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Five long years since the assault on American Democracy

The insurrection led by an incumbent President, and the wounding of our democracy

Trump supporters climbing through Capitol window, January 6, 2021. Photo: Leah Millis/Reuters.

Mississippi's 2nd District Congressman Bennie G. Thompson - Chairman of the Select Committee that investigated the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. PHOTO: CNN.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Why does it still feel so recent? It has been five full years since President Trump goaded his supporters to the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, to overthrow the certification of the 2020 election results - a cornerstone of our democracy. He lost the election, yet refused to accept his loss, and continues to the present day to claim that the election was rigged against him.

COMMENTARY

He called it a "Save America," rally, at The Ellipse, about a mile and a half away from the Capitol that sad morning. Voters did not reelect him, and he could not tolerate it. FBI reports estimate 2,000 heeded his call to disrupt the process of certifying the election results. Those people, 93 percent white by most reporting,

Gallows to hang Vice President Pence for not stopping the certification of ballots process. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES.

did their level best. Many had traditional weapons, others used makeshift weapons, overturning police barriers, storming the Capitol, making entry, causing damage to property – broken glass, doors, windows, furniture, artifacts, etc. – costing taxpayers $2.7 to $3 million dollars, with the Architect of The Capitol claiming that number rose to $2.7 billion when security enhancements, police expenses, and medical bills were factored in. Five people died and 140 U.S. Capitol and Metropolitan Police Officers were injured on that day. Four police officers who tried to 'hold the line' and failed, committed suicide in the months following the insurrection.

The goal was to maintain power by usurping the voice of the American people. In Trump's speech that morning he said it was "up to Congress to confront this egregious assault on our democracy (the way he labeled his loss) and after this we're going to walk down, and I'll be there with you, we're going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, we're going to the Capitol, and we're going to cheer on our brave Senators and Congressmen and women, and we're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them, because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength. You have to be strong. We have to fight like hell," as reported by

Insurrection
Continued on page 3

U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District Director Janita R. Stewart to retire

Long tenure marked by celebrating 51 Years of Federal Service

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Janita Stewart

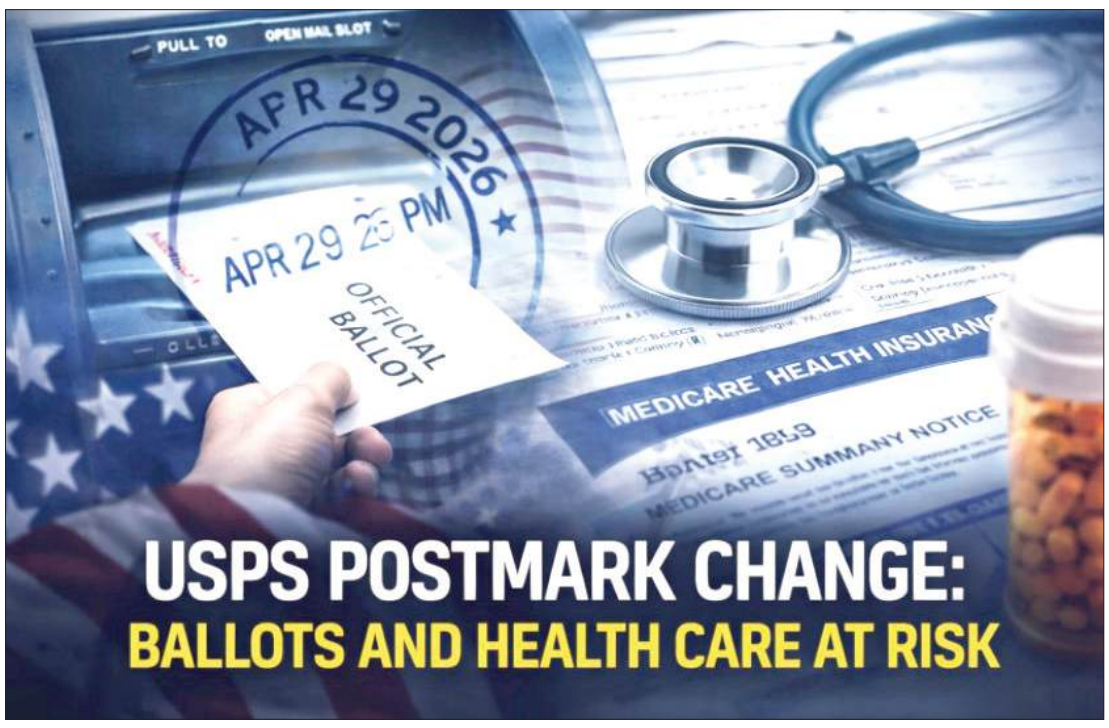
SBA Mississippi District Director Janita R. Stewart is retiring after 51 years of federal government service, 41 years with the U.S. Small Business Administration. As District Director since April 1995, Janita has been responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services throughout the state of Mississippi, helping small businesses start, grow, expand, and recover from disasters and adversity. Her final workday is January 9, 2026. Her admirable service of dedication and commitment to the federal government, knowledge, experience, positive leadership, mentorship, inspiration, and unprecedented devotion to the small business community have made a meaningful impact over the past 51 years, leaving an indelible mark on the entrepreneurial landscape which will continue to resonate for years to come.

As SBA District Director for Mississippi, Stewart is responsible for supervising the activities of team members in the Mississippi District and Gulfport Branch Offices. Her responsibility entails the supervision of the delivery of a wide range of critical SBA programs and services to the small business community, including financial assistance, entrepreneurial development, minority business enterprise development, and related special emphasis programs such as women's business ownership, international trade, veterans' affairs, and more. In addition, Stewart is responsible for oversight of SBA-funded resource partners including the State Office of the Mississippi Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of Mississippi which has 19 SBDC Subcenters and Business Assistance Centers strategically located

Stewart
Continued on page 3

New postal service rule could quietly void ballots and delay healthcare

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent



A quiet clarification by the United States Postal Service is drawing renewed scrutiny after health care advocates and voting rights observers warned that the change could carry serious consequences for millions of Americans who rely on postmarks to meet legal deadlines.

Under new USPS guidance that took effect late last month, the date printed on a postmark no longer reflects when a letter or ballot is dropped into a mailbox. Instead, the postmark now reflects the date the mail is first processed at an automated sorting facility, which can occur days after the item is mailed. The Postal Service says the change is intended to clarify how postmarks are applied, particularly as transportation schedules and regional processing systems evolve.

For voters in states that count mail-in ballots based on postmark deadlines, and for patients navigating appeals, authorizations, and Medicare paperwork, the distinction is anything but academic.

"In recognition of the importance that the election laws in some states place on postmarks, it has been the longstanding policy of the Postal Service to try to ensure that every return ballot mailed by voters receives a postmark, whether the return ballot is mailed with postage pre-paid by election officials or with a stamp affixed by the voter," officials wrote in a release. "A voter can ensure that a postmark is applied to his or her return ballot by visiting a Postal Service retail office and requesting a postmark from a retail associate when dropping off the ballot."

The issue gained wider attention after a detailed explanation circulated to millions of viewers on social media from the account @cjnlegalnurse, a health care advocate who outlined how the rule shift moves risk away from institutions and onto individuals.

"The postmark rule changed quietly, and it affects voting and health care. Let me explain what just happened at USPS because this is not minor and it's not theoretical," the user said. "So as of this week, the United States Postal Service clarified that a postmark date is no longer tied to when you drop your mail off. It's tied to when that mail is first processed by an automated facility."

As the user explained, a letter placed in a mailbox on Monday may not reach a sorting center until Wednesday, making Wednesday the official postmark. For ballots and legal filings governed by strict deadlines, that delay can mean rejection despite timely mailing.

"Many states say a mail-in ballot counts if it's postmarked by election day," the user said. "Under this rule, you can mail your ballot before election day and still have it postmarked after. So that's not voter fraud, that's logistics quietly overruling intent."

USPS guidance confirms

Postal
Continued on page 3

Inside

Crossroads Baptist Church celebrates its' 14th year anniversary

Page 4

Books on Mental Healthl

Page 14

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Mayor Horhn announces 2026 all city call to Prayer and Action

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor John Horhn and the Inter-Faith Task Force will host the 2026 All City Call to Prayer and Action Thursday, January 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Thalia Mara Hall.

The gathering invites churches and faith groups from across Jackson and surrounding communities to begin the new year in a spirit of unity and action. Each congregation is encouraged to send at least three representatives to join the citywide prayer service and hear the mayor's call to action. Groups are also welcome to bring additional members who want to take part in the effort.

"The start of a new year gives us a chance to realign our hearts and renew our commitment to one another," said Horhn. "This event is about faith in action, lifting up our city through prayer and then getting to work to make Jackson stronger, cleaner, and more united."

The theme, "Faith in Action for a Rising Jackson," focuses on working together and showing respect across our community. Prayer portions of the evening will focus on wisdom and strength for city leaders, and success for municipal initiatives.

Following the event, faith groups will be invited to adopt a parish area around their place of worship and take on projects to improve that space through clean-ups, community outreach, safety efforts, and neighborhood support. The first coordinated workday will take place Monday, January 19th, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"If every congregation took ownership of its own neighborhood, the entire city could be transformed," said Bishop Ronnie Crudup, co-chairman of the task force. "This is an opportunity for the faith community to lead by example and meet needs right where people live."

Co-chairman Chip Pickering added, "Jackson's renewal begins with us coming together across denominations, backgrounds, and generations. Prayer creates unity, and unity creates results."

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. brings Founders' Day to ground zero of Mississippi's Maternal Health Crisis with power of S.H.E. Community Blueprint

Mississippi Link Newswire

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will commemorate its 106th Founders' Day by taking decisive action in Jackson, Mississippi, one of the epicenters of the nation's maternal and infant health crisis, through its Power of S.H.E. (Social, Health, and Economic Justice) Community Blueprint January 16–17, 2026 at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation.

Mississippi has declared a public health emergency due to alarmingly high infant mortality rates. In response, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is activating its Global Day of Service to address this crisis head-on by mobilizing healthcare providers, policymakers, community partners, and volunteers to deliver tangible resources and solutions directly to families.

"This Founders' Day is not ceremonial; it is operational," said Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. International President & CEO, Dr. Stacie NC Grant. "The Power of S.H.E. Community Blueprint represents our commitment to turning advocacy into action by meeting families where they are and addressing the systemic challenges impacting maternal and infant health."

A Two-Day Community-Centered Initiative

Friday, January 16, 2026 | 2:00–4:30 PM CST

A press conference and media briefing will convene national and local leaders, healthcare experts, and community partners to address Mississippi's maternal health emergency and outline solutions. A networking reception will follow.

Saturday, January 17, 2026 | 11:00 AM–2:00 PM CST

The Power of S.H.E. Community Blueprint Community Health Fair, open and free to the public, will provide:

- Health screenings and wellness resources
- Immunizations and maternal health education
- Financial and community support resources
- On-site voter registration
- Distribution of maternal and infant care kits
- Strategic Community Partnerships

This initiative is supported by key partners, including the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, and the March of Dimes, reflecting a unified effort to address health inequities through collaboration and shared responsibility.

Call to Action

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. invites community members, sponsors, healthcare organizations, and partners to join this historic service effort by:

Attending the FREE community health fair

Donating maternal and infant health items

Sponsoring care kits for Mississippi families

Insurrection

Continued from page 1

Reuters and many others. His lies were used as fuel to incite the angry crowd. Just one of those lies was that he would be there with them as they went to the Capitol. He never was with them. These were extreme Trump supporters, and he lied to them repeatedly.

The election certification process was interrupted by the insurrectionists but eventually was successfully completed. Rioters erected gallows and chanted 'Hang Mike Pence,' who to his credit did not cave to Trump's extraordinary pressure. He took an oath to uphold the Constitution, and he was loyal to that oath, unlike Trump. Trump's plan failed. Hours after the assault on the Capitol began, he tepidly intervened in a brief Rose Garden speech, "I know your pain. I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us…but you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We have to have law and order. We have to respect our great people in law and order. We don't want anybody hurt…this was a fraudulent election…so, go home. We love you. You're very special. Go home and go home in peace."

According to Seton Hall Law School, 1,575 were charged in the insurrection and 1,270 were convicted. Four years later, shortly after Trump took the oath of office for the second time, he pardoned all but 14, often calling the rioters "patriots" and "hostages." The rule of law plays second fiddle to his personal ambitions - Trump 2.0's predominant insult to American democracy.

Trump constantly attacks the press if coverage is not supportive of him – labeling it "fake news." Seasoned journalists are called "horrible" by him for asking questions he doesn't want to be asked. This behavior takes a toll. In 2000, Pew Research claimed that 74 percent of Americans trust the news media. In 2025, Statista.com reported that the number is just 30 percent. Freedom of the press is another cornerstone of our democracy that he disrespects. On November 19, 2025, CNN said, "…as with his claims this week about inflation and January 6, he has presented himself as a paragon of truth while deceptively undermining the reputations of people who have actually been truthful."

Trump's assaults on our democracy are boundless and difficult to summarize. He has been successful in centralizing power from the two other branches. In his first ten days back in office, he fired 17 Inspector General's – these are independent government watchdogs – he's not open to others telling him what he can and can't do. Supreme power is always his goal. It's no wonder we have so many No Kings rallies popping up nationwide.

Pippa Norris is a highly cited political scientist. In studying the 2024 presidential election she reported that for those voters who cared about democracy more than any other issue, 81 percent voted for Vice President Kamala Harris. We will continue to suffer – we have a democratically elected president who loathes democracy.

Postal

Continued from page 1

that most postmarks are now applied at large processing plants rather than local post offices and that mail may sit before receiving a postmark due to updated transportation schedules. The agency recommends that customers with deadline-sensitive mail bring items directly to a post office counter and request a manual local postmark.

Health care advocates say the implications extend far beyond elections.

"Health care runs on mail deadlines, appeals, prior authorizations, Medicare notices, and prescription paperwork," the user said. "If an appeal has to be postmarked by a certain date and USPS processes days later, it looks late. So late appeals get denied. Denied appeals delay care."

The user said the shift places the burden squarely on individuals navigating already complex systems.

"In nursing and health care advocacy, timing is everything," the user said. "And this rule shifts the risk from the institution back to the patient. The system didn't get faster, the rules just got tighter."

"So if you're mailing anything time-sensitive now, ballots or health care documents, dropping it in a box is not enough," the user said. "Go inside the post office for deadline mail. Ask for a manual postmark or receipt. Use certified mail for appeals and legal documents, and do not rely on blue mailboxes for last week's deadlines. So, this isn't panic; it's adjustment."

Stewart

Continued from page 1

throughout Mississippi; SCORE Mississippi – America's Counselors; the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Mississippi State University; two Women's Business Centers (WBCs) located at Alcorn State University and Jackson State University; and the SBA Community Builders Network Mississippi participant operated by Community Students Learning Center in Lexington, MS. In addition, since March 2025, Stewart has also served as the Acting District Director for the SBA Alabama District Office overseeing the activities of the team members in Birmingham.

Janita's concerted and long-running expansion of SBA's relationships with state, and local economic development organizations, SBA Resource Partners, lenders, chambers of commerce, Congressional offices and many others, has helped Mississippi's small businesses and entrepreneurs find resources they might not otherwise have.

She has led the SBA Mississippi District Office and the Gulfport Branch Office during many disasters such as Hurricane Katina in 2005 and COVID-19 pandemic which severely impacted small businesses in Mississippi. Under her leadership, small business owners and non-profits were able to get the resources and assistance needed to stay in business during those crucial times.

Janita is a Vicksburg, Mississippi native, is a graduate of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) District Director Candidate Development Program wherein she took on rotational assignments in directing the SBA offices in Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. She received her B.S. Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. In addition to the SBA, she also has served at the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers in the Vicksburg and New Orleans Districts in the capacities of Contract Specialist, Procurement Analyst, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Specialist (SADBU), and Special Assistant and Advisor to the Commander and District Engineer for the Corps' multimillion dollar Small Business Programs.

Janita was asked by SBA HQ to fill the role as Acting Regional Administrator for the Southeast and did so from January 2021 through December 2021. As Acting Regional Administrator, she was responsible for oversight and management of the activities of the SBA's eight-state nine-district Region, encompassing the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee which has a footprint that covers some 6.98 million small businesses and entrepreneurs located in the southeastern corridor of the U.S. In January 2025, she was asked again by SBA HQ to serve as acting Regional Administrator pending the appointment of the Regional Administrator for the Trump Administration.

Some of Janita's associations/affiliations include the Greater-Jackson Chamber Partnership; Vicksburg-Warren Chamber of Commerce; Mississippi Economic Council – State Chamber of Commerce; Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce; Named Federal Manager of the Year by the Greater Jackson Area Federal Execution Association; Recipient of the Greater Jackson Area Federal Executive Association's Pacesetter Award; Honoree of the Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Business Women; Named one of 50 of the Most Influential African Americans in Mississippi; Named in the Inaugural edition of Who's Who in Black Mississippi, amongst other awards and recognition, etc. Some of her favorite charities include Gateway Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, the

Mississippi Food Network, LIFE Outreach International, Doctors Without Borders, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and numerous other charities and ministries.

"It has been my high honor and privilege to work in federal public service at the Army Corps of Engineers and the Small Business Administration," says Janita R. Stewart, "and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities it presented. I value my colleagues and friendships made along the way. Moving forward, I plan to do the usual retirees tend to do – exhale, relax, time with family, and then we'll see what's next!"

"I'll leave you with one important life point learned along the way: PEOPLE are the core component of any organization. Team members who work together in concert, going in the same and right direction, providing the needed internal and external support, makes an effective organization. People are the difference that can either make it or break it. I am blessed to have worked alongside our Mississippi and Alabama District Office teams to provide exceptional service to small businesses and entrepreneurs in each state, and I sincerely thank them for that!"

You need an Emergency Fund: Life happens to everyone

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

Unless you have the best of luck and is perfect, life happens to everyone.

When I use the words, "life happens," I am referring to events happening in your life that you were not expecting. These unexpected events can consist of car repairs, doctor visits, insurance deductibles, legal fees, and unpaid time off from work due to an illness, lay off, termination, etc.

With over 70 percent of Americans living paycheck to paycheck, just one of these occurrences taking place can negatively impact a household's budget for an extended period of time. For that reason among others, I believe that everyone needs to have an Emergency Fund in place.

If you are new to having money set aside for emergencies, I recommend that you start off by putting in place a "Rainy Day Fund" equal to $500.

Your Rainy Day Fund should be held in either a money market or savings account at a bank or credit union, and should only be used for emergencies.

Never place this money in a certificate of deposit (CD), investment, or any type of retirement account. Doing this will cause you to face penalties and/or tax consequences when you go to make withdrawals from these accounts.

Remember, emergencies are unexpected events happening in your life. Birthdays, going out to eat holidays, shopping, vacations etc. does not qualify. These are considered expected events that should be thought of when doing your monthly budget.

It might not seem like a lot of money, but for a lot of individuals, having this $500 set aside is a huge sense of relief. Without having this Rainey Day Fund in place, many people would be forced to use credit cards, payday lenders, personal and title loan companies, retirement accounts, etc. to help pay for emergencies.

Grandma said it best, "Rainy days are going to happen." In saying that, your goal should be to have your Rainy Day Fund in 90 days or less.

Once you have fully funded your Rainy Day Fund to $500, you want to gradually add money to this account to build an "Emergency Fund" equal to three to six months of living expenses.

While experiencing and witnessing unpaid time off from work due to an illness, lay off, termination, etc., many people are becoming more self-aware of the importance of having an Emergency Fund in place, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help speed up the process in fully funding these two funds, I recommend temporarily spending less money on entertainment and personal wants. I also suggest earning extra income by getting an additional job, having a garage sell, selling items you no longer need, and/or working more hours on your current job(s).

When you have to withdraw money from your Rainy Day Fund or Emergency Fund due an emergency, make sure you build it back up as soon as possible.

From personal experience and hearing from others, having an emergency happen to you while having a fully funded Rainy Day Fund or an Emergency Fund in place, seems more like an inconvenience than an actual emergency. Now that is what I call, A Good Thing!

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 timclee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

The TCL Show

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
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Crossroads Baptist Church celebrates its' 14th year anniversary

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Founded in 2011, by Pastor Stanley L. Smith, the Crossroads MB Church located at 325 E. McDowell Road, Jackson, MS celebrated its 14th year Church Anniversary Sunday, January 4, 2026. The theme for the occasion was "Look What the Lord Has Done" with a scripture reading from Psalms 66:5, "Come and see the works of the Lord."

The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Calvin Peoples, associate minister of College Hill Baptist Church. He was introduced by Pastor Smith who described him as a great and reliable friend. Peoples used as his subject "What Have you Built on your Foundation?"

Sunday's anniversary activities included the dedication of the church's Fellowship Hall, which was named in honor of the late Maggie Jean Walker. Her faith was the foundation of her life. She accepted Christ at an early age at College Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor R.E. Willis. Guided by her deep love for God and community, she became a founding member of Crossroads where she remained grounded in faith, fellowship, and service. The Maggie Jean Walker Fellowship Hall was renovated for the occasion.

First Lady of Crossroads, Sister Stephanie Smith told The Mississippi Link, " Maggie's contributions and impact on the Crossroads MB Church are too numerous to name." She went on to say that the church anniversary was highly successful and included the burning of their mortgage from a loan made 14 years ago.

Guest speaker, Rev. Calvin Peoples used as a subject, "What have you built on your foundation?" PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

First Lady Stephanie Smith & Pastor Stanley Smith celebrate 14-year church anniversary

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

Gov. Reeves, Lt. Gov. Hosemann are not lame ducks yet, but perhaps beginning to limp a bit

By Bobby Harrison
Mississippi Today

Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann, left, and Gov. Tate Reeves stand for the National Anthem during the mayor and council inauguration at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Miss., Tuesday, July 1, 2025. CREDIT: ERIC SHELTON/MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Gov. Tate Reeves and Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann may not be lame ducks, but perhaps they could be described as limping ducks going into the 2026 legislative session that began this week.

Reeves and Hosemann, two of Mississippi's most prominent politicians, could be nearing the end of long political careers where they have exercised significant influence. Reeves is in his sixth four-year term in statewide office, while Hosemann is in his fifth.

The 2026 session starts the second half of what could be their final four-year term.

Hosemann, 78, presides over the Senate and generally wields substantial power in the Capitol. He has in the past said he is considering a campaign for governor in 2027. But it is hard to believe he will enter the race if billionaire businessman Tommy Duff runs, as he is signaling, he will do.

Term limits will prohibit Reeves from running again for governor, though he is only 51.

Lame duck refers to a politician who loses some clout because his term in office is ending. Generally speaking, the closer that prominent politicians, such as governor or lieutenant governor, get to the end of a final term, the less clout they enjoy, especially in the legislative process where power is often the key to getting things done.

Granted, Reeves and Hosemann, who have both been mainstays in Mississippi politics for going on a generation, might not be lame ducks yet, but a slight limp might be detectable. They might need to prove their relevance.

House Speaker Jason White, the third person in the triumvirate that sets the legislative agenda, most likely does not face similar issues.

White is in his first term as speaker, and, regardless, the office of speaker of the Mississippi House is not term limited.

The fact that White does not face a lame duck situation puts him in a stronger position on what most likely will be the primary issues of the 2026 session, such as whether to expand the opportunities to provide public funds to private schools.

White is a staunch supporter of providing public funds to private schools, as is Reeves for that matter.

Hosemann has been less enthusiastic, but at times he has appeared to try to compromise on key issues instead of taking strong positions in opposition to White and the governor.

The demand by White and Reeves to phase out the income tax is an example where Hosemann was not as enamored with the proposal. Still, it could be argued that during the 2025 session the lieutenant governor essentially capitulated to the wishes of the speaker and of the governor to phase out the income tax.

Many believe Hosemann has been willing to compromise to ensure on some issues, like tax cuts, he would not be harmed in a Republican primary should he run for governor. In general terms, it is believed there are more voters in the Republican primary who favor cutting taxes and providing public funds to private schools.

But perhaps the data is not certain on the issue of school choice. When vouchers have been on the ballot in other states, even conservative states, they have been rejected. At the same time in the 2024 election where Kentucky voters were awarding pro-voucher Donald Trump a higher percentage of the vote than he received in Mississippi, they rejected a voucher proposal.

So, maybe being against providing public funds to private schools would not hurt Hosemann in a Republican primary.

And if Hosemann is ending his political career, he could have nothing to lose by using his influence to block the school choice proposals in the Senate.

Of course, the key then would be for Hosemann to withstand the woes of being a lame duck or at least a limping duck and prove that he still walks strong.

Mississippi man serving an illegal sentence granted clemency, weeks after his brother

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

A man handed an illegal prison sentence that was years longer than the maximum penalty for his crime has been granted clemency by Mississippi's governor, weeks after the man's brother received clemency for a similar sentence.

Gov. Tate Reeves announced Wednesday that he was granting clemency to Maurice Taylor after ordering the man's brother, Marcus Taylor, to be freed earlier this month.

In February 2015, both brothers accepted plea bargains and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to sell hydrocodone acetaminophen, a Schedule III substance. Combinations of hydrocodone and acetaminophen are used to treat pain severe enough to require opioid treatment when other pain medicine does not work or cannot be taken, according to the Mayo Clinic.

At the time of the brothers' sentencing, the maximum penalty for conspiracy to sell a Schedule III substance was five years. Yet Maurice Taylor was sentenced to 20 years in prison with five years suspended, and Marcus Taylor to 15 years.

"Like his brother, Maurice Taylor received a sentence more than three times longer than allowed under Mississippi law," Reeves wrote in his announcement. "When justice is denied to even one Mississippian, it is denied to us all."

In May, the Mississippi Court of Appeals had ruled that Marcus Taylor's sentence was illegal, but did not commute his sentence because Taylor had missed the deadline to apply for post-conviction relief. After rehearing that case in November, the court reversed course and ordered his release.

In Wednesday's order, Reeves wrote that Maurice Taylor's post-conviction counsel contacted his office for the first time a few weeks ago, providing legal documents in his case. Maurice Taylor must be released within five days, according to Reeves' order.

"This correction should have happened decades ago," the Mississippi Impact Coalition, which advocates for criminal justice reform, saod in a social media post Wednesday. "It shouldn't have taken relentless advocacy, public pressure, and the glaring contrast of one twin free while the other remained incarcerated to expose this injustice."

The Associated Press was not immediately able to identify and contact Maurice Taylor's post-conviction counsel.

The brothers are the only people to receive clemency from Reeves.

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Bombs Before Dawn: Trump's illegal war on Venezuela sparks national outrage

By Matt Brown
Associated Press

Venezuela US Early Saturday morning, the United States launched military strikes on Venezuela, killing civilians in and around Caracas, according to Venezuelan officials, and seizing President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, flying them out of the country.

The bombs came before dawn, while the country slept and Congress was cut out of the conversation.

Early on the morning of January 3, the United States launched military strikes on Venezuela, killing civilians in and around Caracas, according to Venezuelan officials, and seizing President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, flying them out of the country. By midday, Washington was already talking about indictments, oil, and who would rule next.

By 1 p.m., protestors said they will have the streets in front of the White House filled with people who plan to call it exactly what it was.

An illegal war. "All Out to the White House: Stop Bombing Venezuela," organized by the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the ANSWER Coalition, was not a symbolic protest. It was an emergency response to what organizers described as piracy, murder in international waters, and an open grab for Venezuela's oil.

"This is not about 'drug trafficking' or 'democracy,'" organizers said. "This is about stealing Venezuela's oil and dominating Latin America."

The White House did little to contradict them.

Asked who would lead Venezuela after the U.S. seized its president, Donald Trump told Fox News, "Well, we're going to have to look at it right now." He also said he expects the United States to get "very strongly involved" in Venezuela's oil industry.

The administration later announced that Maduro had been charged with narco-terrorism and would face "the full wrath of American justice on American soil," Attorney General Pam Bondi said.

Venezuela's attorney general said innocent civilians were killed when U.S. strikes hit multiple facilities in Caracas and surrounding areas.

There was no vote in Congress. No declaration of war. No evidence presented of an imminent threat.

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen said the American people "did not ask for this act of war to bring about regime change in Venezuela, nor did Congress authorize it." He said Trump "has put our troops in harm's way" and "has not provided a clear, fact-based rationale for these actions, nor the long-term strategy following these strikes."

"This act of war is a grave abuse of power by the President," Van Hollen said. "The Trump Administration is repeating the worst mistakes of our past and endangering American lives, and their motive for doing so is a farce."

Van Hollen pointed to Trump's recent pardon of former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, a convicted drug trafficker, saying the Venezuela attack had nothing to do with combating narcotics. "Maduro is a dictator," he said, "but his regime did not pose the immediate threat necessary to warrant U.S. military action on foreign soil without Congressional approval."

"This is not about demolishing a dictatorship," Van Hollen said. "This is about trying to grab Venezuela's oil for Trump's billionaire buddies."

Rep. Rashida Tlaib said believing Venezuela deserves democracy does not give the United States permission to overthrow a sovereign government.

"You don't get to oppose imperial overreach in theory and cheer it in practice when your guy is the one pulling the trigger," she said. "The U.S. does not get to break international law, ignore Congress, and police the world."

Rep. Jasmine Crockett called the bombing and kidnapping "grave violations of international law and the U.S. Constitution," saying, "These are the actions of a rogue state. The American people do not want another regime change war abroad."

Keith Olbermann said Trump "has now endangered every man, woman, and child in this nation by his insane and illegal personal war against Venezuela," adding that the president "must be impeached and removed from office immediately."

Actor Wendell Pierce said Trump promised no "new stupid wars," yet launched one without congressional approval. "People can't afford groceries and millions are losing healthcare," Pierce said. "This is unconstitutional and not what the American people asked for."

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich wrote that "1:50am January 3, 2026, the American military begins an unprovoked attack on the sovereign nation of Venezuela," calling it "a violation of international law" and "criminal," and asking, "Make America Great Again?"

Political commentators also cut through the administration's claims. Venezuela produces less than one percent of the world's illegal drugs but holds the largest proven oil reserves on the planet. Project 2025 outlines U.S. interference in Venezuela's government in multiple sections. Trump said months before the 2024 election that he wanted Venezuela to collapse so the United States could take its oil.

U.S. Southern Command chief Gen. Laura Richardson recently said Washington's focus in Latin America is not democracy but control of oil, lithium, gold, and rare earth minerals.

Gaza has gas. Sudan has gold. Ukraine has titanium. Congo has cobalt. Venezuela has oil.

Polls show more than 70 percent of Americans oppose an attack on Venezuela. Organizers said this war would bring death abroad and drain tax dollars at home while working families struggle to survive.

"Neither Americans nor Venezuelans should die to enrich the executives at ExxonMobil and Lockheed Martin," organizers said.

At the White House gates, the chants rose and stayed.

Stop the bombing now. Hands off Venezuela. No blood for oil.

As Van Hollen warned, "Congress must not abdicate its constitutional authority and allow control of the world's most powerful military to fall into just one set of hands."

What to know about Trump administration freezing federal childcare funds

By Charlotte Kramon and Sarah Brumfield
Associated Press/Report for America

People gather for a news conference at the state capitol in St. Paul, Minn., Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025. AP GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO

The Trump administration has said it is freezing child care funds to all states until they provide more verification about the programs in a move fueled by a series of alleged fraud schemes at Minnesota day care centers run by Somali residents.

All 50 states will be impacted by the review, but the Republican administration is focusing most of its ire on the blue state of Minnesota and is calling for an audit of some of its centers.

Minnesota Democratic Attorney General Keith Ellison said in a statement Wednesday that he was "exploring all our legal options to ensure that critical childcare services do not get abruptly slashed based on pretext and grandstanding."

It is unclear how much more robust the verification process for states will be than it already has been.

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Jim O'Neill called the decision a response to "blatant fraud that appears to be rampant in Minnesota and across the country" in a social media post announcing the change on Tuesday.

Here are some things to know about these moves:

More verification needed for all states to get child care funds

All 50 states will have to provide additional levels of verification and administrative data before they receive more funding from the Child Care and Development Fund, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson. However, Minnesota will have to provide even more verification for child care centers that are suspected of fraud, such as attendance and licensing records, past enforcement actions and inspection reports.

In his social media post on Tuesday, O'Neill said all Administration for Children and Families payments nationwide would require "justification and a receipt or photo evidence" before money is sent, but the HHS spokesperson said Wednesday that the additional verifications only apply to CCDF payments.

Walz says Trump is politicizing the issue

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the 2024 Democratic vice presidential nominee, said in a social media post that fraudsters are a serious issue that the state has spent years cracking down on but that this is a political move that is part of "Trump's long game."

State Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy condemned the move in a statement Wednesday.

"Republicans are playing sick games and winning devastating prizes," Murphy said. "And now, tens of thousands of Minnesota families will pay the price as Donald's Trump's agents strip away crucial funding."

Fraud investigations could stretch to other programs, states

The administration launched efforts in recent weeks to track down fraud in other programs in Minnesota and is looking at fraud in blue states such as California and New York, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in an interview with "Fox & Friends" on Wednesday.

The administration will continue to send officers to investigate "potential fraud sites" in Minnesota and deport undocumented immigrants, Leavitt said, adding that the Department of Homeland Security is considering plans to denaturalize citizens.

The Department of Labor is also investigating the state's unemployment insurance program, Leavitt said. The administration this month threatened to withhold SNAP food aid funding from Democratic-controlled states, including Minnesota, unless they provide information about people receiving assistance.

Attention focused on Minnesota

The announcement came a day after U.S. Homeland Security officials conducted a fraud investigation in Minneapolis, questioning workers at unidentified businesses. Trump has criticized Walz's administration over the cases, capitalizing on them to target the Somali diaspora in the state, which has the largest Somali population in the U.S.

In his post Tuesday, O'Neill, who is serving as acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, referenced a right-wing influencer who posted a video last week claiming he found that day care centers operated by Somali residents in Minneapolis had committed up to $100 million in fraud.

Meanwhile, there are concerns about harassment that home-based day care providers and members of the Somali community nationwide might face amid the vitriol, including Trump's comments earlier this month referring to Somali immigrants as "garbage." Washington state Attorney General Nick Brown released a statement saying, "Showing up on someone's porch, threatening, or harassing them isn't an investigation. Neither is filming minors who may be in the home."

Minnesota child care centers are alarmed

Maria Snider, director of the Rainbow Child Development Center and vice president of advocacy group Minnesota Child Care Association, said fear is rising among both families — many of which are living paycheck to paycheck — and child care centers that rely on the federal funding. Without child care system tuition, centers may have to lay off teachers and shut down classrooms, she said.

The Administration for Children and Families provides $185 million in child care funds annually to Minnesota, according to Assistant Secretary Alex Adams.

In Minnesota, the application process for the funding is complex and multilayered, Snider said. Her own child care center has been subjected to random audits, she said, and all centers are required to submit to licensing visits by officials.

"I don't know what else I would provide," she said.

Ahmed Hasan, director of the ABC Learning Center that was one of those featured in the video by the right-wing influencer, said on Wednesday that there were 56 children enrolled at the center. Since the video was posted, Hasan, who is Somali, said his center has received harassing phone calls making staff members and parents feel unsafe.

He said the center is routinely subject to checks by state regulators to ensure they remain in compliance with their license.

"There's no fraud happening here," Hasan told The Associated Press. "We are open every day, and we have our records to show that this place is open."

Being an elected leader means being accountable and having a conscious

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

Christmas is over and we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Knowing that He was the reason for the season gave us much-needed joy. We understand that we are living in challenging times.

All of us have different gifts and we use them in different ways. Some are using them right now while others are still in the formative stages. We are at various chronological ages when we discover that we have them.

It brings up the question of how do we know that we have them? I believe it's through repetition and liking something that we do. I don't think it's necessarily something we think we're good at as others must make that determination.

For example, if you're a good artisan, your customers will tell you. If you're a good landscaper, your clients will tell others about you. Finally, if you're a good teacher, your students will let you know. That's how it goes. Others will give you your flowers. You don't have to "self-flower".

Everyone wants to be at the top and not the bottom. We want to gain the respect and admiration of others. Will that ever change? No, it won't.

Depending upon what you do, the lights are brighter and the attention greater. Missteps and mistakes are magnified. Being a high-profile person in the public square isn't for everyone. You may want the fame, but can you handle the shame? Let the good times roll, but sometimes those bad times roll, too.

Being an elected public official automatically places you in the public eye. We voters give them the go-ahead when we cast our ballots for them. You see, our votes matter.

There is built-in assumption that legislators are going to act in our best interests. Exactly what does that mean? In my opinion, it means they will pass laws that will provide us with an acceptable standard of living. Further, that we will be able to afford things that we need, not necessarily things we want. Is that asking too much?

The year 2026 has ushered in difficult times on several fronts. Some would say it is difficult times 2.0.

First and foremost, in my opinion, there is the trust factor that we have with our elected officials. Reports from various polling sources say that as few as 17 percent of Americans trust their politicians. This number has been low for the past several years. Both major political parties are mired in a drought of trust.

The Partnership for Public Service says since the new administration took office in January 2025 that 47 percent of us do not trust the Federal Government. New policies equal new problems resulting in no trust. That's an equation that isn't hard to follow.

This lack of trust is playing out in ways that harm and hurt us. The divide among politicians has reached a boiling point and the American people are in the pot.

How do state and federal elected officials regain the trust of the voters? First, they must become much better listeners to what voters are telling them. We are saying prices are too high and the tariffs are hurting us. Thus far, they are not listening.

The GOP and the Democrats must regain their basic identity and return to their long-held philosophies. They have gone astray and are almost unrecognizable.

The art of diplomacy hasn't been a character trait of these congressional sessions. The word compromise has been lost in their deliberations. It's all or nothing.

There are two variables that may tilt the political scales. First, there will be midterm elections in November. Reports say that at least 10 GOP House representatives will be running for the position of governor. We will see how these two factors affect the balance of power in the Congress.

So, for now, fasten your seatbelts and hold tight. This year 2026 will be interesting and full of surprises. We can only hope that upcoming legislation will benefit the American people.

You were always enough

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way

When New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams spoke directly to Black boys at a recent inauguration, his words spread quickly. Clips ricocheted across phones and timelines far beyond City Hall.

Not because they were clever. But because they were rare.

"Little Black boy," Williams said, "you were worth it, and you always were. Without any titles, you were enough. You were always enough. You deserve to accept love, and you deserve to be protected."

No charts. No statistics. No list of disparities. Just a sentence we almost never hear spoken by people with power, in public, about Black boys.

It landed because it broke an unspoken rule most leaders follow without realizing it: the rule that says Black boys must always be spoken about in the conditional tense. If they behave. If they comply. If they survive. If they overcome.

Williams did none of that. He asserted worth. Full stop.

There is a name for that choice. Years ago, Trabian Shorters gave it one: asset framing.

Asset framing is not optimism. It is not denial. It does not pretend hardship is imaginary. It simply refuses to define people by their wounds. Deficit framing leads with problems. Asset framing leads with strengths, capacities, and humanity—without asking anyone to earn dignity first.

A decade ago, Trabian Shorters and I edited Reach, an anthology of forty first-person essays by Black men—famous and not—written to challenge deficit narratives and widen what America is willing to see. The book is still in print. That matters. It reminds us that this is not a new insight reacting to a new crisis. It is a long-standing challenge to an old habit.

For years, asset framing lived mostly in movement spaces and philanthropic circles. It was a theory about language. A strategy for organizing. Something you might hear at a conference, not an inauguration.

What Williams did was different. He put that theory into motion, out loud, with authority.

That matters, especially when you understand how deeply the opposite framing is embedded in American life.

Nearly two decades ago, sociologist Devah Pager published a book that should be required reading for anyone who talks about work, crime, or merit in this country. It was called Marked: Race, Crime, and Finding Work in an Era of Mass Incarceration.

Pager ran rigorous audit studies in the low-wage labor market. Young men with identical résumés applied for the same jobs. The only variables were race and criminal record.

What she found was devastating, and precise. White men with criminal records were more likely to receive callbacks than Black men with no criminal record at all.

In the low-wage economy, Blackness itself functioned as a criminal marker. Long before a police stop. Long before a courtroom. Long before a mistake could even be made.

Pager proved that deficit framing is not just cultural. It is economic. It is enforced by markets. It punishes people before they act.

That is the lie Williams was pushing back against—not rhetorically, but morally.

And his words did not come out of nowhere.

When Williams served on the New York City Council, his chief of staff was K. Bain, now the founder of Human Justice in New York City. Bain's work is rooted in the same refusal to reduce people to their worst moments. The same insistence that safety and dignity are not opposites. The same belief that justice fails the moment it forgets the humanity of the people inside it.

Ideas shape institutions when they sit in the room long enough. Asset framing did not just live in a book. It did not just live in a nonprofit. It lived in a governing culture. And eventually, it surfaced at a microphone.

This is why the moment mattered.

We are living in a season of backlash politics, fear-based messaging, and calls to "get tough" that flatten entire communities into threats to be managed. Even well-meaning leaders often fall back on deficit language because it sounds serious. Responsible. Realistic.

But it is not neutral. It is corrosive.

When you repeatedly describe children as problems, do not be surprised when systems treat them that way.

Asset framing is not soft. It is countercultural. It undermines the moral logic of cruelty. It challenges the quiet assumption that some people must be broken before they can be seen.

What Williams did was remind us of something we once knew: public safety does not begin with suspicion. It begins with recognition.

If Black boys are "already enough," as he said, then our policies, schools, labor markets, and justice systems have obligations they can no longer evade.

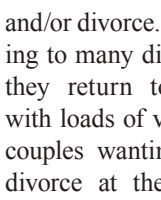
That is the real work asset framing demands. Not applause. Accountability.

And it starts with telling the truth about who our children are—before the world tries to mark them as something else.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president of the NAACP. He is the author of Never Forget Our People Were Always Free.

Should I stay or should I leave?

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



Unfortunately, post holidays many couples believe it or not are contemplating separation and/or divorce. In fact, according to many divorce attorneys they return to their offices with loads of voicemails from couples wanting to pursue a divorce at the beginning of the year. What happened from December to January that warrants couples to decimate their marriages? Well, some couples decide to survive the holidays until the next year, and some were deceived and caught up by the most wonderful time of the year, fireworks, and champagne instead of reality. Therefore, now that things are back to normal some are currently asking, should I stay or should I leave? Further, this question is not limited to marriage length, race, gender, religious affiliations, nationality, economic status, educational backgrounds, communities, etc. The question of should I stay or should I leave is shared by various people across the world who share similar concerns in their marriages. Moreover, this question is often prompted by it being the last resort of having little to no desire to say I do anymore.

Should I stay or should I leave? How long does it take for a spouse to begin asking questions like this? It is almost guaranteed that this question is not derived overnight. It is a question that has evolved from long days, months, and years of a spouse refusing to change and a couple refusing to grow as one. Further, this question stems many times from a relationship that was once full of blossom, bliss, life, and glee that has been wrought with despair, disappointments, hurts, frustrations, broken hearts, broken promises, and broken vows. Should I stay or should I leave is centered around the following questions: Should I continue fighting for my marriage? Is there any hope for my marriage? Will my marriage always be like this? Will she change? Will she always do that? Will he change? Will he always do that? Am I wasting time? Can I do this another day? Can I possibly find happiness elsewhere?

There are various factors that play a vital role in spouses asking the above questions. Some of these factors include the following:

- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Mental Abuse
- Verbal Abuse
- Economic Abuse
- Addictions
- Financial Infidelity
- Affairs
- Spouse Abandonment
- Spouse Neglect
- Not feeling appreciated
- Too much criticism – easy to always point out the bad about your spouse – do your spouse do anything right in your eyes?
- Lack of accountability – if you hurt or offended your spouse in anyway – hold yourself accountable by sincerely apologizing, being empathetic, do not repeat the offense/hurt, and let your spouse hold you accountable by giving them sufficient time to heal
- Little to no communication
- Little to no compromise
- Consistent broken promises
- Consistent hurts
- Consistent disappointments
- Lack of affection and positive attention
- Lack of sex (yes, sex) – where there is no touch, the marriage will perish

Of course, there are additional factors that lead to spouses contemplating should I stay or should I leave. However, neither of you should consistently be contemplating this question, especially if you were once in love, truly love each other, took vows, and married your soul mates. In other words, you both should be consistently contemplating living your best lives like planning picnics, date nights, vacations, planning for retirement, dancing together, laughing together, starting a new hobby together, both should be looking forward to rocking together (not that type of rocking – that would be nice too) in your rocking chairs with your grandchildren/future grandchildren, and loving each other until death do you part.

In conclusion, if you are contemplating whether you should stay or leave your marriage – you must communicate your concerns about your marriage to your spouse. If you have a conversation with your spouse and you both agree that your marriage is worth maintaining, then make every effort to fight for your marriage. For instance, seek marriage counseling, pray daily, communicate, forgive, listen, date, don't repeat the same hurts and offenses, and take one day at a time (time will tell). And for those who are fighting for your marriage solo – for the sake of your healing and peace - do everything you can to fight for your marriage the right way and if your spouse shows no indication of changing or wanting to grow as one with you and you still find yourself still asking should you stay or leave - please find your peace by answering this question once and for all as God leads you – I believe you already know what you are supposed to do.

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

Editorials and Letters to the Editor may be e-mailed to editor@mississippilink.com or mailed to 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. The views and opinions expressed on the Op/Ed pages are not necessarily the views and opinions of *The Mississippi Link*. *The Mississippi Link* also reserves the right to edit all material for length and accuracy.

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED** **CAUSE NO. P2024-574 M/4**

PETITIONERS: JESSICA CARR

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JESSE EARL CARR, DECEASED

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

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

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

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

EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
BY: B. Polivson

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS

TO THE CITY OF JACKSON ZONING ORDINANCE

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in anywise affected thereby, that the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, will be conducting a public hearing on proposed text amendments to the City of Jackson Official Zoning Ordinance as adopted on May 29, 1974 and subsequently amended.

Amendments to the text of the Zoning ordinance are intended to provide for a more efficient Zoning Ordinance and establish more effective zoning regulations for each of the zoning districts. Copies of the proposed text amendments will be available for review at the Office of City Planning 200 S President Street, Suite 204, Jackson, MS 39201. For additional information please submit an email to eainsworth@city.jackson.ms.us.

The said proposed text amendments will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of December 2025.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1/8/2026, 1/22/2026

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING CURTIS YOUNG D/B/A CAMY LOGISTICS GROUP, LLC A REZONING FROM R-4 (LIMITED MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 NEIGHBORHOOD (MIXED USE) DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR A RETAIL STORE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1739 HILL AVE. (PARCELS 162-377 & 162-378), CASE NO. 4309.

WHEREAS, Curtis Young d/b/a CAMY Logistics Group, LLC has filed a petition to rezone the property located at 1739 Hill Ave. (Parcels 162-377 & 162-378), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a retail store; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public heaiing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedest1ian Oriented to allow for a retail store; and

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

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on October 2, 2025 and October 16, 2025 that a heaiing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on October 22, 2025, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a retail store; and

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

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

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

Parcel I: Lot 142; Washington Addition, a subdivision according to a map or plat therefore which is on file and ofrecord in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 1 at Page 3, reference to which map or is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And

Parcel II: Lot 141, Washington Addition, subdivision according to a map or plat therefore which is on a file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book 1 at Page 6, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description. LESS AND ECEPT: A parcel ofland situated in the N01ihwest comer of Lot 141, Washington Addition , a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and ofrecord in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County in Jackson, Mississippi, and being more particularly describe as follows, to wit; Beginning at the northwest comer of Lot 141, Washington Addition; run thence along the southerly direction along the West boundary line of said lot 141; a distance of 6 feet; tum thence to the left and run in a n01iheasterly direction to a point located on north boundary line of said Lot 141, said point being measured 11 feet in a easterly direction from the northwest comer of said Lot 141; run thence in a westerly direction along the north boundary of said lot 141 a distance of 11 feet to the point of beginning.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the prope1iy located at 1739 Hill Ave. (Parcels 162-377 & 162-378) from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a retail store. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said prope1iy, 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 Clay seconded. Yeas-Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.

Nays-None.
Absent- None.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting November 17, 2025 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 248-250".

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

1/8/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4317

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

Parcel 18-125

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

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

9287.

Parcel 18-126

Lot 17 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

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

9289.

Parcel 18-127

LOT 18, BLOCK 73, BELHAVEN HEIGHTS, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 18-128

LOT 19, BLOCK 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41, thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described as "Parcel 2' in Instrument recorded in Book 7116 at Page

3078.

Parcel 18-130

Lot 21, Block 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 19, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of December 2025.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1/8/2026, 1/22/2026

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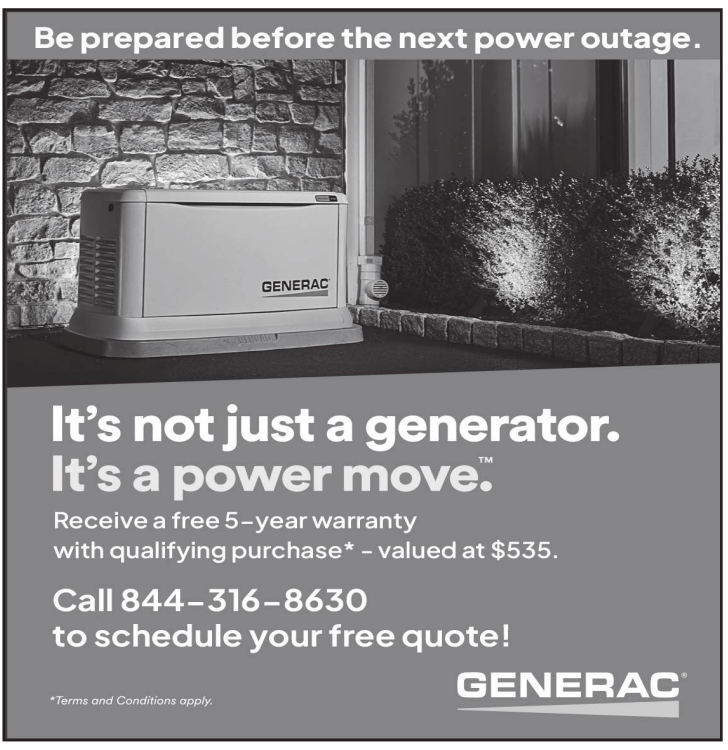

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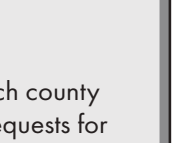
Cryptogram



A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Jerry Lewis

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				Z															X						

E E E E
K JLBZ CTAZ BZWG DZWCTMLO

E E T T
SZZOKMEC LNTPX DTOKXKIC ,

T T T T E E
NPX K UTM X EZX KMXT KX NZILPCZ

E E
K UT ITAZUG LOWZLUG .

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Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
L	N	I	U	Z	S	E	J	K	Q	F	O	A	M	T	D	V	W	C	X	P	B	Y	H	G	R

I HAVE SOME VERY PERSONAL
K JLBZ CTAZ BZWG DZWCTMLO
FEELINGS ABOUT POLITICS ,
SZZOKMEC LNTPX DTOKXKIC
BUT I DON'T GET INTO IT BECAUSE
NPX K UTM X EZX KMXT KX NZILPCZ
I DO COMEDY ALREADY .
K UT ITAZUG LOWZLUG

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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.
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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
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421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
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BYRAM

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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road
VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON

DOLLAR GENERAL
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TERRY

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PRESERVED

Your year in review

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist

At this time of the year, many people are putting out their list of the best of list. Many times, when we think of the end of the year and a year in review, we look at things like the best in entertainment, movies, TV shows, songs, or maybe your favorite concert. The more I've thought about it, I've thought about how about instead of talking about what other people did, how about we talk about what we did. What if our year in review and the year's "best of" is our year in review? It's what we did, what we didn't do, and what we started to do but haven't yet finished. As the new year begins, I think it's so important for us to think about where we were in 2025 and to think about where we want to go in 2026.

As you think about your year in review, here are some things that you could look at. For starters, what was your biggest laugh? Research shows that laughter is good for you physically. Proverbs 17:22 says "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Think about that thing that brought you so much joy in the moment that you laughed so loud or so long that it brought you a great sense of joy. And in that joy, in that moment, you had a little bit of healing and a little bit of a break from all the things that are going on around you.

Also, what was your greatest achievement this year? What is the thing that you set out to do personally, professionally, spiritually? Did you lose weight? Write a book? Pay your bills on time? Finally, take that dream vacation? Or did you get that promotion on your job? For some, your biggest achievement may have been your biggest challenge. Reflecting on your biggest challenge allows you to think about all the things that you were able to do that helped

you overcome that challenge. Even if you say you haven't completely overcome it, dealing with the challenge most likely puts you in a position where you started to deal with some things that needed to be dealt with. Speaking for myself, dealing with multiple challenges professionally forced me to reframe and change my perspective. I had to reframe how I saw myself and the challenge. More importantly, I had to reframe how I saw my ability to manage and work through the challenge.

Doing all of this taught me something: Your biggest disappointment could actually turn into your biggest achievement. Because a lot of times what happens, once again, through reframing, dealing with that challenge and dealing with your disappointment, you have to reframe, rethink and revisit that challenge. Revisiting your disappointment, as a friend of mine loves to say, will allow you to see how they are oftentimes your biggest opportunities. What is the sweet part of that bitter moment? What's the opportunity that's tucked into that disappointment? Your biggest disappointment, which I bet if you think about it, could turn into, or has turned into, or will turn into, your biggest and greatest opportunity.

Here's to an amazing 2026 full of much laughter, achievement and opportunity!

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

Wayside True Holiness Church hosts community giveaway

PHOTOS BY EMILY QUINN

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Wayside True Holiness Church of Deliverance hosted a community giveaway January 3, 2026, providing free clothing, shoes, household items, and hot meals to those in need. The pastor, Rev. Cornelious Cooley stated that his church wants to focus on the needs of the people by giving to those in need.

The church which is located in Jackson at 2357 Hickory Drive hosted a similar event December 22, 2025, where they provided clothes, toys, furniture, and children's items in time for Christmas, all of which were donated by church members and friends. This event led to the planning of this most recent event.

First Lady, Courtney Cooley told The Mississippi Link, "Our community giveaway is designed to assist, encourage and give hope to those in need. Our goal is to reach as many as we can but if we can give hope to at least one soul, then our labor is not in vain."

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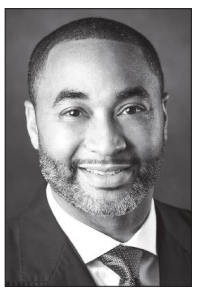

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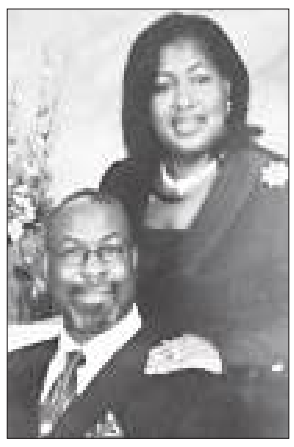

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Fueling Your Day: Why Good Nutrition Matters in 2026

By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

IMAGE CREATED BY VINCENT FAUST

In 2026, we will still be living in a fast-moving world. Between school, work, sports and social media, it's easy to grab whatever food is quick and cheap. But what we eat matters more than ever. Good nutrition isn't just about looking good, it's about feeling strong, thinking clearly and staying healthy for the long haul. Whether you're a student, a parent or someone trying to live better, understanding how to fuel your body is one of the smartest things you can do.

Before you can eat well, you need to understand what your body actually needs. Nutrition isn't one-size-fits-all. Your age, activity level, health conditions and even your culture can affect what's best for you.

Here are some basics that apply to most people:

• Carbohydrates give you energy. Whole grains, fruits and vegetables are great sources.

• Proteins help build and repair bones and muscles. You can get them from meat, beans, eggs, tofu and nuts.

• Fats are important too—but choose healthy fats like those in avocados, olive oil and fish.

• Vitamins and minerals help your body work properly. These come from a variety of fruits, vegetables, dairy and whole foods.

• Water is essential. Your body needs it to stay cool, digest food and keep your organs working.

There are more tools than ever to help you figure out your personal nutrition needs. Apps can track your meals, fitness watches can monitor your activity and some grocery stores offer nutrition advice. But even without fancy tech, you can start by learning the basics and paying attention to how different foods make you feel.

Plan Your Meals—Don't Leave It to Chance

One of the biggest reasons people eat poorly is because they don't plan ahead. When you're hungry and tired, it's tempting to grab chips or fast food. But with a little planning, you can make better choices without spending more time or money.

Meal planning means thinking ahead about what you'll eat for the week. It helps you:

• Save money by avoiding last-minute takeout

• Waste less food

• Make sure you're getting a balance of nutrients

• Reduce stress during busy days

Start simple. Pick a few meals you enjoy and know how to make. Write them down for each day. Include your snacks too. Include the healthy ones like fruit, yogurt or trail mix. If you're cooking for a family, ask everyone what they'd like to eat. When people help plan meals, they're more likely to eat and enjoy them.

Many people use digital calendars or apps to plan meals. But a paper planner or whiteboard on the fridge works just as well. The key is to make it a habit.

Once you've planned your meals, it's time to shop. A good shopping list is your secret weapon. It keeps you focused, saves money and helps you avoid buying junk food you don't need.

Here's how to build a smart list:

1. Check your kitchen. What do you already have? Use it up before buying more.

2. List ingredients by category. Group items like produce, dairy, grains and frozen foods. This makes shopping faster.

3. Stick to your list. Try not to get distracted by sales on unhealthy snacks or sugary drinks.

4. Add a few healthy extras. Keep staples like brown rice, canned beans, frozen veggies and eggs on hand for quick meals.

Some people like using apps that organize shopping lists and even compare prices. Others prefer writing it out on paper. Do what works best for you. The goal is to walk into the store with a plan and walk out with everything you need to eat well.

Eat What You Like—But Make It Work for You

Here's something important: good nutrition doesn't mean giving up the foods you love. In fact, enjoying your meals is part of being healthy. If you hate kale, don't force yourself to eat it. If you love tacos, find ways to make them healthier, like using whole wheat tortillas, lean meat and lots of veggies.

There are more food options than ever. Plant-based meats, dairy-free milks and global flavors are easy to find. This makes it easier to eat well without getting bored.

Here are some tips to balance taste and health:

• Add, don't subtract. Instead of cutting out all sweets, add more fruits and veggies to your meals.

• Try new things. Explore different cuisines, like Mediterranean, Caribbean or West African that use lots of healthy ingredients.

• Cook at home. You control what goes into your food. Plus, it's a great way to bond with family or friends.

• Listen to your body. Eat when you're hungry. Stop when you're full. Pay attention to how food makes you feel.

Remember, food is more than fuel. It's culture, comfort and connection. The goal is to find a balance that works for your life.

Putting It All Together

Let's say you're a high school student with soccer practice three times a week. You need energy, focus and strength.

That means:

• Eating enough calories from healthy carbs like rice, pasta and fruit

• Getting protein from chicken, beans or tofu to build muscle

• Drinking water throughout the day to stay hydrated

• Planning meals so you're not starving after practice

• Packing snacks like bananas, trail mix or yogurt

• Making a shopping list with your family so you have what you need

Or maybe you're a busy parent working two jobs. You don't have time to cook every night. That's okay.

You can:

• Plan simple meals like stir-fry, soups or sandwiches

• Cook in batches on weekends and freeze leftovers

• Keep healthy snacks like nuts, fruit and granola bars on hand

• Use your shopping list to avoid impulse buys

• Choose foods your family enjoys and make small healthy swaps

No matter your situation, good nutrition is possible. It just takes a little planning and a lot of self-care.

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

Keep calm and cozy on three home upgrades that melt away winter stress

StatePoint

Smart water upgrades can help prevent costly repairs.

With a few smart updates, especially those that protect against winter's biggest water woes, you can transform your home into the calming sanctuary you need during the coldest, darkest days of the year.

Below, Moen, the number one faucet brand in North America, shares three ways you can ensure that your space is optimized for a peaceful winter season.

1. Get peace of mind with smart water security

Water damage is one of the most common and costly home disasters. The Insurance Information Institute reports that one in 60 insured homes nationally files a water damage or freezing claim each year, with average claim costs surpassing $13,000. During the coldest months, frozen pipe bursts and other undetected leaks, big or small, can mean expensive, sudden repair costs and the devastating loss of sentimental items.

The Moen Flo Smart Water Monitor and Shutoff attach to the home's main water supply line and learns the home's unique water usage patterns, continually monitoring for abnormalities. If a leak is detected, homeowners are alerted through the app where they can monitor and manually control their water use. A Lexis Nexis study found this ultimately decreased water damage claim events by 96 percent.

Whether you're staying home or traveling to escape the cold, investing in smart water security can offer you peace of mind wherever you are.

2. Unwind guilt-free with the ultimate eco-friendly shower

As the season progresses, remember to take small moments for yourself. To beat winter blues before they start, maximize self-care in your daily shower routine with aromatherapy products, a soothing soundtrack, candlelit ambiance and invigorating, hot water without the waste to create a home spa environment where you can reset.

Taking an indulgent shower doesn't have to mean using a lot of water. Innovations like the Moen Smart Shower or The Handheld That Saves Hot Water elevate water experiences with sustainability in mind, so comfort never comes at the cost of compromise.

Moen's the handheld that saves hot water is engineered to cut shower water usage by a third and can save up to 5,500 gallons of water annually when the technology is activated. The showerhead can slow the flow once the temperature reaches 95 degrees, helping conserve water and keeping it warm until you're ready to step in.

3. Elevate daily rituals with intention

When you identify an upgrade that could make your daily routines just a little more enjoyable, take the time to see it through. Make impactful changes as you go, like fixing that long-ignored leaky faucet in the laundry room, refreshing a guest bathroom with soft towels and luxurious hand soap, and adding a reminder by the coffeemaker to take a quiet breath before the morning rush begins.

For more home upgrade inspiration, visit Moen.com.

Ensure that your home is a haven by preparing for preventable damage with smart water technology, creating a space for relaxation and approaching everyday experiences with your future self in mind.

Mississippi's Unhoused deserve more than sympathy—they deserve solutions

By Sandra Melvin
CEO/Founding President, Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health

Homelessness in Mississippi is often invisible, especially in rural communities where people sleep in cars, abandoned buildings, or move between relatives' homes. But invisibility does not lessen the crisis—nor the responsibility we share to address it.

A crisis rooted in inequity

Mississippi's high poverty rate, rising housing costs, and limited tenant protections leave many residents just one setback away from losing stable housing. For those already facing mental health challenges, disabilities, or unemployment, the risk is even higher. With few shelters—especially outside major cities—finding help can be nearly impossible.

Health and housing are deeply connected

Unhoused Mississippians face serious health challenges: untreated chronic illnesses, limited access to care, and worsening mental health. Without stable housing, even basic preventive healthcare becomes out of reach. Homelessness is not just a social issue—it is a public health emergency.

Punishment is not a solution

Some localities rely on fines, arrests, or anti-camping ordinances to "manage" homelessness. These measures don't reduce homelessness; they push people further from stability by adding legal and financial obstacles to already difficult lives.

Real solutions are within reach

Mississippi can make meaningful progress by investing in:

Affordable and supportive housing

Accessible mental health and addiction services

Reliable transportation options

Policies that prevent, rather than punish, homelessness

Living wages and stronger tenant protections

These are not abstract ideas—they are proven strategies that work when communities commit to them.

A call for compassion and action

Mississippi prides itself on resilience and community. Addressing homelessness is a chance to live those values fully. Our unhoused neighbors deserve more than temporary assistance—they deserve a path to stability, dignity, and health.

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.

Kimble Funchess and his band kicked off a New Year's Eve celebration at Louise's Piano Bar & Jazz Club

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The recently opened Louise's Piano & Jazz Club had a sold-out crowd Wednesday, December 31, 2025, ushering in the new year, headlining was Louis Armstrong and his Hot 7! band, featuring Kimble Funchess as Louis Armstrong.

Louise's opened in Jackson, MS in the Fondren community Thursday, November 13, 2025, and has quickly become a venue where people can enjoy good music and tasty food.

The place is designed to feel like a throwback in time, having a dress code that is casual, where gentlemen take off their hats inside and the music takes you back to the 20's, 30's and 40's. They have private karaoke suites upstairs that can be rented out. The main jazz room is normally booked out 1-2 weeks in advance but walk ins are welcomed.

Owner, Tom Rice, told The Mississippi Link their restaurant is family- friendly and all ages are welcome in the main room. They take pride in their modest dress code and family friendly environment.

When asked about the New Year's Eve event Rice said, "Kimble Funches and his band exceeded all expectations. It was a fantastic evening."

Rice shared that there is a Jazz Band that performs each Friday and Saturday from 8 pm-11pm, and there is a piano player on Thursdays, piano music is also on Thursdays and Friday nights before the jazz band takes the stage. Photographer Jay Johnson and his wife brought the New Year in on a high note. "Not only were we celebrating bringing in the New Year together in fine company and with great music, we also continued our anniversary celebration which was December 29," he said. "What an awesome evening."

Louis Armstrong and his Hot 7! Band featuring (L-R) Bailey Hinton, Dr. Alphonso Sanders, Kimble Funchess, (featured as Louis Armstrong), Johnny Hubbard, Bobby Connor, Caleb Armstrong & Robert Simmons.

Alcorn State alumnus Victor Taylor promoted to lead all Nissan U.S. manufacturing operations

JPS Newswire

Nissan announced a new organizational structure to strengthen its U.S. manufacturing footprint and advance Nissan, the company's multi-year global transformation plan. As part of this initiative, Nissan has appointed Victor Taylor as division vice president, U.S. Manufacturing Operations, Supply Chain Management and Production Engineering.

"We are transforming the way we build vehicles by driving smarter plants, seamless integration, and greater localization," said David Johnson, regional senior vice president, Manufacturing, Supply Chain Management and Purchasing, Nissan Americas. "Victor's proven leadership across our U.S. manufacturing and supply chain operations will be pivotal in accelerating this transformation, strengthening production line agility, deepening supplier partnerships, and optimizing total delivered cost to ensure Nissan can respond with speed and precision to evolving markets."

As division vice president for U.S. manufacturing, supply chain management, and production engineering, Taylor will focus on optimizing operations across all three U.S. plants, strengthening alignment and consistency. Additionally, he will lead U.S. supply chain and production engineering.

Taylor is currently vice president of Manufacturing at Nissan's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton Miss., a role he has held since

Taylor

December 2023. He joined Nissan in 2016 and brings more than two decades of expertise in advanced manufacturing.

Effective Dec. 15, Ricardo Anguiano succeeded Taylor as vice president of operations at the Canton Assembly Plant. Anguiano began his career with Nissan México in 1996 and has held key leadership positions at the Canton plant since 2012, including production director, paint shop director, and director of operations. He most recently served as senior director of Manufacturing Operations in Canton.

Amanda Thomas named new Principal of Key Elementary

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Amanda Thomas has been appointed the principal of Key Elementary School beginning January 5, 2026. Thomas most recently served as the Executive Director of Climate and Wellness for Jackson Public Schools, overseeing the nursing department and counseling services. Her work focused on mental health support, student due process, and managing mental health grants, while enhancing school climate and providing social-emotional support.

With over 27 years in education, Thomas began her career at French Elementary, later teaching at Boyd and McWillie Elementary Schools, and playing a key role in establishing the Montessori program. She has held positions as assistant principal, principal, lead interventionist, and director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

Thomas

Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from The University of Southern Mississippi, followed by a Master of Education and an Education Specialist degree in Leadership from Mississippi College.

Outside of work, Thomas is a mother of two daughters, Alexandria and Amerie, a member of Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church, and actively involved in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Hinds CC graduates 900 students during fall ceremonies

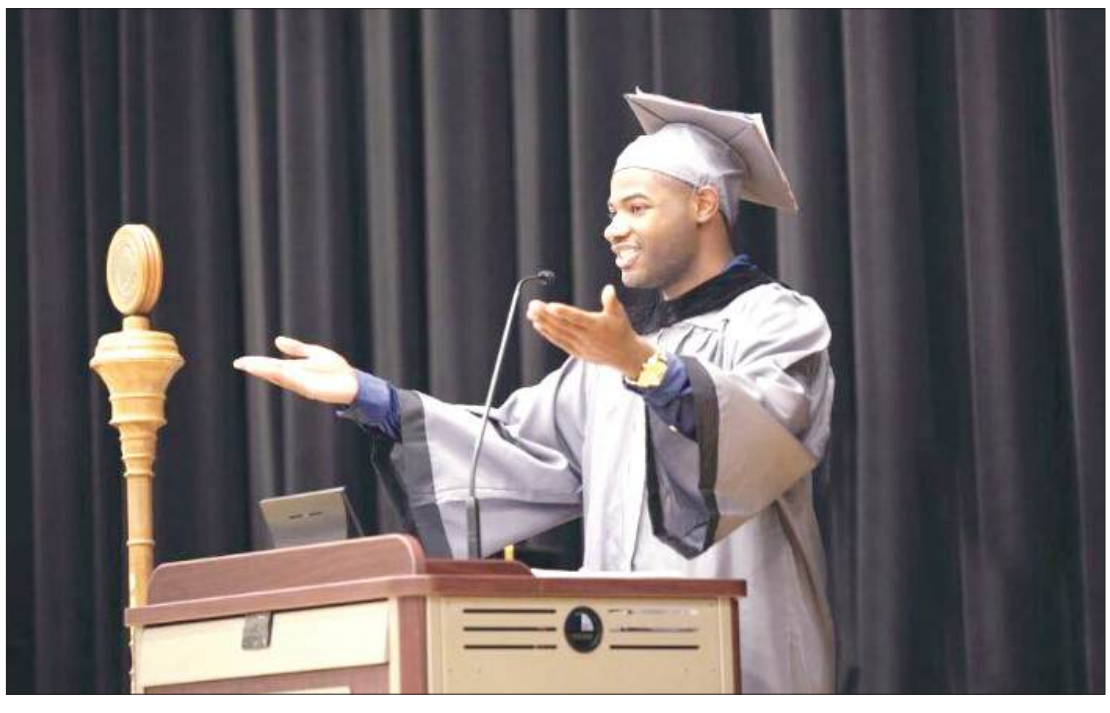
Hinds Community College

Kenneth Palmer was 2 years old when his parents learned he was deaf. The 20-year-old Chicago man heard his first sounds at age 3 after receiving a cochlear implant.

Palmer's life has been full of challenges, including the failure of the implant he depended on to be a part of a hearing world. But he – like the fellow graduates he addressed during the 2 p.m. Hinds Community College commencement exercises on Dec. 11 – learned how to navigate life despite many obstacles.

"I danced without hearing the music or feeling the rhythm… worked at Chik-fil-A without being able to hear my co-workers and depended entirely on lip reading for every conversation," Palmer told classmates at the Muse Center ceremony for Hinds graduates with last names beginning O-Z. "Do not let obstacles prevent you from being successful. If anything, take those obstacles and overcome them."

Hinds fall commencement speakers for the Dec. 11, 2025 2 p.m. ceremony at the Muse Center were Kenneth Palmer, 20,

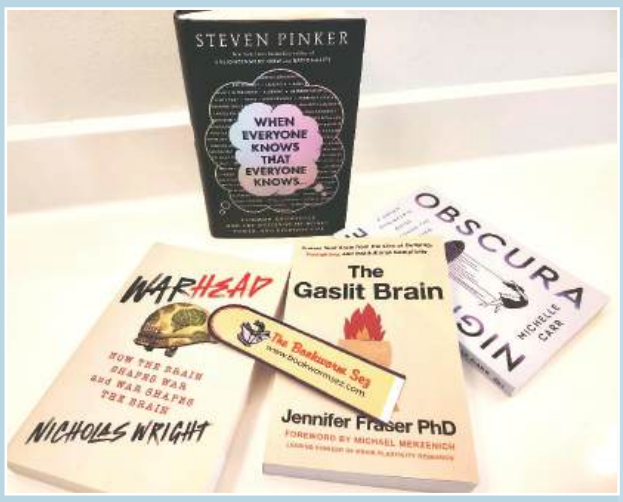


of Chicago, selected to give the remarks on behalf of his classmates, and Constance Olexy, 19, of Pearl, who offered the invocation.

Palmer joined 900 Hinds students earning nearly 1,300 credentials during four graduation ceremonies held Dec. 10 and Dec. 11. Across the class, 466 students graduated with honors, including 239 cum laude, or 3.2 to 3.59 grade point average; 166 magna cum laude, or 3.6-3.99 GPA and 63 summa cum laude, a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Palmer graduated with an associate degree in general studies and plans to transfer to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., in the fall. In the meantime, he will continue working with first grade students who he teaches the ABCs. He hopes to open a rehabilitation center for children with disabilities after obtaining a bachelor's degree.

"I tell them (his students) there are no shortcuts to navigating life," Palmer said.



BOOK REVIEW:
BOOKS FOR MENTAL HEALTH
BY VARIOUS AUTHORS
C.2025, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS
$29.99 - $34.95 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

For months, your brain has been full.

Full of holidaying and end-of-year-ing and remembering all the things that needed done by the new month. Full of gifts and celebrations and news and weather. Now, maybe it's time to see what else goes on inside your cranium with these great new books about mental health…

If you struggle to know what's truth these days and what's not, then "The Gaslit Brain: Protect Your Brain from the Lies of Bullying, Gaslighting, and Institutional Complicity" by Jennifer Fraser, PhD (Prometheus Books, $34.95) might be the book you need.

Using stories to show, not tell, Fraser helps readers put themselves in situations, so they can learn how to identify a gaslighter. She then looks at the personality traits of someone who gaslights before teaching readers how to deal with the person who tries to lie to you. This is an especially helpful book for anyone who relies on the truth, and accepts nothing less.

Worldwide strife is on everyone's mind these days, and "Warhead: How the Brain Shapes War and War Shapes the Brain" by Nicolas Wright (St. Martin's Press, $30.00) is a science-based book that will help you understand long-term ramifications of conflict. It takes you from wars and warriors throughout history, to modern warfare and why it might seem like the world is constantly at battle.

This not just a book for warriors on the field, though. Wright says that we are wired to do battle – whether its over-seas, in your neighborhood, or sitting at your workstation. You'll be fascinated by this book.

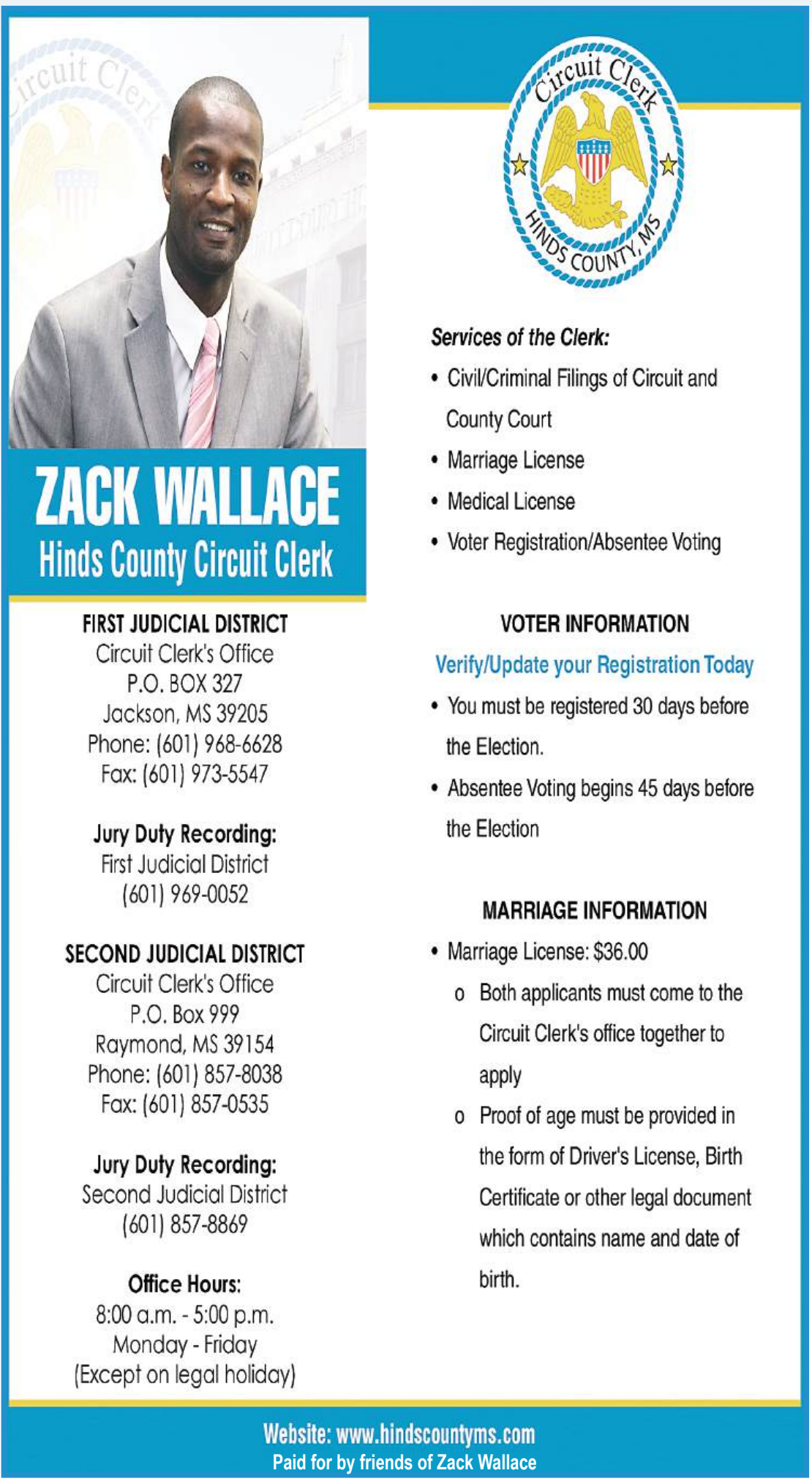
So how do you know what you know? Is it because someone else knows it? Do they know that you know? Ach, so confusing, so relax your mind a little and read "When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows… Common Knowledge and the Mysteries of Money, Power, and Everyday Life" by Steven Pinker (Scribner, $30.00), and it'll all make sense.

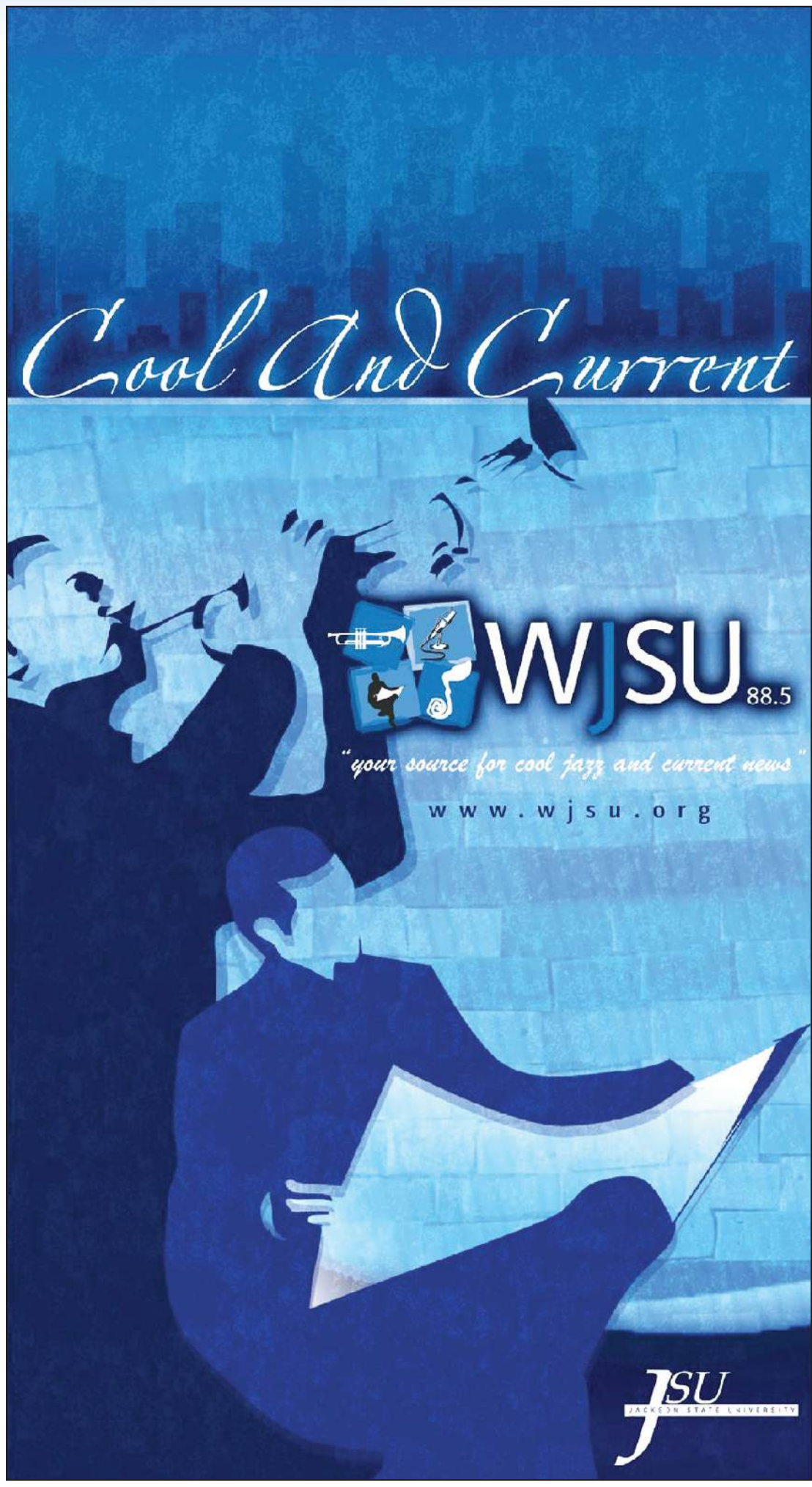
In this book, you'll see how "common knowledge" is uncommonly necessary for human society, and how we naturally slip right into using it – until we don't, and then all kinds of bad things can happen. This is a book that may boggle your mind sometimes, but it'll also open your eyes to how our society works.

If this all enough to keep you awake at night, well, then you need "Nightmare Obscura: A Dream Engineer's Guide Through the Sleeping Mind" by Michelle Carr (Henry Holt & Company, $29.99).

Your alarm goes off, you're wide awake, but what do you remember about your dreams? Carr says that you can learn to "harness" the dreams you have for better mental health, including problem-solving, and you can learn to avoid those bad, troubling dreams that ruin your rest – and the rest of your day.

Not enough reading for your mental health? Then ask a librarian or bookseller for more, and they'll usher you to a section filled with self-help. Grab these four great books and others, then open your mind with good information, and fill it up.





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!

QBs Chambliss of Ole Miss and Beck of Miami take different paths to College Football Playoff

By John Marshall,
Associated Press

Mississippi quarterback Trinidad Chambliss (6) celebrates after the Sugar Bowl NCAA college football playoff quarterfinal game against Georgia in New Orleans, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. CREDIT: AP PHOTO/MATHEW HINTON

Miami quarterback Carson Beck works out prior to the Cotton Bowl College Football Playoff quarterfinal game against Ohio State Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, in Arlington, Texas. CREDIT: AP PHOTO/JULIO CORTEZ

Miami's Carson Beck is the prototypical power-program quarterback, a former four-star prospect with a massive NIL portfolio who knows what it's like to play on the big stage.

Mississippi's Trinidad Chambliss nearly gave up football, won a Division II national championship and has shone since being unexpectedly thrust into the spotlight.

Their paths will converge in the desert at Thursday's Fiesta Bowl, with a spot in the national championship game on the line.

"Only four teams have the opportunity to go play this week," Beck said. "I'm super grateful for that."

Beck has been building toward this since starring as a high schooler in Jacksonville, Florida.

The 6-foot-4, 225-pound pro-style passer won a national championship in 2022 — the Bulldogs' second straight — as a backup to Stetson Bennett IV, learning as he went. Beck took those lessons onto the field, throwing for more than 7,000 yards and 52 touchdowns in the next two seasons while leading Georgia to 24 wins.

A knee injury kept Beck out of the Bulldogs' College Football Playoff loss against Notre Dame in early 2025 and, after initially declaring for the NFL draft, he opted to transfer to Miami, a school with a potent offense and plenty of NIL cash to throw around.

He's been a perfect fit.

Poised and steady, Beck has thrown for 3,313 yards and 27 touchdowns on 74% passing with 10 interceptions. He led the Hurricanes (12-2, CFP No. 10 seed) to wins over Texas A&M and Ohio State in the playoffs and is 36-5 as a starter as he winds down his college career.

"He's very experienced, he's been successful everywhere he's been," Ole Miss coach Pete Golding said. "He's always had his teams competing at a championship level and being in the playoffs."

Chambliss' career took a different trajectory.

With no Division I offers out of high school, the quarterback from Grand Rapids, Michigan, opted to play at Ferris State, where he redshirted the first two seasons — the second due to respiratory issues. He considered transferring to a Division III school to give college basketball a try but chose to give football one more shot.

Good decision.

Chambliss led the Bulldogs to the Division II national championship in 2024, leading to offers from numerous Division I programs. He chose to play at Ole Miss, figuring he would be a backup but at least have the DI experience.

Chambliss' fate changed when starter Austin Simmons went down with an ankle injury during the second game of the season. Chambliss took off and kept going, throwing for 353 yards against Arkansas in his first start and playing so well he kept the starting job once Simmons was healthy.

The dual-threat quarterback put pressure on defenses all season, rocketing passes into tight windows with his strong arm while extending plays with his legs.

Chambliss has thrown for 3,660 yards and 21 touchdowns with just three interceptions on 66% passing, adding 520 yards and eight more scores rushing. He led the Rebels (13-1, CFP No. 6 seed) to a win over Tulane in the CFP opening round and picked apart Georgia in the quarterfinals with 362 yards and two touchdowns in a 39-34 win.

"He's a limitless football player," Miami coach Mario Cristobal said. "Certainly, you could see on the sideline and watching some of the stuff on TV, his leadership skills and the way people gravitate to him. He's had a tremendous impact on the program and plenty of respect for him."

So has Beck, setting up a showdown in the desert.

Falcons beat Saints 19-17 to hand division title to Panthers. Atlanta fires coach and GM hours later

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dee Alford (20) celebrates his interception with linebacker Josh Woods (42) in the second half of NFL football game against the New Orleans, Saints, Sunday Jan 4, 2026 in Atlanta. AP PHOTO/MIKE STEWART

A fourth straight win by the Atlanta Falcons and a season sweep of their biggest rival were not enough to save the jobs of coach Raheem Morris and general manager Terry Fontenot.

Hours after Dee Alford's red-zone interception stopped a potential go-ahead drive by New Orleans on Sunday and the Falcons beat the Saints 19-17 to give the NFC South title to Carolina, Atlanta fired Morris and Fontenot.

The Falcons (8-9) finished in a three-way tie with Carolina and Tampa Bay for first place in the NFC South. The Panthers won the tiebreaker with the best record within the division.

The Falcons completed a season sweep of the Saints (6-11), who had their four-game winning streak end.

Saints first-year coach Kellen Moore said he was "really proud of this group, the way they stuck together and battled each and every way, all the way down to the very end of this game."

Tampa Bay stayed alive with a 16-14 home win over Carolina Saturday. The Buccaneers needed a win or tie by the Saints Sunday to win the division. The Panthers made the playoffs for the first time since 2017 and won the division for the first time in a decade.

Trailing 16-10, the Saints drove from their 25 to the Atlanta 20 before Alford returned his interception of Tyler Shough's pass intended for Dante Pettis 59 yards to the Saints 27 with 3:14 remaining. The play set up Zane Gonzalez's fourth field goal, a 38-yarder, to extend Atlanta's lead to nine points.

Slough said Alford's interception "was just an unbelievable play. Alford knew exactly what (the receivers) were doing in quarters. Just a great job by him and credit to their defense, credit to him, great play in that crucial moment."

Shough answered with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Ronnie Bell with 1:11 remaining, but Atlanta's Kyle Pitts recovered an onside kick.

While the NFC South winner had the most to gain from the result, the Saints and Falcons played the opening quarter as if determined to show why they had long been eliminated from postseason contention.

On the Saints' first play from scrimmage, tight end Juwan Johnson fumbled after a 26-yard reception and Xavier Watts recovered for Atlanta.

The Falcons then gave the ball back when defensive end Carl Granderson, who already had a sack, intercepted a pass from Kirk Cousins. Later in the opening quarter, Falcons safety Jammie Robinson blocked a punt by Kai Kroeger, and Feleipe Franks recovered to set up Cousins' 15-yard touchdown pass to Drake London.

Gonzalez's 40-yard field goal increased Atlanta's lead before Shough's 1-yard scoring run in the second quarter.

Shough completed 22 of 35 passes for 259 yards with one touchdown and one interception. He also ran for a score.

Penalty costs the Saints a TD

The Saints were denied a touchdown on an apparent 1-yard scoring pass from Shough to Kevin Austin Jr. in the third quarter when Austin was called for offensive pass interference. The Saints settled for Charlie Smyth's 29-yard field goal.

Morris gets a hug from Blank, then gets fired

Falcons owner Arthur Blank attended Morris' postgame news conference and gave the second-year coach a hug following the session. Blank listened when Morris was asked if he expects to return after his second straight 8-9 finish.

"You know, my expectation is always to be back, right?" Morris said before looking at Blank and adding, "I'm going to coach this football team as long as he allows it."

Blank showed no emotion when Morris spoke. The owner and coach embraced, and a few hours later, Morris was out of a job.

Rookie edge rusher Jalon Walker said Morris did "a great job of keeping the culture here strong. I commend him. All of our trials and tribulations this season, we've found a way, we've made a way."

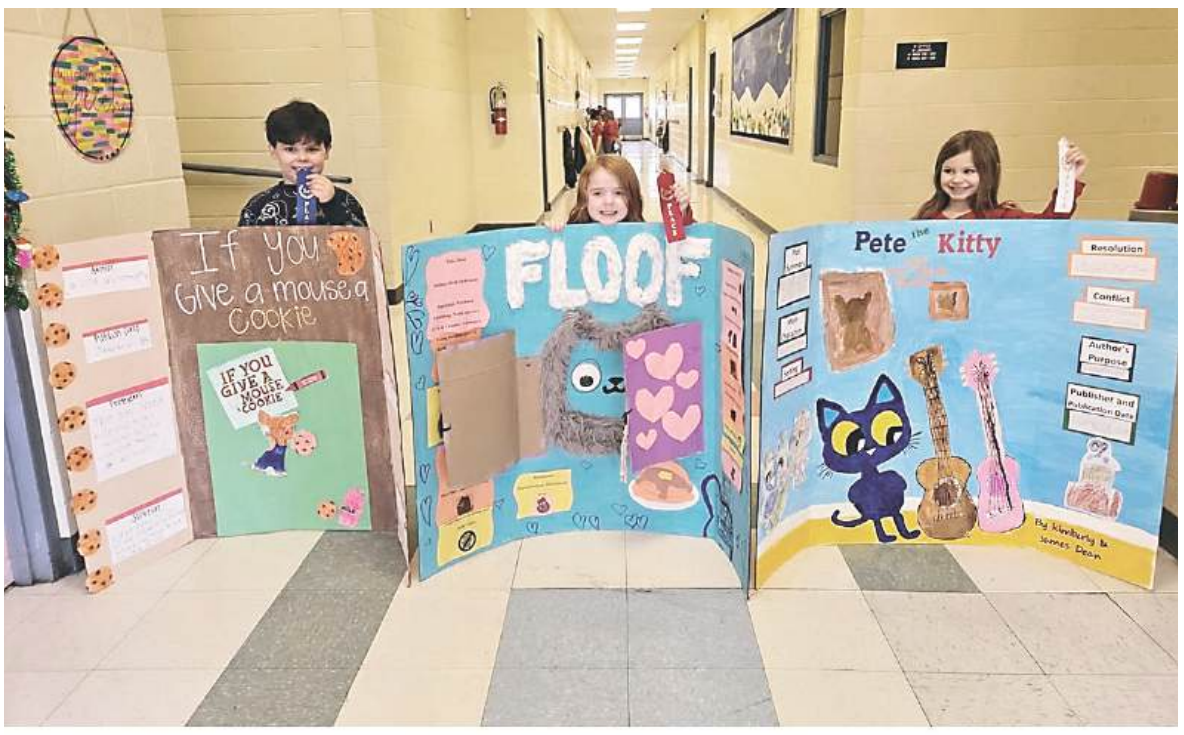
Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

Raymond Elementary School and Carver Middle School Host Successful Reading Fair

Raymond Elementary School and Carver Middle School recently hosted a successful Reading Fair, showcasing the creativity, effort, and literacy skills of their students. All project boards have been completed and proudly displayed, reflecting weeks of reading, research, and preparation. School officials congratulate all participating students and extend special recognition to the first-place winners. These students will advance to the next level of competition, where a district-wide winner will be selected.

The Reading Fair highlights the schools' continued commitment to fostering a love for reading and academic excellence among students.



PreK/K- 1st place-Myles Jefferson
2nd place-Brooklyn Baugh
3rd place-Eliza Flowers

1st grade-1st place-Carl Williams, Jr.
2nd place-Micah Smith
3rd place-Morgan Jackson

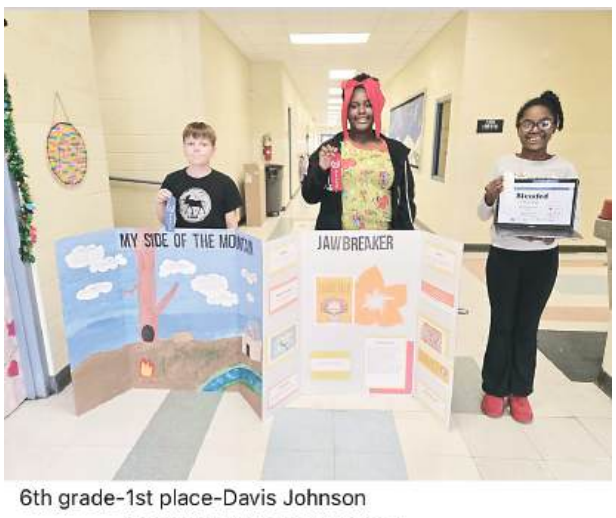
2nd grade-1st place-Nolah Arrington
2nd place-Piper Patton
3rd place-Jhayce Washington

3rd grade- 1st place-Riley Neal
2nd place-Paisley Bourgeois
3rd place-Levi Pollard

4th grade fiction-1st place-Jherry Barrera
2nd place-Kyleigh Kines
3rd place-Kacen Ellis

4th grade non-fiction-1st place-Layla Nelson
2nd place-Braxton Smith
3rd place-Melvin Warner, Jr.

5th grade-1st place-Glen Wilkerson
2nd place-Mia Johnson
3rd place-Kailee Hutton



6th grade-1st place-Davis Johnson
2nd place-Zariyah Anderson
3rd place-A'riverlyn Davis

7th grade-1st place-Ethan Hutton
2nd place-Kennidi Lawson
3rd place-Davin Noel

8th grade fiction-1st place-De'airra Stamps
2nd place-Melany Mejia
3rd place-Jo El Marie Palmer

8th grade non-fiction-1st place-Joseph Troth