencing HBCU legislators.

D'Andra Orey, Professor, JSU (MVSU) informed the crowd that JSU, MVSU, and ASU will each have a day at the Capitol. The days will be placed on social media for public knowledge. Orey appealed to Alum to show up at the Capitol on their specified day.

See photos on page B10.

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**MISSISSIPPI**



## Caucus

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Reverend C.J. Rhodes and Reverend Reginald M. Buckley.

good faith shows up in how we educate our children...Jesus warned against placing stumbling blocks in the path of young people...good faith shows up in how we care for our mothers...good faith shows up in how we feed the hungry...a hungry neighbor is not a statistic."



Senator Sollie B. Norwood (D-28), Representative William Brown (D-70), Senator Hillman Terome Frazier (D-27). PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.

Buckley continued, "It is our prayer that policy makers, legislators, lobbyists, and staffers will enter this legislative season and in good faith. That's right, work in good faith. Reach across the aisle in good faith...this good faith agenda is an invitation and in 2026 we need people of good faith and

an agenda of good faith making its way through these halls of government. A good faith agenda that will seek to uplift and not tear down. A good faith agenda that seeks support and does not strip away. A good faith agenda that seeks to provide every child with equal opportunity and equal resources to support them, flourishing and fulfilling their every potential despite what zip code they live in. We need a good faith agenda that anticipates our best intentions and that represents our moral witness with good religion. With a good faith we will stand together, above self-interest, self-motives and self-centered policies that advantage one group over another. Yes, we have good religion - certainly lord. We will work to ensure that Mississippi is better than it has been by refusing to retreat into cynicism or fear but leaning into love and responsibility."

"With good religion, we will protect the vote because dignity demands that voices are not silence forever, but that we show mercy by restoring people who have paid their debts to society. With good

religion we will have mothers and fathers provide care for their children ensuring that affordable childcare is available so that parents can work and provide for their family. With good religion we will feed the hungry because no one should be food insecure in a land of abundance. Because when religion is good, when faith is real, it is not confined to our Sunday morning sanctuaries, but it is carried out into the streets, into the schools, into hospitals, and into the homes across Mississippi. Public service becomes a moral calling, not a political transaction. So, we stand. We stand in good faith, and we present an agenda of good faith. Let us then work in good faith with honesty, humility, and hope. That we will discover something sacred among us and something sacred within us. Because in Mississippi, we've got good religion."

Contact information for all members of the Mississippi legislature can be found at <https://www.legislature.ms.gov/legislators>. Learn more about the MLBC at [www.msblackcaucus.com](http://www.msblackcaucus.com).

## Venezuela

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ond thing is confusion, because nothing has changed functionally. There's also the strange sense of, not hope, but that a political game has been unstuck after so long."

In speaking to the possibility of democracy in Venezuela, the moderator said that she herself is Venezuelan, and stated that she was shocked that President Trump, after only a few hours, essentially threw Maria Corina Machado under the bus. Dr. Velasco indicated that "Trump isn't thinking about her...if you're going to have a democratic transition, like you did in regimes in South America, you need to know that the United States is behind it. Trump seems to be focused on oil and whatever success he thinks this was...is it surprising that Donald Trump doesn't care about democracy? I mean, I'm not surprised about that."

The next panelist, Mariano de Alba, a Venezuelan lawyer and associate fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, spoke to the power vacuum that has been created. "I think it's quite clear that there's no legal way to justify this operation. There are a set of rules that were agreed to after World War 2. They are established very clearly in the UN charter. They include not only a provi-

sion on the use of force, but also a provision on the threat of use of force, which is something that we have now seen. Force can only be used in exercising a legitimate right of self-defense. It's not a surprise to anyone that the United States has historically, depending on who is in charge, a sort of cherry-picking approach to compliance with international law. It has tried to comply with the international law, but in some instances, that has been a limit that the US doesn't want to respect."

He continued, "the narrative that Trump has put forth is false - that Maduro is the head of a drug-trafficking operation, that Cartel de los Soles - which is not in any way akin to actual drug cartels like those operating in Mexico - is doing the trafficking, and that traffickers have co-opted the government to turn a blind eye to drug operations. He misinforms that millions of drug traffickers have left Venezuela for the US, along with people from mental institutions - it's all a totally false narrative."

The final panelist, Roxanna Vigil, is an International Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations. She was asked about US goals moving forward, and what journalists should know about what

Washington is trying to achieve. "I'll focus first on this oil objective because even though Secretary Rubio has outlined a three-phase plan, we haven't heard President Trump mention anything about a democratic transition... until we hear him, particularly on some policy or some support for a (democratic) transition, my sense is that that is not going to be an actual part of the plan. Institutional changes and structural changes can really only be done by a democratically elected government, and then there's needs to be investment, and the rule of law to give investor's confidence that their investment will be secure."

Vigil continued, "I think what President Trump has said is that revenues from oil sales will benefit the Venezuelan people, yet are they being represented at the proverbial table. You have the US government, and you have Delcy Rodriguez as interim president. It's a very big question what the mechanism will be of how the people of Venezuela will be represented and informed.

Please go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/venezuela-after-u-s-military-action-what-comes-next-for-the-country-and-the-world> to watch the entire hour-long briefing.

## MLK

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Baptist Church in Atlanta where his father pastored. He was active in worship, singing in the choir and memorizing bible verses and hymns by the time he was five.

As a child, King struggled to understand the society in which he found himself. According to Alice Fleming's Martin Luther King Jr.: A Dream of Hope, King constantly contended with his anger and frustration with the racism and injustices of the Jim Crow South. According to Stephen Oates' Let the Trumpet Sound: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr., King attempted to take his own life twice: once after blaming himself for his sister's injury and another in 1941 after the death of his grandmother.

An avid reader, King, played the violin and piano as a child. He became known for his ability to speak and joined the debate team at Booker T. Washington High School. In 1944 he gave his first public speech as a high school junior: The Negro and the Constitution. At 15, King simultaneously voiced his disappointment and desire in seeing a nation that had yet to live up to its democratic values.

His speech won first place in an oratorical contest sponsored by the Black Elks and can be found online at The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

That same year Dr. King enrolled at Morehouse College, where his father and maternal grandfather also attended. At Morehouse, King obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He later obtained a Bachelor of Divinity from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania where he was one of only six black students and was elected class president. He obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in systematic theology from Boston University.

While a champion of nonviolent direct action, King was also a master of delivering sober analyses and realism in his speeches and letters. From a childhood of fighting to understand a nation that saw him as less than human, to studying and working alongside some of the most impactful theologians and scholars in the nation, King had learned to temper and focus his fire.

"We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights," King wrote in 1963 in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

"The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jet-like speed toward the goal of political independence, and we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward the gaining of a cup of coffee at a lunch counter."

His direct appeal to the white clergymen who voiced caution of peaceful protest in Birmingham shook not only state and federal leaders, policy-makers and local clergy, but the soul of the nation.

"History is the long and tragic story of the fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily," King wrote in the letter. "Individuals may see the moral light and give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups are more immoral than individuals."

King reminds us of the power of community. In the same letter, he also reminds us of the collective and individual obligation we have in affecting change. "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

At the close of his letter, King makes a di-

rect appeal to the conscience of America, to the fidelity of its constitution and validity of its beliefs.

"There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into an abyss of injustice where they experience the bleakness of corroding despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience."

King's speeches and letters leave a legacy of activism, justice and standing strong in the face of adversity.

Alissa Funderburk, Oral Historian at the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, stressed the importance of storytelling and oral tradition in the Black community in creating intergenerational change.

"Black people in America, being formerly enslaved, weren't given the opportunity to learn to read and write. In those times, storytelling was critical and verbal accounts are the only things available to share their history."

"Even as education became more and more important to Black people, storytelling still remained an important part of our community," she said.

Funderburk, who has worked at the Margaret Walker Center since 2020, also emphasized the power of storytelling in preserving Black culture. "Passing down traditions and recipes, communicating and community building: all these things led to the rich culture and identity we have today. Storytelling remains the way in which we operate as a society. Especially nowadays as the news and internet is so easily tainted by misinformation. We have to trust our personal experience and the experience of the people we know."

When asked what responsibility we have in continuing the tradition of storytelling and following Dr. King's example, Funderburk was very clear.

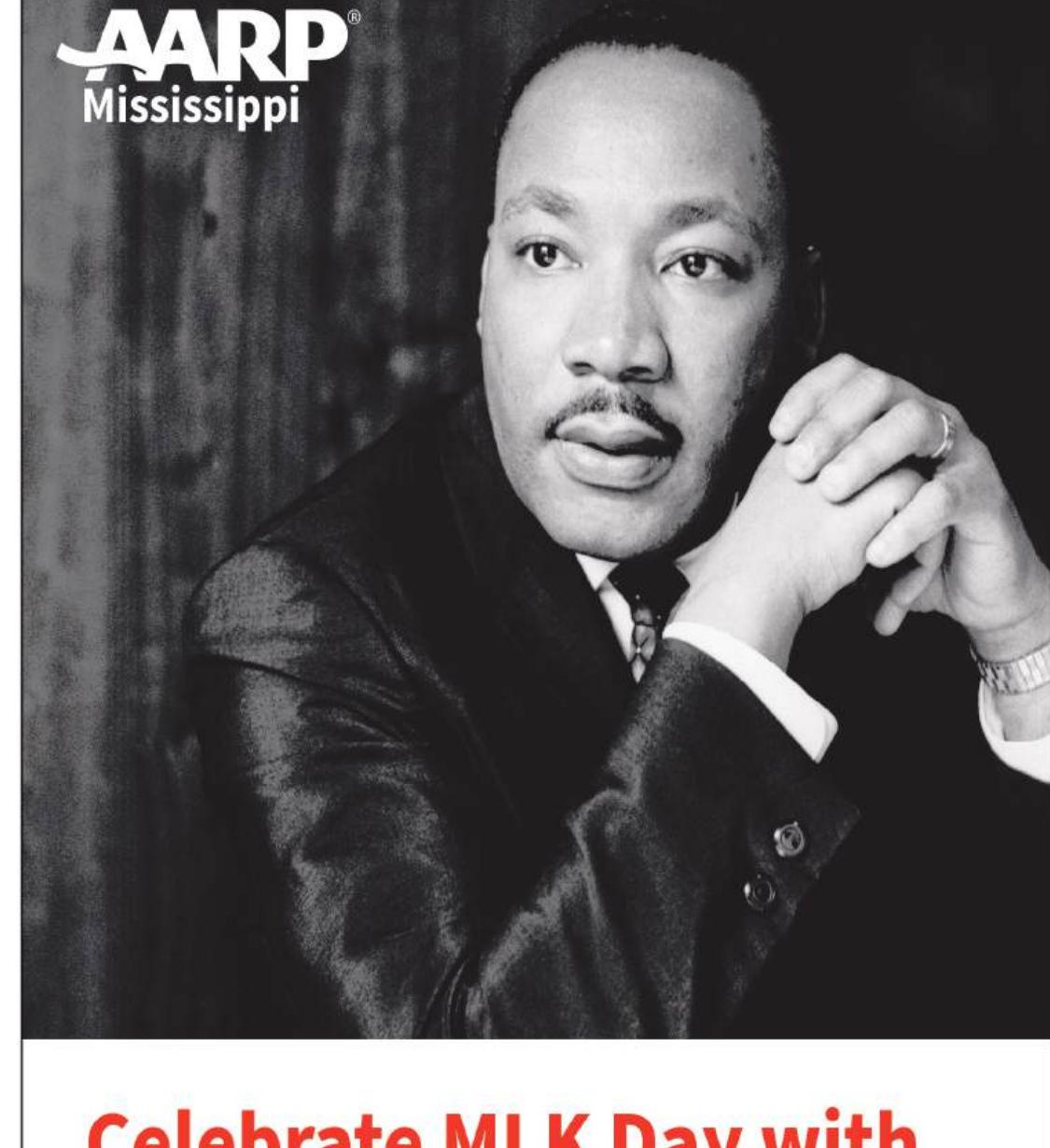
"It's every person's responsibility to preserve their own legacy and the legacy of their ancestors. We have to build knowledge together. It's poignant to think about what Dr. King wanted black people to do: speak up, advocate for yourself, and share your experience. We don't do anything alone; we don't achieve very much alone. And Dr. King and his legacy are important emblems of the power of coming together."

King left a legacy of radical social change, powerful peaceful protests and speeches and writings that changed the course of this nation. His leadership, work and words have inspired generations of Americans to work toward a more perfect union. His life has inspired people across the world to petition for equality, equity and true democracy. His legacy is a testament to the tenacity and nobility of Black people in ensuring the rights and privileges of all citizens of this nation.

King leaves an example of how all people can channel their fire into direct action.

The Margaret Walker Center will be holding its annual convocation at Jackson State University Friday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. For more details go to <https://www.jsu.edu/margaretwalkercenter/events>.

MLK Celebration Weekend hosted by Two Mississippi Museums from 1/16 to 1/20. Go to <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/mlk2026> for a full calendar of events.



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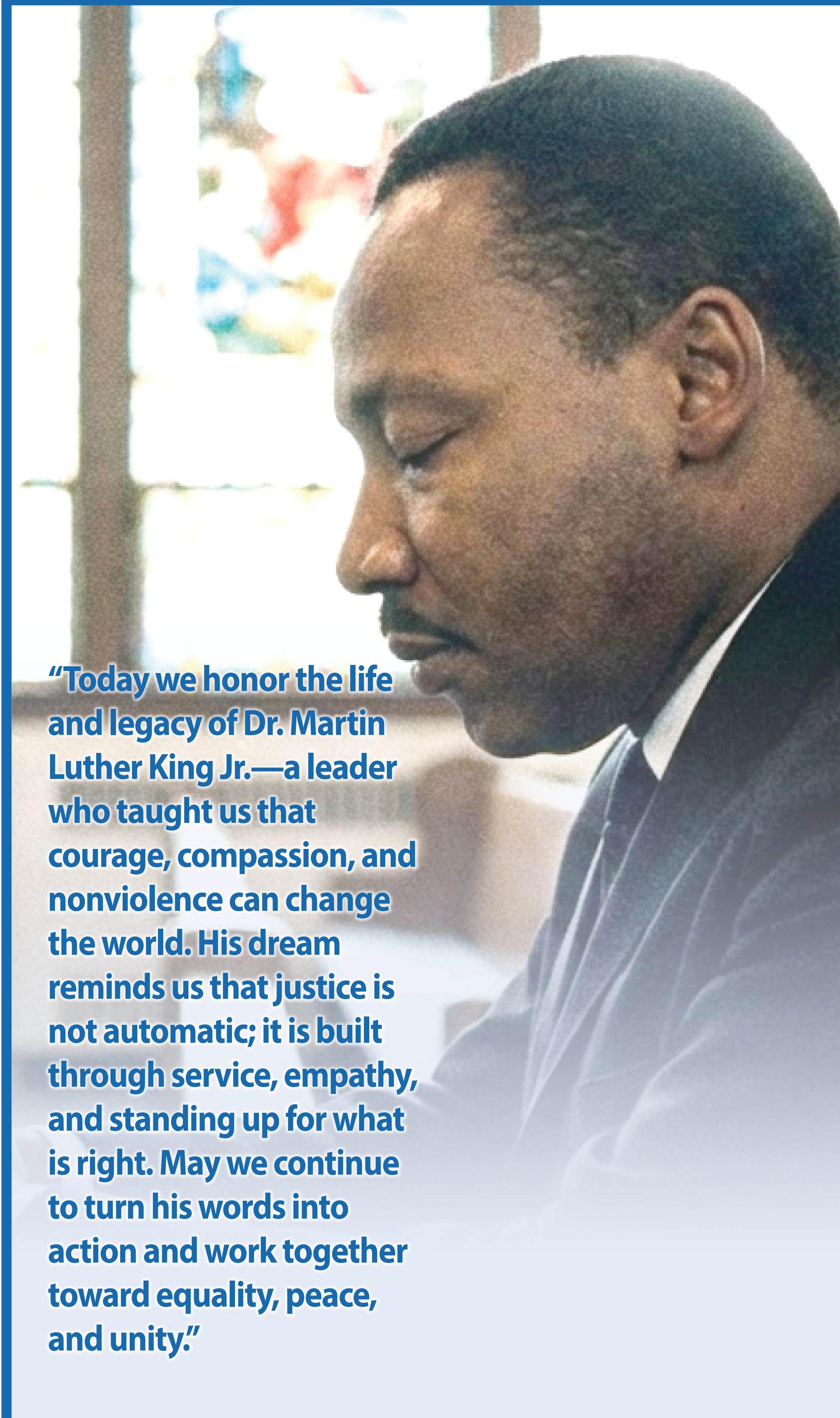
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# At Harvard, a Black Dean falls as Trump's war on equity tightens

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Harvard University now finds itself standing where politics, power, and punishment meet, as the removal of a Black dean unfolds alongside a renewed White House campaign aimed squarely at race, history, and who is allowed to speak plainly about both.

Gregory Davis, a resident dean and African American studies scholar, was removed from his position after years-old social media posts were revived by far-right outlets and amplified during Donald Trump's second presidency. Harvard confirmed Davis was no longer serving in the role and moved quickly to close the matter, even as Davis and his family were given ten days to vacate university housing during winter.

The timing was not incidental. Davis' removal came as the Trump administration issued



Davis

sweeping executive orders attacking diversity, equity, and inclusion programs across federal agencies, higher education, and the private sector. Those orders direct agencies to dis-

mantle DEI offices, terminate equity-related grants, and pressure colleges and universities to certify that they do not operate programs the president has labeled illegal and immoral, de-

spite no change to civil rights law.

Civil rights organizations have warned that the goal is intimidation, not legality. By flooding institutions with threats of investigation and funding loss, the administration has created an environment where universities are encouraged to police Black voices before political actors do it for them.

Davis' academic work focused on how bias operates in admissions and hiring, how institutions decide belonging, and how power shapes opportunity. A graduate of Morehouse College and a Harvard-trained scholar, he studied the very systems now moving against him.

The posts used to justify his removal were written during the national protests following the murder of George Floyd. They criticized policing, whiteness, and Donald Trump. Davis later expressed regret and said the posts did not reflect his current

views. Harvard did not dispute that claim publicly. Instead, the university acted after a student-run outlet and far-right media escalated pressure.

This sequence mirrors what's become a national pattern. Black speech is treated as permanent evidence. White grievance is treated as context.

A report by the Center for Progressive Reform documented how Trump's second term has revived long-standing strategies used against Black Americans, including efforts to freeze federal funding, weaken worker protections, roll back environmental safeguards, and cut programs that disproportionately support Black communities.

The report traced these moves to historical campaigns of disenfranchisement, economic extraction, and political suppression.

Trump's rhetoric frames white Americans as victims of equity efforts, while policy decisions concentrate harm

on Black families through job loss, reduced protections, and increased exposure to environmental and economic risk. This inversion has been central to his political rise.

At Harvard, that national posture took institutional form.

Davis' wife described a family facing sudden displacement, depleted savings, a five-year-old daughter, and a newborn son after a termination that came without warning or transition support.

The pressure now facing universities is unmistakable. The administration does not need to rewrite the law to change behavior. It only needs institutions willing to act as if the law has already changed.

Davis summed up what was taken when he addressed his removal. "It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as the Resident Dean for Dunster," he stated. "I will miss my work with students and staff immensely."

# Steny Hoyer to step aside, closing a 45-year run that shaped the modern 'House'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Rep. Steny Hoyer will not seek another term in the U.S. House of Representatives, ending a congressional career that began in 1981 and made him the longest-serving Democrat in the chamber and the longest-serving lawmaker in Maryland history.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries marked the announcement with a statement that framed Hoyer's departure as a defining moment for the institution itself, citing a record built on legislative discipline, loyalty to the House, and a belief that Congress must function as a working instrument of democracy.

Over nearly 45 years, Hoyer rose through every level of Democratic leadership, serving twice as House Majority Leader and later as a central figure guiding the caucus through closely divided chambers. Jeffries pointed to Hoyer's role in shaping major legislation that altered daily life for millions, including the Help America Vote Act, the American Rescue Plan, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA, which marked its 35th anniversary this year, was described as a cornerstone of Hoyer's legacy, a bipartisan civil rights law that expanded access, independence, and opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

Jeffries also emphasized that Hoyer's national influence never displaced his

focus on Maryland's Fifth Congressional District. Throughout his tenure, Hoyer helped create and protect tens of thousands of jobs by securing and defending federal facilities and research centers, fought for environmental protections tied to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and directed billions in federal investment toward transportation, public safety, and constituent services.

Hoyer, now 86, confirmed his decision in an interview published last week, saying he chose to step aside before age diminished his effectiveness. "I did not want to be one of those members who clearly stayed and outstayed his or her ability to do the job," he said.

The move had been quietly anticipat-

ed months earlier. In November, Washington Informer reporter Anthony Tilghman reported that Hoyer was already weighing whether to run again. "To be clear, this is not public knowledge yet," Tilghman wrote in a Nov. 6 text message. "He did comment on Nancy Pelosi, but a staff member told me that he's considering not running."

As Hoyer prepared to announce his decision on the House floor, Jeffries placed the moment within the continuum of service rather than politics. "Steny's storied service in the People's House has changed millions of lives for the better," Jeffries said, "and his profound love for this institution has made it a stronger vehicle for making life better for everyday Americans."



Hoyer WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# Movement matters: Light activity led to better survival in diabetes, heart, kidney

The American Heart Association



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disease and stroke.

The new study suggests that light physical activity is the most common level of activity and that increasing time spent being active may provide meaningful health benefits, especially for people in CKM syndrome stage 2 and above.

Physical activity, healthy eating habits and medication if appropriate are advised to slow the progression of CKM syndrome. However, write study authors, the moderate- to vigorous-intensity activity recommended in general physical activity

guidelines may not be feasible for adults with advanced CKM syndrome.

"There's growing evidence that lighter activity like walking or gardening can be beneficial for heart health. However, studies have not examined the long-term benefits for those with heart disease or those at high risk for heart disease," said study author Michael Fang, Ph.D., M.H.S., assistant professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland.

Researchers used data from

the 2003 to 2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which collected health and physical activity information from about 7,200 adults. NHANES includes information from participants' physical examinations, blood samples and up to 7 days of activity levels measured with accelerometers — devices that measure a person's movement over several days.

Using accelerometer readings, the study authors noted whether activity level was light, moderate or vigorous. "Light physical activity is something you can do without losing your breath," said study lead author Joseph Sartini, B.S.E., a Ph.D. candidate in biostatistics at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "Common examples are yoga, casual walking, stretching and household chores."

The researchers then compared light-intensity activity duration for each CKM syndrome stage. Participants' health data determined their CKM syndrome stage. People with normal weight, blood pressure, lipids,

blood sugar and kidney function are stage 0, and those with excess weight and/or pre-diabetes are stage 1. People with multiple components of CKM syndrome and/or moderate- to high-risk kidney disease are in stage 2. Individuals at very high-risk kidney disease, high risk for heart disease or stroke, or "sub-clinical" cardiovascular disease, meaning they don't have many symptoms, are in stage 3. People with multiple CKM components or chronic kidney disease who have also had a heart attack or stroke or have atrial fibrillation (irregular heart rate) or peripheral artery disease (blocked arteries in the legs) are in stage 4.

The investigators found:

Light physical activity was significantly associated with lower risk of death in CKM syndrome stages 2, 3, and 4.

A one-hour increase in light physical activity each day was associated with a 14 percent to 20 percent lower risk of death over 14 years.

Increasing time spent doing light activity was associated with greater benefits at higher CKM

stages. For example, increasing activity from 90 minutes to two hours a day was associated with a 2.2 percent risk reduction in stage 2 compared to a 4.2 percent risk reduction in stage 4.

"Light physical activity is an overlooked treatment tool that can help improve heart health for people with CKM syndrome," Sartini said. "For those in later CKM syndrome stages, the potential health benefits of light activity are substantial."

Bethany Barone Gibbs, Ph.D., FAHA, an American Heart Association volunteer and member of the Association's Council on Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health who was not involved in the study, said this is an important area to research.

"We know less about the health impacts of light-intensity activities compared to more intense physical activity," said Gibbs, who is also chair and professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at West Virginia University School of Public Health in Morgantown, West Virginia.

# Why serving size matters in every meal plan

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer  
Tips to be Fit

When it comes to eating well, most of us focus on what's on the plate—lean proteins, leafy greens and whole grains. But there's another factor that's just as important and often overlooked, how much is on the plate. Serving size, the quiet cousin of nutrition labels and calorie counts, plays a starring role in our health outcomes. Whether you're managing diabetes, watching your weight or simply trying to eat more mindfully, understanding and planning around serving sizes can be the difference between progress and plateau.

What is a serving size?

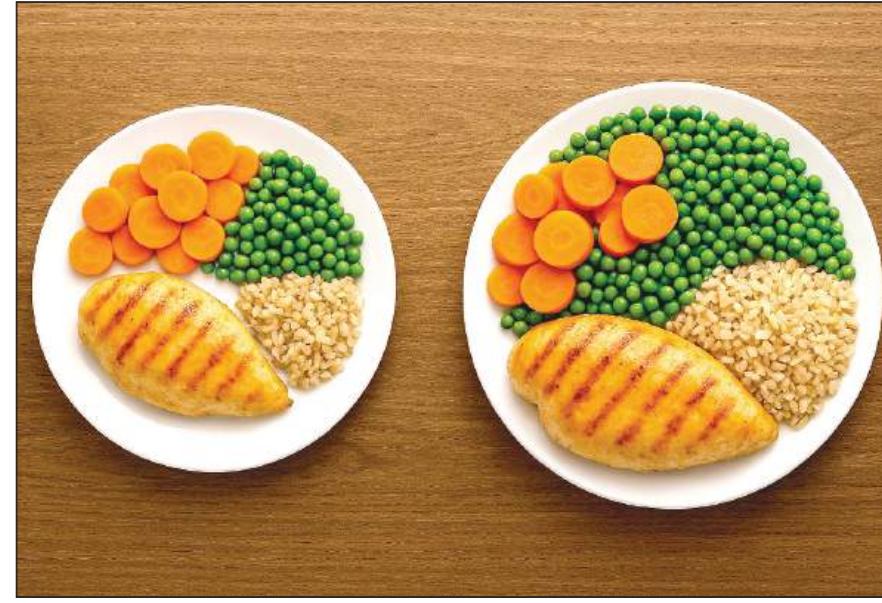
Let's clear up a common confusion: a serving size is not the same as a portion size. A serving size is a standardized amount of food, like one slice of bread or half a cup of cooked rice, used to help people understand how much they're eating. A portion, on the other hand, is how much you actually put on your plate.

The problem? Our portions have grown dramatically over the years. A bagel that used to be 3 inches wide is now often 6 inches. A soda that was once 8 ounces is now 20. Without realizing it, we're eating two or three servings in a single sitting, which adds up fast.

Why serving size matters

1. Weight Management

Calories count, but so does content. Eating more than the recommended serving size, even of healthy foods, can lead to weight gain over time. For example, a serving of almonds is about 23 nuts. Eat double that, and you've added an extra 160 calories without blinking.



## 2. Blood Sugar Control

For people managing diabetes or prediabetes, serving size is critical. Carbohydrates directly affect blood sugar and knowing how many servings of carbs are in a meal helps prevent spikes and crashes. A "small" bowl of cereal might actually contain two or three servings of carbs, enough to throw off your glucose levels.

## 3. Heart Health

Sodium, saturated fat and added sugars often hide in processed foods. A single serving of canned soup might have 800 milligrams of sodium is over a third of the daily recommended limit. But if you eat the whole can (often two servings), you've just consumed more than half your daily sodium in one sitting.

## 4. Nutrient Balance

Serving sizes help ensure you're getting the right balance of nutrients. Too much protein and not enough fiber? That's a recipe for sluggish digestion. Too many carbs and not

enough healthy fats? You might feel hungry again in an hour. Serving sizes help you build meals that satisfy and sustain.

## The Psychology of Portions

Our brains are wired to eat what's in front of us. Studies show that people eat more when served larger portions, regardless of hunger. This "portion distortion" is especially tricky when eating out, where restaurant servings can be two to three times larger than what's recommended.

Cultural traditions also play a role. In many Black households, food is love. A heaping plate is a sign of care, abundance and celebration. But in a world where chronic diseases like hypertension and obesity disproportionately affect Black communities, it's time to rethink what love on a plate looks like.

## Planning with Purpose: Serving Size in Meal Prep

Meal planning is one of the most powerful tools for taking control of

your health and serving size is its secret weapon. Here's how to make it work for you:

- Start with the label. Nutrition labels list serving sizes for a reason. Use them as a guide when measuring snacks, cereals or condiments.

- Use visual cues. Don't want to measure everything? No problem. A fist is about one cup. A cupped hand is about half a cup. A deck of cards equals a 3-ounce serving of meat.

- Pre-portion snacks. Instead of eating chips straight from the bag, portion out a serving into a small bowl or container. You'll be less likely to overeat.

- Plan your plate. The USDA's MyPlate model is a great visual, half your plate should be fruits and vegetables, a quarter lean protein and a quarter whole grains.

- Cook in batches. When you prepare meals in advance, you can portion them into containers that match your nutritional goals. It saves time, money and guesswork.

## Serving Size and Older Adults

As we age, our metabolism slows and our nutritional needs shift. Older adults often need fewer calories but more nutrients like calcium, vitamin D and fiber. That makes serving size even more important. Eating too much can lead to weight gain and joint strain; eating too little can lead to malnutrition.

For seniors living alone, portion planning can also reduce food waste and make grocery shopping more efficient. Instead of cooking a big pot of food that goes uneaten, plan for single-serving meals that can be frozen and reheated.

## A Cultural Conversation

In Black communities, food is

more than fuel, it's history, heritage and healing. From Sunday dinners to cookouts, food brings people together. But it can also bring health challenges if we're not mindful of how much we're eating.

That doesn't mean giving up beloved dishes like mac and cheese, fried fish or sweet potato pie. It means enjoying them in moderation, understanding what a serving looks like, and balancing them with nutrient-rich sides. A small slice of pie can still be part of a heart-healthy meal when paired with greens, beans and grilled protein.

## Tools for Success

- Measuring cups and spoons: Keep them handy in your kitchen.

- Food scales: Especially helpful for meats, cheeses and grains.

- Portion plates: These divided plates make it easy to visualize balanced meals.

- Apps and trackers: Tools like MyFitnessPal or Carb Manager can help you log meals and understand serving sizes.

Serving size isn't about restriction, it's about awareness. It's about honoring your body's needs, respecting your health goals and making informed choices. It's about reclaiming control in a food environment that often pushes us to eat more than we need.

In a world of supersized everything, choosing a proper serving size is a radical act of self-care. It's a way to nourish not just your body but also your future.

So the next time you plan a meal, don't just ask, "What's for dinner?" Ask, "How much do I really need?" Your heart, your waistline and your energy levels will thank you.



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# From academic setbacks to entrepreneurial success: Tim C. Lee's pivotal journey

## *A dream deferred detours into dividends*

By Gail H. Marshall Brown, Ph.D.  
Contributing Writer

In Langston Hughes' iconic poem, "Harlem," the poet asks a question that has echoed across generations: "What happens to a dream deferred?"

For CEO and Founder Tim C. Lee of TCL Financial & Tax Services, that question has a living, breathing answer.

Lee's dream did not die when he "flunked" out of Louisiana State University (LSU) after only three semesters while pursuing his passion to become a teacher. Instead, it detoured -- sometimes painfully, sometimes unexpectedly -- into a life of purpose, service, and entrepreneurial success.

After leaving LSU, Lee pivoted toward cosmetology, inspired by his mother's career as a cosmetologist and cosmetology instructor. "Yep, I said, 'Maybe I can do hair -- cosmetology and barbering,'" Lee said with a laugh. "Once I got into it, I realized, that was not really for me."

Another detour followed -- this time into retail management, where Lee found early success. His productivity propelled him from Alexandria, Louisiana, to Mobile, Alabama, and then to Jackson, Mississippi's Metrocenter Mall, where he was relocated to manage Coda, a retail chain owned by Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.

Company executives promised that if he turned that store around, a promotion to district manager would follow.

Then the unexpected happened.

One morning, as Lee unlocked the



Lee

store doors, a stranger was waiting with devastating news: the company had filed for bankruptcy, and the store was closing immediately.

At 28, newly relocated and suddenly unemployed, with no family in Jackson, Lee faced a crossroads that would redefine his life.

"I told myself I would never be in that position again," Lee said.

Determined to regain control of his future, Lee enrolled at Jackson State University and resumed working toward a degree in math and English education.

Although he passed the Praxis I exam,

he struggled with Praxis II and eventually stepped away.

And once again, a detour became destiny.

While studying, Lee noticed a newspaper advertisement for a tax-preparation course. "I took that class and fell in love with it," he said. "It changed my whole life."

In 2002, Lee launched a home-based tax business. Two years later, armed with \$5,000 of his own savings, a \$5,000 Small Business Administration (SBA) loan, and a \$5,000 loan from his mother, he opened his first brick-and-mortar office on Jan. 5, 2004. Friends pitched in with furniture and supplies. Lee has since repaid every loan with interest.

That same year, he passed his Praxis II and graduated from Jackson State University.

"I put the degree on the wall," he said. "Even though I have never taught children in a classroom, I still teach every day."

Today, TCL Financial & Tax Services recently celebrated 22 years in business, with four locations (Byram, Canton, and two in Jackson), more than 20 employees, and a reputation built on trust, education, and community investment. The Jackson-based firm offers more than a dozen services, including tax preparation, business development, estate planning, insurance, and retirement strategies.

The company maintains an A-plus rating with the Better Business Bureau -- an uncommon achievement in the fi-

nancial services industry.

"What truly sets TCL Financial & Tax Services apart is their top-tier customer service," said longtime client Tara Jones-Cooper, LMSW. "Mr. Lee has been my trusted tax adviser for nearly 20 years, and I have never been audited by the IRS," she said. "That speaks volumes about his knowledge, accuracy, and professionalism."

"With tax laws constantly changing, I know I couldn't keep up on my own," Jones-Cooper added. "That's why I trust him and his team; they stay informed and ensure everything is handled correctly."

Lee credits much of his success to humility and strategic learning. "I was smart enough to understand that I wasn't smart enough," he said. "I needed people who knew more than me, especially a business coach."

He took full advantage of Jackson State University's Small Business Development program. He also emphasizes the importance of experience and reading. "I self-taught myself a lot by reading," he said. "You can read an article and learn in 10 minutes what took the writer their entire life to learn."

One of Lee's proudest achievements is his 10-week tax course, which he personally teaches annually from October to December. Participants learn tax law through memorization and manual preparation before ever touching software. "We don't put them on the computer until the ninth week," he said.

Beyond business, Lee invests deeply

in people and community. TCL sponsors scholarships at Jackson State University and Lee's high school, Northwood High School in Boyce, Louisiana; supports Jackson Public Schools; and operates a Teachers Rock Appreciation Program. The company has earned numerous community and business awards, including Business of the Year and Businessman of the Year honors from Respect Our Black Dollars, as well as an achievement award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Rather than expanding locations, Lee now focuses on developing entrepreneurs through partnerships and coaching. "At this point in my life, I want to help others turn their dreams into reality," he said.

He also helps others through his radio program, "The TCL Show," which is themed, "You, Life, and Money." It airs on WMPR 90.1 FM on Mondays at 6 p.m.

"His radio show is extremely educational," said Pastor, Rev. Audrey Lynne Hall of Holy Temple M.B. Church in West Jackson. "I try to tune in every Monday night."

Lee is also a former Army National Guard member, current freelance business writer, and the proud father of four daughters. Three of whom are business owners.

Lee measures success not by avoiding failure, but by learning from it and lifting others up in the process.

For Tim C. Lee, a dream deferred didn't dry up. It paid dividends.

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# Bright spots amid America's current blizzard of Pro-Whiteness

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Every President promises to govern for all Americans and there are plenty of examples over time where they do. This President does not. Today, Americans who are not white are subjugated to second-class citizenship. Those who are African American, whose ancestors were brought here in shackles, have systematically been denied equality and equity. One hundred and sixty years after the tenuous end of slavery in these United States, our African American population is 48+ million or 14+ percent and rising yet are continuously discriminated against by the US government.

Federal Reserve data indicates that white households hold 80+ percent of the nation's assets, though they make up just 58 percent of overall population. White households with high school education levels still have far more wealth than college-level African American households. Forbes reports that just 1.6 percent of Fortune 500 companies are led by people of color – that's 8 out of 500. This is a major reason why diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and policies are so important. The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report indicates that overall unemployment increased from 4.3 to 4.5 percent in the last year. From year to year, it remained steady for Whites, Asians, and Hispanic/



Hundreds rallied against Trump's policies in Gulfport, MS on Flag Day, June 14, 2025, as part of nationwide No Kings Rally. PHOTO: WWW.SUNHEARALD.COM.

Latinos at 3.8 percent, 4.1 percent, and 5.3 percent, respectively. Yet for African Americans, unemployment increased from 6.2 percent to 7.8 percent from November 2024 to November 2025. Just one example of the persistent unlevel playing field?

Trump and his people are anti-DEI. They want folks to believe that the playing field is level in America. Many companies succumbed to pressure by the president and his anti-DEI Executive Order, signed on Day 1 of his return to office, and rolled back their public support. The list of companies that have turned their back on minorities includes: IBM, Gannett (largest publisher of newspapers in the US), Constellation Brands (Corona and Modelo beer), UnitedHealth Group (the larg-

est US healthcare company by revenue), Major League Baseball, Victoria's Secret, State Street Corporation (global leader in investment servicing), Warner Brothers Discovery (owns HBO, CNN, and the Discovery Channel), Goldman Sachs, Paramount, Bank of America, BlackRock, Citi-Group, Pepsi, Disney, Deloitte, PBS, Google, Amazon, Target, Meta, Walmart, Boeing, Molson-Coors, Lowe's, Ford Motor Company, Harley Davidson, John Deere, and McDonald's, per Forbes.com.

Most of these companies have cited laws as their rationale, yet it could be more like lawsuits, as Trump never hesitates to file suit against those who don't kowtow to him. Seeing so many major companies who thrive on dollars from minority communi-

ties turn their backs on them is devastating, yet there are many others who have not.

The companies listed below represent bright spots amid this current wave of pro-whiteness. Their leaders say that DEI is vital for innovation, understanding diverse customers, and attracting top talent. They see DEI as central to their overall talent strategy, not just a separate program, focusing on fairness and inclusion for all employees. Their shareholders vote to uphold DEI initiatives. These companies are Apple, Microsoft, Cisco, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Visa, Costco, Coca-Cola, Levi Strauss & Co., Procter & Gamble, Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, General Motors (GM), Home Depot, Marriott, and e.l.f. Beauty.

Separate research indicates that the National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, and Major League Soccer, are all committed to DEI.

Do you suppose that bean counters determine which direction the companies proceed? Will the bottom line be damaged for those who are turning their back on diversity? Will some change their minds, and say – oops, we're sorry? So many questions.

Arvind Krishna is the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of IBM. Big Blue has a presence in 175 countries. FinanceCharts.com reports that IBM employs 270,300 people worldwide. Their market capitalization is \$287 billion dollars.

Mr. Krishna is of Indian descent. Does that tell us anything about why they have ceased their well-known diversity policies? When asked by Bloomberg, he cited an internal memo that detailed "inherent tensions in practicing inclusion." Think that one over.

General Motors, which includes the luxury brand Cadillac, continues to support DEI. Their CEO is a white female. After losing ground to Toyota in recent years, GM is again the largest automaker in the United States in 2025, per CNBC. "CEO Mary Barra's leadership style is characterized by a commitment to expanding diversity within the leadership team and adhering to the three "pillars"

that drive GM's inclusive workplace: "Our Words (what we say), Our Deeds (what we do) and Our Culture (who we are)," per CBT Automotive Network.

When the boycott of Target started March 5, 2025, led by Pastor Jamal Harrison Bryant and numerous others, did we know the impact it would have? Yahoo Finance says Target sales dropped 32% in 2025. In August, they fired longtime CEO Brian Cornell, after the company had lost \$12 billion in earnings. Four years earlier, following the George Floyd murder, Cornell had pledged to increase black employee representation by 20% and committed to spend over \$2 billion with Black-owned businesses, per Forbes.com.

On President Biden's first day in office, he issued Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." On Trump's return to office on January 20, 2025, he signed Executive Order 14151, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing." Within the document, these words are found, "Americans deserve a government committed to serving every person with equal dignity and respect, and to expending precious taxpayer resources only on making America great." The dress rehearsals are long over. These pro-white people are digging in deeper.

## Homelessness across the Nation is not going away any time soon, but Congress must act

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

Funding for critical housing and homelessness programs is at an all-time high in the United States. The deadline for Congress to negotiate the next set of funding bills is set for the end of this month. That's not far away, since January has already reached its midpoint. The move made will have an impact on the masses and will determine the number of the American populace who will be evicted and who will become homeless.

Sonya Acosta from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities maintained at the end of December 2025 that the Trump

Administration and congressional Republicans may inflict harm on Americans by imposing cuts to housing and homelessness assistance through the now negotiated appropriations bill. "It's critical that no families lose assistance and communities have the resources to at least maintain current levels of assistance," she said. Getting at this matter involves Congress ensuring that communities have the funding they need. Directing HUD in the final funding bill to renew existing grants for this year "would keep people stably housed, and prevent funding disruptions for communities across the country, all

without any increase in funding," noted Acosta.

More than 50,000 households are using the successful Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program for monthly rent. This program has granted lifesaving assistance to households fleeing domestic violence and trafficking or experiencing homelessness. Persons, however, who are under the umbrella of this program may not be protected by EHV this year because funds might be depleted.

Further, a lack of adequate funding might cause the country's largest federal rental assistance program – the Housing Choice Voucher program – to

fold. New families might be denied rental assistance via vouchers and would not receive the help that they need. Nevertheless, Housing Choice Vouchers are ideal for helping people with low incomes afford housing. This also includes unsheltered people.

More than 600,000 people (in addition to those already homeless) could possibly be without an affordable home in 2026. In Mississippi alone, 400 people could be at risk of losing housing; 250 households run the risk of losing housing; 4,800 persons are impacted by lost vouchers under the House Bill, while 2,900 persons are im-

pacted by lost vouchers under the Senate Bill; and 5,440 persons are at risk from Housing cuts under the House Bill, while 3,540 persons are at risk from Housing cuts under the Senate Bill, according to Acosta.

Housing stability is a serious matter and need not be taken lightly. Congress has the charge of negotiating funding bills that will prove beneficial to the American people. Within a matter of days, American households will come to know whether the Trump Administration and Congress will cast a positive vote for them to be sheltered adequately. Will they render a favorable response?



Sonya Costa, Senior Policy Analyst warns Americans that the Trump Administration and Congress are prone to impose cuts to housing and homelessness assistance.

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# Elon Musk's xAI to build \$20 billion data center in Mississippi



By Sophie Bates  
Associated Press

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI is set to spend \$20 billion to build a data center in Southaven, Mississippi, Gov. Tate Reeves announced Thursday, calling it the largest private investment in the state's history.

The data center, called MACROHARDRR, is being built in Mississippi's DeSoto County near Memphis, Tennessee. It will be the company's third data center in the greater Memphis area.

xAI CFO Anthony Armstrong said the cluster of data centers will house "the world's largest supercomputer" with 2 gigawatts of computing power.

The announcement comes as xAI faces scrutiny over its data center projects in the Memphis area. The NAACP and the Southern Environmental

Law Center have raised concerns over air pollution generated by xAI's supercomputer facility located near predominantly Black communities in Memphis.

A petition by the Safe and Sound Coalition, a Southaven group opposing xAI's developments, calls for shutting down xAI's operations in the area and has received more than 900 signatures as of Thursday afternoon.

xAI did not immediately respond when asked for comment about environmental concerns.

A fact sheet released by the Mississippi governor's office said environmental responsibility is a "core commitment" for xAI.

During the announcement, Reeves personally thanked Musk. Reeves predicted the investment would bring hundreds of permanent jobs to the

community, thousands of indirect subcontracting jobs, and tax revenue to support public services.

Under the incentives for data centers passed in 2024, the state will waive all sales, corporate income and franchise taxes on the xAI development. Saving sales taxes on the computing power that xAI is purchasing would likely be worth a substantial amount of money, but the Mississippi Development Authority did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' questions about how much tax revenue Mississippi will give up.

DeSoto County and the city of Southaven have also agreed to allow substantially reduced property taxes.

xAI is expected to begin data center operations in Southaven next month.

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# 6 people killed in Mississippi rampage, including 7-year-old girl. Suspect charged with murder

The Associated Press

A 24-year-old Mississippi man killed six people — his father, brother, uncle, 7-year-old cousin, a church pastor and the pastor's brother — at three locations during a Friday night rampage in a rural area, authorities said.

Daricka M. Moore was arrested at a police roadblock in Cedarbluff just before midnight after dozens of local, state and federal officers flooded the northeast Mississippi area.

Moore was being held without bail Saturday at the Clay County jail in West Point on murder charges and ahead of an expected initial appearance Monday before a judge.

Clay County District Attorney Scott Colom, who said he expects to pursue the death penalty, told The Associated Press that Moore would likely be appointed a public defender at that time.

If charges are upgraded to capital murder before then, Moore will be ineligible for bail under state law.

Clay County Sheriff Eddie Scott said at a Saturday news conference that evidence and witnesses indicate that Moore was the only shooter and no other injuries have been reported.



Clay County Sheriff Eddie Scott speaks at a news conference in West Point, Miss., on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, following fatal Friday night shootings at three locations. WILLIAM MOORE/THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI DAILY JOURNAL VIA AP

Investigators were continuing to interview Moore but do not currently know what may have motivated him, he added.

"A situation like this, you've got a family member attacking their own family," Scott said. "Whatever the reason is, we're hoping that we'll find out."

The shootings unfolded in an area of fields, woods and mostly modest homes about 125 miles (200 kilometers) northeast of Jackson. Scott said Moore

Investigators believe Moore first killed his father, 67-year-old Glenn Moore, his brother, 33-year-old Quinton Moore and his uncle, 55-year-old Willie Ed Guines, at the family's mobile home on a dirt road in western Clay County.

The sheriff said Moore then stole his brother's truck and drove a few miles to a cousin's house, where he forced his way in and attempted to commit sexual battery. Scott said Moore

then put a gun to the head of a 7-year-old girl, whom he declined to identify, and fatally shot her.

"I don't know what kind of motive you could have to kill a 7-year-old," he said.

Scott said that according to witnesses, Moore then placed a gun against a younger child's head, but she was not shot. It was not clear whether he did not pull the trigger or the gun misfired.

"That's how violent it was," Scott said.

The mother and a third child were also present, the sheriff said.

Moore then allegedly drove to a small white frame church, the Apostolic Church of The Lord Jesus. There, Scott said, he broke into a residence, killed the pastor and his brother and stole one of their vehicles.

Scott said the last two victims, the Rev. Barry Bradley

and Samuel Bradley, lived most of the time in nearby Columbus but spent weekends on church grounds. Some Moore family members attend the church, Scott said.

Moore was caught at a roadblock at 11:24 p.m. near where the second shooting occurred, Scott said, four-and-a-half hours after the first call came in. Colom said Moore had a rifle and a handgun. Scott said officers are investigating where Moore obtained the guns.

The state medical examiner is performing autopsies on the victims.

Scott said Moore's surviving relatives are overwhelmed with grief.

"It was really hard to have conversations other than prayers with everybody out there," he said, adding, "this has really shaken our community."

Colom, a Democrat who is seeking his party's nomination this year to run against Republican U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, said he is confident that his office has the resources to prosecute Moore and pursuing the death penalty is the right thing to do.

"Six people, one night, several different scenes, it's about as bad as it gets," Colom said.

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Careers: AMR's next PAID in-house EMT course starts March 3. Inquire by Jan. 24 through 601-919-7860 or [Malcolm.robinson@Gmr.net](mailto:Malcolm.robinson@Gmr.net).



**Celebrating the life  
and dedication of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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Gailya Porter - President



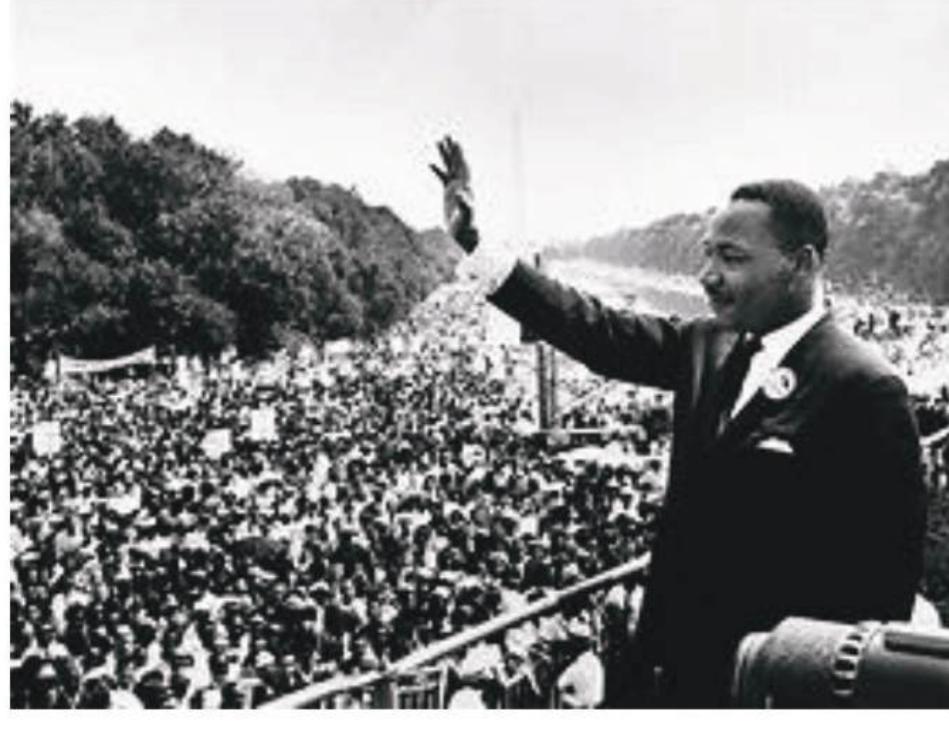


# children's defense fund

unleashing the joy in growing up



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR!



### The World Misses Your Voice

The Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office and the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice present these excerpts from a letter to Dr. King in the book, *The Sea is So Wide and My Boat is So Small* by Founder and President Emerita Children's Defense Fund Marian Wright Edelman (2008).

#### A Letter To Dr. King

"Although you have been gone forty years, you are with me every day. We have made much but far from enough progress in overcoming the tenacious national demons of racism, poverty, materialism, and militarism you repeatedly warned could destroy America and all of God's creation. So I wanted to write you a letter on what we have done and still have to do to realize your and America's dream. What a privilege it was to know, work with, and learn from you in the struggle to end racial segregation, discrimination, and poverty in our land.

Just as many Old and New Testament prophets in the Bible were rejected, scorned, and dishonored in their own land in their times, so were you by many when you walked among us. Now that you are dead, many Americans remember you warmly but have sanitized and trivialized your message and life. They remember Dr. King the great orator but not Dr. King the disturber of unjust peace. They applaud the Dr. King who opposed violence but not the Dr. King who called for massive nonviolent demonstrations to end war and poverty in our national and world house. They applaud your great 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech but ignore the promissory note still bouncing at America's bank of justice, waiting to be cashed by millions of poor and minority citizens. And they forget your repeated nightmares: the deaths of the four little girls in the Birmingham church and of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi's Freedom Summer and others across the South.

You blessed America with your rich faith, spiritual traditions, and prophetic preaching. You gave us your deep and abiding love and lifelong commitment to nonviolence. You shared your moral clarity and courageous truth telling. You left us your unrelenting commitment to justice for the poor and every one of God's children. You showed us the way through your example and call for massive nonviolent action in the service of justice and peace. And you gave us your life.

***Thank you.*** We will carry on."



# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



All JPS schools and offices will be closed Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



*"Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education."*

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



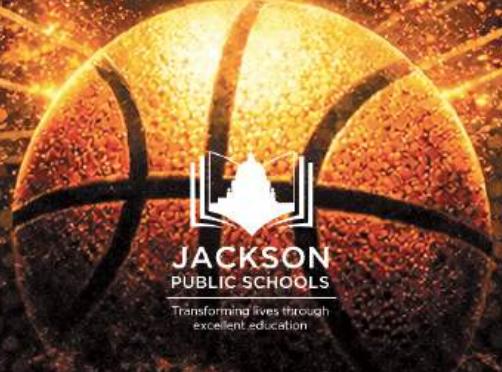
## ★ BOYS GAME SCHEDULE ★

- 12:00 p.m. Choctaw Central vs Brookhaven
- 1:30 p.m. Piney Woods vs Thomas Edwards
- 3:00 p.m. Forest Hill vs McComb
- 4:30 p.m. Terry vs Vicksburg
- 6:00 p.m. Lanier vs Pelahatchie

**January 19, 2026**

Location: Lanier Jr Sr High School | \$10

[Gofan.co](http://Gofan.co)



LANIER HIGH SCHOOL

# MLK LADIES HOOP FEST

JANUARY 17, 2026

 <b>MAVS</b>	<b>VS</b>	 <b>FOREST HILL PATRIOTS</b>
 <b>H</b>	<b>VS</b>	 <b>CHOCTAW CENTRAL</b>
 <b>VICKSBURG TITANS</b>	<b>VS</b>	 <b>TERRY BULLDOGS</b>
 <b>RIDGELAND TITANS</b>	<b>VS</b>	 <b>MORTON PANTHERS</b>
 <b>LANIER BULLDOGS</b>	<b>VS</b>	 <b>BROOKHAVEN PANTHERS</b>

LANIER JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

LERoy T. SMITH GYMNASIUM

ADMISSION \$10 | DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 PM



Transforming lives through excellent education



# Claudette Colvin, who refused to move before the Nation was ready, dies at 86

By Wane Hailes,  
CEL News

History often remembers movements by their most recognizable moments. It less often remembers the teenagers who moved first.

Claudette Colvin, whose refusal to surrender her seat on a segregated Montgomery bus came months before the moment that would enter textbooks, died Tuesday at 86. Her death was confirmed by the Claudette Colvin Legacy Foundation, which said she died of natural causes in Texas.

On March 2, 1955, Colvin was 15 years old and riding home from school when the bus driver ordered Black passengers to give up their seats to white riders. Three students stood. Colvin did not. Police arrested her, charged her under segregation laws, and placed her on probation. She later said she was thinking about the Constitution and the rights she believed belonged to her.

Colvin's arrest came at a time when Montgomery's Black community was already pressing against the daily restraints of Jim Crow. Her stand did

not ignite a boycott that day, but it did register. It landed in conversations, church meetings, and legal strategy sessions that would soon follow.

"This nation lost a civil rights giant today," Tafeni English-Relf, Alabama state director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, said. "Claudette Colvin's courage lit the fire for a movement that would free all Alabamians and Americans from the woes of southern segregation."

Unlike others whose names became shorthand for the era, Colvin paid a quieter price. She was young and outspoken and was later judged by standards that did not apply to older leaders. She was never elevated as the public face of the movement. Her life unfolded mostly outside the spotlight she helped create.

Yet Colvin's role proved decisive. She became one of four plaintiffs in Browder v. Gayle, the federal lawsuit that reached the Supreme Court and ended bus segregation in Montgomery and across Alabama. The case dismantled the legal framework that made her arrest possible.

"At age 15, Ms. Colvin was arrested on March 2, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for violating bus segregation ordinances, nine months before Rosa Parks," Phillip Ensler wrote. "In 2021, it was the privilege of a lifetime to serve on the legal team that helped Ms. Colvin clear her record from the conviction."

"As we worked on the court motion, I had the honor of spending time with Ms. Colvin to hear her story and get to know her," Ensler wrote.

"Today we lost an unsung yet significant hero of the civil rights movement," Sen. Rev. Raphael Warnock said. "Her courage paved the way for Rosa Parks' decision and the launching of a movement that would end segregation."

"History did not always give Claudette Colvin the credit she deserved, but her impact is undeniable," Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said.

"Her life reminds us that progress is shaped not only by moments, but by sustained courage and truth," Bernice King said.



On March 2, 1955, Colvin was 15 years old and riding home from school when the bus driver ordered Black passengers to give up their seats to white riders.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

*Join us in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by moving forward together—serving our community, strengthening connections, and growing through unity.*

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**JMAA**  
Jackson Municipal Airport Authority

# Delta Sigma Theta International President Cheryl Turner visits historical marker honoring Founder Winona Cargile Alexander



Cheryl W. Turner, the International President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (standing behind the podium), addressed the press during her visit to Columbus, GA. While there, she visited the gravesite of Winona Cargile Alexander, one of the 22 Founders of the sorority.



Pictured is the marker of Winona Cargile Alexander, one of the 22 Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



Standing left to right at the marker of Winona Cargile Alexander, one of the 22 Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority: Michelle Nelson-Hawkins, Georgia State Coordinator; Brenda C. Williams, Columbus (GA) Alumnae Chapter President; Cheryl W. Turner, International President; Dolores Tarver, Columbus Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter President; Vickie Williams - Wiley and Yolanda Johnson, Columbus, GA Joint Founders Day Celebration Chair. All persons represent Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

By Wane Hailes,  
CEL News

The international president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated marked the organization's 113th anniversary with a visit to Columbus, GA, culminating in a stop at a historical marker honoring one of the sorority's founders, Winona Cargile Alexander, a Columbus native.

More than five hundred mem-

bers and guests gathered Jan. 10 for a joint Founders Day luncheon hosted by the Columbus Alumnae Chapter, Columbus Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter and the Theta Phi Chapter at Columbus State University. The event celebrated more than a century of service and recognized local community partners.

Turner, international president and chair of the sorority's board of directors, delivered the keynote address. Turner was elected at the sorority's 57th National Convention in July 2025 and leads a global membership of more than 350,000 women.

"It is my honor to join more than 500 Sorors and friends to-

day," Turner said. "Our beloved sorority was founded nearly 113 years ago on the campus of Howard University by twenty-two young women. I am proud of the impact these chapters continue to have within the Columbus community and beyond. Their commitment to service, scholarship and social action are the principles on which our beloved sorority was founded."

Following the luncheon, members traveled to a historical marker commemorating Alexander. Turner said she was "deeply honored" to observe the anniversary in Alexander's birthplace. With the visit, Turner became the first sitting international president of Delta Sigma Theta to visit the marker site.

Turner, surrounded by mem-

bers of the three local chapters, placed roses at the foot of the historical marker.

Alexander was born June 21,

1893, in the parsonage of St. John A.M.E. Church. She was the second daughter of Lady Fannie Cargile and Rev. Charles Cargile, the pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church. Alexander attended Howard University, where she became one of 22 women who founded Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on January 13, 1913. The sorority is one of the largest African-American sororities in the world.

ESB/2025



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**Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.**

## Lee Scott sworn in as new member of the Jackson Public Schools Board of Trustees



*The Mississippi Link Newsire*

Jackson Public Schools welcomes Lee Scott as the newest member of the district's Board of Trustees. Scott brings a deep commitment to scholars, families, and community driven progress, along with years of leadership and service focused on creating real results.

Scott has more than five years of leadership experience and holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in leadership.

His professional background in the nonprofit sector has shaped a collaborative approach rooted in listening, strategy, and action.

He currently serves as an assistant director and counselor with Get2College, a program of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation, where he supports scholars with college planning,

financial aid guidance, and academic and career advising.

Previously, Scott served as volunteer recruitment coordinator for the Jackson Leadership Foundation, a faith-based

nonprofit that partners with more than ten organizations across the Jackson metro area.

His leadership development also includes participation in the inaugural Change Collective cohort through Civic Nation in partnership with the Obama Foundation, as well as being an alumnus of the New Leaders Council's Oklahoma chapter.

Scott remains actively engaged in the community. He is involved with the Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods and serves as president of the Mississippi Urban League Young Professionals. He also gives back through his church and volunteers as a mentor with Red Door Jackson. Beyond his professional and civic work, Scott hosts a podcast titled Leading with Lee, where he shares conversations about leadership, life, and legacy.

During his swearing in, Scott reflected on the personal meaning of this moment and the responsibility ahead.

"Today, I was officially sworn in as a member of Jackson Public School's Board of Trustees. What an honor for me and my family. The main thing I reflected on today was that my seventy-nine-year-old grandfather, Isaac Garland, did not get the opportunity to even finish grade school. He had to be pulled out of school to sharecrop. Now, his grandson gets to ensure that the children of our city can finish and thrive. I hope to make him and all of my family proud as I serve the over sixteen thousand children across Jackson. Let's get to work."

Scott will represent Ward 6 which is also represented by Jackson City Councilwoman Lashia Brown-Thomas.

Jackson Public Schools looks forward to the perspective, energy, and commitment Scott brings as he begins his service to support scholars and strengthen schools across the district.



(left to right): Earl Burke, Chief of Operations; Attorney Larissa Harris, General Counsel; Superintendent Dr. Erick L. Greene; Lee Scott, Board Member; Dr. Michael Cormack, Jr., Deputy Superintendent; Dr. William Merritt IV, Chief of Staff



Lee Scott Sr.; Tessa Hill; Lee Scott; Amanda Rio Branco Scott; Valura Scott; Councilwoman Lashia Brown-Thomas, City of Jackson

## JPS announces schedules for the 2026 High School Commencement Ceremonies

### JPS Newswire

We're excited to share that it's almost time for the Class of 2026 to walk the stage! Jackson Public Schools will hold its 2026 commencement ceremonies for graduating seniors on Tuesday, May 26, and Wednesday, May 27, at the Mississippi Coliseum (1207 Mississippi Street). Below is the graduation schedule by

school and ceremony time.

Tuesday, May 26, 2026:

Murrah High School – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Provine High School – 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Jim Hill High School – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026:

Callaway High School – 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Forest Hill High School –

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

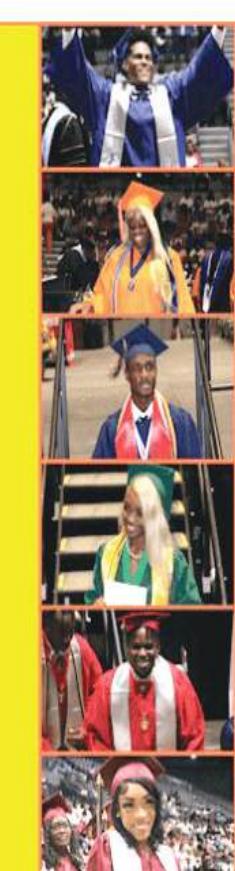
Lanier Jr. Sr. High School – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Please note that the Mississippi Coliseum requires clear bags for entry, and all guests will be subject to metal detection.

Ceremonies will also be livestreamed at [www.youtube.com/jpsitv](http://www.youtube.com/jpsitv) for anyone who cannot attend in person.



JPS High Schools will hold commencement ceremonies for graduating seniors on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026, and Wednesday, May 27, 2026**, at the Mississippi Coliseum located at 1207 Mississippi Street.



**TUESDAY  
MAY 26, 2026**

Murrah High School  
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Provine High School  
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Jim Hill High School  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY  
MAY 27, 2026**

Callaway High School  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Forest Hill High School  
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lanier Jr. Sr. High School  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Mississippi Coliseum requires only clear bags to be allowed when entering the building. Additionally, each guest will be required to enter through a metal detector. No balloons, signs or noisemakers will be allowed during JPS graduation ceremonies.

The graduation ceremonies will be livestreamed on <https://www.youtube.com/jpsitv>.

# Reigning News

www.themississippilink.com

JANUARY 15 - 21, 2026

THE MISSISSIPPI LINK • B5

P R E S E R V E D

## Living in the Overflow

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



"The hem that's got shall get; them that's not shall lose," are words sung so sweetly by the late Billie Holiday that can apply to our current national economic situation when prices are going up and many are struggling to pay bills. There is a lingering negative financial impact and uncertainty. But surprisingly, there are some that are doing well financially. In fact, some people have gotten even richer during these hard times. According to Robert C. Lieberman, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs at Columbia University, the top 5 percent of earners have increased their wealth since 2009.

The Bible even mentions this kind of strategy when

it says in Matthew 13:12, "Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." It's always seemed unfair to me that people who have more (and need it the least) can get more and that people who have the least (and need it the most) seem to lose more. How are those who are in great need going to ever get to be one of those "who have" if they continue to lose?

How have the rich stayed richer? Some wealth strategists say that one successful strategy of wealthy people is to live off the interest from investments and to continue to make investments that will allow them to live off interest. For some of us, it's hard to imagine making an investment much less living off of the interest from one.

We may not be able to make financial investments,

but we can make a "spiritual" investment of sincere obedience to God's word. The "overflow" of that obedience is an assurance that God will not only hear our prayers but will bless our lives. 2 Corinthians 8:2-7 describes how despite their poverty, the early believers overflowed with joy and generosity

despite their difficult circumstances. They were obedient to scripture and gave as God directed them and were blessed.

Romans 15:13 says "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Often, the overflow of peace comes from us submitting the control of our emotions to the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible also mentions a few places how God wants us to "live in the overflow." "You prepare a table

before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows," are familiar words from Psalm 23:4-6.

When we are in a vulnerable situation, God will allow those who think they have gotten the best of us see him pour out blessings in our lives. We have to be bold enough to allow God to protect us even in the face of opposition or spiritual attack. Our "overflow" is the assurance that comes in knowing that God is our "Jehovah Nissi," our banner who has prepared the path of victory for us.

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

## Mississippi Senate Democrats statement on arson at Beth Israel Church

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Mississippi Senate Democrats unequivocally condemn the hateful and criminal act of arson committed against Beth Israel Church in Jackson. An attack on a house of worship is not merely an attack on a building, it is an attack on faith, community, and the fundamental values of religious freedom and human dignity that define our democracy.

As Scripture reminds us: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:11-12, KJV)

There is no place in Mississippi—or anywhere—for antisemitism, religious bigotry, or violence fueled by hate. We are grateful for the swift actions of law enforcement and federal authorities in investigating this crime, and we trust that justice will be pursued fully and transparently.



We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community in Jackson and across our state. Mississippi is stronger when all people—regardless of faith—are able to worship freely and safely without fear or intimidation.

At this moment, we call on all Mississippians to reject hate in every form, to speak out against extremism, and to reaffirm our shared commitment to love, respect, and peace.

Hate will not divide us. Faith will not be silent. And violence will not define who we are.

## New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Live Radio Broadcast

WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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Wednesday  
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## The Mississippi Link

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REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

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JANUARY 15 - 21, 2026

[www.themississippilink.com](http://www.themississippilink.com)

## LEGAL

### RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

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

CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4

PETITIONERS: JESSICA CARR

### SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Jessica Carr Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Jesse Earl Carr, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:00 o'clock p. m., on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Crystal Wise-Martin, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 5 day of January, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR  
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI

BY: B. Johnson



1/8/2026, 1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

### SECTION 1 ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF JACKSON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of the bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive, City Project No. **ERBR-25-250(03)** no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, **February 17, 2026**, in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

#### 1) Removal/Replacement of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Bridge in its entirety, plus related approach work.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment, and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be 120 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction-related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder, or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder, or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover (Manager) in the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications, and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

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

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope, and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT". Each bidder shall write their Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing their proposal. Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed, and deposited with the City Clerk's Office, City Hall - 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi before the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 5, at 10 am in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor; Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CiViTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings, and Contract Specifications may be procured through the following:

1. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CiViTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852, Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.

2. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com), upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standard duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities.

Henry Chia  
Henry Chia  
Department of Public Works

Publications and Publishing Dates  
The Clarion Ledger & Mississippi Link  
Publication Dates: 01/15/2026, and 01/22/2026  
Pre-Bid Date: 02/05/2026  
Bid Opening Date: 02/17/2026

1/15/2026

## LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING RC HENDRIX A REZONING FROM C80-C3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL SUBDISTRICT & I-1 (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO C80-MU (MIXED-USE) SUBDISTRICT WITH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT WITH A RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT AND A COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 2350 HIGHWAY 80 W. (PARCEL 222-2-1) & PARCELS 222-2-6 & 222-3, CASE NO. 4305.

WHEREAS, RC Hendrix has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at 2350 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 222-2-1) & Parcels 222-2-6 & 222-3, in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with a Use Permit to allow for a mixed-use development with a residential component and a community recreational center; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the properties from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a mixed-use development with a residential component and a community recreational center; and

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

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 2, 2025 and October 16, 2025 that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on October 22, 2025, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described properties from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a mixed-use development with a residential component and a community recreational center; and

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

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council, after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that the proposed use is compatible with the character of development in the vicinity relative to density, bulk and intensity of structures parking and other uses and will not be detrimental to the continued use, value, or development of properties in the vicinity and that a Conditional Use Permit be granted to allow for a community recreational center within a C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict of the properties located at 2350 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 222-2-1) & Parcels 222-2-6 & 222-3.

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

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

BEG INT N/L HWY 80 E/L ELLIS AVENUE N 854 FT TO POB N 250.5 FT E 664.32 FT TO W/L MACON ST N 139.1 FT SE 541 SW 527.25 FT SE 46 FT SW SW 39.17 FT S 359.2 FT SW 496.2 FT S 65.82 FT NW 63 FT N 95.33 FT W 134.5 FT TO POB PT SEC 7 & 8 TSN R1E & PT BLKS 19 20 21 & 22 COLLEGE SUB & PT CLOSED ALLEYS IN BETWEEN & PT LOTS 1 LESS TO INDIV

BEG NE COR LOT 1 HARVEY PLACE SUBN S 133 FT SWLY 255 FT N 134.72 FT SWLY 219.36 FT NLY 46 FT NELY 533.25 FT SELY 120 FT W 104.45 FT TO POB PT BLK 22 COLLEGE SUBURB SY & PT LOT 1 HARVEY PLACE SUBN

BEG INT N/L HWY 80 & E/L ELLIS AVE N 854 FT N 250 FT E 624.32 FT N 157.1 FT SELY 549 FT TO POB SWLY 533.25 FT SELY 52 FT NELY 6 FT NWLY 46 FT NELY 527.25 FT NWLY 6 FT TO POB PT LOTS 1 & 2 HARVEY PLACE SUB

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the properties located at 2350 Highway 80 W. (Parcel 222-2-1) & Parcels 222-2-6 & 222-3 from C80-C3 (General) Commercial Subdistrict & I-1 (Light) Industrial District to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a mixed-use development with a residential component and a community recreational center. The Conditions of the Use Permit shall be that it is granted on an annual basis; that it is granted to R C Hendrix, the owner/operator of the community recreational center; and that subsequent owners or operators of a community recreational center at the location must apply for and receive a new Use Permit and that compliance with adopted Property Maintenance, Building, Fire, Law Enforcement and Zoning Codes be maintained at all times. However, that before for any structure is erected or used thereon on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Council Member Stokes moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

Yea - Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.

Nays - None.

Absent - None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting November 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 243-245".

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

  
Angela Harris  
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/8/2026

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING (REVISED)

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4316

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that William Lake has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a residential subdivision for the properties located at Parcels 20-49 & 20-48 on Boyd St. and Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St. and 949 N. Jefferson St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 20-38  
Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of 5-Acre Lot 8, North Jackson, as shown by map or plat of said subdivision on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to same being in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-41  
Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot No. Eight (8), a North Jackson, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-42  
Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot Eight (8), North Jackson, Mississippi according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-48  
West 1/2 of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description, less and except a strip of land 5 feet in width off the north side of the west 1/2 of Lot 15

949 N. Jefferson St. (Parcel 20-37)  
LOT 4 EWING SUBN OF LOT 8 N

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

#### ZONING CASE NO. 4317

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Brad Tisdale d/b/a Tisdale Properties, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community for the properties located at 1027 Quinn St (Parcel 18-125), 1020 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-126), Parcel 18-127 on Quinn St., Parcel 18-128 on Monroe St. & 1002 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-130), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 18-125

Lot 16 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7179 at Page

9287.

# AUCTION FOR CITY OF JACKSON ABANDONED, STOLEN, SEIZED VEHICLES, EVIDENCE, AND RECOVERED PROPERTY

To all interested parties, known and unknown, Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at <https://marketplace.autura.com> on January 29, 2026 at 10:00 am

A list and description of abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be posted pursuant to statutory requirements in the following locations:

Hinds County Court House  
Hinds County Chancery Court Building  
Jackson City Hall/City Clerk's Office

1/8/2026, 1/15/2026 1/22/2026

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840490 • 23-5-10499 • 2007/ CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/ GOLD • 3GNFC16007G276688 •

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840491 • 23-3-06123 • 2008/ TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/BLACK •

\*\*\*\*\*

JTEDS43A382012985 • STOLEN

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840510 • 22-54151 • 2003/ LINCOLN/AVIATOR/GRAY •

5LMEU68H83ZJ01044 • STOLEN

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840515 • 23-05-4536 •

2007/GMC/ENVOY/GOLD •

1GKDS13S372178888 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8841151 • 23-05-0584 •

2011/FORD/FIESTA/SILVER

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840526 • 23-06-03943 • 2009/ NISSAN/MURANO/BLACK •

JN8AZ18U09W025373 • STOLEN

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840555 • 2023-009775 •

2002/GMC/SIERRA/GREEN •

1GTEK14W5Z2179686 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840868 • 23-07-01357 • 2008/ FORD/E-250 VAN/WHITE •

1FTNS24L38DA51870 • STOLEN

\*\*\*\*\*

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840928 • 23-011942 • 2011/ NISSAN/ROGUE/SILVER •

JN8AS5MV9BW666344 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840943 • 23-7-00897 •

2005/HONDA/CRV/GOLD •

SHSRD78845U338047 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8841248 • 23-08-09179 •

EVIDENCE

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840966 • 23-08-01131 •

1998/TOYOTA/CAMRY/GOLD •

4T1BG22K5WU228877 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840970 • 23-06-03594 •

2010/FORD/FOCUS/BLACK •

1FAHP3FN1AW286495 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840984 • 23-3-02957 •

2004/NISSAN/ALTIMA/GOLD •

1N4AL11D44C173579 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8840991 • 2023-012192 • 2017/ CHEVROLET/CRUZE/SILVER •

1G1BESM8H7228217 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8841003 • 2023-010761 •

1999/HONDA/ACCORD/RED •

1HGCG2252XA002156 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8841004 • 2023-011102 •

2006/TOYOTA/COROLLA/BLUE •

2T1BR32E76C651178 •

ABANDONED

\*\*\*\*\*

#8841020 • 2022-119047 •

EVIDENCE

\*\*\*\*\*

2018/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/SILVER • 1G1105S30JU132882 •	CHEVROLET/GMT-400/WHITE EVIDENCE	1G4HP54K5Y4140150 • ABANDONED	*****	#8864846 • 23-09-08836 •
*****	*****	*****	*****	2000/CHEVROLET/OTHER/TAN • 1GCCS14W1YK202499 •
#8841021 • 2023-011075 •	#8843428 • 23-06-04694 •	#8851999 • 23-02-02546 • HYUNDAI/TIBURON/BLUE	2013/GMC/ACADIA/GRAY	EVIDENCE
2003/TOYOTA/COROLLA/RED • 1NXBR32E33Z123275 •	2003/FORD/WINDSTAR/GRAY	• KMHHN65F86U188624 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
ABANDONED	ABANDONED	*****	*****	#8864892 • 22-114224 • 1997/
*****	*****	*****	*****	FORD/EXPEDITION/GREEN
#8841034 • 23-07-02026 • 2017/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER	#8843444 • 23-5-01134 •	#8852128 • 23-09-06284 • 1993/GMC/OTHER/YELLOW	• 1GNEC13T51R135732 • ABANDONED	• 1FMEU17L9VBL39223 •
• 5NPE24AF2HH442464 •	• 5GZCZ53417S803556 •	• 2GDHG31K7P4513254 • ABANDONED	*****	ABANDONED
ABANDONED	ABANDONED	*****	*****	*****
*****	*****	*****	*****	#8865042 • 23-6-00750 • 2015/
#8841062 • 23-05-03995 • 2016/1G1ZB5ST3GF232789 • STOLEN	#8843452 • 23-6-07751 •	#8852171 • 23-08-08181 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/BLACK	2001/TOYOTA/TACOMA/GOLD • 5TENL42N21Z781702 •	HYUNDAI/SONATA/BLUE • 5NPE24AA2FH162626 • STOLEN
*****	• JHLRD2849Y007136 •	• 1HGCP26849A130809 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
ABANDONED	EVIDENCE	*****	*****	#8865092 • 2023-001840 •
*****	*****	*****	*****	2008/GMC/SAVANA/WHITE
#8841064 • 2023-011075 •	#8843471 • 2023-004913 •	#8852186 • 23-05-02623 • 2006/FORD/MUSTANG/BLACK	• WDBRF61J52E007062 • ABANDONED	• 1GDJG31C581909072 •
1996/LEXUS/LS/SILVER	• CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/SILVER • 2GCEC19W521201863	• 1ZVFT80N965265133 • ABANDONED	*****	ABANDONED
ABANDONED	• ABANDONED	*****	*****	*****
*****	*****	*****	*****	#8865106 • 23-09-08827 • 2015/
#8841081 • 2023-001367 • 2017/2C3CDZFJ7HH640062 • STOLEN	#8843481 • 2022-137998 •	#8852193 • 23-5-03666 • 2009/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/SILVER	3FAHP07Z09R138367 • EVIDENCE	FORD/EXPLORER/WHITE
*****	• 1998/HONDA/CRV/SILVER	• 1GNEC2337R266534 • ABANDONED	*****	• 1FM5K8GT0FGB56419 •
*****	• JHLRD186XWC035231 •	• ABANDONED	*****	ABANDONED
ABANDONED	ABANDONED	*****	*****	*****
*****	*****	*****	*****	#8865291 • 23-04-02760 •
#8841099 • 23-05-02212 •	#8844538 • 23-03-04253 •	#8852204 • 22-131159 • 1998/HONDA/ACCORD/SILVER	• 5TDZT38A92S132624 • ABANDONED	2008/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK
2005/HONDA/ACCORD/GOLD	• DODGE/CHARGER/GRAY	• 1HGCG1640WA033786 • EVIDENCE	*****	*****
• 1HGCM56745A178189 •	• 2C3CDXBG1EH237379 •	• 8852273 • 2022-138370 • 2014/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK	*****	#8865308 • 2023-012379 • 2004/
ABANDONED	ABANDONED	• 1N4AL3AP0EC400984 • ACCIDENT	*****	CHEVROLET/TAHOE/WHITE
*****	*****	*****	*****	• 1GNEK13Z64R183638 •
#8841104 • 2023-03-04332 •	#8844595 • 2023-015806 •	#8852318 • 23-06-01927 • 2002/FORD/EXPLORER/BLUE	• ABANDONED	EVIDENCE
HONDA/ACCORD/WHITE	• 2008/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/WHITE	• 1FMZU62E92UA12128 • ABANDONED	*****	*****
1HGCP26319A056561 • STOLEN	• 2009/PONTIAC/G6/BLACK	• 8852318 • 23-06-01927 • 2002/FORD/EXPLORER/BLUE	*****	#8867673 • 23-07-04256 •
*****	ABANDONED	• 1N4AL3AP0EC400984 • ACCIDENT	*****	2005/JEEP/GRAND CHER/RED •
#8841115 • 23-6-01658 •	#8844622 • 23-05-10592 •	#8852318 • 23-06-01927 • 2002/FORD/EXPLORER/BLUE	• 2FTFX28L3VCA44297 • ABANDONED	• 1J4HR58N95C535379 •
2003/MERCEDES/E CLASS/BLUE	HONDA/MUSTANG/SILVER	• 1N4BL4DV9KC124806 • ABANDONED	*****	ABANDONED
• WDBUF65J23A236375 •	• 2G1WB58K369296002 •	• 8855695 • 23-07-07917 • 2019/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK	*****	*****
ABANDONED	ABANDONED	• 1FA6P8TH7K5163133 • ABANDONED	*****	#8868006 • 23-04-07833 • 2005/GMC/YUKON XL 1500/GOLD • NOT
*****	*****	• 1FA6P8TH7K5163133 • ABANDONED	*****	VISIBLE • ABANDONED
#8841151 • 23-05-0584 •	#8844611 • 23-04-06006 •	#8855695 • 23-07-07917 • 2019/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK	• JT8BD69SX10134406 • STOLEN	*****
2011/FORD/FIESTA/SILVER	• 3FAFP37363R182286 •	• 1N4BL4DV9KC124806 • ABANDONED	*****	#8868065 • 2022-111800 • 2005/HONDA/ACCORD/BLACK
*****	ABANDONED	• 3FAFP		

## LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## CITY OF JACKSON

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the City Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi until 3:30p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The City of Jackson, Mississippi requests proposals from art groups and other community development groups providing services to the citizens in the City of Jackson.

Financial assistance up to \$5,000.00 is available to support arts and community development activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the arts and improve the quality of life among the citizens of Jackson. This solicitation seeks proposals with an emphasis on community exposure, history and education.

Grant awards offered by the City of Jackson shall only represent supplemental funding in support of arts projects and community development-based projects. To be eligible for funding, proposing organizations must have verifiable cash match contributions that equals to at least 50% of project cost.

For the Request for Proposal packet, please contact Beverley Johnson-Durham at (601)960-0383. All proposals must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: Proposal for General Funds Arts and Community Based Grants. Proposal packets must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 219 South President Street by 3:30pm on January 27, 2026

The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Request for proposal documents can be downloaded from the City of Jackson website: [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov) and may be picked up at the City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Services located at 633 North State Street Suite 423, Jackson MS 39202.

By: Pamela D. C. Junior - Director  
Department of Human and Cultural Services  
Mississippi Link

Please publish on the following days: Thursday, January 15th and January 22, 2026

Send statement and proof of publication to:  
Department of Human and Cultural Services  
P. O. Box 17  
Jackson, MS 39205

1/15/2026

## LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
City of Jackson  
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

RFP-91235-021726 Resurfacing of Existing Tennis Courts and Installation of New Pickle Ball Courts at Grove Park Tennis Area

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](http://WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV) & [WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM](http://WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM)

"Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic bids and/or reverse auction bids can be submitted [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any question relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814."

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, and Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of Bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1851. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best company submitting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item, or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this effect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1023 or (601) 960-1028

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

## LEGAL

## Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project. The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators.

of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning January 13, 2025, through January 27, 2025, from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments should be addressed to Mr. Primus Wheeler at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467 or via email at [p Wheeler@jacksonmedicalmall.org](mailto:p Wheeler@jacksonmedicalmall.org).

1/15/2026, 1/22/2026

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**

Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last.  
Not valid with other offers or terms of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limited restrictions  
apply. Only one available in each household.

**safe step**

## JANUARY 15 - 21, 2026

## PICK UP

## THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

## J A C K S O N

## BULLY'S RESTAURANT

3118 Livingston Road

## CASH &amp; CARRY

Capitol Street and Monument Street

## CITY HALL

219 S President St

## GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX

2659 Livingston Road

## DOLLAR GENERAL

3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

## DOLLAR GENERAL

2030 N Siwell Rd

## DOLLAR GENERAL

4331 Highway 80W

## DOLLAR GENERAL

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

## DOLLAR GENERAL

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

## DOLLAR GENERAL

304 Briarwood Dr

## DOLLAR GENERAL

2855 McDowell Rd

## DOLLAR GENERAL

104 Terry Rd

## J &amp; A FUEL STORES

3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

## LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST

2325 Livingston Rd.

## MCDADEF'S MARKET

Northside Drive

## MCDADEF'S MARKET #2

653 Duling Avenue

## PICADILLY CAFETERIA

Jackson Medical Mall

350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

## SHELL FOOD MART

5492 Watkins Drive

## SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55

## MURPHY USA

6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

## REVELL ACE HARDWARE

Terry Rd (South Jackson)

## WALGREENS

380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

## C A N T O N

## A &amp; I

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

## B &amp; B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

## BOUTIQUE STORE

3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS

## BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

## COMMUNITY MART

743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS

## FRYER LANE GROCERY

Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

## HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

## JOE'S SANDWICH &amp; GROCERY

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

## K &amp; K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

## LACY'S INSURANCE

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

## SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

## TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

## B Y R A M

## DOLLAR GENERAL

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

## H A V I O R ' S A U T O C A R E

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

## VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road

## C I T Y H A L L

Terry Road

## C L I N T O N

## D O L L A R G E N E R A L

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

## T E R R Y

## S E R V I C E S T A T I O N

at Exit 78

## C I T Y H A L L

West Cunningham Avenue

## R A Y M O N D

## H I N D S C O M M U N I C Y O U M M O N D

## W E L C O M E C E N T E R

505 E. Main Street

## S U N F L O W E R G R O C E R Y

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

## L O V E F O O D M A R T

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

## R A Y M O N D P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

## R A Y M O N D C I T Y H A L L

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

## R A Y M O N D C O U R T H O U S E

## U T I C A

## H U B B A R D ' S T R U C K S T O P

Mississippi Hwy 18

## P I T T S T O P

101 Hwy 18 & 27

## B O L T O N

## B O L T O N L I B R A R Y

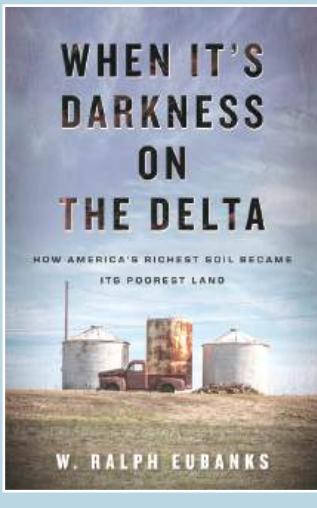
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# BOOK REVIEW: WHEN IT'S DARKNESS ON THE DELTA: HOW AMERICA'S RICHEST SOIL BECAME ITS POOREST LAND

BY W. RALPH EUBANKS  
C.2025, BEACON PRESS  
\$30.00 • 256 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Where you from? That's perhaps one of the first questions somebody might ask you because the answer tells them a lot. Where did you grow up, where do you live now, what customs do you follow? Who are your people? Where are you from and, as in the new book, "When It's Darkness on the Delta" by W. Ralph Eubanks, what is that place like now?

When President Lyndon Johnson launched his War on Poverty in 1964, "the public face of [it]... was white" and

Appalachian. "Black poverty in the Mississippi Delta mirrored" that which poor white Appalachians experienced, says Eubanks, but policymakers' race influenced American perceptions of the "war" and, as often happens, little heed was paid to the Delta.

With just over 7,100 square miles of land bordered by bluffs and river, the Delta "was firmly in the hands of the Choctaw Nation" in 1817, when Mississippi became a state. As settlers arrived, its soil became known for its fertility in growing crops, especially cotton.

After Emancipation and Black flight to urban areas, Chinese and Italian sharecroppers were hired to work the land, but they didn't stay; Black sharecroppers did, and during the Great Depression, Herbert Hoover promised to "divide the land of bankrupt planters into small Black-owned farms if he won the presidency."

He did win, but he went back on his word. Instead, Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" fulfilled Hoover's promise, ultimately creating Mileston Plantation, the state's only "resettlement community"

on which 110 Black families moved and farmed until the Great Depression hit full-force and racism again became a factor in the then-present and future of the Delta.

On Providence Farm – founded by white "theologians and Christian missionaries" some forty miles from where Emmett Till was murdered – a desegregated hospital was established. White leaders helped Black farm workers unionize. The Box Project to combat hunger came from the Delta, and so did the blues. Everything changed there, and nothing has.

Poverty, says Eubanks, was born and still lies "buried deep in the Delta's soil."

And yet, there's beauty, as evidenced in author W. Ralph Eubanks' words, his memories, and the stories he tells. Every sentence in this book is fat with meaning and his love of the land he grew up near – but that can be a trap. Just know that you can't race through "When It's Darkness on the Delta." No, it's going to demand your time and your full attention.

Offer it, and you'll see a wide, but microcosmic, view of racism and decay. Eubanks

walked the Delta's fields, looking for detritus of former farms; he drove past what's left of homes and storefronts on a tour through his memories. He reveals Mississippi's Delta through a historical lens and as somewhere ripe for the future, both of which will make readers understand why this biography of place is important reading.

Just don't rush it. Savor what you'll find inside this book, and let yourself think about it. "When It's Darkness on the Delta," is worthwhile, no matter where you from.



## ZACK WALLACE Hinds County Circuit Clerk

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Circuit Clerk's Office  
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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

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**Office Hours:**  
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- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

### 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.



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## Mississippi Legislative HBCU Forum

### *“The Threat Of Closure”*

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM • Mt. Nebo Baptist Church – 1245 Tunica Street – Jackson, MS

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



The HCSD is now accepting applications for its Four-Year Old Pre-Kindergarten Program.

**Application Window:**  
1/19/2026 through 2/6/2026

#### **Student Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be 4 years old on or before 9/1/2026
- Must be a resident of HCSD
- Must be fully potty trained

#### **Required Documents:**

- Valid photo I.D.
- Original birth certificate (*Long Form*)
- MS Certificate of Immunization (*Form 121*)
- Proof of legal custody or guardianship
- Two proofs of residency

## Ready to Apply?

Applications are available at [www.hinds.k12.ms.us](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us) or in person at Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School, Utica Elementary/Middle School, Gary Road Elementary School, Raymond Elementary School, and all district community libraries.



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