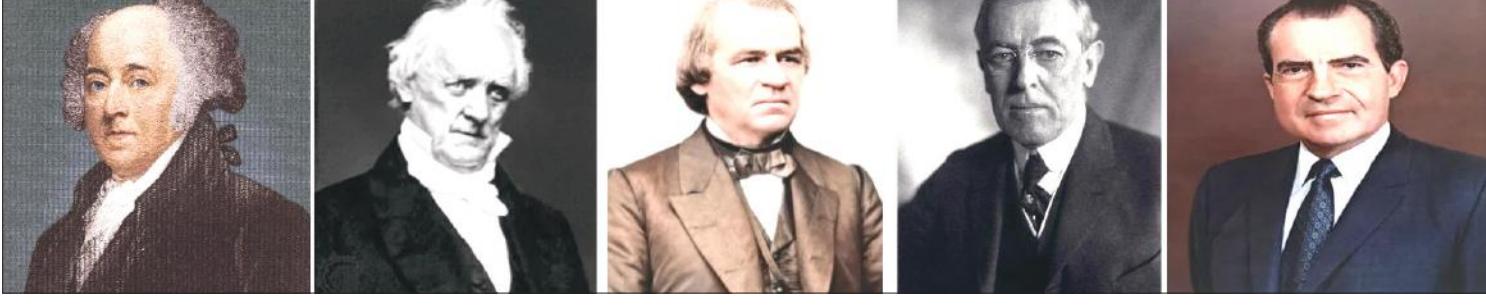


## Threateners-In-Chief

Trump joins a short list of President's who directly threatened American citizens



L-R: John Adams. Photo: biography.com. James Buchanan. Photo: britanica.com. Andrew Johnson. Photo: lumenlearning.com. Woodrow Wilson. Photo: firstamendment.mtsu.edu. Richard Nixon. Photo: Britanica.com.

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

### COMMENTARY

There have been forty-five men holding the office of the president, for a total of forty-seven presidencies. The only two to hold two non-consecutive terms are Grover Cleveland and Donald Trump. Twenty-three have been one-term president's owing to not being reelected for a second term or dying in office; four by assassination. While many presidents have been deemed successful and many not, there are six of these men, all white, that truly stand out because they threatened our own citizens. In 2022, U.S. News & World Report published a survey of the ten worst presidents, and three of these six were on the list: Buchanan at #1 (worst of the ten worst), Andrew Johnson at #2, and Donald Trump at #3. Men elected to govern for all yet did the opposite.

John Adams was our 2nd president and under his administration dozens of Americans including newspaper publishers and editors were arrested, fined, or jailed for speaking in opposition to him and his policies – all under the Sedition Act of 1798 – in direct contradiction and violation of the First Amendment which had been ratified less than ten years earlier. James Buchan-

non was our 15th president and is said to have colluded with the Supreme Court to deny personhood to African Americans leading up to the Civil War. Andrew Johnson was our 17th president and he "urged violence against his political opponents as he sought to guarantee a white supremacist republic after the Civil War," per Polisci.brown.edu.

Woodrow Wilson was our 28th president and in some ways seems the most complex of the six who threatened fellow Americans. Some historians call him a visionary – he created the Federal Reserve and League of Nations and other reforms considered progressive. Yet Wilson segregated federal offices and he modernized, popularized, and nationalized Jim Crow laws. Authoritarian actions that revealed his moral failings on race.

Richard Nixon was our 37th president. Some claim that intellectually, he was among our greatest presidents. He established the Environmental Protection Agency and Title IX – prohibiting sex-based discrimination in any school or education program that receives federal funding. He expanded Social Security and ended the Viet Nam War and the draft. Then there was Watergate

– directing the break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters combined with a cover-up using government resources, and a slush-fund provided by wealthy individuals and corporations, all leading to his resignation. Further, Nixon created the War on Drugs targeting African American communities, fostering fear and mass incarceration. He had a well-known enemy list to harass political opponents, and he provoked global tension by threatening nuclear escalation – referred to as the Madman Theory.

The 45th and 47th president is Trump – the latest Threatener-in-Chief. He implemented travel bans from non-white countries and super-charged hostile anti-immigration efforts. He stokes fear and chaos at every intersection of fairness and decency, surely knowing the negative impacts on our hard-fought democracy. He signed executive orders to remove diversity, equity, and inclusion entirely from the federal government. He's had countless Emoluments Act violations – enriching himself on the taxpayer dime. He threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act in Minnesota – a form of government power reserved for dire emergencies emanating from the principle that the American military should not police the Ameri-

can people on domestic soil. He creates emergencies where none exist and then claims to Make America Great Again by exerting force and brutality to supposedly solve the issue he created – akin to an arsonist-firefighter.

Trump's politics of grievance and retribution appear boundless. At the end of last year when six Democratic lawmakers released a video reminding active duty servicemembers of their duty to not follow unlawful orders, Trump called for their hanging. All six are military veterans or intelligence officers who wore the cloth of this country and understand the oath of office, unlike him. He said all the members of the House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack – a bipartisan committee – should be jailed for their roles in investigating him.

Trump has been threatening higher education his entire first year back in office, and his minions were at it before that. Not only attacking university presidents for their stance on DEI, but withholding federal research funding at Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern, Cornell and Brown. The president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, wrote

Threateners  
Continued on page 3

## Crump and Obama are the Top Black News Makers of the 21st Century



Crump



Obama

By Stacy M. Brown  
Special to NNPA Newswire

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) represents the organized voice, survivor, and power of the Black Press in America. On the eve of Black History Month, we have chronicled the top Black newsmakers of the first quarter of the 21st century to honor Black impact through legacy, liberty, and justice. This list serves as a living record, centering Black leadership, innovation, and influence while ensuring today's history is documented with clarity and intention for future generations. Our staff researched and reviewed news headlines and news articles for the last 25 years from our catalog of more than 200 member Black-owned newspapers across the United States with a reach of 20 million weekly readers from both our print and digital publications.

Since the Trayvon Martin case propelled him into the national consciousness, civil rights attorney Ben Crump has accumulated a distinction

unmatched by any other Black American in the first quarter of the 21st century. A review of national media coverage shows Crump has appeared in more major headlines than any other Black figure over the last 25 years, according to NNPA sources, outpacing presidents, global entertainers, elite athletes, and cultural icons.

"Every time my name appears, it means we're facing a constitutional crisis, winning a landmark case, or representing a family who is dealing with unimaginable loss," Crump said. "The attention is not about me. It is about forcing America to confront what it too often wants to ignore."

Crump ranks first among Black Americans most cited in national headlines from 2000 to 2026. Former President Barack Obama ranks second, followed by Serena Williams, LeBron James, Vice President Kamala Harris, Simone Biles, Kanye West, Beyoncé, Michelle Obama, and Oprah Winfrey – making up the top 10 newsmakers of

Crump / Obama  
Continued on page 3

## 90th Birthday Celebration Honoring Murlene Terry Taylor

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Inclement weather on Saturday, January 24, 2026, resulted in various events throughout the city and state being cancelled or rescheduled but the birthday celebration for Murlene Terry Taylor preceded without a hitch. Friends and family showed up to share in this powerful milestone of Taylor reaching nine decades where the tone was set upon entering the Family Life Center at United Central Methodist Church where the backdrop displaying the honoree's photo brought a smile to every-

one's face that walked over and snapped a photo.

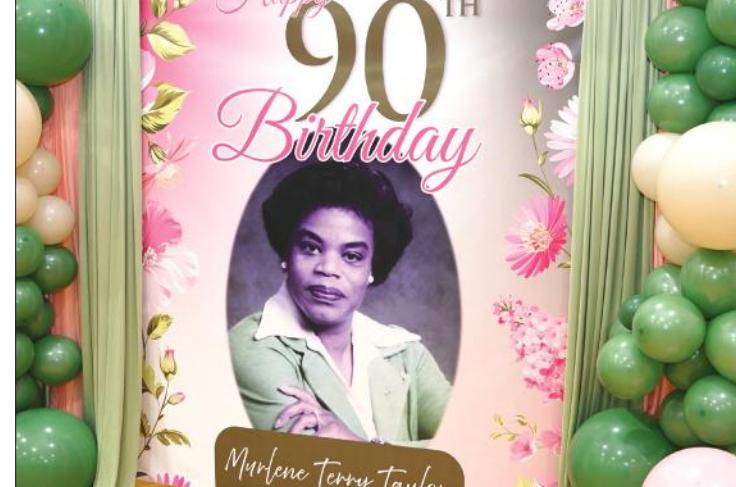
Soon after the arrival of most of the guests, the honoree was escorted in by her sister, Florence Pullen from St. Louis, MO and her niece, Reverend Michelle Wheatley of Jackson.

Herbert Terry, brother of Taylor served as Master of Ceremonies shared one of his memories of his sister's kindness. He recalled the time he told his sister that he wanted to attend Jackson State College but, though he had money for tuition, he did not have quite enough for room and board. Taylor, who had just started a teaching job told him, if he wanted to attend Jackson State, he should and in so doing, she sent him a check each month for \$45 to pay for room and board.

Prayer and the blessing of the food was given by Rev. Chris Wheatley of Jackson, after which Kerry Thomas played his guitar while singing, "Isn't She Lovely." A video presentation



Taylor (center) entering her birthday celebration with her sister, Florence Pullen (left) and niece, Rev. Michele Wheatley (right/ front)



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Birthday cake.

detailing walks of her life with friends and family were displayed prior to tributes.

Prior to lunch very warm tributes were extended, first by her sister Florence Pullen, who recalled what a great cook Taylor was as a teen, she was Queen of her High School Class and was the first in the family to

graduate from college. She also shared that her sister started her own beauty parlor when she was a teenager and a seamstress as well.

Dr. Juanita Sims Doty in her tribute wished her Apha Kappa Alpha Soror, ambassador, mentor, and dear friend a very Happy Birthday, and said it was

hard to believe she was 90 years of age.

Doty went in depth describing the many service organizations she has been a part of and the work she has done in the community and beyond.

Other touching and unforgettable tributes symbolizing enduring relationships with Tay-

lor were given by Dr. Benda K. Thompson, Dr. Mitchell Shears, Michael Morris, and Bobbie Jean Turner.

Prior to a birthday toast, the lady of honor expressed her gratitude for everyone in attendance. And for their kindness,

Birthday  
Continued on page 3

**New Hope Baptist Church Day at the Capitol**  
Inside



**Lovely One: A Memoir Adapted for Young Adults**



# Jim Hill High School competition cheerleaders earn Grand Champions of school cheer division in Biloxi



Amari Evans posing with Coach Harris

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Jim Hill High School's competition cheer leading team traveled to Biloxi, MS, Saturday, January 17th, to compete at the Deep South Eras Tour school and all-star cheer competition. The Eras Tour is described as one of the Deep South's themed events where glitter, cheer and friendship come together.

Based on their performance, the Jim Hill competition team earned the title of Grand Champions of the school cheer division. This honor is earned when a team receives the highest score in its respective division. As winners, they each received Deep South Spirit Championship rings, as well as Deep South Spirit Medal Awards.

The eight young ladies who comprise this year's



Competition cheerleaders wearing their championship rings.

competition team will return to Biloxi February 14, 2026, with hopes of improving their previous score and possibly earn another grand champion title. With their Grand Champion honors from this competition, Jim Hill has earned a bid for the Season Finale competition in April, also to be held in Biloxi.

The competition cheerleaders are Abrianna Benson, captain; Kyrie Johnson; Janae Lyles; Kaleigh Cage; Tyler Powell, co-captain; Madyson Winters; Amari Evans, and Khloe Robinson, captain.

Tamika Harris serves not only as head cheer leading coach, but also coaches track at Jim Hill.



Competition Cheerleaders wearing their championship medals (L-R): Captain Abrianna Benson, Kyrie Johnson, Janae Lyles, Kaleigh Cage, Tyler Powell, Co-Captain Madyson Winters, Amari Evans, and Captain Khloe Robinson. PHOTOS BY JEAN BRIDGES

In the Jan. 22-29 issue of our newspaper, we ran an ad from AMR which inadvertently contained misinformation. The ad said AMR would start its next in-house paid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course in March and inquiries were due January 24. The ad should have said AMR will start its next EMT course in April and more information is available now from AMR's EMT instructor at Malcolm.Robinson@gmr.net or 601-919-7860. Full-time employment with AMR as an EMT is provided those who fulfill all certification requirements.



## At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

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

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

**It's good to be blue.**



**MISSISSIPPI**



[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BlueCrossBlueShieldofMississippi) @BlueCrossBlueShieldofMississippi | [bcbsms.com](http://bcbsms.com)

## Threateners

Continued from page 1

in April 2025, "Trump is weaponizing antisemitism investigations to attack disfavored speech and stoke culture wars, distrust and division, and to undermine higher education as a bulwark

of democracy and an engine of our economy. It's wrong, antidemocratic and unconstitutional."

By threatening the takeover of Greenland, he sent tremors through the thirty-two member coun-

tries of NATO. Greenlanders are Danish citizens. They fought alongside U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom and were there during Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan. When will his

deranged threats be interpreted by U.S. allies as threats by America itself? When will a clear majority of American's decide they don't want a Threatener-in-Chief?

## Crump / Obama

Continued from page 1

the century. The list spans politics, business, sports, and entertainment, yet Crump's presence differs in kind. His name enters the news not through achievement tours or election cycles, but through court-rooms, jury verdicts, and public demands for justice.

It goes without saying that President Obama, being the first Black president in U.S. history, dominated the headlines between 2008 and 2016. His rise from a mixed-race child who ascended to the Oval Office made him a global figure of democratic possibility. He and his wife, Michelle Obama, reshaped how power, grace, family, and intellect could coexist at the highest level. Though he still garners a significant amount of news coverage, the former president seems resigned to enjoy his status as a private citizen not having to be a part of the 24-hour news media cycle.

Serena Williams, LeBron James, and Simone Biles dominated the headlines in their respective sports arenas. Serena Williams won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the open era, male or female. She did it across three different decades, proving longevity and adaptability rarely seen in any sport. LeBron James was a permanent fixture in the headlines for over two decades, being considered the best basketball player on the planet on his way to becoming the NBA's all-time leading scorer, a milestone once thought untouchable. Also there was Simone Biles, who dominated the sports headlines in the first quarter of the 21st century by becoming the greatest gymnast of all time, winning eleven Olympic medals and 30 World Championship medals, making her the most decorated gymnast in history.

As the daughter of immigrants, Vice President Kamala Harris generated a significant amount of headlines by making history when she became the first woman to serve as Vice President of the United States after she already made history as the first Black woman to serve as a United States Senator from the state of California. In addition to dominating newspaper headlines, Oprah Winfrey also dominated television ratings by becoming one of the most powerful media figures in the world. She broke barriers as a Black woman who fully owned her voice, her platform, and her influence. Her show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, broadcast from Chicago, ran in national syndication for 25

years from 1986 to 2011, making her the wealthiest female celebrity and the richest Black woman in the world.

Rounding out the top ten list is hip-hop musician Kanye West, who generated headlines because his public life appeared chaotic, sometimes controversial, and at times riveting. His music releases, fashion ventures, political statements, social outbursts, anti-Semitic remarks, and his very public personal drama kept him in the news cycle constantly, for better or worse.

Nevertheless, it was Crump who dominated more news headlines in our newspapers since his emergence in 2012, when he represented the family of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed 17-year-old killed in Sanford, Florida. That case placed Crump at the center of a national reckoning and established a legal model he seemed to create by fusing litigation not only in the court of law but also in the court of public opinion. Since then, the cases represented have become household names across America and throughout the world. He represented families connected to the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO (2014), children affected by the Flint Water Crisis (2016), and women, mainly minorities, in a mass tort lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson alleging the company's talcum powder products led to them being diagnosed with ovarian cancer (2018). He was appointed lead plaintiff co-counsel representing Black women users of chemical hair relaxers that led to them developing uterine cancer (2022), and he was omnipresent in the media representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery (2020).

Crump was also a champion for Black history and Black culture by winning historical landmark cases for Henrietta Lacks in her medical racism reparations case in 2023; by leading Tamara Lanier, the descendant of her enslaved great-great-grandfather, Papa Renty, to victory in a 150-year-old lawsuit against Harvard University before the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 2023 for slave photographs that were appraised to be worth \$100 million dollars; representing the family of Malcolm X in a wrongful death lawsuit against the NYPD, the FBI, and the CIA; and he assisted the Black Farmers in reaching a 2.2 billion dollar settlement with the federal government in 2024.

Crump, who has been dubbed Black America's Attorney General by Rev. Al Sharpton, proclaims that he is on a mission to raise the value of Black life in America. Most recently last month, Crump secured one of the most consequential verdicts of his career. A Florida jury awarded a \$779.3 million compensatory verdict to the family of Lewis Butler, a Black security guard killed during an armed robbery at an internet café in Havana, Florida. Evidence showed the business failed to report a prior armed robbery involving a stolen firearm later used in Butler's killing. The verdict ranks among the largest negligent security wrongful death awards in American history.

"This verdict was about more than compensation," Crump said at the time. "It was about making sure businesses understand that Black life is not disposable, not today, not ever."

The Butler verdict joined other record recoveries that included a \$310 million verdict for a Black child that died at an amusement park, which is believed to be the largest amount recovered for a child; a \$98.5 million verdict on behalf of Botham Jean's family; a \$27 million settlement for the George Floyd family; a \$12 million settlement for the Breonna Taylor family; a \$641 million settlement for children poisoned by Flint's water supply; and more than \$250 million recovered in what he refers to as "banking while Black" discrimination cases.

Crump's career has earned him national and international recognition. He has been named to the TIME100 list of the most influential people, Ebony Magazine's Power 100, Forbes Magazine's Inaugural Top 100 Lawyers, and The National Trial Lawyers Top 100. Despite the visibility, Crump maintains that prominence was never the goal.

"I would trade every headline if that meant Black people and poor people could achieve equal justice under the law," Crump said. "Until that day comes, I will keep showing up, because justice does not happen on its own."

"It is obvious from our vast readership within the Black community that this list of individuals who have become trusted household names represents the hopes, aspirations, and accomplishments collectively of Black culture thus far in the 21st century," concluded Dr. Ben Chavis, the executive director of NNPA.

## Birthday

Continued from page 1

thoughtfulness and encouraging words. She said, "Please know that I love each of you."

Taylor expressed special gratitude for her friends and family that

had traveled through incumbent weather to be there with her to celebrate the occasion. She especially thanked her family for planning the beautiful birthday celebration. She ended with, "To God Be the

Glory." With that, she was given a standing ovation, loud cheers, and heavy applauding.

See photos on page 4.



## My mission: cut outages by 50%

Superpower Mississippi is strengthening the grid at a lower cost to you

Entergy's Superpower Mississippi plan will invest 50% more in strengthening the grid to help reduce outages by 50%. You'll see our teams installing stronger poles and clearing more vegetation to reduce outage risks. And, we're using smarter technology that reroutes and restores power faster if there is an outage.

Entergy is making these investments to meet your growing energy needs while keeping rates well below the national average. And since Mississippi is our home, too, every Entergy employee is on a mission to fight outages and keep costs low. Learn how new, large customers like Amazon are lowering costs for you at [entergymississippi.com/superpowerms](http://entergymississippi.com/superpowerms).

More and better power at a lower cost – that's Superpower Mississippi.

We power life.<sup>SM</sup>

A message from Entergy Mississippi, LLC. ©2025 Entergy Services, LLC. All rights reserved.



More and better power at a lower cost

# *90th Birthday Celebration*

## *Honoring Murlene Terry Taylor*

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



# Lexington ousts police chief and adopts policing reforms

By Mina Corpuz  
and Leonardo Bevilacqua  
*Associated Press/Report for America*

Years after turmoil within the Lexington Police Department and allegations surfaced of discriminatory policing practices, excessive force and retaliation against critics, the city has adopted federally recommended reforms and has ousted its police chief.

“These victories demonstrate the power of lawful protest and civic engagement, and they show that our methods are effective. We thank the community for standing together to demand change, and we commend the aldermen for finally heeding the community’s voice,” attorney Jill Collen Jefferson, founder of the legal organization JULIAN, said in a statement.

JULIAN filed the first lawsuit against the city and police department in 2022 that is scheduled for oral argument before the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals next week. Other lawsuits have alleged retaliatory use of force and unlawful detention by the Lexington police.

The U.S. Department of Justice opened a pattern and practice investigation into the Lexington police in 2023, and less than a year later it released its investigation report detailing the department’s violations of the First, Fourth and 14th Amendments. The DOJ found Lexington police jailed people for unpaid fines without determining whether people could afford to pay, resulting in a “two-tiered system of justice.”

Lexington, located at the edge of the Delta, is majority Black and 30% of the population is in poverty, according to U.S. Census estimates.

To remedy the constitutional violations, the Justice Department made several recommendations for the city to adopt, which include ensuring that officers who make stops, searches and arrests are authorized to use force with clear direction, have sufficient training and supervision and improve record-keeping to hold officers accountable for inappropriate or unlawful conduct.

The recommendations address issues related to leadership, policing, compliance, accountability and community trust, according to JULIAN.

In December, Alderman

Isaac Lindsey introduced a motion for the city to implement the recommendations, but that came up a vote short, with Mayor Percy Washington and two aldermen forming the majority, according to the legal organization.

In response to the board’s failure to take action, JULIAN called for a citywide boycott of Lexington’s primary stores, Dollar General and Sunflower.

JULIAN considers the boycott a success because on Jan. 6, Lindsey reintroduced his motion and the board approved it. Before the vote, several supporters called for the board to implement the DOJ recommendations and put the decision into writing.

“It’s that simple,” said meeting attendee Benita Streeter. “Just put it on there, make a motion, sign off on it, say it in writing so the people will know.”

Another change came the same week when the board called a special meeting and dismissed its police chief, Charles Henderson, an action JULIAN has called for. In his place, former chief Robert Kirklin was appointed as interim leader until the board chooses a new, permanent chief.

The Board of Aldermen did not provide a reason for Henderson’s departure. But a Jan. 9 letter from the Department of Public Safety’s Office of Standards and Training Special Investigations Unit said Henderson’s law enforcement certification was suspended ef-

fective immediately, meaning he is not permitted to hold a law enforcement, emergency telecommunicator or jail detention position.

“This decision is due to Charles Henderson’s record of conduct or actions that violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and significantly diminish public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer,” the letter states.

Such violations of the code of ethics can result in reprimand, suspension under conditions, recall or cancellation of law enforcement certification, the letter states.

The referenced violation didn’t take place in Lexington, but in Jackson on Nov. 15, 2024, when Henderson worked for the Jackson Police Department.

Henderson could not be reached for comment Monday.

A spokesperson from JULIAN did not have details about the Jackson incident. A spokesperson for the Department of Public Safety was not immediately able to comment Monday due to winter storm-related office closures.

Policing in Lexington has been the subject of scrutiny since 2022 when a recording was leaked of then Police Chief Sam Dobbins using racial and homophobic slurs when talking about using force while on the job, including the killing of

13 people. A former Lexington officer had made the

recording.

“I shot that n—— 119 times, ok?” said Dobbins, who is white, about the shooting of one person.

The story made national news, and in July 2022, the aldermen voted 3-2 to terminate Dobbins, which community members celebrated. Former mayor Robin McCrory, who is white, and some aldermen called Dobbins’ statements “locker room talk.” In his place, they appointed Henderson, Dobbins’ second in command, as chief.

Lexington residents, JULIAN and other advocates continued to attend aldermen

meetings and demonstrate against actions of the police department under Henderson, who is Black.

Jefferson is among those whom Lexington police arrested. She was jailed in 2023 while filming a traffic stop from her car on a public street and spent a weekend in the county facility. A week earlier, Jefferson spoke with Justice Department officials, who visited the city.

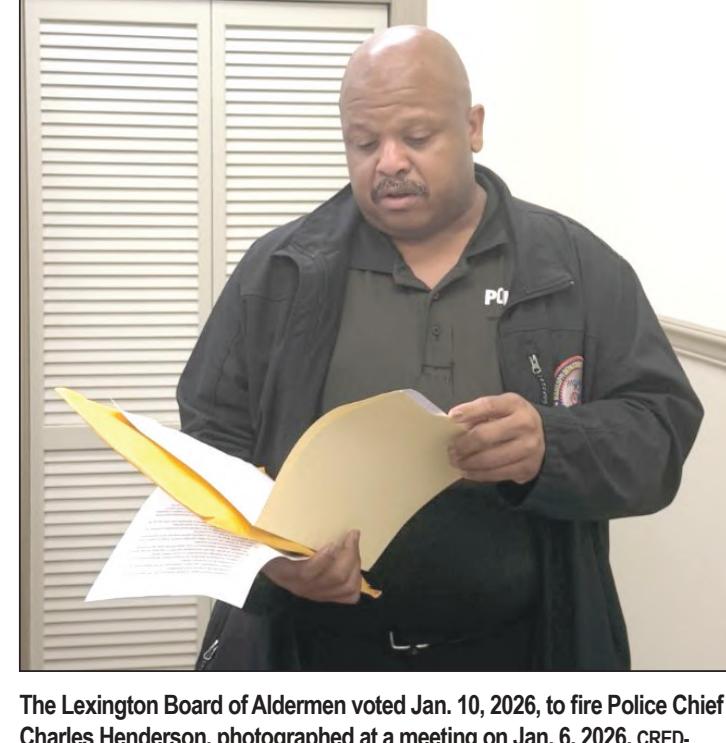
In February 2024, Jefferson was convicted of misdemeanor charges, but days later a Holmes County Justice Court judge rescinded the convictions.

This is the second time the Civil Rights Division has taken action in Lexington, the Justice Department wrote in its report.

In 1963, a group of Black residents, now known as the “First Fourteen,” tried to register to vote at the courthouse and were met by the sheriff, other government officials and police. When asked who in the group would be first, Hartman Turnbow said he would die to vote. A group of white men firebombed his home, and Turnbow was falsely arrested and charged with the arson of his home. With DOJ intervention, the county later dropped the charges against him.



Lexington Board of Aldermen meeting Jan. 6, 2026. CREDIT: LEONARDO BEVILACQUA/MISSISSIPPI TODAY



The Lexington Board of Aldermen voted Jan. 10, 2026, to fire Police Chief Charles Henderson, photographed at a meeting on Jan. 6, 2026. CREDIT: LEONARDO BEVILACQUA/MISSISSIPPI TODAY



Lexington residents hold up signs at a Jan. 6, 2026, mayor and board of aldermen meeting, calling on the city to respond to the Department of Justice findings regarding problems with the police department. CREDIT: LEONARDO BEVILACQUA/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

## Take extra measures to help prevent check fraud

StatePoint

The use of checks may be declining, but check crimes are actually on the rise due to new, creative criminal schemes. Once a check is stolen, it can be altered or signed on your behalf to withdraw money from your account, and there are online marketplaces where criminals will sell stolen checks for other criminals to use for fraud.

Luckily, there are steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Pay Digitally. Reduce the number of checks you send and utilize card or digital payment methods instead. Consider using check fraud prevention services like Positive Pay, if available at your financial institution.
- Go to the Post Office. If you must mail a check, use the secure mailbox inside a USPS fa-



PHOTO BY: (C) ANDREYPOPOV / ISTOCK GETTY IMAGES PLUS

cility or hand the envelope over to a postal worker who can mail it for you.

- Follow Up. If you mail a check, confirm with the payee that they received it.

- Monitor Accounts. Set up

account alerts and review statements regularly. Most banks will provide an option for an image of each check to be viewable on statements. Cross-reference this image to ensure that the check processed is identical

to the one you wrote.

• Report Quickly. Approximately 50% of stolen check images are posted online for sale within eight days of theft. Criminals act fast, and you need to act fast, too, to stop them in their tracks. As soon as you identify an account or payment anomaly, notify your bank to put a stop payment on the check and a freeze on your account. File a police report and submit a separate report with the Federal Trade Commission. Keep a record of all conversations, reports and correspondence in case later problems arise.

Methods of fraud continue to evolve, and a simple check can be used in a variety of ways to commit theft. For instance, criminals can create fraudulent checks using your account information and sign your name.

Or they could copy down your account information and use it for fraudulent purposes digitally or otherwise. Mail theft-related check fraud – where a check is stolen while enroute – accounts for hundreds of millions of dollars in attempted theft annually.

Here are some of the most common fraud methods used:

• Account Theft. Checks are used to steal account information details to either steal money directly or fraudulently open additional accounts.

• Forgery. Criminals have long forged the legitimate signature or altered the payee or amount on a check. However, artificial intelligence (AI) is making it easier than ever to do so with accuracy.

• Check Washing. Criminals “wash” a check, using chemi-

cals like acetone or bleach to erase the payee and amount, then rewrite the check to themselves for their amount of choice.

• Counterfeits. Criminals create entirely fake checks that look real using stolen account information.

• Check Return Schemes. Criminals will send what they claim is a paycheck or other payment by way of a check where they “overpay.” They ask you to deposit it, then return the “extra” money back before it’s discovered that the check is fake.

For more fraud prevention information, visit PNC’s Security and Privacy Center.

Safe handling of checks may not only protect against theft but also defend against more widespread account compromise.

# As risks escalate, a wave of community resistance to ICE enforcement spreads

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

As immigration enforcement actions intensify across the country, communities are responding with a growing wave of resistance through lawsuits and civil rights complaints to school-based organizing and coordinated local defense efforts. Aggressive ICE raids, street arrests, and the use of force have heightened fear in many communities while also triggering new forms of push-back from families, advocates, and local officials. This briefing will explore how that resistance is taking shape at multiple levels, the risks communities face as enforcement becomes more aggressive and confrontational, and the current trajectory of ICE operations.

Five panelists and over seventy media outlets from around the world joined Pilar Marerro, Editor at American Community Media and co-producer of the National Briefing Series for this week's briefing, Friday, January 23, 2026. Marerro began by asking Amanda Otero, a parent from Minnesota Public Schools, and co-executive director of Take Action Minnesota, the question – what has changed on the ground after the killing of Rene Nicole Goode?

Otero stated, "I didn't know Rene Goode...but what I do know is that a lot of us feel identified and saw ourselves in her that day. The day before Rene was killed, at my child's preschool, as parents were arriving, getting their kids in their



Amanda Otero. PHOTO: TWITTER.COM.



Seri Lee. PHOTO: WEINBERG COLLEGE.



Vanessa Cardenas. PHOTO: TWITTER.COM.



Ann Garcia. PHOTO: NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT.



Mark Tushnet. PHOTO: HARVARD LAW SCHOOL.

little snowsuits, up to the door and handing them over to the staff that receives them, teachers and parents looked up, and not a block away watched federal agents tear gassing folks and arresting legal observers. The next day Rene Goode was killed, and that afternoon, we watched federal agents deploying tear gas and arresting folks on public school grounds here in Minneapolis. I want to encourage folks to think about that image, but not as a one-off, rather as on every block in our neighborhood."

Seri Lee, Deputy Organizing Director at ONE Northside in Chicago, responded to a question about what organizing looked like back in Chicago when these raids started. "To take a step back, Chicago had 68 agents during Operation Midway Blitz, between September until mid-November... my organization, based on the Northside of Chicago shifted towards doing three primary strategies in the beginning, and then from there, adding

on a fourth strategy. They are education, community defense, and mutual aid. Earlier in January/February 2025 there were 200 agents, and one of the things said about Chicago is that everyone seemed to know their rights. Everyone seems to be very educated on what to do, what not to do, not to open their door, ask for a warrant, etc. We do training on how to identify agents and knowing where to find help, find resources..."

Vanessa Cárdenas is the Executive Director of America's Voice, expounded on an earlier statement about this being a galvanizing moment is our history. "...We are facing a really unique moment illustrated by the killing of Rene Nicole Goode, because it illustrates what we have been saying all along, in the sense that the attacks on immigrants are the tip of the spear of attacks on all Americans. This mass deportation agenda, as much as this administration had said, will only target criminals, we are now seeing, in real time, that they

are affecting everyone, non-citizens and citizens alike...it's their way of saying they're targeting immigrants, but in the end, we're going to see American families and communities suffering. The ICE deployment to Minneapolis was the largest in history. You know, they had 2,000 ICE agents, initially, and then they added another 1,000, so almost 3,000 ICE and Border Patrol agents on the ground in an American city and it's building a lot of pressure in terms of what Americans are rejecting."

Ann Garcia, Staff Attorney at the National Immigration Project, was asked by the moderator what organizations like her own are doing to push back. She replied, "ICE and CBP are both sub-agencies of the Department of Homeland Security. They've tested these violent tactics that they're now expanding in Minneapolis and other American cities. Border Patrol has been doing this for decades. There are many legal challenges, and DHS is trying

their best to create a fictitious counter-narrative. Several lawsuits have emerged. These lawsuits are representative of lawsuits that were brought in other cities."

Attorney Garcia continued, "There's a class action lawsuit called Tincher v. Noem, et al, brought in December by six Minnesotans who DHS prohibited from exercising their First Amendment rights to observe, to assemble and to protest. The lead plaintiff is Susan Tincher. The complaint indicates that they forced her to the ground, they arrested her, they cut off her wedding ring, they cut off some of her clothes, including her bra, and they shackled her. Her account and that of the others was chilling. I wanted to make a broader point about how the DHS is framing protesters in Minneapolis and elsewhere. So, DHS and the White House are describing community members who are exercising their constitutionally protected rights in the course of defending their neighbors as

quote-unquote domestic terrorists. We all saw that is precisely how they framed Rene Goode, who was extrajudicially killed earlier this month. And there's a direct line to be drawn. It reflects National Security Policy Memorandum 7, signed by Donald Trump on September 25, 2025." The memorandum can be viewed here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/counteracting-domestic-terrorists-and-organized-political-violence/>

Mark Tushnet is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School. He noted that "what is going on today resonates strongly with things that happened pre-Civil War and relating to the Fugitive Slave Act – in Boston where there were interferences with rendition – an effort to get an enslaved person back to South Carolina. People came onto the streets and forcefully interfered. In the case of Anthony Burns, a crowd stormed a federal building to recapture or rescue him, galvanizing public opinion."

He emphasized that in most cases the courts could not solve the problems but sometimes could slow them down. He indicated that in other countries we call what we are seeing today – repression, and the solution is mobilizing the people.

To view this briefing in its entirety, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVhFIvydB98>.

# Man released from ICE custody a second time after warrantless arrest

By Alaysia Lane  
Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder

Garrison Gibson, a 38-year-old Liberian immigrant and father, was released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody for a second time after being re-arrested hours after a federal judge ruled his initial arrest unconstitutional.

Gibson's attorney confirmed last week that he is home with his family and required to wear an ankle monitor while remaining under immigration supervision. The second release followed a series of events that began with a warrantless raid on Gibson's north Minneapolis home: an entry a U.S. District Court judge later ruled violated the Fourth Amendment.

"This is not just a mistake. This is a constitutional violation," said immigration attorney Marc Prokosch.

According to Gibson and his family, federal agents arrived at their home around 9 a.m. Jan. 11, knocking before announcing themselves. Gibson said he asked whether they had a warrant and was told they did not.

Minutes later, multiple ICE vehicles arrived, parking in the alley, on the street and in neighbors' yards as more officers gathered. Gibson said about a dozen agents and vehicles were present, drawing neighbors outside.

Family members said agents later returned to the door claiming they had a warrant but did not show it before breaching the home. They said agents used a



(L-R) Marc Prokosch, Garrison Gibson, Teyona Brown, and Abena Abraham during a press briefing in St. Paul, Jan. 17, 2026

battering ram multiple times, damaging the front door and an interior wall.

Gibson's wife, Teyona Brown, said she stood in front of him as agents entered, attempting to shield him and their daughter.

"I had to make sure my daughter had a father," Brown said. "And I had to make sure that we had a record, not just for us, but for everyone to see how they're doing things."

The family said agents entered with weapons drawn, issued commands to sweep the home and did not show a warrant until Gibson was nearly inside a patrol vehicle.

A federal judge later ruled that ICE violated Gibson's constitutional rights by entering his home without a judicially signed warrant. The judge or-

dered his immediate release, noting that Gibson had been complying with immigration supervision requirements, including attending a check-in just weeks before his arrest.

"He was following every rule," Prokosch said. "There was no reason for this."

Gibson has lived in the United States since childhood after fleeing the civil war in Liberia. He has a longstanding deportation order but has been allowed to remain in the country under supervision for years.

After the arrest, Gibson was transferred to the Whipple Federal Building, where he described overcrowded and degrading conditions. He said about 40 people were held in a single cell with no beds, cold temperatures and metal surfaces.

Detainees, he said, were forced to use the bathroom in front of one another while shackled, and one man in the cell had scabies.

"It felt like humiliation," Gibson said.

Gibson said he was later placed on a plane to Texas without being told where he was going and remained confused about what was happening. In Texas, he said conditions were somewhat different but still restrictive, with detainees sleeping on metal bunk beds in crowded units.

Following the judge's ruling, Gibson was released and returned home. The next morning, Gibson, Brown and Prokosch returned to the Whipple Federal Building for what they believed would be routine paperwork to finalize his release.

"The officer said, 'This looks good. I'll be right back,'" Prokosch said.

Minutes later, several unfamiliar officers entered the room and informed them Gibson was being taken back into custody.

According to Prokosch, the lead officer said the decision came from a higher authority and was "above my pay grade." Prokosch said the officer told them the order came from the White House and became emotional during the exchange.

Gibson was taken into custody for the second time but released again approximately two to three hours later.

"It was chaos," Brown said. "Nobody knew what was going on."

Brown said the raid and re-arrest deeply affected the couple's children, particularly their daughter, who now reacts with fear when someone knocks on the door.

Brown, a certified nursing assistant and pediatric health coordinator, said the family had to block their damaged front door with dumbbells for several days after the raid because it would not close properly.

"We couldn't even turn the heat on," she said. "We had to use weights to keep the door shut."

Gibson said wearing an ankle monitor has affected his ability to find work.

"It's hard to go into an interview with this big ankle monitor," he said. "People think you did something."

Prokosch said his legal team

is pursuing two parallel strategies: seeking habeas protections in federal court and moving to vacate Gibson's 2009 deportation order in immigration court.

"The most important thing right now is to keep him with his family," Prokosch said. "Then we will work to permanently resolve his immigration status."

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota condemned ICE's actions in a statement, calling the raid "terrifying" and warning of a pattern of transferring detainees out of state to obstruct access to legal counsel.

"This case is a powerful reminder that community vigilance matters," the organization said.

Gibson said he plans to remain home as much as possible while his case continues.

"I'm not a violent person," he said. "If I was, I wouldn't have been out for the past 17 years, checking in."

Despite the trauma, the family expressed gratitude for community support.

"The love has been overwhelming," Brown said. "People brought food. They stayed in the cold for hours. These people are angels on earth."

For now, Gibson remains under supervision, wearing an ankle monitor, while attorneys fight to keep him in the United States.

"I just want to stay with my family," he said. "That's all."

Alaysia Lane is a multimedia journalist and commerce writer based in Minneapolis.

# The landscape of humanity was changed for all of us by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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



Our nation needs more compassion. We are in desperate need of caring and kindness. It seems that righteousness and justice are in short supply today.

There are men and women in our history who were clarions and carriers of these characteristics. One such person was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His contributions, in my opinion will never be duplicated again.

He cared about people. While he was one of the chief architects of the Civil Rights Move-

ment, he never lost his ability to be with those who didn't have a title or position. I met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when I was a student in college.

This period of social justice history was significant as it gave all of us a role to play. Our community in Winston-Salem NC was a community of believers. We admired right and called out wrong. Sit-ins and other acts of non-violence were always happening in our city.

It was because of Dr. King's mantra of non-violence. He knew and made us believe that right would overrule wrong.

Good would triumph over evil. It is fitting and right that America celebrated the Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 19, 2026.

There were church services, parades and other events held in his honor. We re-committed ourselves to being strong advocates for justice in our communities. Giving of ourselves is what he did. We know that he gave his life on April 4, 1968, in Memphis TN.

I can remember this time quite vividly and like the world, I was in shock. The news reports and interviews were painful and hurtful to watch. This was a defining moment of sadness for our country.

Yet, like it was yesterday, we recall with joy his "I have a dream" speech on August 28,

1963. He said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

It seems at times that America is in a holding pattern when it comes to equality for all of its citizens. There is happiness for some of us but sadness for way too many of us.

An enduring faith was central in his life. He said, "With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling dis cords of our nation into a beau tiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able

to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day."

Dr. King always strived to make America better. It is my opinion that we are better. Can we get even better? Yes, we can.

It is my strong belief that it begins with how we treat one another. Wanting what is best for each other should always be a part of our humanity. Dr. King understood this important life tenet and that is how he lived his life.

Love is the prescription of hope that all of us need. Do you remember the R&B group, The Friends of Distinction? They

sang a song entitled, "Love can make it easier". The lyrics are, "love can make it easier if only you give it a chance. Is it really hard to go out of your way for someone and lend a helping hand just to make one life much brighter".

So, let's lighten up on mean ness and let's do away with hate. Dr. King said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.

Victories in life aren't easy. They require boldness and courage. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the example and the model.

## Remembering the Revolution: Lessons for Today

*In a state where towns revisit old stories and cities reel from new ones, America's 250th asks what it really means to be free.*

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



In Minnesota this winter, amid the steady stream of grim headlines out of Minneapolis, one story barely made it beyond Duluth's city limits. The Duluth News Tribune and other regional outlets are inviting residents to dig into the city's archives, retell old stories, and share plans for America's upcoming 250th anniversary. Town halls are discussing parades. Local museums are planning exhibits. Families are marking the milestone in small, thoughtful ways.

Amid the snow and long nights, there is a quiet insistence on remembering, on telling the stories that matter. And yet, not far away, the news tells of lives ended, of authority deployed without accountability, of neighbors afraid to act. The contrast is sharp. It is both a blessing and a wound.

This year, as America approaches its 250th anniversary, the circumstances that led our ancestors to rebel feel more familiar than they should. Standing armies enforcing laws without consent. Violence meted out without accountability. Ordinary people afraid to act. And yet, like the colonists in Boston, we are reminded that liberty is not inherited; it is earned, defended, and demanded.

In Minneapolis, the killings of Renée Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti by federal immigration agents have underscored that lesson in the harshest terms. Their deaths remind us that no one is immune to injustice when authority acts without accountability. Some administration officials have publicly suggested that federal agents

enjoy sweeping immunity from local oversight — claims that legal experts dispute — but the rhetoric underscores how far we've drifted from the principle that no authority should be above the law.

I watch my children, and the people I love, grow more fearful with each news cycle. I watch neighbors endure quietly, afraid to speak out. Their courage is tested not in the abstract, but in daily life — just as it was for my ancestors under British rule. They endured fear. They felt the weight of authority without accountability. And yet they stood, risking life and limb, to insist that liberty was not a privilege of the powerful, but a right of all.

I carry their legacy with me. I am a descendant of seven members of the Massachusetts line of the Continental Army, enslaved people who supported the Revolution, and two Black Reconstruction era statesmen in Virginia who helped rebuild the nation after the Civil War. I am also the child of parents who were active in the civil rights movement — a multiracial family that taught me early: freedom is never given. It must be defended.

As we did 50 years ago, we will honor this 250th anniversary by telling stories to our children, much like communities in Duluth are doing now. That year, 1976, marked the bicentennial of the Revolution and the centennial of the end of Reconstruction. It was my grandmothers who told most of the stories — one White, one Black — each with her own focus.

My White grandmother kept the Revolution close to her heart. My Black grandmother told stories of the Civil War and the era of Reconstruction.

They shared these histories not as trivia, but as instruction:

to teach, to inspire, and to hold firm to the principles that guided our ancestors, white and Black alike. In their different stories, the same thread ran through both: the American principles that led our ancestors to throw off kings also made it possible to throw off slave owners. Liberty, they showed us, was never limited to one race, one time, or one struggle.

Our nation's story is one of struggle and perseverance. For people across races, regions, and walks of life, liberty has always been contested. The ideals of the Revolution were aspirational from the start, limited by the exclusions of the time, and extended only through centuries of struggle: abolition, civil rights, voting rights, labor rights, and the ongoing fight for accountability and justice for all.

As cities plan parades, concerts, and tall ship flotillas for the 250th, we should ask who will be invited to the stage and whose stories will be told. Celebrations of liberty mean little if they erase the struggles that made it possible or ignore freedoms still denied today.

The deaths in Minnesota are not merely local tragedies; they are a call to the conscience of every American. They remind us that the revolution — the effort to define freedom as something real and universal — is not over. It didn't end on a battlefield, and it doesn't stop with another fireworks display.

So when we tell the stories this year, let's do it as my grandmothers did. Let us tell history to the children as instruction for the America we must all build together again.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP.

## The Winter Storm: Reunited and it felt so good

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



Winter is my favorite season. However, I am not thrilled of the winter storms that the winter season typically yields for obvious reasons. Nonetheless, I have learned to make the best out of the winter storms as it relates to our home.

As news outlets provided updates about the possibility of inclement weather - I must admit that I secretly prayed that God would give me and my family some family time together. Currently, my husband and I are college nesters (will write an article about this soon), our children are in college, and we have busy work schedules, church obligations and so much more, so I anticipated the possibilities of us spending some time together as I do miss our babies - we haven't been together since the holidays.

Guess what, my prayers were answered like the prayers on soap operas (you know their prayers get answered quickly) - my husband's employer and children's schools decided to grant remote work. I along with my mother convinced our son due to safety concerns to come home for the winter storm - teens know that coming home means abiding by rules, instead of pursuing their own solo lives, etc. Nevertheless, he came home. We would all be back under one roof again - reunited since the holidays.

When I discovered the news that my family would be reunited - I immediately went into mama bear mode. I attempted to order groceries and other essentials online but a few of the things were sold out and the pickup time and day would be the following day instead of the day that I placed the order. Therefore, I canceled the orders because I didn't want to take a chance of not getting what we needed, and you know on non-storm days a pickup order can go wrong at any point like receiving notification the item has been sold out giving options for you to get it substituted or cancel it. Picture it - I left work a little early and went to several stores battling various challenges like rain without an umbrella, a shortage of baskets, panic from other customers, dealt with sold out items like water, Jif Peanut Butter (I am sorry but I have tried off brand peanut butter and it is not right - I prefer JIF because you can scoop

that out easily but the off brand you have to cut it out - you know I'm telling the truth), there were long lines, I wanted to adhere to my budget, and I dealt with my darn 2 to 3 inch boot heels in the rain - oh my! After leaving the stores I returned home and pulled our winter blankets and quilts and applied them on our children's beds - they had two to three blankets/quilts each on their beds (I know I was being extra) but I wanted to ensure that they were warm. Although this was a challenging day - I was so glad that I helped prepare my family for the winter storm. It was worth every challenge - we watched movies, son baked cookies, and our teens talked to us about everything from college life to the Egyptian Pyramids.

In life, storms will come and they are often meant to distract us with panic, worry, anxiety, stress and so much more but we MUST learn to make the best out of each storm. When storms come, we must learn to:

-stay prepared by praying for marriage/children without ceasing

-know if God brought you through a storm - He will do it again

-consider, life is short so be intentional about taking every chance you are given to love and enjoy your spouse and children '

-rebuilding after a storm takes time

-please know you are not the only one so pray for each other

In conclusion, I pray that you and your family were not affected by the Winter Storm and if you were, I pray Godspeed in your situation. Please understand that storms are coming - sometimes it's not the storm that destroys us - it's how we respond to the storms that helps determine our fate. Storms do not have to destroy your family - fight for your marriage/family as described above. Do not let the storms pull you apart instead let it pull you together. I don't know what will happen tomorrow, but I am so grateful that the winter storm permitted me and my family to reunite, and it felt so good!

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

# CLASSIFIED

8 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 2026

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

## LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

### WEST WOODROW WILSON AVENUE

Resurfacing W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to Mill Street Bridge  
Federal Aid Project Number: STP-0250-00(053) LPA / 108075-701000

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi at the office of the City Clerk, 219 South President Street, P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. (Local Time), **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for construction of W. WOODROW WILSON AVENUE RESURFACING Federal Aid Project No. STP-0250-00(053) LPA / 108075-701000, at which time said bids shall be opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Pavement repairs, milling, leveling, overlay, striping, and miscellaneous improvements on a 0.81± mile five lane section of W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to the Mill Street Bridge, and all other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

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.

The contract time shall be **123 working 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. Liquidated Damages will be assessed in accordance with the Schedule of Deductions table in Section 108.07 of the 2017 Edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

The attention of the bidders is directed to the Contract Documents governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates have been determined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581, Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The Proposal and Contract Documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the City Clerk, prior to the hour and date above designated. Each Bidder must also deposit with his proposal, a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. No bidder may withdraw his bid within one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of the actual bid opening, without the City of Jackson's consent. The successful bidder shall furnish a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of the bid. The bidder shall also submit a current financial statement if requested by the City.

The Official Bid Documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810.4814.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi State Highway Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications. The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and other Contract Documents are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, Warren Hood Building, 4th floor, 200 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi and in the Office of the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, 1st Fl., 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings, and Contract Specifications may be procured at the office of the Engineer, Southern Consultants, Inc., 5740 County Cork Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39206, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Local Time, Monday through Friday, upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded. Checks are to be made payable to the Engineer.

The award of a Contract, if made, will be to the lowest and most responsible qualified bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein and in the Contract Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.  
Director, Department of Public  
Works, City of Jackson

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

## Interested in advertising in The Mississippi Link?

Businesses  
Schools  
Churches  
Want ads

Call 601-624-4542 or 601-896-0084.

1/29/2026

## LEGAL

### ORDINANCE GRANTING JANICE TYLER A REZONING FROM C3 (GENERAL) COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO R-7 (MOBILE HOME PARK) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4661 SOUTH DRIVE (PARCELS #646-10, 646-10-1 & 646-10-2 TO ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF THE PROPERTY AS A MOBILE HOME PARK AND TO ELIMINATE ITS NON-CONFORMING USE STATUS, CASE NO. 4312.

WHEREAS, Janice Tyler has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 4661 South Drive (Parcels #646-10, 646-10-1 & 646-10-2, in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from C-3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 Mobile Home Park Residential District to allow for the continued use of the property as a mobile home park and to eliminate its non-conforming use status; 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, December 15, 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 30, 2025 and November 13, 2025 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on November 19, 2025, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from C3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home) Residential District to allow for the continued use of the property as a mobile home park and to eliminate its non-conforming use status; 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 property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

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

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

Parcels 646-10 & 646-10-1  
5 acres in the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, T 6 N, R 1 W, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:  
Commencing at a point which is the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 36, T 6 N, R 1 W, and which is the point of beginning, run thence west along the half section line dividing the N 1/2 and S 1/2 of said Sec. 36, a distance of 463' to a point on said line dividing the W 1/2 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of said Sec. 36, then run north along said line dividing the W 1/2 and the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of said Sec. 36, 470.5' to the point of beginning, containing 5 acres, more or less, of which 2.3 acres consists of Shadow Lawn Subdivision, as shown in Plat Book 4, at Page 39, of the records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi. Parcel 646-10-2

Beginning at a point 463 feet West from the Northeast corner of the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 6 North, Range 1 West, thence South 150 feet, thence West 100 feet, thence North 150 feet, thence East 100 feet to the point of beginning. Said property conveyed being the same property conveyed to a previous grantor which said deed is recorded in Deed Book 814 at page 290 of the records of deeds in the office of the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, reference to which is made in aid of this description is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the properties located at 4661 South Drive (Parcels #646-10, 646-10-1 & 646-10-2 from C3 (General) Commercial District to R-7 (Mobile Home) Residential District to allow for the continued use of the property as a mobile home park and to eliminate its non-conforming use status. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

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

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

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Parkinson seconded. Yeas - Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.

Nays-None.

Absent - Brown-Thomas, Clay and Stokes.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting December 15, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 494-496".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 20th day of January 2026.

Image

1/29/2026

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

### JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2026 AT 12:00PM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

#### I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

##### OLD BUSINESS

A. CASE NO. HPNC-25-44

LOCATION: 134 E CHURCH ST (PARCEL 75-46)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARIH STREET APPLICANT: MARC ROWE

AMENDED REQUEST: INSTALL NEW FENCE AROUND FOUR PROPERTIES.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-25-45

LOCATION: 123 E CHURCH ST (PARCEL 79-13-1)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARIH STREET APPLICANT: MARC ROWE

AMENDED REQUEST: INSTALL NEW FENCE AROUND THE PROPERTY.

##### NEW BUSINESS

A. CASE NO. HPNC-26-1

LOCATION: 935 BELLEVUE PL (PARCEL 22-9)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN HEIGHTS

APPLICANT: JENNIFER WELCH

AMENDED REQUEST: DEMOLISH REAR DECK, CONSTRUCT NEW CARPORT WITH NECK ABOVE, AND REPLACE WOOD FENCE.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-26-2

LOCATION: 0 GILLESPIE ST (PARCEL 15-9)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN

APPLICANT: PAUL PURSER

REQUEST: CONSTRUCT NEW INFILL HOUSING. (3-STORY)

C. CASE NO. HPNC-26-4

LOCATION: 931 GILLESPIE ST (PARCEL 15-6)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN

APPLICANT: CARLA DUNAWAY

REQUEST: DEMOLISH EXISTING GARAGE AND CONSTRUCT NEW GARAGE AND SCREENED-IN PATIO.

#### II. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. VOTE FOR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

B. OTHER

##### ADJOURNMENT

1/22/2026, 1/29/2026

## LEGAL

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE RURAL AREA PROGRAM

South Central Community Action Agency of, Jackson, Mississippi 39212, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for assistance through its Rural Area Program to provide public transportation services within Hinds, Rankin, and Simpson Counties. Funding is available to state agencies, local public bodies and agencies thereof, non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services in locations other than urbanized Area, and, under special circumstances, private operators of public transportation on a competitive basis to undertake eligible transportation activities.

The goals of the Rural Area Program are: to enhance the access of people in non-urbanized Area to health care, shopping, education, public services and recreation; to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural and small urban Area; to encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all Federal funds used to provide passenger transportation in non-urbanized Area through the coordination of programs and services; and to provide for the participation of private transportation providers in non-urbanized transportation to the maximum extent feasible.

The purposes for which these funds can be used are capital purchases that include such items as support vehicles, communication equipment, wheelchair lifts, etc.; administrative costs that include such items as salaries, office supplies, insurance, etc.; and operating expenses that include such items as driver's wages, fuel, oil, etc. More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements and the program criteria will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at South Central Community Action Agency Inc., 3891 I-55 South Frontage Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39212 on February 3, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

1/29/2026

## U-RENTAL Van Company



- New fleet of vans
- 12 & 15 passenger vans
- Unbeatable prices
- Unlimited miles
- Church / business trips
- Family vacation & more
- Cash or credit cards



3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162

# THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC NOTICES. ONE CONVENIENT WEBSITE.

Search thousands of public notices from each county in Mississippi — government proceedings, requests for bids, foreclosures, probates, and more — all in one convenient location online and absolutely free.



Professional smart search subscriptions available

**MSPUBLICNOTICES.ORG**

A free service of the Mississippi Press Association and your local newspaper

**SAVE \$250 ON ALL TOURS!**  
MORE THAN 50 GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE



## Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN STARTING AT \$3,549 \$3,299\*  
BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Marvel at Alaska's natural beauty in Denali National Park
- Visit Alaska's the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- Travel through the legendary Inside Passage



## Historic Route 66 – 100th Anniversary

16 DAYS STARTING AT \$4,099 \$3,849\*  
BASED ON APR 18, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Visit must-see sights like the historic starting point of Route 66 in Chicago, the famous Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and the "End of the Trail" sign in Santa Monica
- Explore natural wonders of the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest National Park, and the Painted Desert
- Discover Seligman, known as the "historic birthplace of Route 66," and visit the vibrant Hotel El Rancho in Gallup, where Golden Age movie stars once stayed

**CALL US: 1-833-906-2201**

\*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees.  
Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.

Transform  
Your Bathroom  
and Change  
Your Life.



**FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF\***

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

**1-855-532-0066**

 safestep

\*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

**The Mississippi Link™**

**Volume 32 • Number 15**

**January 29 - February 4, 2026**

**© copyright 2026. All rights reserved.**

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Sports Editor.....Tim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39223-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

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

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

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

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

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

# PICK UP THE MISSISSIPPI LINK AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

## JACKSON

**BULLY'S RESTAURANT**

3118 Livingston Road

**CASH & 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 & 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

## CANTON

**A & I**

716 Roby Street - Canton, MS

**B & 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 & GROCERY**

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

**K & K ONE STOP**

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

**LACY'S INSURANCE**

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

**SOUL SET BARBER SHOP**

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

**TRAILER PARK GROCERY**

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

## BYRAM

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

**HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

## VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE

5777 Terry Road

**CITY HALL**

Terry Road

## CLINTON

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

## TERRY

**SERVICE STATION**

at Exit 78

**CITY HALL**

West Cunningham Avenue

## RAYMOND

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**WELCOME CENTER**

505 E. Main Street

**SUNFLOWER GROCERY**

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

**LOVE FOOD MART**

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

**RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

**RAYMOND CITY HALL**

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

**RAYMOND COURTHOUSE**

## UTICA

**HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP**

Mississippi Hwy 18

**PITT STOP**

101 Hwy 18 & 27

## BOLTON

**BOLTON LIBRARY**

**BOLTON CITY HALL**

**MCAN**  
Mississippi Classified Advertising Network  
To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

## AUTOS

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

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**WE HAVE BUYERS**, we need sellers of all business types. Business Valuation Consulting, discreetly selling businesses. Contact Steve Floyd at 769-2

# Reigning News

10 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 2026

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

P R E S E R V E D

## Tension is an advantage

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



"Use tension to your advantage." Recently, I was doing one of my virtual video workouts and the physical trainer, Jo from Grow with Jo, made this statement. At this point in the video, we were lifting weights and doing exercises like bicep curls. When she said it, I thought "How do you do that?" as I struggled to do the last of the strength exercises.

However, after I put the weights down, I thought about what she said and how profound it was. For example, the tension that comes when you exercise and the impact that it has on your body is designed to improve strength and flexibility. Tension during a physical workout forces your muscles to work harder and, in turn, helps you build endurance and strength. Over time, using tension will help you

build muscular strength and improve your overall physical fitness.

So what does tension have to do with spiritual and emotional health? We can apply those same principles to our spiritual growth. For example, when we are faced with a situation that requires spiritual growth like more discipline, more focused time in prayer and more time reading God's word, do we lean into those things? Or do we complain about how much time those things require and not do them?

Recently, I've had that experience of tension helping grow me spiritually. My church just recently finished our annual 21 day Daniel fast. For the first week, it was exciting pulling together different combinations of fruits and vegetables. However, by the 3rd week, the meals were boring. Even though I've done fasting for years, during this fast, I found myself struggling with the tension that came from being hungry. But I also

found myself initially struggling with the tension that came from wanting to watch TV as opposed to praying. I also found myself wanting an extra 10 minutes of rest in the morning instead of spending that time reading God's word. Even though I even deleted Facebook and Twitter apps from my phone and avoided using them during the fast, I still had moments where I was tempted to log on and see what was happening online.

As it turns out, it became much easier avoiding my favorite sweets as well as my favorite TV shows. I also enjoyed the time I would have spent scrolling through social media doing other things like reading. My body began to crave healthy and satisfying fruit and vegetable combinations. Most importantly, I began to seek after those moments where I could spend additional time in prayer and time reading God's word. I started the fast hopeful but unsure that I would be able to complete 21 days. There were

moments when I got weak and was frustrated that I had made the commitment to sacrifice when I saw others doing what they wanted, eating what they wanted seemingly unbothered.

Even though there were moments of great tension, there have also been moments of great growth because I leaned into the tension instead of avoiding it. 1 Timothy 4:15 says "Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress." As I've immersed myself in spiritual disciplines and sacrificed, I've grown to look forward to other moments of tension because I know that's where my growth comes from.

*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*

## Protests inside churches are unusual despite long history of civil disobedience in the US



By Peter Smith and Tiffany Stanley  
*The Associated Press*

One of the church's pastors, David Easterwood, works for ICE.

American religious history is rife with protest movements and civil disobedience. Yet it is rare for political protests to happen inside a house of worship.

That is part of what makes the new case against anti-ICE protesters in St. Paul, Minnesota, unusual. The group interrupted a service last Sunday at Cities Church, a Southern Baptist congregation, where one of its pastors works for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Three of the protesters were arrested on federal charges.

Charles C. Haynes, a senior fellow for religious liberty at the Freedom Forum, a non-profit group advocating for First Amendment rights, said disrupting a worship service is against the law — and that was likely the point.

Civil disobedience is by nature violating the law to bring attention to a cause. Famously, civil disobedience by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and others led to landmark legislation during the Civil Rights Movement.

Before her arrest, civil rights attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong, who describes herself as a Christian, depicted the protest in religious terms on Facebook: "It's time for judgment to begin and it will begin in the House of God!!!"

Haynes said, "Absolutely, in my view, civil rights law should be invoked when people interfere with the religious freedom of others in their house of worship." At the same time, he noted that protesters typically feel their cause is too urgent not to take drastic action.

More common are protests outside houses of worship, such as recent anti-Israel demonstrations outside synagogues in New York City or a Kansas church's picketing of military funerals. Courts and politicians have struggled to balance the rights of protesters and worshippers.

With such regulations "the devil (no religious pun intended) will be in the details," legal scholars Vikram Amar and Alan Brownstein wrote in a recent analysis in the online journal Verdict of laws regarding protest-free buffer zones around houses of worship and other sensitive places.

Little support for protest inside a church

While many religious groups have denounced the ICE surge in Minnesota, the protest inside Cities Church has received relatively little support. For example, the Minnesota Council of Churches, which joined in calls for a boycott of shopping, school and work, declined to comment on the arrests of the in-church protesters.

About three dozen protesters entered the Cities Church in St. Paul during last Sunday's service. Some walked right up to the pulpit. Others loudly chanted "ICE out" and "Renee Good," referring to the woman who was fatally shot Jan. 7 by an ICE officer in Minneapolis.

Protesters could face severe penalties

The penalties can be severe. Federal officials said the three protesters are charged under a law originally enacted after the Civil War to counter vigilante groups like the Ku Klux Klan, who had been targeting newly freed slaves. It has been revised since and applied to a wide range of violations of constitutional rights.

The law carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison -- or more if it involves injury, death or destruction of property.

**COLLEGE HILL**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue  
Jackson, Mississippi 39204  
601-355-2670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)  
[www.collegehillchurch.org](http://www.collegehillchurch.org)  
[Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org](mailto:Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org)

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

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

**Pastor**  
Chauncy L. Jordan

**New Horizon Church**  
INTERNATIONAL  
A place of love and victory.

**Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.**  
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204  
OFFICE 601-371-1427 • FAX 601-371-8282  
[www.nhcms.org](http://www.nhcms.org)

**SUNDAY**  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

**TV BROADCAST**  
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

**Prayer Everyday:** 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**True Light Baptist Church**  
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601.398.0915  
[WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG](http://WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG)

**THE Light Line**  
PRAYER

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

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

**REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR**

# Understanding the Glycemic Index: A vital tool in the fight against diabetes

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

In the kitchens of Jackson, Mississippi, from the Farish Street Historic District to the neighborhoods of West Jackson, food is more than fuel. It's tradition, it's family, it's love. But for the thousands of Jacksonians living with diabetes, it's also a daily battleground. The choices we make at the dinner table can either help us heal or push us closer to complications.

That's why understanding the glycemic index (GI) is so important. It's a simple tool that can help folks in our community take control of their health, without giving up the flavors we love.

In the ever-evolving landscape of nutrition and chronic disease management, one concept has emerged as a powerful ally in the battle against diabetes, the glycemic index (GI). Though it may sound like a term reserved for dietitians and scientists, the glycemic index is a simple yet transformative tool that can empower everyday people, especially those living with diabetes to make smarter food choices and take control of their health.

## What Is the Glycemic Index?

The glycemic index is a numerical system that ranks carbohydrate-containing foods based on how quickly they raise blood glucose (sugar) levels after consumption. The scale runs from 0 to 100, with pure glucose assigned a value of 100. Foods are categorized as:

- Low GI (55 or less): Slow, steady rise in blood sugar (e.g., lentils, oats, apples)
- Medium GI (56–69): Moderate impact (e.g., brown rice, sweet corn)
- High GI (70 or more): Rapid spike in blood sugar (e.g., white bread, potatoes, sugary cereals)

This ranking reflects how carbohydrates are digested and absorbed. Foods with a high GI are broken down quickly, causing a sharp increase in blood sugar, while low-GI foods are digested more slowly, leading to a gradual rise.

## Why the Glycemic Index Matters

For people without diabetes, the body's insulin response typically keeps blood sugar within a healthy range. But for the more than 38 million Americans living with diabetes and the millions more with prediabetes, this process is impaired. In these individuals,



IMAGE CREATED BY VINCENT FAUST

the body either doesn't produce enough insulin (Type 1 diabetes) or can't use insulin effectively (Type 2 diabetes), leading to elevated blood sugar levels that can damage organs over time.

This is where the glycemic index becomes a game-changer. By choosing foods with lower GI, individuals with diabetes can better manage their blood sugar levels, reduce the risk of complications and improve their overall quality of life.

## The Science Behind the Index

Not all carbohydrates are created equal. A slice of white bread and a bowl of steel-cut oats may contain similar amounts of carbs, but their effects on blood sugar are vastly different. The GI helps decode these differences by measuring how much a food raises blood glucose compared to pure glucose.

Several factors influence a food's GI:

- Type of carbohydrate: Simple sugars tend to have a higher GI than complex carbs.
- Fiber content: High-fiber foods slow digestion and lower the GI.

• Fat and protein: These nutrients can reduce the GI by slowing gastric emptying.

• Processing: More processed foods often have a higher GI.

• Ripeness: Riper fruits tend to have higher GIs due to increased sugar content.

Understanding these variables allows individuals to make more informed dietary choices, especially when managing a condition as sensitive as diabetes.

## Glycemic Index vs. Glycemic Load

While the GI measures how quickly a food raises blood sugar, it doesn't account for how much carbohydrate is in a typical serving. That's where glycemic load (GL) comes in. GL combines the GI with the amount of carbs in a serving to provide a more accurate picture of a food's impact on blood sugar.

For example, watermelon has a high GI (~72), but because it's mostly water and low in carbs, its glycemic load is relatively low. This distinction is crucial for people with diabetes who want to enjoy a variety of foods without

spiking their blood sugar.

## Real-World Impact for People with Diabetes

For those managing diabetes, the stakes are high. Poor blood sugar control can lead to complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, vision loss and nerve damage. The glycemic index offers a practical framework for dietary planning that can help mitigate these risks.

Benefits of a low-GI diet for people with diabetes include:

- Improved blood sugar control: Low-GI foods cause fewer spikes and crashes.
- Reduced insulin resistance: Helps the body use insulin more effectively.
- Better weight management: Slower digestion promotes satiety and reduces overeating.
- Lower cholesterol levels: Some studies suggest low-GI diets may improve lipid profiles.

Incorporating low-GI foods doesn't mean giving up flavor or variety. It means making strategic swaps, choosing whole grains over refined ones, legumes over white rice and fresh fruit over sugary snacks.

## Common Misconceptions

Despite its benefits, the glycemic index is often misunderstood. Some believe it's only relevant for people with diabetes, but research shows that low-GI diets can benefit anyone by promoting stable energy levels, reducing inflammation and supporting heart health.

Others assume that all low-GI foods are healthy, which isn't always the case. For instance, ice cream has a moderate GI due to its fat content, but it's still high in sugar and calories. Context matters and the GI should be used alongside other nutritional information.

## Practical Tips for Using the GI

1. Balance your plate: Combine low-GI carbs with lean proteins and healthy fats.

2. Choose whole over refined: Opt for whole grains, legumes and vegetables.

3. Watch portion sizes: Even low-GI foods can raise blood sugar if eaten in excess.

4. Be mindful of cooking methods: Overcooking pasta or rice can raise their GI.

5. Use the GI as a guide, not a rule-book: Focus on overall dietary patterns.

terns.

The glycemic index is not a silver bullet, but it's a valuable tool in a broader strategy for managing diabetes. It complements other pillars of diabetes care, including medication, physical activity, stress management and regular monitoring.

As public health advocates and healthcare providers work to address the diabetes epidemic, particularly in communities disproportionately affected, such as African Americans and older adults, education about the glycemic index can play a pivotal role. It empowers individuals to take charge of their health, one meal at a time.

In a world saturated with diet trends and conflicting nutrition advice, the glycemic index stands out for its scientific grounding and practical utility. For people with diabetes, understanding the GI isn't just about numbers, it's about reclaiming agency over their health.

As we continue to confront the challenges of chronic disease, tools like the glycemic index remind us that knowledge truly is power. And in the fight against diabetes, that power can be life-changing.

In Jackson, you know the power of community. From the pews of New Hope Baptist to the halls of Tougaloo College, we've always lifted each other up. Let's do the same with our health.

Imagine a Sunday dinner with baked chicken, collard greens cooked in olive oil, and a side of quinoa. Or a Juneteenth celebration with grilled veggies, black-eyed pea salad and watermelon slices. These aren't sacrifices, they're upgrades.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

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

If you've missed an article of "Tips to be Fit" just search "Vince Faust" "Tips to be Fit"

This article is intended for general information purposes and may be published once solely by The Philadelphia Tribune, The Atlanta Voice, The Mississippi Link, The New Pittsburgh Courier, The Chicago Crusader and the Black Press USA only!

# How does cold weather affect the heart?

The American Heart Association



Many people aren't conditioned to the physical stress of vigorous outdoor activities and don't know the potential dangers of being outdoors in cold weather. Winter sports enthusiasts who don't take certain precautions can suffer accidental hypothermia.

Hypothermia means the body temperature has fallen below 35 degrees Celsius or about 95 degrees Fahrenheit. It occurs when your body can't produce enough energy to keep the internal body temperature warm enough. It can kill you. Symptoms include lack of coordination, mental confusion, slowed reactions, shivering and sleepiness.

Children and the elderly are at special risk because they may have limited ability to communicate or impaired mobility. Elderly people may also have lower subcutaneous fat and a diminished ability to sense temperature so they can suffer hypothermia without knowing they're in danger.

People with coronary heart disease often suffer angina pectoris (chest pain or discomfort) when they're in cold weather.

Besides cold temperatures, high winds, snow and rain also can steal body heat. Wind is especially dangerous because it removes the layer of heated air from

around your body. At 30 degrees Fahrenheit in a 30-mile-per-hour wind, the cooling effect is equal to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Similarly, dampness causes the body to lose heat faster than it would at the same temperature in drier conditions.

To keep warm, wear layers of clothing. This traps air between the layers, forming a protective insulation. Also, wear a hat or head scarf. Heat can be lost through your head. And ears are especially prone to frostbite. Keep your hands and feet warm, too, as they tend to lose heat rapidly.

To help make snow removal safer, here is a list of practical tips.

Give yourself a break. Take frequent breaks during shoveling so you don't overstress your heart. Pay attention to how your body feels during those breaks.

Learn the heart attack warning signs and listen to your body, but remember this: Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out. Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives — maybe your own. Don't wait to call 911.

Don't drink alcoholic before or immediately after shoveling. Alcohol may increase a person's sensation of warmth and may cause them to underestimate the extra strain their body is under in the cold.

Consult your health care professional if you have a medical concern or question about exercising in cold weather — especially if it is a substantial increase over your usual physical activity level.

Be aware of the dangers of hypothermia. To prevent hypothermia, dress in layers of warm clothing, which traps air between the layers forming a protective insulation. Wear a hat because much of your body's heat can be lost through your head.

Learn CPR. Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. Hands-only CPR makes it easier than ever to save a life. If an adult suddenly collapses, call 911 and begin pushing hard and fast in the middle of the victim's chest until help arrives.

# Walking safely in icy conditions: Advice from AMR Medics

The American Medical Response

Paramedics at American Medical Response (AMR) have issued advice to prevent falls and getting hit by vehicles when walking in slippery weather conditions. They are:

Wear waterproof shoes or boots that fit well and have good non-slip tread.

Watch the path ahead.

Lean slightly forward. Take shorter steps than usual or shuffle your feet a bit. Bend your knees a little and slow down.

If you fall, try to protect your head and neck. Tuck your head downward toward your chest. If possible, land so that your thigh, hip and shoulder strike the surface in sequence. Avoid breaking the fall with your hands since the impact can injure wrists and elbows.

Wear gloves or mittens so you don't have to put your hands in your pockets. That will help you keep your balance.

Hold onto railings and stable objects, particularly when going up or down

stairs.

If at all possible, don't step out on stairs or steps before clearing them of ice. Clearing the ice will also help AMR and other emergency responders who you might need to call for aid.

Consider using a walking stick. Be sure canes have a broader base than usual.

Don't carry more than you can handle easily. Heavy loads can impair your balance.

Stay on sidewalks. If you walk in the road, walk facing the traffic and walk close to the curb.

Wear bright clothing so drivers can easily see you.

Ice can prevent cars from stopping at stop signs and traffic lights. Before stepping into the street, make

sure all approaching vehicles have in fact stopped. Earmuffs, hats and scarves make it harder to hear nearby vehicles. Stay warm AND alert.

**About American Medical Response (AMR)**  
American Medical Response, Inc., America's leading provider of emergency medical services, provides mobile healthcare in 40 states and the District of Columbia. More than 28,000 AMR paramedics, EMTs, RNs and other professionals work together to care for more than 4.8 million patients nationwide each year in critical, emergency and non-emergency situations. For more information about AMR, visit [www.amr.net](http://www.amr.net) or on Facebook and LinkedIn.

**AMR**  
A Global Medical Response Solution

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., helps the Institute support Mississippi families

Mississippi Link Newswire

During the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health received over 5,000 infant essentials from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Beta Delta Omega Chapter. This donation to the Institute's Baby Depot will help reduce diaper insecurity throughout Mississippi. Diaper insecurity is the

lack of access to an adequate supply of clean diapers for infants and toddlers. It often forces families to choose between purchasing diapers and paying for necessities like rent or utilities.

The Institute commends Beta Delta Omega chapter for embodying the legacy of Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign, which called for access to healthcare, and economic justice. This do-

nation of diapers, wipes and food is more than just supplies. This gift provides support for the state's youngest citizens while reducing financial stress for Medicaid-eligible families.

To support the Baby Depot, organizations and individuals can make donations by contacting Latasha Rice, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager, at lrice@advancingminorityhealth.org.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

**Thank You**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Beta Delta Omega Chapter  
and Gamma Rho Chapter

For your generous Baby Depot donation:

5,108 diapers  
225 wipes  
32 baby food items

Your support helps provide essential items for mothers and babies in our community.

Support the Baby Depot:  
Contact Latasha Rice, Program Manager  
lrice@advancingminorityhealth.org

Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health

## ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, February 22, 2026, Rho Lambda Omega Chapter and Lambda Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will celebrate

118 years of service, sisterhood, and impact at their joint Founder's Day Program. The event will be held at Anderson United Methodist Church located at 6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson

at 3:00 p.m. and it is open to the public. This year Founder's Day ceremony will honor outstanding community members and organizations whose dedication and service align

with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's initiatives. Honorees are Dr. Nashlie Sephus, Judge Carlyn Hicks, Shirley Mays, Footprint Farms, Dress for Success, and Sunnybrook Children's Home.

# CSLC Books & Bonding: A free book giveaway

By Aaliyah A. Greer  
11 year-old Guest Student Writer

This initiative is designed to promote early literacy and strengthen family engagement in underserved areas of Holmes County.

Each pop-up features interactive read-alouds, culturally relevant children's books, and parent-friendly literacy resources. The project creates joyful reading experiences while equipping families with tools to support literacy at home.

"The book fair was very good and encouraged a strong interest in reading," said Sicily Gregory, a 10th-grade student.

Grandparent Earline Wright-Hart said, "Observing the primary students with books and having the privilege of adults reading to them prompts making learning a well-rounded experience and a foundation for academic success."

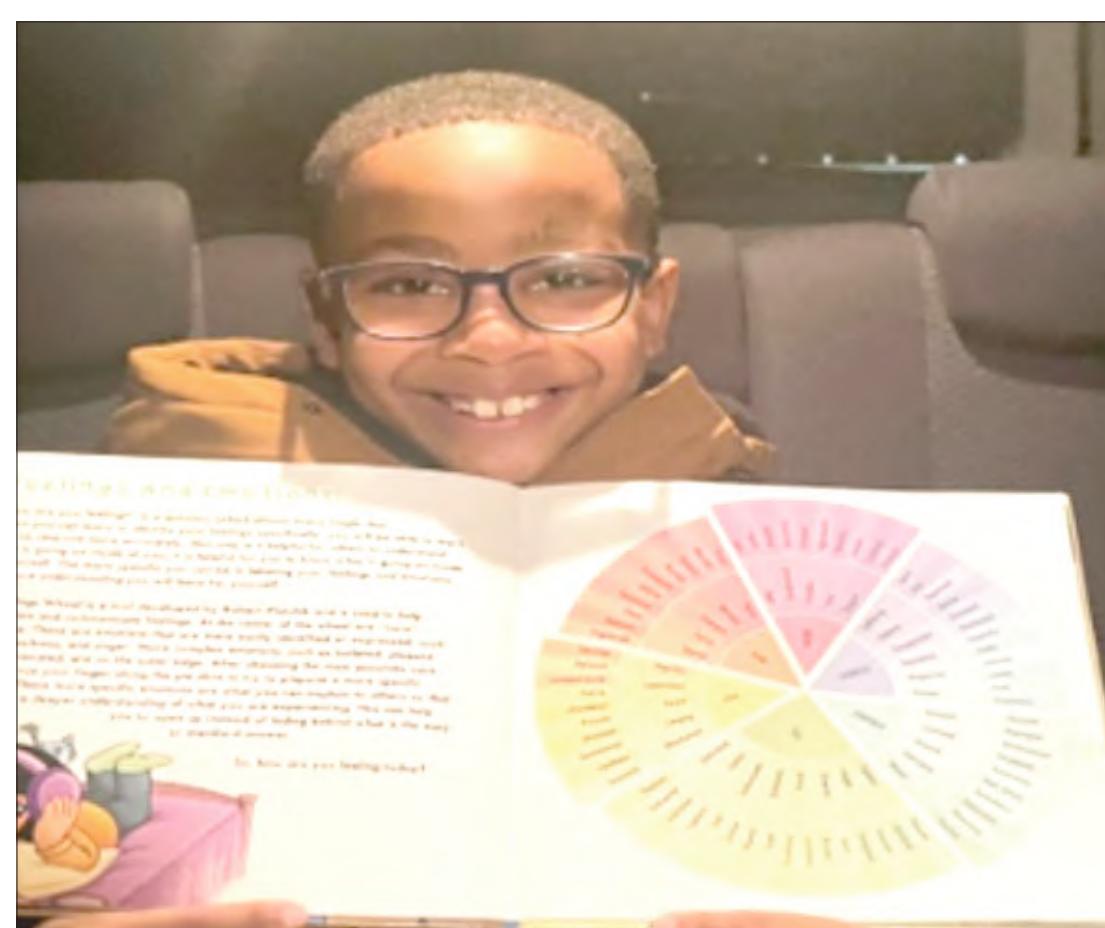
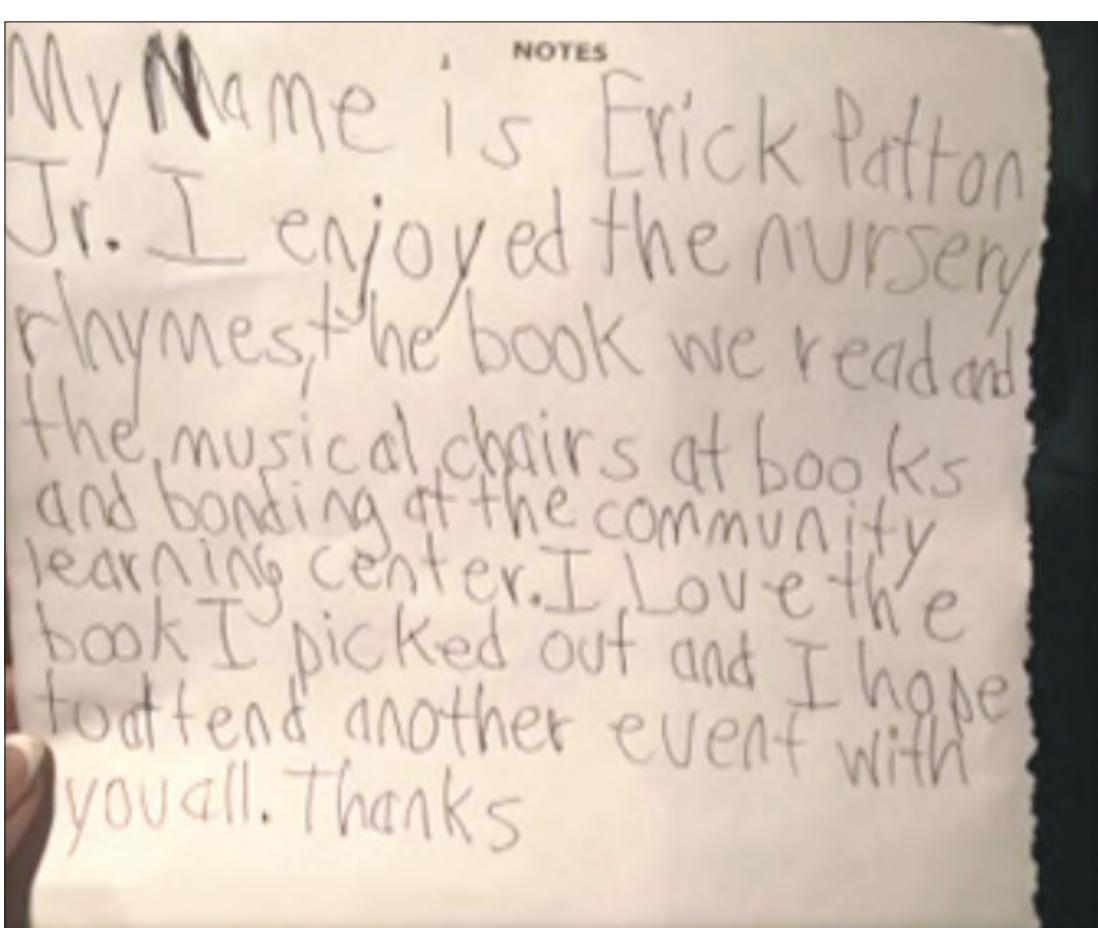
There were games, snacks, drinks, and storytelling. Children and parents were very much

engaged and interested; they had lullabies, musical chairs, and a good laugh. Each child received a book of their choice, and there was great participation.

Two additional book giveaway events are being planned. CSLC expresses special thanks to The Community Foundation for Mississippi for making this much-needed event possible through its 2025 Community Impact Project Grant, "Books & Bonding Family Literacy Pop-Up Series!"



On Saturday, January 17, 2026, the Community Students Learning Center, located at 333 Yazoo Street in Lexington, MS, held its first Books & Bonding Family Literacy Pop-Up Series, funded by The Community Foundation for Mississippi. Free books were given to children in Holmes County, Mississippi.



Third-grade student Erick Patton, Jr. of William Dean Elementary School, shares a book he chose as well as a note about his experience at the giveaway. COURTESY PHOTOS FROM CSLC



**Nissan believes in the power of education.**



[nissan-canton.com](http://nissan-canton.com)

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

## Alcorn business dean named to Mississippi's 50 Under Fifty list



Woods

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Legacy Network Foundation named Alcorn State University School of Business Dean Antwon D. Woods, Ph.D., MBA, PMP, to its 2026 class of Mississippi's 50 Under Fifty Top Urban Elite Professionals.

The foundation will recognize Woods and the full 2026 class at the Mississippi's 50 Under Fifty Top Urban Elite Professionals Gala, scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson, Miss.

The Legacy Network Foundation highlights innovators in business, education, healthcare and the arts. Its annual award honors African American professionals who demonstrate leadership in their industries and communities.

Selection committees chose Woods based on his work regarding business education transformation, graduate program expansion and the establishment of corporate partnerships with companies such as Altria and Wells Fargo.

"This honor represents the collective success of the students, faculty and staff I work alongside," said Woods. "Our work extends beyond the classroom to shape futures and drive Mississippi forward. I am grateful for the opportunity to create economic opportunities for the next generation of business leaders."

During his tenure, Woods oversaw the launch of several initiatives, including the Mississippi Small Business Development Center and the Wells Fargo Financial Education Center. He also directs the Center of Data Analytics and Informatics at MCIT, a hub for workforce development in the region.

"I view my role not simply as an administrator, but as a champion for students who may be the first in their families to attend college," said Woods. "I am inspired daily by their resilience, determination and dreams."

Woods has served Alcorn State for three years. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Jackson State University. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University and a Master of Science from Middle Tennessee State University. Additionally, he completed a Senior Executive Leadership certificate at the University of Oxford's Said Business School.

## JSU's annual MLK celebrations invokes and honors trailblazers

By Anthony Howard  
and William H. Kelly III  
Jackson State University

The 2026 celebrations honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were held at Jackson State University (JSU) on Friday, Jan. 16. The events, led by JSU's Margaret Walker Center, included the 58th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Convocation and the 31st Annual For My People Awards.

Daphne Chamberlain, Ph.D., chief program officer at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, served as the convocation keynote speaker, echoing the words of Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles, who was with King when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

"Trailblazers don't often live to walk the trails they blazed," Chamberlain said, recalling moments with civil rights veterans throughout her career, including Kyles. "Some, but not all, had their stories cemented in history books with scholarly works. Some but not all have captivated audiences with their lived experiences."

In January 1969, Margaret Walker Alexander began the MLK Convocation at Jackson State to honor King just nine months after his assassination, making it one of the nation's oldest celebrations of his life.

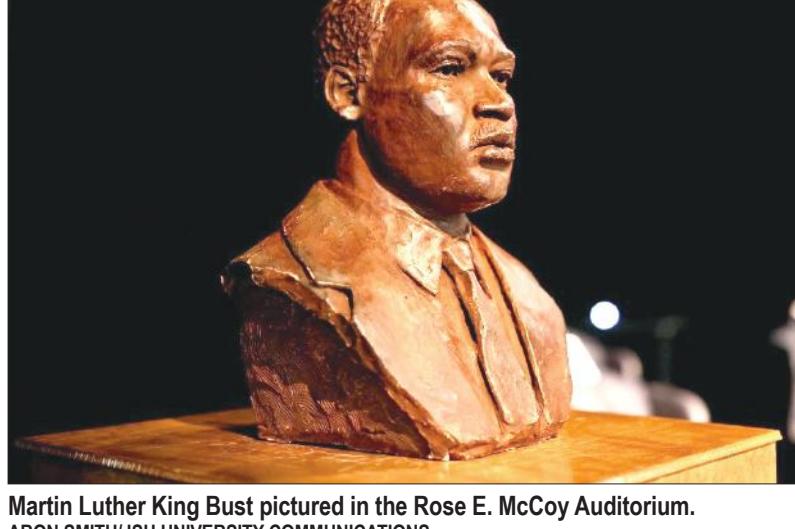
Chamberlain's closing remarks encouraged the audience, especially students, to remain awake, active, present and engaged through social change, referencing King's 'Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution,' sermon from 1968.

"Young people, don't be around here sleepwalking, and if you are aware of what's going on in the world, and there is a lot going on in the world, don't be easily distracted and don't be disconnected. There is hope in this moment today," she said.

Chamberlain's words challenged the audience to not only preserve history but to remain a part of it.

Immediately following the convocation, the Margaret Walker Center held the 31st annual "For My People" Awards program. Honorees included three influential women committed to the interpretation, dissemination and preservation of African American history and culture, along with the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC).

Community activist and retired legislator Alyce Clarke, the first Black woman elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, received a "For My People" Award. Clarke represented the West Jackson community, which includes JSU, for 39 years. The trailblazer served on the House Ethics, Education, Public Health, PERS, Universities and Colleges and other committees. Her legislation established MS drug courts



Martin Luther King Bust pictured in the Rose E. McCoy Auditorium.  
ARON SMITH/JSU UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS



Daphne Chamberlain, Ph.D., chief program officer at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, served as the convocation's keynote speaker. ARON SMITH/JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



Stuart Rockoff, Ph.D. (center), executive director of the MHC, with his award alongside Milton Chambliss (left) and Dr. Robert Smith (right). ARON SMITH/JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



Zakiya Summers, Mississippi State Representative for House District 68, with her award alongside Milton Chambliss (left) and Dr. Robert Smith (right). ARON SMITH/JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

and most recently the state lottery.

In 2024, Clarke became the first

woman and African American to

have an official portrait on display in

the Mississippi State Capitol.

The MHC, founded in 1972 by a

group of higher education leaders, also received a "For My People" Award. The council has distributed millions of dollars in grants to museums, libraries, colleges and community organizations.

One of the first grants it ever awarded was to Jackson State and Margaret Walker Alexander for the Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival in 1973.

"For many years, I've been in the audience for this luncheon watching an incredible, legendary array of people that we call the heroes and 'sheroes' of our community receive this prestigious award," said Stuart Rockoff, Ph.D., executive director of the MHC. "It is humbling to be able to represent the MHC as we receive our own 'For My People' Award."

Rockoff continued his remarks, acknowledging the council's long-standing partnership with the university and highlighting its value. Several JSU professors have served on the MHC board, including President Emeritus Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr.

Chamberlain, who served as the year's convocation speaker, and Representative Zakiya Summers received the Doris Derby Legacy award. The award, named after the late Dr. Doris Derby, is awarded to a descendant of activist(s) who worked in the various social justice movements of the 1950s and 1960s.

Chamberlain was instrumental in bringing JSU's historic COFO project to fruition. During the luncheon, she reminisced about the Lynch Street project and how it laid the foundation for the work she is currently doing with the Emmett Till Interpretive Center. The Jackson native is the daughter of long-time JSU educator Dr. Jean Chamberlain and was also a research fellow for JSU's Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship & Democracy.

Rep. Summers is currently serving her second term as a Mississippi State Representative for House District 68, which covers portions of West Jackson, Flowood, Pearl and Richland. Before serving as a legislator, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors appointed her to the Election Commission for District 3 in 2015. She was elected to the position in 2016.

A proud West Jackson native and current resident, Summers is the president of the Jayne Avenue Neighborhood Association and remains active in the community she says "made her."

"This award is not for me. This is for you, because the work that I do is for you," said Summers. "When Dr. Luckett told me I was receiving this award, I cried. I could not believe someone like me would be recognized with all these giants who received this award."



## BOOK REVIEW:

# LOVELY ONE: A MEMOIR ADAPTED FOR YOUNG ADULTS

BY KETANJI BROWN JACKSON  
C.2026, BRIGHT MATTER BOOKS  
\$20.99 • 351 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

You knew it years ago. When you were little and people asked you what you wanted to do when you grew up, the answer was obvious: you had a dream and an idea. Sure, other interests caught your eye once in awhile but you always came back to that one plan, this one thing. As in the new book, "Lovely One" by Ketanji Brown Jackson (adapted for young readers), you might be a kid but you've always known what you wanted.

When she was just four years old, little Ketanji Brown sat with her father at their kitchen table most evenings, watching as he studied his books and prepared for a career in law. He sometimes included his daughter by playfully asking for her advice on his lessons, a memory stuck with her for the rest of her life and instilled a lifelong intrigue for legal matters.

Brown Jackson says that she was lucky to have had so many inspirational, focused ancestors to give her family a solid base, and she was fortunate to be born

in the fall of 1970, to parents who had worked hard to secure Civil Rights. They encouraged that same activism in their children, and they expected excellence in their education. For as long as Brown Jackson could remember, they nurtured in her "a spirit of perseverance," allowed for extracurricular activities, and they helped her seize many opportunities.

She continued to be a good student and a good kid. Then one afternoon, everything clicked into place.

A few days before her twelfth

birthday, she says, she discovered a magazine article about a Black woman, a lawyer, who broke ground before Brown Jackson was even born, and it "would extend my horizons." She realized that the memory of studying with her father "was only the beginning for me," she says.

Little did she know then that she, too, would break ground someday...

There is, of course, more to the story of author Ketanji Brown Jackson's life, her career, and her history-making

appointment to the Supreme Court, and "Lovely One" brings readers up to date. For a kid, that's great but the bigger appeal may come from the way the story's told here. In this version, adapted for young readers, time is taken to show that Justice Jackson was just an ordinary kid once.

Playing, attending classes she loved and ones she disliked, traveling, spending time with her grandparents, getting a new sibling, these are experiences Jackson shares with young readers, and they're very

engaging. Her narrative, though it uses adult-level language, is easy to grasp and quite relatable for her audience, and her excitement at some of her life's highlights is delightfully charming.

Jackson never talks down to

kids who read this book, nor to

the grown-ups who might find

it less daunting than its similar

adult version.

If a biography is on your

12-and-up student's reading

list, think of this book first. For

you, and for a kid who needs in-

spiration, finding "Lovely One"

is the thing to do.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
First Judicial District  
(601) 969-0052

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

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

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

Website: [www.hindscountymsc.com](http://www.hindscountymsc.com)  
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

*Cool And Current*

**WJSU** 88.5  
"your source for cool jazz and current news"  
[www.wjsu.org](http://www.wjsu.org)

**JSU** JESSE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

**WRTM**  
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

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

# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## ABOVE THE SCALE: HONORING HINDS COUNTY'S HIGH ACHIEVERS

Dr. Shears and the Hinds County School Board celebrated educators and leaders from across Hinds County School District whose performance exceeded the state scale score on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)! This special luncheon highlighted the excellence and leadership that continue to move HCSD "Above the Scale" in academic achievement. Congratulations to all honorees for your commitment to excellence and for inspiring success throughout our district!



## Understanding your credit, credit report, credit score, and how to improve it: Part 1

By Tim C. Lee  
CEO & Founder of TCL Financial & Tax Services

If you are a consumer, you need to be familiar with the three major credit reporting bureaus – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. They simply do three things:

1) They collect details and information about you from courts, creditors, and other sources, such as current and previous addresses, payment history, bankruptcies, phone numbers, places of employment, tax liens, and so much more.

2) They create what is commonly known as "credit report" on you.

3) They sell these credit reports to companies and institutions so they can determine if they want to extend you credit and/or services.

In addition to becoming familiar with the three credit reporting bureaus, you should also know about the two major credit scoring companies – Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) and VantageScore.

These two companies use the information inside of your credit reports from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion to compose a three digit credit score ranging from 300 to 850.

These credit scores are used to determine eligibility and interest rates for credit cards, loans, and services. The higher the credit score, the more likelihood you are to get approved and receive a lower interest rate.

According to FICO and VantageScore, there are five factors used to calculate the credit score:

1) Payment History (35%): This particular category accounts for 35 percent of your credit score, and is based on your history of when you pay your bills. This category is the highest percentage in the credit scoring algorithm, and is the most important factor in calculating your credit score. To keep your credit score high, you always want to pay your bills on time. Keep in mind, late payments will only appear on your credit report when you are 30 days or more past

due paying on an account.

2) Amounts Owed (30%): This particular category accounts for 30 percent of your credit score, and is based on your credit utilization. On credit accounts, you want to keep your balances low compared to the credit limit. To increase your credit score, experts suggest to never utilize more than 30 percent of your credit limit. For example: If you have a credit card with a \$1,000 credit limit, your balance should never exceed \$300.

3) Length of Credit History (15%): This particular category accounts for 15 percent of your credit score, and is based on how long your credit accounts have been established. In a nutshell, the longer an account has been open on your credit report, the better.

4) Credit Mix (10%): This particular category accounts for 10 percent of your credit score, and is based on you having a variety of different accounts appearing on your credit report, such as automobile loans, credit cards, installment loans, mortgage loans, retail store accounts, etc. Having a mixture of credit accounts is considered more favorable.

5) New Credit (10%): This particular category accounts for 10 percent of your credit score, and is based on you recently applying for credit (inquiries) and opening new accounts. Doing these two things frequently in a short period of time can have a negative impact on your credit score.

Knowing who the three major credit reporting bureaus and the two major credit scoring companies are and their purpose is the first step to understanding your credit, credit reports, and credit score.

Make sure you read Part 2 of this article, where I discuss how to improve your credit.

*Tim C. Lee is the CEO & Founder of TCL Financial & Tax Services, and the host of "The TCL Show" that airs every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, MS. This is the show that is about "You, Life, and Money." You can e-mail Tim at [timlee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com](mailto:timlee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com)*



This is the show that is about You, Life, and Money!

**Hosted by CEO & Founder**

of TCL Financial & Tax Services

**TIM C. LEE**

**every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST**

**on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, Mississippi**

**or Listen Live at**

**[www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com](http://www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com)**

**TCL**  
FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

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

**We Don't Just  
Do Taxes...  
WE KNOW TAXES**

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES (Individual and Business)

- FREE ELECTRONIC FILING**
- FREE STATE TAX RETURN PREPARATION**
- FREE FILING OF "SIMPLE 1040" TAX RETURNS**
- FREE ESTIMATE WITH LAST CHECK STUB OR W-2**
- FREE AUDIT ASSISTANCE (Existing Clients)**
- FREE DOUBLE CHECK OF ANY TAX RETURN**
- WE WILL EVEN CASH YOUR CHECK FOR YOU**
- OPEN YEAR-ROUND JUST IN CASE YOU NEED US**
- YOU CAN EVEN FILE YOUR TAXES ONLINE @ [www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com](http://www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com)**

WE HAVE 4 LOCATIONS TO GLADLY SERVE YOU

- 1 6779 Siwell Road, Suite A, Byram, Mississippi 39222  
(601) 371-8580  
(LOCATED BETWEEN DOCKERY GRILL AND STORAGEMAX)
- 2 1022 East Peace Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046  
(601) 859-5554  
(LOCATED IN THE SAVE-A-LOT SHOPPING CENTER)
- 3 4317 Robinson Road (Highway 18), Jackson, Mississippi 39209  
(601) 922-2TCL (2825)  
(LOCATED BETWEEN PICCADILLY AND POPEYES ON HIGHWAY 18)
- 4 4612 Medgar Evers Boulevard, Suite 7, Jackson, Mississippi 39212  
(601) 982-5880  
(LOCATED BETWEEN DHS AND HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE)



# New Hope Baptist Church Day at the Capitol

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, was the first day ever that New Hope Baptist Church, 1555 Beasley Rd. in Jackson, was given a day at the Capitol. Several members of New Hope Baptist Church, including students from New Hope Christian School were participants. Pastor Young delivered the opening prayer.

Young took advantage of the opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers while at the Capitol. He asked legislators to think about the constituents they represent each time they vote on an issue. "It's not about party or politics, it's about people", he said.

Young, asked the questions;



Members of New Hope Baptist Church pose with legislators. Pastor Jerry Young and First Lady Helen Young in center, bottom row. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

how can we serve the people? One answer he gave was, "We must make sure that we do not give way to preferences and ignore principles. We must stand on Principles."

Mississippi State Representa-

tive Justis Gibbs said he would be reminded each day he walks into the State Capitol to serve the people of Mississippi. He said, "It's about the people in my district; it's about how do we make their lives better and how



Students from New Hope Christian School attended New Hope Baptist Church Day at the Capitol.

do we improve their quality of life." Gibbs represents District 72, covering Hinds and Madison Counties.

Pauline Rogers, who serves as prison ministry co-leader at New Hope shared her voice while at

the press conference. She stated, "We are not enemies of the government; we are friends of the government." Rogers commented on the church's Facebook page. "New Hope Day at the Capitol was a meaningful mo-

ment for our church family. We were grateful for the opportunity to be represented as Pastor Young delivered the opening prayer in the Senate, and our Prison Ministry led the day, including participation in a press conference."



**New Hope Baptist Church**  
Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor  
1555 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS 39206

**~ Fifteenth Annual ~**  
**2026 "Back In The Day", A Black History Celebration**  
**Featuring: "The Songs That Brought Us Over"**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 6PM**  
Living Legends Honorees and Special Musical Guests

**Dr. Greta Terry** **Mr. Richard Polk** **Dr. Amos Brown** **Travanti Hills** **The Watson Family** **Chandra Wise**  
Educator Ret. EEOC Civil Rights Icon ~ Gospel Recording Artists ~

**Guests: Dr. Mark Henderson, Callaway & Murrah JROTC, New Hope Baptist Church Mass Choir, Male Choir & Christian School**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | 6PM**  
Grand Finale Honorees and Special Guests

**Dr. Daphne C. Wilson** **Waikinya Clanton** **Bro. Melvin Miller** **Lt. Ralph Moore** **Dr. Tonya Moore** **Benjamin Cone, III**  
Historian Legal Activist Administrator US Navy Nurse Educator Gospel Artist

**Presentation of the Dr. & Mrs. Obadiah Myles Humanitarian Award**

**Featured on the YouTube channel**

**Sponsored by New Hope Baptist Church, Black History Committee**  
Contact: Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright, Project Director, 601-981-8696 or 601-366-7002

