

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

- Mary McLeod Bethune

The Reuben V Anderson Center for Justice – A Legacy of Service

Delivering justice-focused impact to Mississippi communities, led by Tougaloo College alumni

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

In Mississippi, where poverty is the highest in the entire nation, and where state leadership continually demonstrates indifference toward African Americans who make up nearly 40 percent of the population, the need for equity is unceasing. Striving to find a way to do more, The Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice (RVAC) was created as a non-profit in 2019 and is dedicated to advancing social justice through community programs, grassroots organizing, and policy advocacy. A reflection and extension of the enduring legacy of its namesake, the bar for the organization was set high and broad – to create a more just and equitable society for all.

Setting aside that it should even be necessary, imagine an organization whose vision is “to build a community where justice and equality are accessible to all. Through our initiatives and partnerships, we strive to create positive and sustainable changes in society,” per <https://www.rvcenterforjustice.org>.

Last month this writer met with key RVAC leaders to discuss their recently published 2025 Impact Report – a snapshot of just one year’s activity – where four counties were served, a dozen events hosted with 300 attendees. A powerful group of collaborative partners supports the works of four primary programs - Delta GREENS Food is Medicine Project, Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative, Harvesting Hope, and Fresh Farmers.

FRESH is an acronym for Food Revival through Economic Empowerment, Systems Change, and Health Security. It is a food procurement initiative that offers food systems training and development, and creates a fresh foods exchange to form relationships between Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) cooperatives farms, and local buyers, enabling them to strategically capture the food market in Mississippi. This is the first BIPOC-led collective effort to organize BIPOC farms and food systems for large-scale institutional procurement in Mississippi.

One recent example - in a five week period, after conducting



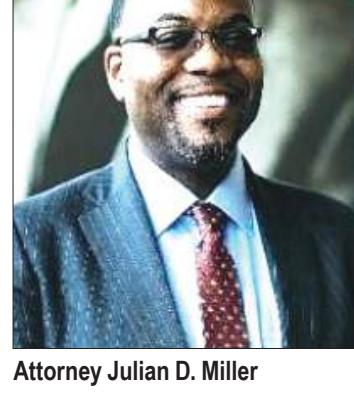
LeBroderick Woods, Tougaloo Class of 2014



Sharon Jimerson, Tougaloo Class of 2023



Attorney Raina Anderson



Attorney Julian D. Miller



Celestial Gordon-Griffin, Tougaloo Class of 1999



Morgan D. Stanley, Tougaloo's 93rd SGA President

COMMENTARY

food environment assessments, the Fresh Farmers Program served 1,000 families – all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients – with produce distribution boxes in Mound Bayou and Shelby (Bolivar County), Clarksdale and Friars Point (Coahoma County), Hollandale and Metcalfe (Washington County), and Drew and Indianola (Sunflower County) – all among the ten poorest counties in Mississippi.

The Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative (TAGI) was founded in 2020 by LeBroderick Woods in partnership with the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice and is Mississippi's only BIPOC worker-owned cooperative urban farm on the HBCU campus of the historic Tougaloo College. As Woods notes, “Our people are so poorly underserved in the Delta. If you have a vehicle, the closest thing you have to a grocery store might be a mom-and-pop gas station where they barely have any fresh produce.” TAGI employs

sustainable and organic practices to manage urban farms and community gardens that double as educational platforms.

TAGI planted and harvested 50 pounds of greens and squash at the Tougaloo Farm on campus for the Fall season. “The Mississippi Fresh Team is deeply committed to rewriting the narrative of what is possible across the Mississippi Delta and the state of Mississippi. We no longer accept the false dichotomy that pits Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities against one another or forces us to beg for crumbs at the policy table,” per Dr. Lauren M. Long, Director of the Eric H. Holder, Jr. Public Policy Program at Tougaloo College.

The Delta GREENS Food is Medicine Initiative, in partnership with Tufts University Friedman School for Nutrition Science and Policy and Delta Health Center, is the one of the largest prescription produce programs in the United States that has already provided locally grown, fresh produce weekly for a year to 300 patients who

have enrolled in the five-year study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The goal of this project is to make Food is Medicine programs permanent in Mississippi and supported by funding through Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance similar to prescription drugs.

Harvesting Hope believes that individual transformation blooms from the seeds of small steps – for single and formerly incarcerated mother’s to be exact. “These moms and their children are not invisible to us. They receive job training, flexible employment on farms and food systems in the Delta with a living wage, financial literacy training, and soft skills and career development preparation to transition out of the criminal justice system as part of our current partnership with Share Our Strength,” per Program Director Celestial Gordon-Griffin.

It is difficult to take in the impact of these programs; the lives changed and futures realigned

Reuben
Continued on page 3



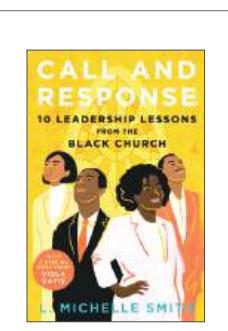
Group photo at a Bolivar County distribution site. PHOTOS BY REUBEN V. ANDERSON CENTER FOR JUSTICE.

Inside

James and Carol Cooper celebrate 60 years of marital bliss: Mark 10:9



Call and Response



The speaker attested that

Dr. Wilma E. Clopton's Filmmaker's Bash: Celebrating the legacy "Going Back to Our Roots" startles, enlightens, and refreshes minds



Dr. Wilma E. Mosley Clopton - Filmmaker's Bash Mastermind for Black History Month - with JSU; Holmes; Hinds; and JPS cast members



JSU's W.E.B. Du Bois Harvey Honors College students who came to learn a phase of Mississippi's history.



Actors Chris Young (plantation owner) and Brother Rogers (confederate soldier)



Members of the Dowell Taylor Quintet

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

No stranger to embracing the latest technologies and innovations in filmmaking in her creations of educational materials that teach American history's diverse stories is Dr. Wilma E. Clopton. Her Jackson, Mississippi-based nonprofit organization tells untold stories of people of African descent in Mississippi and their significant contributions. The award-winning historian, filmmaker and President of NMHS Unlimited Film Productions is on the move for promoting public awareness of her "Going Back to Our Roots" project which convened at Smith Robertson Museum.

Featured within the legacy was also "The Voices of Greenwood." Clopton – writer, director and producer – conveyed a strong message of notice. Chris Young, a thespian in the role of plantation owner, remarked: "The main message of 'Going Back to Our Roots' and the focus on 'The Voices of Greenwood' appeared to me to be Wilma's decision, being dedicated to remembering our pained history, to highlight that Greenwood Cemetery stuck out as being desegregated, when cemeteries in that era were mostly segregated.

This wonderment in and of itself startles positive thinkers to the reality that like-minded individuals have commonality germane to both life and death. Biblical scholars recognize that throughout the Bible God references human beings as "mere mortals" who live and return to dust. Individuals in other spaces

can perhaps visualize dead bodies side by side irrespective of skin color. Hence, Clopton appears to subtly and skillfully reveal such perspectives.

Telling Mississippi's complete history brings a rude awakening when it comes to human relations, dignity, honor and respect. This insight came through "the Voices of Greenwood" that was fervently acted by the cast of Jackson State University students, Holmes Community College students and Jackson Public Schools students. Depicting the enslaved who were shuffled back and forth on the master's plantation from one rationale to the other came through clearly. In the midst of it all, there was the strong preacher who allayed the fears of the slaves as they belched songs like "This Little

Light of Mine," to trust God in His grace, guidance and faithfulness.

Noteworthy to the above dramatization were several persons who fought against segregation in places like Alabama and Mississippi. The midwife from Alabama whose body rests on Lamar Street in Jackson took care of orphans and illegitimate children. She was famous for these good deeds and smoking her juice pipe. Ida Revels Redmond was an American teacher and women's organizer in Miss. She encouraged self-improvement efforts through civic, education and social services.

Clopton's Filmmaker's Bash had other features. The evening's crowd cast their votes for the Peoples' Choice Award and the Chef's Choice Award. Phil-

lip Brown was the winner of both awards, resulting from his gumbo special. A silent auction produced a number of people who received various items.

The evening's event was spiced with Dowell Taylor's Quintet. They have graced many audiences with their artful mastery. They relaxed Smith Robertson Museum attendees with many tunes that included: Satin Doll; Quiet Nights; Girl from Ipanema; Easy Like Sunday Morning; Sir Duke; The Way You Do; Mercy Mercy Mercy; On Broadway; Listen Here; We Are One; Misty; Thrill Is Gone; Unchain My Heart; Can't Get Enough of Your Love Baby; Autumn Leaves; and The Nearness of You.

Members of the cast expressed heartfelt thanks for their roles.

In essence, they stated: "It was a great honor working with Dr. Clopton. This play tells an amazing story of our history. The JSU vocal area, in conjunction with Opera South, is proud to partner in this awesome accomplishment."

Emphasizing their gratefulness was JSU's W.E.B. DuBois Harvey Honors College students: "We are immensely honored to be at this event today to celebrate Black History Month. We are here as students who are curious about our history, who want to learn the full truth of the History of Mississippi. We are deeply grateful for this learning opportunity."

For inquiry, contact Dr. Wilma E. Mosley Clopton at emmaunlimited@gmail.com.

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Forward Lookers

Continued from page 1



Member of Forward Lookers Federated Club PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

son, MS. She acknowledges teaching as a calling from God. She philosophizes that a lasting impact must be made on the future generation by laying a strong, educational foundation.

Martesha Forrest is a Mississippi Valley State University junior majoring in Elementary Education. She hails from Winona, MS. She advocates learning environments that support, encourage, and excite children with enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Jacqueline Jones – Rust College (junior majoring in Elementary Education) hails from Holly Springs, MS. She sees education as a stimulator to change many lives. Simultaneously, it shapes confidence and character while delivering more than content.

Reagan Wilson – Tougaloo College (sophomore majoring in Elementary Education) hails from Greenwood, MS. She philosophizes that low-performing students can be successful. She highlights the need to recognize the extra support that they need dur-

ing their early primary school years.

Three 2026 Award Recipients were honored: Derrick Terrell Simmons, Jovonda Stanton, and Dr. Timothy Quinn. Simmons' outstanding leadership, sustained advocacy, and meaningful community impact granted him the Heritage Award. The Mississippi State Senator and Minority Leader renders outstanding service in education advancement, healthcare access, economic development, and civil rights throughout the state. Widely respected, Senator Simmons uplifts others and promotes equity, justice, and lasting progress.

Service Awardee Jovonda Stanton has nearly 18 years of dedicated service as a respected public servant in Jackson, MS. She has advanced trauma-responsive, dignity-centered support for survivors of violence, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those facing mental health challenges. Her meaningful com-

munity service is reflective of her sustained commitment to the under-served populations.

Dr. Timothy Quinn (Service Awardee) has more than 20 years of service as a Mississippi-based family physician and community health advocate. Founder and Medical Director of Quinn Healthcare, PLLC. and his extensive collaboration with public health agencies, he is deeply sensitive to community health concerns, thereby advancing prevention-focused, accessible care for underserved populations. The exemplary leader contributes significantly to improving the well-being of Mississippians, irrespective of locale.

Gwendolyn L. Chess – devoted FLFC member – received the Uplift Award. She stands tall with 32 years of service to the Jackson Public School District, and she retired as Assistant Director of Exceptional Education Services and Medicaid Coordinator. Having supervised multidisciplinary teams, she worked to ensure equitable educational access for students with exceptional and medical needs. Further, the honoree has served Jackson State University, University Medical Center, and the Hudspeth Retardation Center, where she coordinated the Foster Grandparent Program.

Other FLFC members served in the following capacities. The luncheon's emcee - Irene Booker, President. Demetra Lewis - the introducer of the speaker. Scholarships and Awards were presented by Dr. Donna Williams. The Heritage, Service, & Uplift Award was presented by Dr. Brenda C. Jenkins.

Generous Donors:

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Reuben

Continued from page 1

– and not just for the poorest communities in Mississippi, either. Sharon Jimerson and Morgan Stanley began as fellows in the Delta GREENS program, today they are leaders in the Food is Medicine Movement in Mississippi through their work at the RVA Center. Miss Jimerson's three years at the center led her to a decision to continue food security research at Tufts University, and now at the University of South Carolina.

The team at the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice is extensive, energetic, and committed – intimately aware that the clock ticks unmercifully on the future of so many Mississippians. Attorney Raina Anderson Lee, a Tougaloo alumna, and Julian Miller are the co-founders of the RVA Center, ensuring that Justice Anderson's vision is propelled where and in ways it will have the most impact. While some non-profits struggle for support, their list of collaborative partners is lengthy and leading, providing unparalleled investment. The organization has raised over \$4 million since its inception.

Recently, LeBroderick Woods, a 2014 Touga-

loo graduate, recently took the helm as Director of the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice. Sharon Jimerson, a 2023 Tougaloo alumna, 2025 Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition and Policy graduate, and current Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina, serves as the center's Program Sustainability Specialist. Celestial Gordon-Griffin is a 1999 Tougaloo alumna and is the Program Director of the RVA Center's Harvesting Hope program. Current Tougaloo Student Government Association President Morgan Stanley serves as Marketing Coordinator for the RVA Center. The list goes on and on.

Go to <https://rvacenterforjustice.org> to learn more about the many programs and initiatives, the phenomenal impact being delivered in The Magnolia State, a complete listing of collaborative partners, and more of the dedicated Tougaloo graduates that make the work of the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice known throughout the country. Please follow the RVA Center on Instagram @rvacenterforjustice.



Fresh produce destined for some of the poorest communities in Mississippi

Medicare Made Simple: Free Help Available in Central Mississippi through your local SHIP Counselors



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State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free, community-based service that provides free, unbiased, individual counseling, and assistance to people who are Medicare eligible that are aged 65 and older, has end stage renal disease, or is disabled. The SHIP program helps beneficiaries understand their coverage options and make informed health care decisions. These services are available throughout Madison, Hinds, Warren, Rankin, Copiah, Yazoo and Simpson counties.

Currently, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period is underway up until March 31, 2026. During this period, only members that are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage can switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or return to Original Medicare, with changes effective the first of the next month. Even after this enrollment period ends, SHIP counselors are still available year-round for Medicare counseling via telephone or in person.

In addition to offering support to the community, SHIP is also actively seeking volunteers to join in on its growing volunteer program. Volunteers will receive training and support from certified counselors to further expand our program services and help their neighbors navigate Medicare. This is a meaningful opportunity to give back and make a real difference in the lives of the senior population we serve. For free assistance with any Medicare issues or an interest in the SHIP volunteer program, contact a SHIP counselor at 601-981-1516 or Toll-Free at 1-844-822-4622. We look forward to continuously providing trusted, confidential, counseling to beneficiaries.

Kenya Hampton

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JSU's MADDRAMA brings Cultural Magic to the Big Apple

By Kelli Sharpe
JSU Public Relations Director

Jackson State University's MADDRAMA Performance Troupe lit up the stage with an unforgettable performance in the "Big Apple." MADDRAMA traveled to New York to be a part of the captivating "Mississippi to Manhattan: New Dance Works" by JSU alumnus Jaylen Taylor. The renowned performance troupe, under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Mark Henderson, performed in Brooklyn Saturday, January 31.

"For MADDRAMA to have been invited to share their skills on the New York stage is a testament to their talent and the far-reaching impact that MADDRAMA has, not just locally but throughout this country," said Henderson.

"We had students with us who experienced not only their first visit to New York, but also their first time even on an airplane, so this is more than just a performance for them. It was an experience that will change their lives and at the same time let the world see again what Jackson State has to offer."

The appearance was a homecoming for JSU sophomore and New York native Tianna Hughes. The journalism major said it was a special moment for her to perform in front of her family and friends.

"Being in New York and performing in a city where I've performed since middle school and seeing my growth was great," Hughes added.



Jackson State University's MADDRAMA Performance Troupe PHOTO BY ARON SMITH, JSU



Henderson (far right) and the MADDRAMA performance troupe attended the Hell's Kitchen musical on Broadway, featuring the music and lyrics of Alicia Keys and a semi-autobiographical plot about her upbringing in Manhattan in the 1990s.



Powell (front and center) and the performance troupe attended a live recording of the Tamron Hall Show

"My family was there for me," support, and they are all proud "Mississippi to Manhattan"

was an artistic showcase where the audience was asked to

step into the story and witness the movement, memory and migration from the hospitality state to Manhattan for one night, one journey and many voices.

Fellow MADDRAMA member Cody Powell, a theatre major from East St. Louis, IL, said the entire troupe was proud to represent JSU.

"I feel like it's very important to represent our school," Powell proudly stated. "We have talent, we have seasoning, and we had something to bring from Mississippi to Manhattan."

Ahead of their performance, MADDRAMA students were able to soak in the New York

The Mississippi Link™
Volume 31 • Number 17
February 12 - 18, 2026
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The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

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

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

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

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

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Dr. Anthony Cloy served as Legislative Doctor of the Day at the Capitol

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Dr. Anthony Cloy, a family medicine specialist, associate professor of Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Medical Director of Mississippi Physician Health Program, served as Legislative Doctor of the Day at the Capitol Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

In that capacity, Dr. Cloy was available to provide emergency medical treatment to lawmakers and staff. He was accompanied by Arjun Trehan, a medical student at William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg. Senator Kamesha B. Mumford introduced them.



L-R: Dr. Anthony Cloy, Senator Kamesha B. Mumford and Arjun Trehan

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Wild Cards that could disrupt the Midterm Elections

In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series

Federal demands for voter data, laws to limit access, and challenges to state control of elections.

By Chris Young
Contributing Writer

As the 2026 midterms approach, the Justice Department has demanded that nearly every state and Washington, DC, turn over election-related records, including full statewide voter registration lists and, in some cases, ballots from prior elections or access to voting equipment. The federal government has sued more than 20 states and Washington, DC, for refusing to comply, prompting concerns about federal overreach into states' constitutional role in administering elections.

The requests involve highly sensitive personal information and have raised serious privacy and security concerns. At the same time, Congress is advancing election legislation that would tighten voter identification requirements, mandate voter roll purges and restrict vote-by-mail. Experts warn that together these actions could affect who is able to vote and increase disputes over election outcomes.

Pilar Marerro, co-organizer of American Community Media National Briefing Series, led a panel of four experts in addressing key questions and responding to inquiries from seventy-five media outlets from around the world. She began with Justin Levitt, Professor of Law at Loyola Law School and former White House Senior Advisor for Democracy and Voting Rights, and a former DOJ Civil Rights Division official. "I can tell you from my post in the White House, journalism, and particularly journalism that speaks to communities, is profoundly important, so I appreciate each and every one of you and the job that you are doing to communicate to real readers and real people what's going on out there...the most prominent disruptions right now are coming from the federal government and coming from the executive branch. They have a common theme. The president is trying to project power that he does not have. It's important to realize both the attempt, and the limits on the success of that attempt."

To all the changing going on, he continued, "I think there will be more district lines shifting in the months to come. That's the biggest change, and that may mean that voters find themselves in new areas electing new representatives, which might be, in some areas, cause for concern, but might be in other areas cause for opportunity. Particularly, redistricting and district lines work as a sort of seawall,"

to guard against normal tides. But in the event of a voter tsunami that comes right in over the top of the seawall, and all the signs so far point to really extraordinary turnout this coming fall – which is why you see the vigorous marketing from the White House getting increasingly nervous about that turnout, because most of the voters don't seem to be heading in the direction that the president would prefer."

Danielle Lang, Vice President for Voting Rights & Rule of Law at the Campaign Legal Center, Adjunct Law Professor, and Leading U.S. Voting Rights Litigator, shared next. "Considering all we are seeing, voting rights lawyers are looking forward to the 2026 elections. You may not have a positive view, generally, of how courts, or perhaps the Supreme Court, has responded to abuses of executive

power, but we have won several lawsuits, including against an attempt to change the Federal Voter Registration Form, part of the 1993 law - the National Voter Registration Act. One of the things that is most important about the federal form is that it makes it easier for those who don't speak English, and that was something we put forward on behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and it was an important victory. The district court judge who wrote the opinion in a well-supported way that

the president has no constitutional power over elections and every court that has addressed his executive order since then has parroted that language from the 1st District Court of D.C., saying the president has no constitutional power to set rules of elections."

John C. Yang, President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, shared the simple reminder to all that in the United States, voting is a right, not a privilege, for all citizens. "And to the question that was posed earlier about voter ID and public support, it is clear in all of the polling that we and others have done - people strongly favor making voting easier, not harder. So therefore, what we should always be looking at is, what is the burden being posed on American citizens to voting versus what is the benefit of having a somewhat or any type of restrictive law. Unless someone can demonstrate that the benefit of a restriction absolutely outweighs the burden, we'll win."

Yang reported that "the Asian population is the fastest growing population in the United States, now at 24 million, and projected to be at 35 million by 2060. From 2010 to 2020, Asian population grew at a rate of 38 percent. During the 2020 presidential election, Asians had a 60 percent voter turnout rate. We should remember that until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, there were laws barring Asian Americans from immigrating to the United States and from becoming naturalized citizens and even testifying in court. This prevented our communities from participating in the democratic process. We are now seeing an attempt at eroding voting rights by the administration, by certain state governments - between voter intimidation, redistricting, threats to language access, limitations on early and absentee voting, deceptive practices, and racial motivated challenges."

The final panelist, Andrea Senteno, DC Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), shared "MALDEF is a civil rights legal organization working on behalf of all Latinos living in the United States. We're headquartered in Los Angeles, but we have offices across the country. One of our top priorities is to secure equal voting rights for Latinos, and to promote increased civic engagement and participation within the Latino community. Latinos have been the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the U.S. for more than two decades – making up 19 percent of the total U.S. population. We accounted for 51 percent of the nation's growth between 2010 and 2020. We are the largest racial or ethnic non-white voting group or group of voting agents, I should say, in 2020 and 2024. An estimated 1.8 million Latinos become eligible to vote each year. There are still significant gaps in voter registration and participation among the racial groups, demonstrating there is still significant voter suppression and voter discrimination occurring."

To view this entire briefing, go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/wild-cards-that-could-disrupt-the-midterms-federal-demands-for-voter-data-laws-to-limit-access-and-challenges-to-state-control-of-elections>.

Republicans rarely criticize Trump in his second term. A racist post briefly changed that

By Matt Brown
Associated Press

Roger Wicker, the senior senator from Mississippi, denounced racist video post of Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama as "totally unacceptable."

President Donald Trump received rare blowback from Republican lawmakers over a video posted to social media that included a racist image of former President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, depicted as primates.

Since Trump's return to the White House, Republican lawmakers have treaded carefully when disagreeing with the president, often communicating their concerns in private for fear of suffering his wrath.

But the swift calls to remove the post, which also echoed false conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, represented a rare moment of bipartisan backlash to Trump's actions from lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Multiple GOP members of the Senate and House joined their Democratic colleagues in voicing disgust and criticism at the post and urged the president to remove it.

Trump declined to apologize, saying he did not see the racist portion of the video when he passed it on to staff.

How Republican lawmakers reacted

South Carolina's Tim Scott, the only Black Republican senator and chair of the Senate GOP's campaign arm, criticized the image and urged the president to remove it.

"Praying it was fake because it's the most racist thing I've seen out of this White House. The President should remove it," Scott wrote on social media.

Other Republican senators echoed the sentiment.

"Even if this was a Lion King meme, a reasonable person sees the racist context to this," Sen. Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, wrote on social media. "The White House should do what anyone does when they make a mistake: remove this and apologize."

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine called the image "appalling."

Roger Wicker, the senior senator from Mississippi, denounced it as "totally unacceptable."

"The president should take it down and apologize," Wicker wrote.

Sen. John Curtis of Utah called Trump's post "blatantly racist and inexcusable. It should never have been posted or left published for so long."

In the House, Rep. Mike Lawler of New York called Trump's post "wrong and incredibly offensive—whether intentional or a mistake—and should be deleted immediately with an apology offered." Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic, quipped on social media about the White House's shifting explanations for the video's origin and deletion.

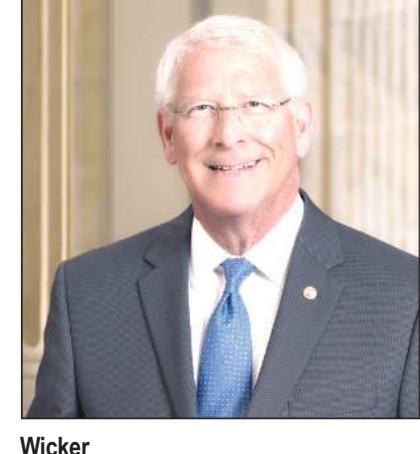
Praise for the post being removed

More Republicans lodged their objections to the post after the video was taken down.

"This content was rightfully removed, should have never been posted to begin with, and is not who we are as a nation," wrote Sen. Katie Britt, an Alabama Republican.

Rep. John James, a Michigan Republican running for governor, said he was "glad to see that trash has been taken down." James, one of four Black Republicans in the House, said he was "shocked and appalled by that post" but defended Trump's character.

"I know the President. He is not racist," said James, who campaigned for



Wicker

Trump in Black communities during the 2024 presidential campaign.

Still, some of Trump's closest allies defended him. Laura Loomer, a far-right activist and media personality, called on her social media followers to highlight any Republican lawmakers "attacking Trump today with false accusations of racism."

"I am compiling a list of every single GOP Senator who attacked President Trump today, and I am printing it out and giving it to President Trump ahead of the @NRSC Winter Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida this weekend," wrote Loomer, who has influenced administration policy and threatened retribution against GOP lawmakers in the past.

A shifting White House narrative

Trump has been a longtime critic of the Obamas. Before entering politics, he earned fame among conservatives as a champion of the "birther" conspiracy theory that falsely claimed that President Obama was not born in the U.S.

White House officials made multiple shifting statements about how the animated video, which has circulated among conservatives online for months, came to be posted by the president's account.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt at first said the post, which appears to be AI-generated, depicted Trump as "King of the Jungle" and the Obamas and other Democrats as characters from "The Lion King." But the Disney animated classic does not include any characters depicted as apes, and is set in an African savanna not a jungle.

White House officials later said that the video was erroneously posted by a staffer.

"I liked the beginning. I saw it and just passed it on, and I guess probably nobody reviewed the end of it," Trump told reporters on Air Force One. Asked if he condemned the racist parts of the video, Trump said, "Of course I do."

Democrats rally to former first couple

Supporters of the Obamas also took to social media not only to condemn the president's post, but also to celebrate the former first couple.

"We should ALL be outraged," Pete Souza, the former chief White House photographer during the Obama White House, posted to social media. "I will not post a screenshot of the video here. Instead, I thought it best to respond with a few of my photographs of Barack and Michelle."

Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., posted images of the Obamas and praised their "brilliance, elegance, and beauty."

"I want Americans, particularly our young people, to know that the vast majority of our country supports and uplifts you despite the filth spewing from the Oval Office," former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., wrote to the Obamas on social media.

Nothing can stop our celebration of Black History this year or ever

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


There are some things I remember like they happened yesterday. In fact, I can recall them with great detail. As a 4th quarter guy, I spend a fair amount of time musing about yesteryear.

For example, the celebration of Black History has been going on for quite a long time. Dr. Carter G. Woodson had the foresight and the courage to create a platform for it. I can't imagine the vitriol he endured for us to have the celebrations and the commemorations that we have.

The fires of racism and segre-

gation were blazing during this period, yet Dr. Woodson made this monumental breakthrough in American history. He is known as the "Father of Black History".

His staying power led him to establish Negro History Week in February 1926. That week led to Black History Month in 1976. Prior to Negro History Week, he was the co-founder for the Study of Negro Life and History. This organization later became the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Over the years, African Americans have had different levels of achievement and success. I have always felt our singular success is our shared success. We know that success is easily wanted but ardously

achieved. This is the reason we must be happy for each other.

When I was growing up in Winston-Salem NC, I was blessed to have been around a number of successful people. All were hardworking and set a great example for us.

Race did not affect our quest to do our best each day. There was a feeling and aura of fearlessness that permeated our homes and communities. We were prideful and thankful.

February is Black History Month. There are events and activities that highlight our many contributions to this world.

Peanuts are a worldwide food eaten by everyone. In fact, I had some peanuts just a few hours ago. Dr. George Washington Carver was known as "The Peanut Man". He created over

300 uses for peanuts along with sweet potatoes and soybeans. Dr. George Washington Carver was a professor at Tuskegee Institute now University in Tuskegee Alabama.

As we know, the Olympic Games are taking place in Italy. The first African American to win an Olympic Gold Medal was John Baxter Taylor Jr. in 1908 at the London Olympics. Taylor was a part of the U.S. 4x400 relay team. He was a track athlete at the University of Pennsylvania. The first African American to win an Olympic Gold Medal for an individual event (the long jump) was DeHart Hubbard in 1924 at the Paris Olympics. Both set the stage for future African American gold medalists to come.

Women like Gabby Doug-

las, Wilma Rudolph, Simone Manuel and Erin Jackson have taken home the gold medal. Men like Bob Hayes, Anthony Ervin, Andre Ward and Vincent Matthews have also won gold medals. Gold Medalist, Vincent Matthews is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, my alma mater in Charlotte NC.

Black people have excelled across all walks of life. We have broken barriers and established new standards of excellence. Undaunted in our pursuits, we continue to defy the odds.

Mary McLeod Bethune defied the odds as she founded a private school for Black students which later became Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach Florida.

Black churches have also played an important role in

higher education. The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church founded Wilberforce University (Ohio) in 1856 and Morris Brown College (Georgia) in 1881. There are 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America. Each school will continue to graduate future world leaders.

We are living in an era where our history is being de-valued and cheapened by those zealots who are jealous of our accomplishments. Their efforts are puny and have no standing.

It is important that we teach our children and grandchildren about our glorious past. Our future triumphs continue to shine brightly with the glow of faith and thanksgiving. Our Black History is yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Want to start a business? Follow these 10 Steps

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


If you do your research, you will find out that about 50 percent of businesses fail in the first year, and approximately 95 percent of them fail in their first five years. Those statistics should have all potential business owners concerned, scared, and worried.

Prior to, and even when I established my company on January 5, 2004, I possessed all three of those emotions and more.

In my opinion, there are several reasons for these high failure rates among new business owners: 1) Many new business owners assume that because they are good at creating an item, performing a service, or selling a product, they will automatically be good at being a business owner in the same field, 2) Some new business owners believe that they should never have to be involved or physically work in their own business, 3) Instead of gradually building the assets and inventory as the business progress, many new business owners spend unnecessary funds in the beginning phase of being established, 4) Seldom do new business owners do research on the probability of their business being prosperous, and 5) These new business owners typically do not seek advice from Business

Coaches and/or successful business owners.

Opening a business and becoming a successful business owner are not easy things to accomplish.

From experience, I have witnessed "businesses" having no business name, cards, checking account, insurance, licenses, logo, mission statement, permits, structure, and the list goes on and on.

After countless years of building and coaching thriving businesses and business owners, I have compiled a list of 10 steps to start a business:

1) Decide on the product you will sell or the service you will offer in your business.

2) Decide on a business location (home-based or brick and mortar).

3) Create a budget for your business start-up cost, as well as a plan to accumulate the revenue.

4) Come up with and develop a business name, logo, mission statement, slogan, etc. Also, make sure to check that your ideas are not currently in existence.

5) Determine and choose the most beneficial structure for your business (Corporation, Limited Liability Company (LLC), Partnership, Sole Proprietorship, or a Nonprofit Organization).

6) Depending on the business structure you choose, register your business with your secretary of state's office, if applicable.

7) Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN), all necessary licenses (busi-

ness, privilege, etc.), permits, state tax identification numbers (sales, use, withholding, etc.), and trademarks.

8) Open up a business checking account, and never use your personal account(s) for business purposes.

9) Apply for business insurance (errors and omissions, surety bonds, workers' compensation, etc.).

10) Develop a marketing plan (business cards, social media, website, etc.).

Keep in mind, these 10 steps is just the guideline to starting your own business.

Upon being established, it will require a lot of dedication, hard work, grit, and perseverance on your part to not be a part of the high failure rates among new business owners.

In addition to everything I just mentioned, there is one more thing I recommend you do...Watch the movie, "The Founder," starring Michael Keaton.

In my opinion, every current and potential business owner should watch it several times. I promise that it will make you view becoming and being a business owner very differently!

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@TCL-FinancialTaxServices.com

What about the other 364 days of the year?

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



What if Valentine's Day was every day? What if you had an opportunity to show your spouse how

much you love them every day like it was Valentine's Day? Every year many go out of their way to express their love to their significant others on Valentine's Day. In fact, millions – correction, billions are spent for Valentine's Day for the sake of expressing love to significant others but what about the other 364 days of the year? How do you express your love to your spouse daily? Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with going out your way for Valentine's Day, but you should go out your way to express your love to your spouse every chance you get!

According to the Online Webster's Dictionary, opportunity is defined as an occasion or situation that makes it possible to do something that you want to do or must do. In other words,

an opportunity to love and show love to your spouse must be something you desire to do. This is something that you can't feel obligated to do, coerced, or forced to do – you should want to love and show love to your spouse with no hesitation. Do you take every opportunity to love and show love to your spouse? Do you want to reassure your spouse that you love them? Do you enjoy reassuring your spouse that you love them? Does it give you pleasure taking every opportunity you can to express, "I love you," "I want you," "You are the love of my life," "I don't want to be anywhere else but with you," and/or, "I thank God for you!"

Imagine what will happen if you take the other 364 days of the year to show love to your spouse; it would be

a major investment in your marriage. Let's break down O.P.P.O.R.T.U.N.I.T.Y:

What is O.P.P.O.R.T.U.N.I.T.Y. in marriage?

O – Often - love and show love every chance you get

P – Prioritize – God is #1 and your spouse should be #2

P – Pleasurable – love and showing love should be enjoyable for both of you

O – One – Grow as one and not grow in isolation (avoid the I, ME, MINE)

R – Refreshing – love should be renewing – restore each other

T – Time – CONSISTENTLY spend quality time with each other

U – Upbeat – Have fun – plan exciting and different adventurous events with each other

N – Now – do it today – you're so busy planning for tomorrow in what you would like to do together when you retire – it's nothing wrong with this but life is short – please enjoy each other now!

I – Inspirational – Love and showing love should be motivational

T – Thoughtful – Exchange hearts with each other daily

Y – Commit to your spouse by simply saying, "YES!"

When is it a good opportunity to love and show love in your marriage?

Every day – Every day of the year – 24/7

What can you do to express love to your spouse the other 364 days of the year?

Pray together

Pray for each other

Say – I love you daily!

Help one another in every way that you can – help with children, chores, cooking (the 3 c's – interesting)

Compromise

Communicate/listen

Express your appreciation

Hug – has health benefits

Kiss

Hold hands

Cuddle
Date each other
Practice your spouse love language

Avoid triggers that can negatively impact your spouse/marriage

Forgive – let it go and know that God promises the ending will be better than the beginning but be patient as healing and restoration takes time

Sporadically do something different and exciting – take a one-day

In conclusion, many of the examples mentioned above prove that it does not cost a lot to show love to the person you took vows with, yet it's nothing wrong with a little lavishness either. Consider that you get one life, one soul mate, one ride and die, and that one who always has your back, etc. Yes,

do something fun and special on Valentine's Day. For Valentine's, I told Big Daddy to get me a card, scented candles, and take me somewhere special for Ice Cream – I could have asked for more, but he and we have

364 more days to live, love, and laugh together. What about the other 364 days of the year? Each day God allows you to wake up is an opportunity to love your spouse, help save and fight for your marriage. In other words, many separations and divorces could be avoided if

BOTH spouses take every opportunity to illustrate their love to their spouses the other 364 days, not just on Valentine's Day.

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

CLASSIFIED

8 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 2026

www.themississippilink.com

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

To all interested parties, known and unknown, Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at <https://marketplace.autura.com/auctions/jac-ms/> on February 24, 2026 at 10:00 am

A list and description of abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be posted pursuant to statutory requirements in the following locations: Hinds County Court House Hinds Country Chancery Court Building Jackson City Hall/City Clerk's Office" (2/3/2026)

2/5/2026 8844558 • 2011/HONDA/ACCORD/RED • 1HGC3F89BA006384

8840357 • 2012/DODGE/RAM/WHITE • 3C6JD7AT6CG229719

8840360 • 2014/DODGE/CHALLENGER/BLACK • 2C3CDYBT6EH154288

8840411 • 2014/DODGE/AVENGER/RED • 1C3CDZAB1EN196731

8840428 • 2024/MAZDA/3/SILVER • 3MZBPBX4RM406897

8840546 • 2001/DODGE/RAM/RED • 3B7HC13Y71G764619

8841081 • 2017/DODGE/CHALLENGER/RED • 2C3CDZFJ7HH640062

8841116 • 2011/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPEB4AC5BH192179

8843390 • 2001/GMC/YUKON XL 1500/BLACK • 3GKFK16T01G174938

8843435 • 2018/KIA/OPTIMA/BLUE • 5XXGT4L38JG247351

8843469 • 1977/CHEVROLET/CAPRICE/MULTI-COLOR • 1N69UTS126620

8843615 • 2010/NISSAN/MAXIMA/BLACK • 1N4AA5AP4AC874514

8843711 • 2003/GMC/YUKON/BLACK • 1GKEK13Z33J338558

8843747 • 2004/TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/GOLD • 5NPD74LF4LH501422

JTEDP21A040004826 *****
8843774 • 2015/BMW/OTHER/GRAY • WBA3B5G51FNS17491 *****
8843805 • 2005/CHRYSLER/CROSSFIRE/BLACK • 1C3AN65L35X042757 *****
8843822 • 2015/KIA/OPTIMA/WHITE • KNAGM478F5635885 *****
8843843 • 2001/DODGE/RAM/GRAY • 1B7HC16X315747845 *****
8844001 • 2007/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/BLACK • 1GNFC1307R355344 *****
8844350 • 2023/TOYOTA/COROLLA/BLACK • JTND4MBE2P3192015 *****
8844479 • 2013/HYUNDAI/VELOSTER/WHITE • KMHTC6AD9DU145850 *****
2/5/2026 8844558 • 2011/HONDA/ACCORD/RED • 1HGC3F89BA006384
8844573 • 2004/INFINITI/FX35/GRAY • JNRS08U74X105637 *****
8844593 • 2021/TOYOTA/CAMRY/GRAY • 4T1G11AK1MU457671 *****
8844622 • 2019/FORD/MUSTANG/SILVER • 1FA6P8TH7K5163133 *****
8840428 • 2024/MAZDA/3/SILVER • 3MZBPBX4RM406897
8840546 • 2001/DODGE/RAM/RED • 3B7HC13Y71G764619
8841081 • 2017/DODGE/CHALLENGER/RED • 2C3CDZFJ7HH640062
8841116 • 2011/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPEB4AC5BH192179
8843390 • 2001/GMC/YUKON XL 1500/BLACK • 3GKFK16T01G174938
8843435 • 2018/KIA/OPTIMA/BLUE • 5XXGT4L38JG247351
8843469 • 1977/CHEVROLET/CAPRICE/MULTI-COLOR • 1N69UTS126620
8843615 • 2010/NISSAN/MAXIMA/BLACK • 1N4AA5AP4AC874514
8843711 • 2003/GMC/YUKON/BLACK • 1GKEK13Z33J338558
8843747 • 2004/TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/GOLD • 5NPD74LF4LH501422

8848427 • 2015/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK • 1N4AL3AP2FN406968 *****
8848487 • 1992/NISSAN/SENTRA/BLACK • 1N4EB32A2NC767092 *****
8848587 • 1999/TOYOTA/4RUNNER/SILVER • JT3GN87R3X0106654 *****
8848601 • 2011/FORD/ESCAPE/BLACK • 1FMCU0D77BKC62206 *****
8848639 • 2010/FORD/FUSION/SILVER • 3FAHP0DC1AR327419 *****
8851165 • 2011/TOYOTA/SIENNA/GRAY • 5TDDK3DC2BS123937 *****
8851244 • 2016/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/GRAY • 5NPDH4AE4GH662236 *****
8851284 • 2013/JEEP/COMPASS/BLUE • 1C4NJBCA2DD168764 *****
8851528 • 2016/HYUNDAI/TUCSON/ORANGE • KM8J33A4XGU179080 *****
8852009 • 1993/CHEVROLET/CAPRICE/WHITE • 1G1BN53E6PR129793 *****
8851698 • 2003/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/BLACK • 3GNEC1Z93G138720 *****
8851758 • 2016/HYUNDAI/TUCSON/ORANGE • KM8J33A4XGU179080 *****
8852119 • 2023/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/RED • 5NPLM4AG7PH091771 *****
8852175 • 2023/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/BLACK • KMHL4AG3PU384832 *****
8852286 • 2015/HYUNDAI/SONATA/BLUE • 5NPE24AF9FH061238 *****
8854665 • 2013/FORD/TAURUS/GRAY • 1FAHP2E87DG162848 *****
8848069 • 2019/DODGE/CHARGER/RED • 2C3CDXCT9KH575572 *****
8848157 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/SILVER • JHMC26399C015192 *****
8848309 • 2017/VOLKSWAGEN/PASSAT/BLUE • 1VWDT7A36HC064626 *****
8848379 • 2020/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/SILVER • 2GCEC19T711395476 *****
8855133 • 2011/KIA/SORENTO/TAN *****

8855702 • 2016/HYUNDAI/SONATA/GRAY • 5NPE24AFXGH386398 *****
8855785 • 2012/FORD/EXPLORER/WHITE • 1FMHK7D80CGA41788 *****
8855940 • 1997/FORD/F150/RED • 1FTDF1724VKB14348 *****
8855969 • 2009/HONDA/ACCORD/BLUE • 1HGCP26479A192427 *****
8858578 • 2018/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE • 5NPD84LF0JH301924 *****
8858710 • 2013/VOLKSWAGEN/PASSAT/SILVER • 1VWAP7A34DC031464 *****
8858774 • 2010/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/WHITE • 1G1ZA5E07AF279349 *****
8858938 • 2018/KIA/OPTIMA/WHITE • 5XGXT4L34JG184815 *****
8859085 • 2005/CHRYSLER/SEBRING/SILVER • 1C3EL66R65N543311 *****
8859249 • 2008/HONDA/ACCORD/MULTI-COLOR • JHMC26398C074564 *****
8859259 • 2020/TOYOTA/CAMRY/WHITE • 1G4H52L9SH431570 *****
8864368 • 1999/TOYOTA/CAMRY/WHITE • 4T1BG22KXXU483543 *****
8864393 • 2000/TOYOTA/CAMRY/SILVER • 4T1BG22K4YU657527 *****
8864439 • 2003/LINCOLN/TOWN CAR/WHITE • 1LNH81W73Y603957 *****
8864521 • 2012/FORD/MUSTANG/SILVER • 1ZVBP8EM5C5201623 *****
8864556 • 2005/TOYOTA/COROLLA/BLACK • 2T1BR32E35C325375 *****
8864611 • 2006/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/RED • 1GNEC13V56R102707 *****
8864631 • 1998/BMW/Z3/GREEN • 4USCJ3329WLB62223 *****
8864654 • 1994/JEEP/GRAND CHER/WHITE • 1JAGZ58Y9RC252038 *****
8864836 • 2005/NISSAN/MURANO/RED • JN8AZ08W15W444211 *****
8864850 • 2016/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE • 5NPDH4AE1GH770135 *****
8865210 • 2007/MITSUBISHI/GALANT/SILVER • 4A3AB36F77E083903 *****
8865292 • 2000/MERCURY/GRAND MARQUIS/SILVER • 2MEFM75W1YX667577 *****
8867485 • 2018/KIA/SORENTO/RED • 5XYPG4A34JG425131 *****

8861888 • 2000/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/GOLD • 1GCEK19T8YE336643 *****
8861999 • 2005/CHEVROLET/EQUINOX/WHITE • 2CNDL13F856082567 *****
8862090 • 2008/MERCURY/SABLE/SILVER • 1MEHM40W58G600632 *****
8862127 • 2004/ACURA/MDX/WHITE • 2HNYD188X4H0500811 *****
8862153 • 2020/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/WHITE • 5NPD84LF9LH539788 *****
8862202 • 2001/NISSAN/ALTIMA/RED • 1N4DL01D01C218584 *****
8864649 • 2003/JEEP/GRAND CHER/WHITE • 1J4GX58S43C586731 *****
8868632 • 2006/GMC/YUKON XL 1500/WHITE • 1GKEC16Z96J135719 *****
8868721 • 2016/TOYOTA/COROLLA/GRAY • 2T1BURH8GC532968 *****
8868751 • 2015/CHRYSLER/200/WHITE • 1C3CCCB2FNF603974 *****
8868769 • 2009/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/BLUE • 1G1ZG57B694266158 *****
8868833 • 2011/MERCEDES/E CLASS/BLACK • WDDHF5GBXBA445810 *****
8868876 • 1999/ACURA/RL/SILVER • JH4KA9658X006231 *****
8871350 • 2005/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/WHITE • 2GCEK13T151137732 *****
8871614 • 2007/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/BROWN • 1GCEC14C57Z557516 *****
8910046 • 2006/NISSAN/ALTIMA/GRAY • 1N4AL11D06N391638 *****
8912511 • 2001/SUZUKI/OTHER/GREEN • JS1GT74A312107237 *****
8915144 • 2011/FORD/F150/WHITE • 1FTEX1CMXBFB46895 *****
8949559 • 2014/HONDA/ACCORD/YELLOW • 1HGCR2F53EA277293 *****
8949953 • 1998/CHEVROLET/LUMINA/SILVER • 2G1WL52M6W9255953 *****
8950100 • 2015/CHRYSLER/200/GRAY • 1C3CCCB1FN696227 *****
2/5/2026, 2/12/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MIMS SHERIFF, JR., DECEASED

P2024-282

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MIMS SHERIFF, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Lorraine Sheriff, Petitioner seeking the adjudication of heirs of Mims Sheriff, Jr., Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:30 o'clock p.m., on the 25th day of March, 2026, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Dewayne Thomas, 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 2nd day of February, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR,
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bid 3255

Powell Middle School Phase 2 Project ESSER Renovations

Electronic and sealed bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) Thursday, March 7, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conferences concerning this project will be held at 3655 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213 on Thursday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informality, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpsdmrprojects.com](http://jpsdmrprojects.com). A \$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Charles Bunniran at Allen & Hoshall, Phone: 601-977-8993, or Email: cbunniran@allen-hoshall.com.

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD web site at <https://www.youtube.com/jpsd19> for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid. Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Also, until further notice, all opening will be recorded and uploaded to the JPSD web site at <https://www.youtube.com/jpsd19> for public viewing due to covid 19. Vendors will not be allowed to sit in on the bid openings.

2/5/2026 2/12/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF THE MINOR
CHILD DESCRIBED WITHIN

CAUSE NO.: AD2025-11795 G/2

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER OF THE
MINOR CHILD BORN ON March 8, 2022
IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS at
Abcension Seton Medical Center Austin

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR
RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 O'clock A.M. on the 12th day of May, 2026, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Court at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Tiffany Grove. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may 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 seal of said Court, this the 29 day of January, 2026.

(SEAL)

LEGAL

Advertisement for:
RFP 2026-03-26
ACT Support for JPS
RFP 2026-04-26

Standard Aligned Assessments Items for Student Practice Enrichment

Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 for RFP 2026-03-26 and Friday, February 27, 2026 for RFP 2026-04-26 both until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the listed project will be held Via ZOOM (see below for link) on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (central) for RFP 2026-03-26 and Friday February 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (central) for RFP 2026-04-26. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via ZOOM:

RFP 2026-03-26
<https://jackson-k12-ms.zoom.us/j/81941223307?pwd=laongEpA7FXpbex6fAuZVK0AUrZdLU.1>

RFP 2026-04-26
<https://jackson-k12-ms.zoom.us/j/87631216549?pwd=IDNnXGAPL3NwY6Nja9CQmDmx3jyvbp.1>

Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us to ensure your spot in the pre-bid conference. It is imperative to have this information before the meeting to confirm your attendance

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject all RFPs, waive informalities, and withhold the acceptance of any RFP if approved forty-five calendar days from the date RFPs are opened.

There are two (2) options in which RFP proposals may be obtained. Download from Central Bidding website at www.centralbidding.com for a small fee of \$49.99 or visit JPSD website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us and download. Vendors must be registered with Central Bidding in order to electronically upload RFPs proposals at no cost. For any questions concerning the process, or how to register, please contact Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

All hand-delivered proposals must be delivered before the opening time (local prevailing time) and the date the bid is scheduled to open. These deliveries are to be made to the Business Services Office at 662 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

Performance Dates:

- 1st Advertise: 05 February 2026 (Clarion); 2nd Advertise: 05 February 2026 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
- 2nd Advertise: 12 February 2026 (Clarion); 2nd Advertise: 12 February 2026 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
- Pre-bid Conference: 13 February 2026 (ZOOM)
- Final Date for Questions: 18 February 2026
- Answers to Questions: 20 February 2026
- Bid Opening Day: 25 February 2026 for RFP 2026-03-26 by 10:00 A.M.
- Bid Opening Day: 27 February 2026 for RFP 2026-04-26 by 10:00 A.M.
- Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

2/5/2026 2/12/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF THE MINOR
CHILD DESCRIBED WITHIN
CAUSE NO.: AD2025-11795 G/2

TO: ADRIAN DANIELLE WALKER,
MOTHER OF J. W.
ANYWHERE SHE MAY BE FOUND

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE COMPLAINT OR PETITION WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR
RIGHTS.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 O'clock

A.M. on the 12th day of May, 2026, in the courtroom of the Hinds County Chancery Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, before Honorable Tiffany Grove. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may 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 seal of said Court, this the 29 day of January, 2026.

(SEAL)



Eddie Jean Carr
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

2/12/2026

LEGAL

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RFP 2026-06-26

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Electronic RFP proposals for the above RFP will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on Friday, March 06, 2026 until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) on the following dates and times associated with each RFP proposal which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud

A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the listed project will be held Via ZOOM (see below for link) on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. central standard time. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly encouraged. Please see the link below.

Join Via ZOOM:

<https://jackson-k12-ms.zoom.us/j/82295108722?pwd=a2npZ0RHhy6Yoko3zS29ZR7Bg9atP7.1>

Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us to ensure your spot in the pre-bid conference. It is imperative to have this information before the meeting to confirm your attendance

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Performance Dates:
• 1st Advertise: 12 February 2026 (Clarion, Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• 2nd Advertise: 19 February 2026 (Clarion, Jackson Advocate, MS Link)
• Pre-bid Conference: 23 February 2026 (ZOOM)
• Final Date for Questions: 26 February 2026
• Answers to Questions: 02 March 2026
• Bid Opening Day: 06 March 2026 by 10:00 A.M.
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

2/12/2026, 2/19/2026

FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 2026

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10 • THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 2026

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Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor
1555 Beasley Road, Jackson, MS 39206



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2026 "Back In The Day", A Black History Celebration
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Educator

Mr. Richard POLK
Ret. EEOC

Dr. Amos BROWN
Civil Rights Icon

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The WATSON FAMILY

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | 6PM

Grand Finale Honorees and Special Guests



Dr. Daphne C. WILSON
Historian

Waikinya CLANTON
Legal Activist

Bro. Melvin MILLER
Administrator

Lt. Ralph MOORE
US Navy

Dr. Tonya MOORE
Nurse Educator

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REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR



PRESERVED Racism and the Church

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Every so often, I have to revise this column to reflect yet another hateful, bigoted and racist comment made by the current president of the United States. This time it wasn't comments that he made but a video that he posted on his social media depicting the beloved former president and his wife (Barack and Michelle Obama) as monkeys. This classic racist trope shocked some and merely confirmed to others that he is a racist motivated by hate-filled cruelty and a desire to further divide our country along racial lines.

In the past, he boldly taunted that four Congresswomen should "go back to where they came from" another racist and demoralizing comment. Rather than spend the rest of this week's column listing all of the racist things Trump has said in his lifetime (there is not enough space for that), I'd rather spend my column looking at how should Christians respond. With prayer? With conversations across denominational and racial lines. These things might work, but history has shown those efforts often work for a short time until the next racist comment is made. So, what should Christians do?

A couple of years ago, Pastor Dwight McKissic and Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington held a Kingdom Conversation about Race and the Alt Right. This event took place partly because of the weak response of the Southern Baptist Church to the Charlottesville White Nationalist racist hate rally in August 2017. Then and now, questions about how the church could take a leading role in healing our nation were raised. The event offered the following as points to pray about moving forward regarding racism and the Christian church.

1. We are praying and believing

God for racial healing and unity in the Southern Baptist Convention and revival in our churches and the Nation in order that America may be peaceable and a well-ordered society, demonstrating liberty and justice for all.

2. White Supremacy contradicts the Word of God and is an ideology that no authentic Kingdom citizen /follower of Christ can affirm. Therefore, we are praying that The Lord would rebuke the public and private attitudes and actions demonstrating White Supremacy in America.

3. We are praying for our President, pastors, political leaders, parents, neighbors and friends to stand boldly against fascism and to exercise wisdom in our daily walk during these racially turbulent times.

I don't know what the answer is but I think the best place to start is in the word of God. The bible says in Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." 1 John 2:9 also reminds us "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness."

Looking back at these prayer points, it's sad to note how it seems like we haven't made much progress in race relations in the two years since the conversation was held. But that's not because of a lack of effort. Racism is the original sin that stains our country. Perhaps the first step in dealing with racism is acknowledging that it exists which recent events show for some is perhaps the hardest thing.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas 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 Instagram @shewandawrites.

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Heart transplant survivor urges women to listen to their hearts

February is American Heart Month, and time is of essence

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

Six years ago, Frederica Angel Meeks of Canton, Miss., was fighting for her life.

Diagnosed with congestive heart failure in 2011, Meeks underwent multiple treatments, procedures, and heart devices as her heart condition worsened, and eventually she underwent a heart transplant on Jan. 24, 2020, that saved her life.

Today, she is using her testimony to encourage women to take their heart health seriously -- a message she shared Friday, Feb. 6, with reporters during the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women observance at The District at Eastover in Jackson.

And, recently, she shared that she spoke Saturday, Feb. 7,

at Rogers Park in Canton to the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Central Mississippi Chapter for their Go Red Heart Walk.

"I am a six-year heart transplant recipient of the University of Mississippi Medical Center," Meeks told The Mississippi Link during the Eastover event. "And I wanted to come out and support Go Red for Women."

Asked what she would advise women about the importance of heart health awareness, she replied: "Go to the doctor; get your heart checked; just get your whole body checked, just scanned because you never know what's going on inside of your body."

Marketing Communication Director Mary Brinson of the Jackson American Heart Association said, "Today is National Wear Red Day, which is an ini-

tiative which brings awareness to the plight of women and cardiovascular disease!"

The event, held from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 6, as part of the American Heart Association national Go Red for Women campaign, which raises awareness that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease accounts for about 1 in every 5 female deaths nationwide. The American Heart Association reports that nearly sixty million women in the U.S. are living with some form of heart disease, yet many remain unaware of their risk.

Brinson reiterates that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women "above breast cancer, above car accidents,

above anything."

"So, for American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day, we wanted to partner with The District to have a full-free family event where we could come out, listen to music, get their face painted, most importantly learn hands-on in CPR," said Brinson.

"We know that one in three women will be subject to heart disease during their lifetime, so what we are trying to do is to encourage women to know their numbers, know what your blood sugar is; know your cholesterol. We encourage women to get their blood pressure check; just to live your healthiest life."

Nationally, health experts stressed that risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity

and smoking significantly increase a woman's likelihood of developing heart disease. They also emphasized that symptoms in women can differ from men, often appearing as fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea or discomfort in the back or jaw rather than the stereotypical chest pain.

For Meeks, the message is deeply personal. Now a sixth-year transplant survivor, she hopes her testimony will inspire women to prioritize regular screenings and to advocate for themselves when something feels wrong. She keeps a photo of her heart donor with her all the time.

Below is an excerpt from Meeks' heart story posted on the board of UMMC:

"... on January 23rd I received a call informing me that

I had a heart (suitable donor) to come available which I only had one hour to get to the hospital to be prepped and ready to receive my new heart.

"This would be the best day of my life, knowing that my life was purposely about to change for the best. January 24th, I received the gift of life which I am highly grateful for from beautiful donor Brandi. I will forever hold her heart in my heart and take care of it to the best of my ability. All of this was possible because of God; I will always and forever thank Him for what He is doing in my life in the present and the near future."

Meeks shared with The Mississippi link that she had had the opportunity to travel out West to meet her donor's family and to allow them to listen to Brandi's heartbeat.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON AND GAIL BROWN



James and Carol Cooper celebrate 60 years of marital bliss: Mark 10:9

By Rhonda Cooper
Guest Write

James and Carol Cooper, both born and raised in Greenville, Mississippi, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Saturday, December 27th, 2025.

The two met when James, a junior at Coleman High School, attended a carnival at Sacred Heart Catholic School where Carol was also a junior. That school outing was the beginning of their love and life together.

They were married on Sunday, December 26, 1965, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Greenville.

To welcome travelers from near and far, the couple began the commemoration of their 60-year marriage with a Meet and Greet Friday, December 26th, at the Hyatt Place in Ridgeland. The gathering was light and festive and an opportunity for those present to continue sharing in the spirit of Christmas.

A Celebration Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Madison Saturday morning marked the highlight of the diamond anniversary. Family, friends, and fellow parishioners came together to worship and witness as Fr. Albeen Vatti and Msgr. Elvin Sunds officiated the Mass. The couple's children, Rhonda and Ryan, and granddaughters, Caron and Kallia, were Mass participants.

During the homily, Fr. Albeen used the letters in the couple's last name to emphasize their union and commitment to God, family, church, and community: Courageous; Optimistic; Obedient; Playful; Earnest; and Responsible.



James and Carol Cooper celebrated their Diamond Anniversary with family, friends, familiar faces and new acquaintees.

The Mass concluded with the presentation of an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Leo XIV to the Coopers as an intercession and invocation of divine grace for the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

An exceptionally elegant reception followed at the County Club of Jackson, where the attendees socialized both with familiar faces and new acquaintances. It was a beautiful melding of high spirits and warm souls bound by one

thread: LOVE.

Instead of bringing gifts, guests were asked to donate to their choice of five charities: the Alzheimer's Association, Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, Catholic Charities, Inc., American Heart Association, and Blair Batson Children's Hospital. Female donors received fresh, long-stemmed roses as a token of appreciation for their contributions. The amount of funds raised was astonishing, and each of the charities was grateful for the immense support of their missions.

The Coopers' son, granddaughters, and grandson-in-law, Reginald, shared with the well-wishers how their (grand) parents influenced and enriched their own lives with love, support, and guidance. And their daughter provided a unique historical tribute to her parents with the same six words to describe their decades-long journey and the lessons learned from them.

The audience listened attentively to how Courageous James and Carol were after graduating high school to leave the familiarity of Greenville for the unknown of Los Angeles, California in June 1963.

Committed to love and happiness, James and Carol are a playful pair. He has always teased and joked about his wife, while she, a "lefty," has never hesitated to punch her husband in the arm.

Although their plans for life in California changed, the

two remained optimistic when James enlisted in the United States Air Force and Carol returned home to Greenville, by way of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The couple, knowing the importance of obedience to God, married after James completed the military's basic training. James, his bride, and baby girl lived for a short while in Amarillo, Texas – another large state for a small, yet courageous, young family.

The United States, then at war in Vietnam, deployed the Air Force there. James and Carol were resigned to optimism and obedience because they believed in and trusted God during this separation.

Carol graduated from Mississippi Valley State College with her degree in English in 1967 and began teaching immediately. James completed his military service in 1968 and enrolled in Jackson State College where he majored in Accountancy.

The next five years found the family traveling on weekends between Jackson and Greenville and attending Mass on Sundays at Christ the King Church on Lynch Street when in Jackson.

Committed to love and happiness, James and Carol are a playful pair. He has always teased and joked about his wife, while she, a "lefty," has never hesitated to punch her husband in the arm.

In 1973, they transferred their playfulness and playtimes

from Greenville to Jackson permanently when they purchased their first home in Bel Air Estates, the first subdivision in Jackson developed exclusively for Black families. The couple's son was born in 1976.

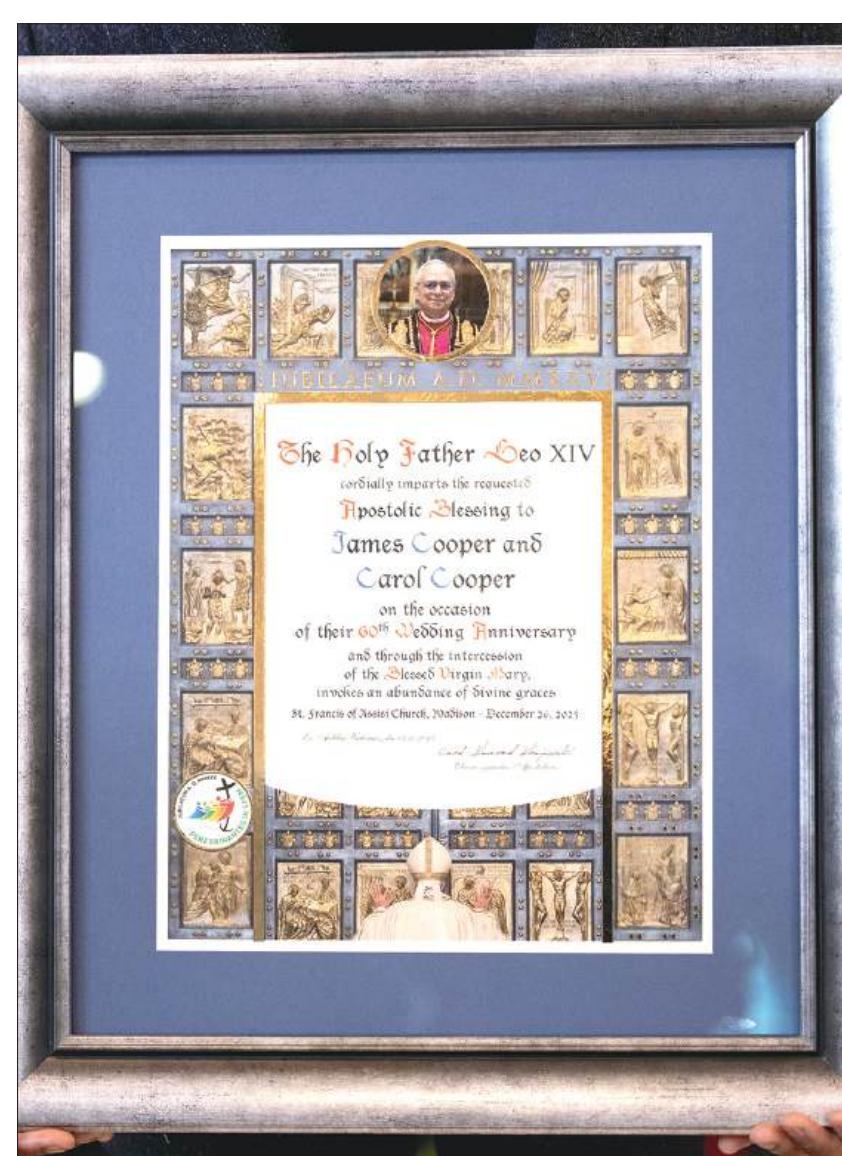
Earnestly because of their Delta upbringing and work ethic, James and Carol moved from Jackson to Madison County where they have now resided for 37 years.

Throughout these years, James and Carol welcomed two granddaughters; dedicated themselves to service at Holy Ghost Catholic Church; devoted countless hours of leadership to the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver; retired from their long-standing careers;

enjoyed the company of their "walking" and "golf" buddies; and continued traveling extensively with friends and family. Most recently, the couple has embraced the joys of becoming great-grandparents.

Throughout all circumstances, the Coopers have remained responsible, a quality reflected not only in their children and grandchildren but also recognized by those acquainted with them.

Celebrating 60 years of love, the couple's niece, Danielle Cooper, said, "My Uncle James and Aunt Carol have shown us what it means to love from a young age, build as a unit, and grow old together. This is what 60 years of marriage looks like."





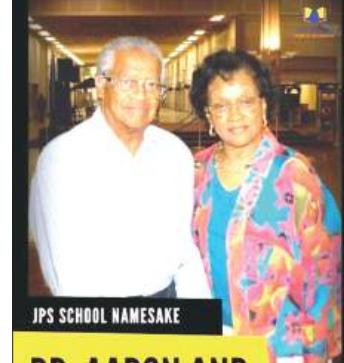
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Celebrating Black History Month



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Black History Month is a time to honor the resilience, courage, and achievements of generations of African Americans who persevered through adversity to advance freedom, equity, and justice. Jackson Public Schools proudly celebrates Black history by uplifting the people and stories that paved the way for our district's growth and strength, shaping JPS into a thriving educational community at the heart of Mississippi.

Quick Facts

Jackson Public Schools was once named the Jackson Municipal Separate School District.

It was separated by race into all-black and predominantly white schools. Brinkley, Jim Hill, and Lanier high schools served only black students, while Murrah, Central, Provine, and Wingfield served predominantly white students. After the Civil Right Act of 1964 students were allowed to voluntarily integrate white schools in Jackson.

Hezekiah Watkins was a 13-year-old student at Rowan Junior High School when he was arrested July 7, 1961.

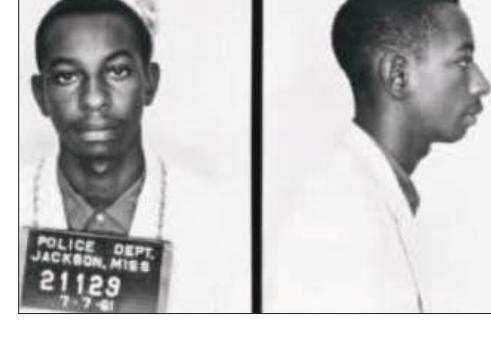
Watkins was the youngest Freedom Rider, a group of civil rights activists who took bus trips throughout the south to protest segregated terminals. He was sentenced to death row but Gov. Ross Barnett released him at the behest of President John F. Kennedy.

Smith Robertson School, established in 1894, was the first public school for black children in Mississippi.

Smith Robertson, the school's namesake, was the first black Alderman in Jackson and a successful barber. The school was originally named the West Jackson Colored School and became known as the Mother School. One of its most famous students was renowned author Richard Wright.

Lanier High School holds a national championship in basketball.

The 1964-1965 Lanier High School basketball team, coached by Mississippi Sports Hall of Famer Orsmond Jordan, completed a perfect undefeated season (43-0). The Bulldogs averaged 102 points per game and won by an average of 40 points. They went on to win a national championship, beating a team from Virginia in a post-season tournament in Montgomery, Alabama.



JPS SCHOOL NAMESAKE

DR. AARON AND OLLYE SHIRLEY

JPS SCHOOL NAMESAKE

GLADYS NOEL BATES

In the fall of 1965, 11 black students volunteered to integrate John W. Provine High School.

After attending three years at Jim Hill, the students decided during their senior year to break barriers on behalf of future generations of students in the capital city by enrolling at Provine. They followed through in spite of extreme opposition. The Fearless 11 has been made into a documentary film recounting their experiences.

In 2025, Jackson Public Schools renamed the Career Development Center after Megdar and Myrlie Evers, honoring the enduring legacy of two of Mississippi's most influential civil rights leaders.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on November 20, 2025. The ceremony included remarks from Reena Evers-Everette, daughter of Medgar and Myrlie Evers, who expressed gratitude for the recognition of her family's legacy. With the renaming, Jackson Public Schools not only pays tribute to the Evers family's profound impact but also strengthens its commitment to providing transformative opportunities that empower scholars to build successful futures.

Black School Namesakes

Gladys Noel Bates was a native of McComb, Mississippi. Bates was an African-American civil rights pioneer and educator who led legal action for salary equality for African American teachers and principals in the 1950s. The case was a landmark and forerunner for school desegregation cases of the 1950s. The fallout from her action forced Bates and her family to leave Mississippi. She and her husband moved to Denver, Colorado, where she received numerous awards for her achievements as an educator and community leader. A historical marker was dedicated in 2009 commemorating her significant contributions for African-Americans in the state. She was the only living school namesake on opening day at

Bates Elementary September 14, 2010. She passed away one month later, October 15, 2010.

Thomas W. Cardozo was born in Charleston, South Carolina, to a freeborn African American and a Jewish journalist. After he was married, he moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he became involved in building up the education, economics, and political power of African Americans in Mississippi. He was the first African American to serve as superintendent of education for the state of Mississippi. As state superintendent, he was interested in the education of all children even though the public schools were segregated. The statewide adoption of uniform textbooks was a reform that he supported. After serving as state superintendent, he moved to Massachusetts, where he died in 1881.

Odell Clausell was born June 18, 1907, in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. She received her early education in the public schools of Copiah County and went from there to New Orleans, LA, where she completed high school at Straight College, now a part of Dillard University.

She received her bachelor's degree from Tuskegee Institute and desiring to become proficient in her chosen profession of teaching, she pursued further education and received her master's degree from Indiana University.

Odell began her teaching career in the Jackson Public School District at the Smith Robertson School in September 1929 and was later transferred to the Martin School where she worked until the time of her death in 1952.

Henry J. Kirksey, a native of Lee County, Mississippi, was an outspoken civil rights activist and one of the first two African-American men elected to the Mississippi Senate after the Reconstruction Era. The election of more than 600 African-Americans to public office in the state can be credited partly to Senator Kirksey's service as

a plaintiff, expert witness, and community organizer. He was primarily responsible for bringing the state of Mississippi into compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act. His work also led to the City of Jackson changing its form of government and adopting single-member legislative districts in the state government of Mississippi. Later in his life, Kirksey continued his advocacy work and was an adjunct professor at Tougaloo College, where he lived on campus. He and his wife, Audrie Mann Kirksey, raised three children in Jackson.

Levi John Rowan was born in 1871 in Rodney, Mississippi. He graduated from Alcorn A&M College in 1893. Rowan taught five years in the public school system near Rodney before accepting a position as an English teacher at Alcorn. Later, in 1905, he became president of the college and remained in that capacity until 1911. He was reelected for a second time in 1915 and served as president until his death in 1934. He presided over the most ambitious expansion of facilities and student body growth in Alcorn's early history.

Although Rowan Middle School closed in 2017, the building became home to one of the school district's special programs soon after.

Drs. Aaron and Ollye Shirley were selected as namesakes for Shirley Elementary December 6, 2021. The couple was well-known in Jackson as healthcare and education advocates.

Dr. Aaron Shirley (January 3, 1933–November 26, 2014), dedicated his life to others as a pioneer of rural and urban health care for the state of Mississippi. A native Mississippian, he became the first African-American resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1965. Following his residency, he helped to establish the Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. He also established a comprehensive

school-based clinic to provide health and counseling services. It was his commitment to the medical profession that inspired his vision for a one-stop-shop healthcare facility for the underserved. That concept became a reality with the Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center, acclaimed as one of the nation's most unique community health-care endeavors.

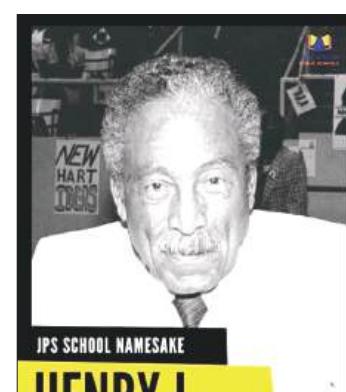
Dr. Ollye Shirley (January 10, 1934–September 10, 2016) was an accomplished leader in public television, children's programming and advocacy, civil rights activism, public education, community service, and more. As a long-serving member of the JPS School Board, she assisted in a significant School Board referendum that allowed the District to expand and improve its facilities. She was also instrumental in expanding Mississippi Educational Television's programming in this area to include Sesame Street, despite initial opposition because of its ethnically diverse cast of adults and children.

Ida B. Wells was born enslaved in Holly Springs, Mississippi in 1862. She gained acclaim as an investigative journalist, educator, and early civil rights movement leader. After losing both of her parents to a yellow fever outbreak when she was only 16, Wells dropped out of school and began teaching to take care of herself and her remaining siblings. Wells began writing about racial prejudice and the conditions of segregated schools. She became a publisher and owner of two newspapers. Wells also co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Throughout a lifetime dedicated to combatting prejudice and violence and



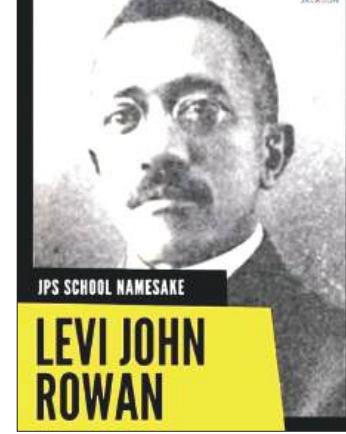
JPS SCHOOL NAMESAKE

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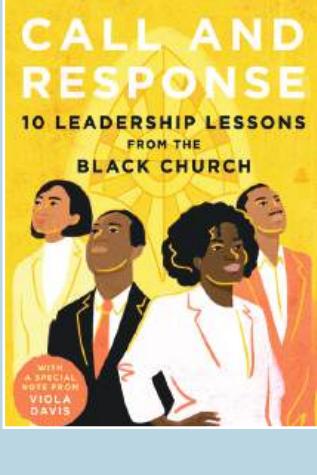
HENRY J. KIRKSEY



JPS SCHOOL NAMESAKE

LEVI JOHN ROWAN

the fight for African-American equality, especially for women, Wells arguably became the most famous black woman in America.



BOOK REVIEW:

CALL AND RESPONSE: 10 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE BLACK CHURCH

BY L. MICHELLE SMITH
C.2026, AMISTAD
\$28.99 • 288 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Your shoes are shined. Wiped down, spiffed up, clean and looking great from toe to head. You're wearing your finest outfit, a new hat or tie, and you're confident that the Lord (and your fellow churchgoers) will look favorably upon you. But it doesn't stop there: In the new book, "Call and Response" by L. Michelle Smith, you can have your Sunday best, Monday through Friday.

Not long ago, while relaxing at her parents' home for the holidays, L. Michelle Smith's

mother handed her a photograph that made her think. It was a picture of several young ladies near a church with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Smith says, "it was apparent what was happening" in the photo; she recognized the scenario immediately: "The group had just finished preparing a meal for the congregation in honor of their guest..."

The photo astonished her; surely other Black churches had similar tales of "leadership grounded in faith and purpose" to tell. As a business owner, she, herself, had enjoyed the

guidance she received from the Black church, growing up.

But she worried: today's faithful often looked for services online.

"Could leaders be missing out on a crucial aspect of the value of the traditional Black Church by skipping... the experience or even limiting [it] to a digital one?"

If so, they sorely need to acknowledge leadership skills that the Black Church offers.

The Black Church "prepared us for the boardroom," says Smith, through purpose and faith. It offers supportive com-

munity. It teaches the value in engaging stories and in speaking well to one's audience. Resilience is learned, including "decision-making, communications, agility, and emotional intelligence..." Perseverance is another lesson, one that helps with many kinds of goal achievement. The Black Church teaches collaboration, accountability, social justice, innovation, and "economic empowerment."

And if today's leaders are not paying attention, many of the lessons may be lost...

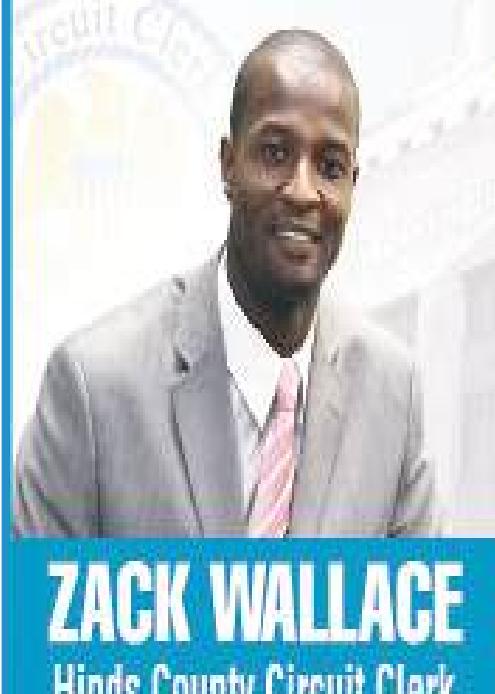
Is that a good "call" example

from "Call and Response"? With a unique take on leadership skills and a clear warning that tomorrow's leaders are depriving themselves of valuable lessons, you might think it is.

Fortunately, author L. Michelle Smith doesn't just sound the siren and leave it at that. At the end of each help-filled chapter, she includes brief takeaways that you might want to remember for further reference, and "coaching questions" to get the most out of what you learn and what you need to share. Readers will also be well-advised to keep a pack of sticky flags handy, so

you can refer to her advice as needed. If there's not enough information for you, she offers a nice chapter of other sources and ways to take her warning and her information further. Is that the "response" example? Happily, it sure looks like it.

For the business-minded, this is an unusual book that can be read by anyone, including non-Black Church-going readers. It might also be the eye-opener that young entrepreneurs need as a boost. If you're looking for leadership inspiration in a different kind of book, "Call and Response" shines.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

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

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

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

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

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Services of the Clerk:

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

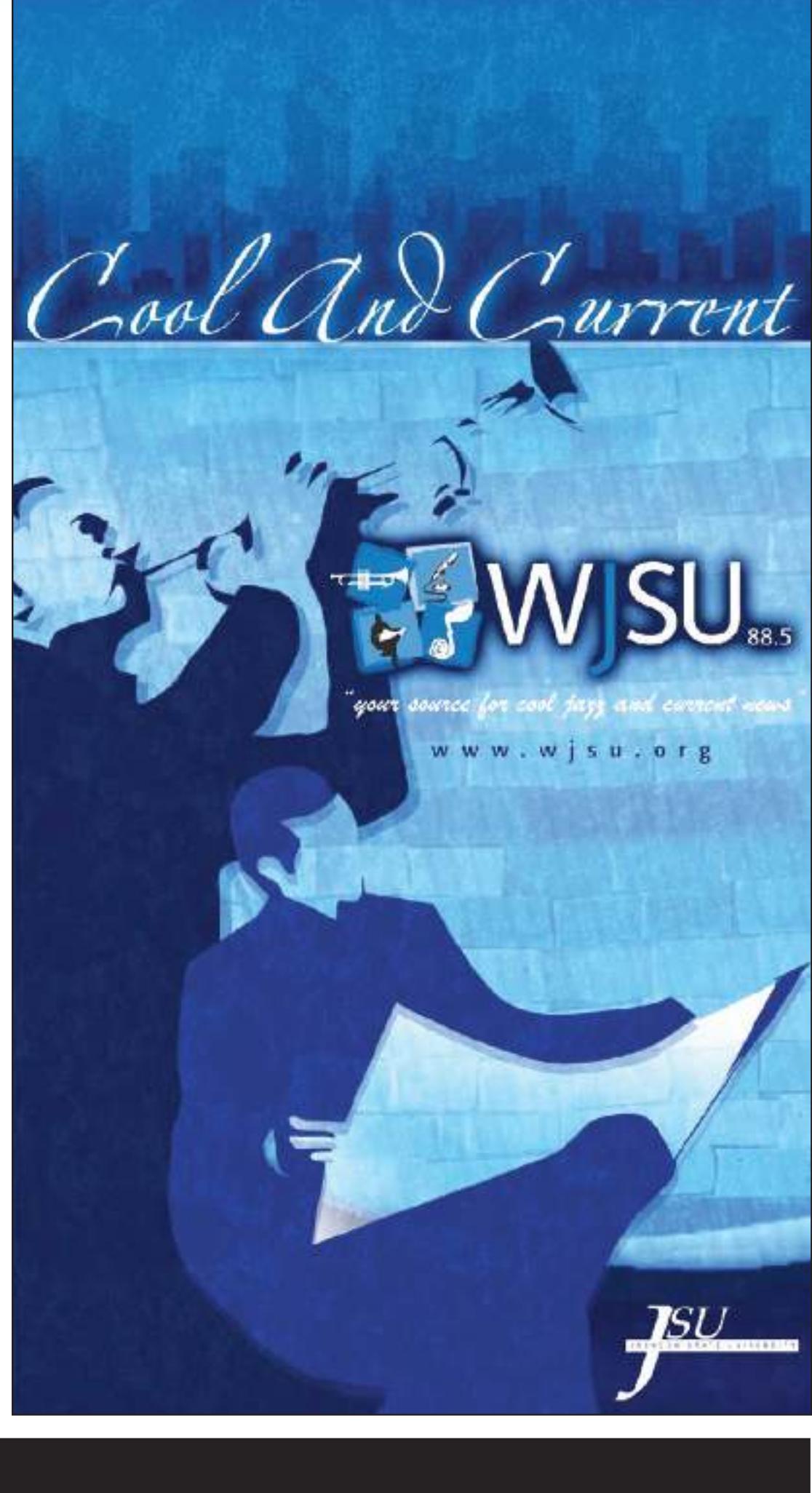
VOTER INFORMATION

[Verify/Update your Registration Today](#)

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

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

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



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!

Behold Olympic Speedskater Erin Jackson

Medals represent individual achievement. Flag bearers represent the prestige of a Nation.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

By all accounts, the woman pictured above is now 33, let's start there. She's been making headlines for ten years now, ever since switching from inline to speed skating and within a year qualifying for the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, in 2018. With just four months experience, she finished 24th out of 31, then four years later catapulted to winning gold at the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

It had been 28 years since a U.S. woman had won gold in the 500-meter skate. Additionally, that made her the first black woman to ever win Winter Olympic Gold in an individual sport. A year before she had won the World Cup Speedskating races in Poland, the first ever African American to do so. Then in both 2024 and 2025, she won gold in the 500-meter at the Four Continents Speed Skating Championships. And here she is again, after battling health issues, ready to skate in the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympics, ranked as the World's number one Female Speed Skater.

Born in Ocala, Florida, and skating since she was eight years old, first as a figure skater, she attended Shores Christian Academy, Howard Middle School, and Forest Hill High School. She graduated with honors from the University of Florida. Her mother, Rita, was a pharmacy technician and passed away when Erin was in High School. Her father Tracy is a U.S. Army veteran and fire truck builder. She has one sibling, her brother Corey, per www.sportskeeda.com. She maintains her roots in Florida, but trains at the Utah Olympic Oval in Kerns, Utah.

The Olympic Games have been



L-R: Erin Jackson leads U.S. Team in Milan Opening Ceremonies. PHOTOS: REDDIT AND OCALA-NEWS.COM.



L-R: Erin Jackson leads U.S. Team in Milan Opening Ceremonies. PHOTOS: REDDIT AND OCALA-NEWS.COM.



Erin Jackson catching snow in Milano-Cotina. PHOTO: AL BELO/GETTY IMAGES.

COMMENTARY

around nearly 3,000 years, beginning in ancient Greece. The United States made its debut in the Summer Games in 1896, and the Winter Games in 1924. Until this year, the United States has fielded 2,951 athletes in the Winter Games, earning 330 medals – 114 Gold, 121 Silver, and 95 Bronze. There are now 232 U.S. Olympic Team athletes at this year's Olympic Games – 115 are female. Ages span from 15 to 54. Nine are African American and four of the nine

are women – Erin Jackson (Speed Skating), Laila Edwards (Ice Hockey), Elana Meyers Taylor (Bobsled), and Kaysha Love (Bobsled).

The first of Jackson's skates, the 1000-meter, was held Monday, February 9, 2026, and she finished sixth out of a total of thirty long-track female skaters. Her second event, the 500-meter, is her specialty, and is scheduled for Friday, February 15th at 10AM CST, and can be viewed live on NBC.

Despite injuries to her back, hamstring, and a 2023 surgery to remove

non-cancerous fibrous tissue from her uterus, she continues to rise. For this, her third Olympic Games, she was selected as one of two flag bearers by her fellow athletes. Olympic Gold in 2022 – first ever African American to do so in a Winter Games individual sport, and now the flag bearer for the United States of America Olympic delegation.

In the United States last week, the president signed a proclamation officially recognizing February as Black History Month. Somehow it seems miraculous. He has spent the entire first year

of his presidency, starting on day one, stripping diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives from the federal government, removing African American recognition from places of prominence like Arlington National Cemetery, rolling back Civil Rights protections, and driving up unemployment among African Americans.

He referred to the Bad Bunny headlined Superbowl show as "a slap in the face to our country. It makes no sense, it is an affront to the Greatness of America, and doesn't represent our standards of success, creativity, or excellence. Nobody understands a word this guy is saying, and the dancing is disgusting, especially for young children that are watching from throughout the U.S.A., and all over the world," he wrote on his Truth Social page, as reported by ABC News. In the white supremacist worldview, people with non-white skin, like Bad Bunny – the number one artist in the world on Spotify – don't matter and should remain invisible. Is he saying it's okay for children to watch a white presidential candidate mock a disabled reporter, but not okay for children to watch a music superstar sing in Spanish?

If Trump had the control, surely Jackson would not have been selected as a flag bearer for the United States delegation. Speaking to www.olympics.com, Jackson acknowledged being a history maker, and shared her profoundly simple truth, "I'm here to do something important. I'm here to be visible. I'm here to, you know, make a mark." We'll find out on Friday if she wins a second Olympic medal, but during this Black History Month, this Black woman waved the American flag while leading the U.S. delegation of athletes – a first in Winter Olympic Games history.

Area chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® celebrate 118 years of service, sisterhood

Mississippi Link Newswire

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Metro Jackson Chapters recently commemorated their 118th Founders' Day with a joint celebration that highlighted unity, collaboration, and a continued commitment to service. The Joint Founders' Day Luncheon, hosted by the Beta Delta Omega, Upsilon Upsilon Omega, Gamma Omicron, and Gamma Rho chapters, was held Jan. 11, at the Country Club of Jackson.

The elegant luncheon brought together 364 members from across the South



Jan 2, members served meals at Stewpot Community Services in Jackson.

As Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® marks 118 years of service, the celebration and community service events served not only as a reflection of its rich legacy, but also as a reaffirmation of its ongoing mission to uplift communities and advance its enduring commitment to sisterhood and service.

For more information or questions, contact Beta Delta Omega Chapter President Michelle Jackson Guy at beta-delta-omega-michelle-guy@gmail.com.



Luncheon attendees enjoy the event.

PHOTO CREDIT/THOMAS DOUGLAS OF DBD PHOTOS



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® members finish packing meals at Our Daily Bread in Canton.



Founders' Day Girl Summit attendees. Photo credit/MaChandra Forest-Wilder of MFW Photography

Pictured are (front row, from left) the 21st South Eastern Regional Director Jo Celeste Pettway; International First Vice President Charletta Wilson Jacks, Beta Delta Omega Chapter President Michelle Jackson Guy; (back row, from left) Gamma Omicron Chapter President Mariah Bailey, 26th South Eastern Regional Director Mitzi Dease Paige, 23rd South Eastern Regional Director Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter President Tamika Brent, and Gamma Rho Chapter President Precious Cooper. PHOTO CREDIT/THOMAS DOUGLAS OF DBD PHOTOS



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® International First Vice President Charletta Wilson Jacks waves to luncheon attendees. PHOTO CREDIT/THOMAS DOUGLAS OF DBD PHOTOS



Founders' Day choir sings inspirational song during the luncheon. PHOTO CREDIT/THOMAS DOUGLAS OF DBD PHOTOS



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® members prepare to serve at Stewpot Community Services in Jackson.

Child Find

The Hinds County School District is participating in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children through the age of twenty-one who reside in the Hinds County School District and who are suspected of having a physical, mental, communicative and/or emotional disability and may be in need of special education and related services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This Child Find effort includes homeless children, wards of the state, children parentally placed in private school, and children that are highly mobile and/or migrant.

Please refer individuals twenty-one years of age or under who may have a disability to Marcus Shorts, who

is the Child Find Contact person for our district. In accordance with federal guidelines, parents must express "concern in writing to a supervisory or administrative personnel of the appropriate educational agency, or a teacher of the child, that the child is in need of special education and related services" 34 CFR § 300.534

Please contact Marcus Shorts, Child Find Coordinator, at the following address and telephone number if you know of any individuals who need to be referred:

Hinds County School District
13192 Highway 18
Raymond, MS
(601) 857-7076.



HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

Team Healthcare Hustlers and Team Whitecoat Goats attend participate in Healthcare Hackathon hosted by Millsaps College

Monday, February 2, 2026, students from the Terry High School Branch of the Hinds County Career and Technical Center attended the Inaugural Healthcare Hackathon hosted by Millsaps College.

The day consisted of hands-on activities, lectures, and presentations from various schools on a range of topics. The writing prompt was "What is the biggest challenge in the US Healthcare System and how would YOU fix it?"

Team Healthcare Hustlers presented on "Racism in Healthcare", while Team White Coat Goats presented on "Burnout in Healthcare". Of the 10 teams competing, Healthcare Hustlers placed 2nd. Each team member was awarded a \$1000 merit-based scholarship to Millsaps College. We are extremely proud of their hard work.

Team Healthcare Hustlers: Kimora Powell, Jordyn Sutton, Kynsleigh Stewart, Addison Banks, Morgan Bolden, and Zykia Green.

Team Whitecoat Goats: Keevon Clark, Aaliyah Edwards, Madisyn Smith, Shykeria Leonard, Aniyah Chapman.



Team Healthcare Hustlers were awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Millsaps.



Team Whitecoat Goats

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Patrina Dace, HCSD's newest Board of Trustees member representing District 5. We look forward to her service and leadership.

