



## Jackson City Council confirms RaShall Brackney as the city's next Top Cop



RaShall Brackney. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON



Audience and council members

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

The Jackson City Council voted 6-1 to confirm RaShall Brackney as the City's new police chief, ushering in a new era of leadership for the Jackson Police Department (JPD). Ward 1 Councilman Ashby Foote cast the lone dissenting vote.

Brackney, who most recently served as police chief in Charlottesville, Virginia, will officially begin her role April 1. Her confirmation comes at a critical time for the capital city, as the department works to rebuild morale, address staffing shortages and rein in mounting overtime costs.

During the confirmation process, several council members raised questions about Brackney's proposed salary and leadership approach.

Ward 2 Councilwoman Tina Clay noted the City's current budgeted salary cap of \$130,000 for the police chief position and highlighted the process to get the position to Mayor John Horhn's suggested salary of \$150,000. Under the advisement from City Attorney Drew Martin, the Council voted to confirm her at the current budgeted amount. Any increase will require a fu-

ture vote by the Council. Council President Brian Grizzell, who represents Ward 4, pressed Brackney on her ability to unify the department and the broader community, referencing her previous tenure in Virginia. Brackney acknowledged the challenges she faced in Charlottesville and emphasized lessons learned about collaboration, transparency and trust-building.

In previously public interviews, much like during the confirmation hearing, Brackney emphasized her commitment to community/relational policing, data-driven strategies and strengthening community partnerships. She also underscored the importance of officer wellness and accountability, two areas she says are essential to rebuilding public confidence and internal morale.

Strong Educational Foundation Brackney brings a distinguished academic background to the role.

She holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Policy, along with graduate degrees in criminal justice and leadership studies. Her academic credentials complement more than two

decades of law enforcement experience, including service with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, where she rose through the ranks before becoming chief in Charlottesville.

Her educational achievements have often shaped her approach to modern policing, blending research-based practices with community centered engagement strategies.

Ward 5 Councilman Vernon Hartley leaned into Brackney's strong educational background and suggested he was looking forward to her implementing some of those tools within JPD.

Brackney will assume leadership of JPD at a time when the department faces significant operational and financial challenges. Among the most pressing issues is an excessive overtime burden that has strained the City's budget. Council members noted that managing overtime spending will be a key priority moving forward.

Equally urgent is restoring morale within the ranks. Like many departments nationwide, JPD has faced recruitment and retention difficulties. Brackney has indicated that investing in officers through training, leader-

ship development and improved communication, will be central to her strategy.

Grizzell stressed the importance of unity, expressing hope that Brackney can bridge divides within the department and across the community. Brackney responded by reaffirming her commitment to listening, engaging stakeholders and building trust both inside and outside the agency.

A New Chapter for Jackson Mayor John Horhn expressed his full confidence in Brackney's ability to lead the department forward. "We searched high and low for someone available," Horhn said. "With full support from the search committee, we believe Dr. Brackney is our best choice." With the Council's confirmation secured, attention now turns to implementation and when the Council will revisit her salary in a future vote.

Brackney steps into one of the most visible and demanding roles in city government. Her success will hinge on balancing fiscal responsibility with public safety priorities, while restoring confidence in a department that sits at the heart of Jackson's future.

## Black History is not a month; it's a mandate



(L-R) Curtis Nichouls, Jr. presents award to Monty Ross, Co-founder of 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks

By Curtis Nichouls Jr.  
Guest Writer

### COMMENTARY

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, February 22, 2026, the historic campus of Tougaloo College was alive with purpose.

Inside the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Civil Rights Research Center, generations gathered, students, elders, fraternity brothers, faculty, artists, and community leaders, for the annual Black History Program hosted by the Mighty Men of Epsilon Kappa Kappa Graduate Chapter and the Rho Epsilon Undergraduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The event was more than ceremony. It was continuation.

Service Rooted in Madison and Hinds Counties Epsilon Kappa Kappa (EKK), based in Canton, Mississippi, has long been a quiet force in Madison County. Through mentorship initiatives, scholarships, civic engagement, and partnerships with organizations such as Uplift Incorporated, EKK

works to strengthen families, encourage youth achievement, and promote economic and educational advancement. Their work is not performative. It is present. It is local. It is consistent.

The undergraduate chapter, Rho Epsilon — known across the state as "PE" — carries its own historic distinction. Rho Epsilon is the first undergraduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi established in Mississippi. For decades, it has shaped leaders on Tougaloo's campus and beyond, embedding service and scholarship into the DNA of student life.

Together, the graduate and undergraduate brothers created a program that honored both legacy and momentum.

A Building with History The setting itself mattered. The program was held in the Bennie G. Thompson building, named for Mississippi's longtime U.S. Congressman, a Tougaloo College graduate who has represented

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## JMAA hosts Q&A and book signing featuring Captain Beth Powell during Black History Month

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

In partnership with Hudson by Avolta, the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority hosted aviation trailblazer Captain Beth Powell for a Q&A and book signing of her book, "Queen of the Skies." The book is an inspiring story of Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot's license. The story is



Ken McBride in conversation with Beth Powell PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



JMAA CEO, Rosa Beckett, Beth Powell & McBride



Powell signing books purchased by attendees while McBride assists.

based on the impact and legacy she left and for daring to soar beyond society's limits.

The event was held Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Jackson - Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport in the Medgar Evers Pavillion from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CEO Rosa Beckett introduced Captain Powell. Beckett

told the listening audience that Powell is a powerful advocate for the next generation of aviators and a role model to young girls who may never have envisioned the possibility of reaching such heights in the field of aviation, where Powell currently serves as a captain for the world's largest airline. Beckett said, "her testament is

the story to dreams, perseverance, and breaking every expectation along the way."

A conversation led by Ken McBride of Hudson by Avolta was very captivating to the audience of listeners as Powell shared her journey from Jamaica at the age of fifteen to becoming an airline captain. McBride started the conversation

off by asking Powell who not only is a captain but also an author and a film maker, what were the defining moments for her that shaped the leader she is today? Powell told the story of how one of her teachers noticed her infatuation with numbers at an early age and told her she could become anything she wanted to be. She went home

and told her parents and from there her journey began.

After a powerful conversation with McBride, there was a Q&A that involved the media and the audience. Book purchasers stood in line for their autographed copies. In addition to selling out of books, the

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**Inside**  
Holmes Countians thank Congressman Thompson and staff for helping to get their power restored after the ice storm



**Books for Black History Month**



## Holmes Countians thank Congressman Thompson and staff for helping to get their power restored after the ice storm

Mississippi Link Newswire

Many Holmes Countians would like to publicly thank congressman Bennie G. Thompson and his staff for their unwavering efforts to assist them with getting their electrical power back on after the ice storm caused extensive outages

Thompson's District Director Fannie Ware told The Mississippi Link that after a request of from several ministers and community leaders from Holmes County and other impacted areas, Congressman Thompson joined them on a conference call, convened by local businessman Melvin Horton.

On the call were the county EMA Director Gyrone Granderson, Holmes County Supervisor Debra Mabry, Wardell Turner (Tchula), Elder William Lofton (Grenada), Evangelist Rebecca Lofton (Grenada), Pastor Leroy Gibson (Lexington), Minister Emmitt Randle (Collins), Anita Covington (Yalobusha), and Thompson's staff member Roosevelt Hawkins. They discussed the devastation that many residents were experiencing after the ice storm, particularly the long power outage.

This devastation included, but not limited to, limbs blocking roads, power outages, and no water due to water wells being down.

The severity of this ice storm caused problems in towns, cities



From the Busy Bee Community. Photos by De'Unta Friar and Antwan Clark

The above three photos are from the Rosebank Community. PHOTOS BY CHERISSE MARSHALL HARRIS

but was especially devastating and debilitating in rural communities. It becomes even more complicated when a county is served by multiple power companies which is the case in Holmes County.

Thompson's office said after listening to the problems of the leaders who were on the call representatives began to assess residents still without power.

In Holmes County, Executive Director Beulah Greer of the Community Students Learning Center, a nonprofit in Lexington, and her team volunteered to call around and secure names of residents who were still without power.

Greer and her team provided Hawkins the names and addresses of the residents. This information was very helpful because it appears that most of these homes were located in the very rural area of Holmes County,

which in some cases, were difficult to locate. "We were happy to help," said Greer, whose own home had to be powered by generator for several days.

Hawkins then reached out to the [respective] power company and requested that power restoration on those rural roads be expedited. The power companies responded to those requests without delay.

"It was truly a blessing to see neighbors helping neighbors during a time of need," Ware said.

Resident after resident have been expressing their gratitude. Kimberly Clayton of the Upper Louisville Road community in Holmes County shared this note of thanks:

*"I am writing to sincerely thank you for your assistance in helping restore power to my family after 13 long days without electricity.*

*Your willingness to contact the power company on our behalf made a tremendous difference. During those 13 days, we faced many challenges — including illness, food loss, disruptions to work and school, and the overall strain of being without basic utilities. Your intervention brought not only power back to our home, but also relief, comfort, and stability to my family.*

*It is reassuring to know that we have leadership that truly listens and responds to the needs of the community. Your actions demonstrated care, urgency, and commitment to the people you serve. Please know that my family and I are deeply grateful for your support. -- With sincere appreciation," Kimberly Clayton*

Resident Mayzel Benson of the Labanon community had this to say:

"Our community went without

power for ten days. I understand that the outage was caused by a natural disaster, and I appreciate that many people worked tirelessly to restore service as soon and safely as possible. What I'll never forget and gladly share with others is that once your office was notified, things started moving. My sister's lights were restored the next day. I was even told that crews were out early that morning, working to restore electricity. Congressman, I appreciate the work you do to ensure that all of us are treated fairly and with decency. Your leadership and attention have made a significant difference in our family and community."

Cherisse Marshall Harris of the Rosebank Community stated: "The ice storm brought many challenges to me and my family but after being without power for several days and seeking shelter that could also ac-

commodate our fur baby, I was so thankful when our power was restored and we were finally able to come back home."

Thompson and staff were happy to be instrumental in helping residents get their power restored in these rural and somewhat remote areas.

Holmes County residents also extend gratitude to the many men and women who stepped up during the crisis — neighbors who provided shelter, food, water, and support; volunteers who helped cut fallen trees; and especially to the electrical workers who labored tirelessly to restore power to every home affected by the ice storm.

*Journalism writing coach Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D. and youth-journalist-in-training Aaliyah A. Greer also contributed to the development of this article.*

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MISSISSIPPI



# Mandate

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L-R: Dr. Warren Jones, Dr. Obie Mcnair, Dr. Timothy Rush, Monty Ross, Isaiah Rush and Dr. Larry Johnson, PHOTOS COURTESY CURTIS NICHOLS

Mississippi's Second Congressional District since 1993. Congressman Thompson, one of the longest-serving members of Mississippi's congressional delegation and a leading voice on homeland security and civil rights, is a product of Tougaloo's legacy of leadership and activism. His name on that building is not symbolic, it represents the college's enduring connection to public service and justice.

Tougaloo, founded in 1869, has long been a cornerstone of Mississippi's civil rights history. During the 1960s, it served as a safe haven and organizing hub for student activists, Freedom Riders, and national leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. On this Sunday, that history was not simply remembered, it was embodied.

Rho Epsilon brothers Andrew Magee and Jay Holmes spoke briefly about Tougaloo's role in the movement, reminding attendees that the campus lawns and lecture halls were once staging grounds for strategic resistance and intellectual revolution.

Why Brigadier General Charles Young Matters  
This year's Black History focus turned toward Brigadier General Charles Young, a name not always taught in classrooms, but one that should be.

The late Charles Young was the third Black graduate of West Point, a distinguished military leader, diplomat, and scholar. During World War I, despite his record of excellence, he was forced into retirement under controversial circumstances widely understood to be rooted in racial politics. Determined to prove his fitness for service, Young famously completed a grueling 500-mile horseback ride to Washington, D.C., in an effort to be reinstated.

His story has a Mississippi dimension.  
Historical records indicate that political pressure from Southern leaders, including a U.S. senator from Mississippi, was part of the broader resistance to Young's wartime advancement. Mississippi was not just geographically distant from that decision; it was politically

connected to it.  
Yet the Mississippi connection runs deeper still.  
Young later served as a U.S. military attaché to Liberia. Liberia itself holds a significant historical tie to Mississippi. In the 19th century, formerly enslaved people from Mississippi were among those who migrated to Liberia through organized colonization efforts. One settlement was even known historically as "Mississippi in Africa," located in what is now Sinoe County.

So, on this day, as Charles Young's life was examined, the audience was asked to consider a powerful intersection: Mississippi's political role in Young's struggle, Mississippi's diaspora link to Liberia, and Young's diplomatic service in that same West African nation. History, once again, revealed itself as interconnected and global.

Enter Monty Ross  
If the historical framing grounded the audience, the keynote speaker lifted it.

Monty Ross, producer, filmmaker, and one of the creative architects behind some of the most influential films in Black cinema, took the stage not as a distant icon, but as a storyteller among family.

Ross, a producer on early Spike Lee films including *She's Gotta Have It* and *Do the Right Thing*, is a graduate of Morehouse College and a key figure in the generation of HBCU-trained creatives who reshaped American film in the late 20th century. He shared personal reflections about how he, Spike Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, Angela Bassett, and the late Bill Nunn were once simply students and friends at HBCUs like Morehouse, Clark Atlanta University, and Spelman College, unsure of their futures, but certain of their hunger.

What changed, Ross explained, was commitment.  
"You don't have to do everything," he told the students. "You just have to know your space and master it."

He spoke candidly about collaboration, about understanding your role on a team and respecting the collective vision. He urged students to find what they are most passionate about and focus on it relentlessly.

And then he pivoted.  
Artificial Intelligence, Ross insisted, is not something to fear. It is something to learn.

"AI is a tool," he said. "If you don't learn it, somebody else will use it better than you."

In a room filled with broadcast journalism students, aspiring filmmakers, musicians, and scholars, the message landed clearly: adapt, evolve, stay curious.

A Town Hall for the Future  
The evening did not end with applause.

After the Black History Program concluded, Monty Ross was

joined by two-time Grammy Award-winning music producer and member of Omega Psi Phi, Ron Carbo for a town hall discussion on Film, Music, and Artificial Intelligence.

Carbo, whose career includes producing and engineering Grammy-winning projects and working alongside major recording artists, brought a music industry lens to the conversation. With decades of experience in sound production, artist development, and global touring, Carbo reinforced the idea that excellence is built on discipline and technical mastery.

For two hours, Tougaloo students engaged the pair in close, candid dialogue. Broadcast journalism students asked direct questions about navigating media landscapes, protecting intellectual property, and maintaining authenticity in an algorithm-driven world.

There were no velvet ropes. No handlers. Just access.  
Students left not only inspired, but connected with business cards exchanged, mentorship conversations started, and internships discussed.

More Than a Program  
The annual Black History Program hosted by EKK and Rho Epsilon is open to the public. It often includes speakers from various fraternities and sororities, reinforcing unity across Black Greek-letter organizations. Its mission is straightforward yet expansive: educate the world about the accomplishments of Black Americans before the founding of this country, during its formation, and into its present and future.

The program delivered on that mission.  
It honored a 19th-century military pioneer.  
It acknowledged Mississippi's complex role in national history.  
It highlighted Liberia's diasporic ties.  
It celebrated Tougaloo's civil rights legacy.  
It bridged film, music, and emerging technology.  
And perhaps most importantly, it demonstrated that Black History is not static.

It is not confined to February.  
It is not confined to textbooks.  
It is not confined to the past.  
It is mentorship in real time.  
It is students asking bold questions.  
It is alumni returning to pour back into the next generation.

On that Sunday in February, in a building named for a Tougaloo graduate who went on to shape national policy, surrounded by young leaders from the first undergraduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi in Mississippi, history did what it does best when we allow it:

It connected yesterday to tomorrow.  
And it reminded us that the story is still being written.

# JMAA

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event was held on a day of historical significance marking the activation of the Tuskegee Army's first all-Black fighter squadron in 1942. This event, held during Black History month was a powerful reminder that aviation continues to be a vehicle for progress, representation, and dreams realized.



Group photo of JMAA along with Hudson and Avolta staff members along with McBride, Powell & Beckett who are seated.



DeAndra Fortenberry, executive assistant to CEO Rosa M Beckett, holds her autographed book, "Queen of the Skies by Beth Powell."



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More and better power at a lower cost

# Ghana Mourns a Son of the African World



L-R Rev. Dr. Fred Korankye-Mensah, Dr. David Whitaker, Nana Kyere Agyemang, Claudette Perry, Rabbi Kohain, Ambassador Dr. Erieka Bennett, Kofi Okyere Darko, Dr. Toni Luck, Brian Gray, Nia Weeks, Esq., Sgan Atur Manashe

By **Claudette Perry**  
Co-Founder and Board Member,  
Diaspora African Forum Diplomatic Mission

Accra, Ghana— “Reverend Jesse Jackson’s legacy, his spirit, belonged to the world,” said Kofi Okyere Darko, Director of the Diaspora Affairs Office of the President, during a ceremony honoring the life of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson. The tribute was arranged by the Diaspora African Forum Diplomatic Mission (DAF), the only diaspora diplomatic mission of its kind in the world. DAF was founded in 2007 by Ambassador Erieka Bennett, with Reverend Jesse Jackson among the co-founders.

Jackson was a frequent visitor to Accra and had met every Ghanaian president since Jerry John Rawlings (president, 1979–2001). His ties to the continent deepened in 2007, when the DAF mission opened in conjunction with the African Union’s annual summit, a landmark gathering at which African diaspora representatives were invited for the very first time to sit on the summit floor to observe the proceedings with continental African regional representatives. Reverend Jackson was then invited into a private session with the Heads of State, an honor without precedent in the history of the African Union. The delegation that accompanied him included Dr. Ambassador Erieka

Bennett, Head of Mission, DAF co-founder and board member Claudette Perry, Ambassador Andrew Young, Rabbi Nathaniel Kohain, jazz musician Herbie Hancock, Minister Akbar Muhammad, London fashion designer Oswald Boateng, the late Dr. Al Munsour, and former Chairman of the People’s Democratic Party Dr. Bamanga Tukur of Nigeria.

In Reverend Jackson’s own words, the Black American struggle and the African struggle were one and the same. It was a conviction he lived by. Central to his mission (and to that of the DAF) was the work of building bridges between Africans on the continent and those of the diaspora. That work was never abstract. Reverend Jackson was a major force in the international campaign to end apartheid in South Africa, garnering support from the presidents of eight neighboring nations that had won their own independence from colonial rule. He pressed the Reagan administration to impose economic sanctions on the South African government and stood before South African crowds in the wake of Stephen Biko’s murder. From Russia to the Middle East, there were moments when Reverend Jackson appeared to be the only figure capable of opening a door, including negotiating the release of Americans held captive abroad.



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# Cathedral A.M.E. Zion - a Freedom Church - Calls for Self-denial and Spiritual Muscle Gain

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

Two hundred and five years ago, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - founded in New York City - emerged from a movement of free Black congregants seeking independence from the predominantly white Methodist Episcopal Church. James Varick was ordained the first A.M.E. Zion Church bishop. Associated with the period after emancipation of the enslaved, the Church had been part of the abolitionist movement and became known as "The Freedom Church."

Cathedral A.M.E. Zion Church (428 W Northside Dr, Jackson, MS 39206), pastored by Rev. Gary D. Adams, Sr., who was dressed in African attire, took the church on a historic heritage journey. Audwin Fletcher shared a poetic piece titled "There is a King, Queen, Prince in Me." The order of the day was a two-part occasion, aimed to prick hearts. The 9:15 Morning Worship set the pace for Sunday School that occurred immediately thereafter. Minister Heidi E. Jones



Audwin Fletcher shares the poem, "There's a King, Queen, Prince in Me."

delved into Mark 8 as she highlighted the theme, "No Pain, No Gain." "You must take up your cross and lead to victory over the grave. Suffering is necessary to achieve something. Use progressive resistance pain in order to gain muscle. Muscle soreness is often used as a test for a good workout," voiced Jones.

Accommodated by Adams, Jones pulled the congregation into her message by using a number of weight lifts that demonstrated what it means to train self "to lift the weight of the Word." She told the listen-

ers that Joshua reminded the Israelites in Isaiah 40:31 (KJV): "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

The same message, she stressed, was meant for Cathedral. "It might be a little uncomfortable, but don't stop. To gain spiritual muscles, you must deny yourself. Get a new you. Learn to pray, meditate, and give that ten percent. We have to keep lifting ourselves up to take on God's image."



Minister Heidi E. Jones emphasizes that Cross-bearing is a daily routine  
PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

Emphasizing that old habits can be broken, the minister explained that striving for change requires "looking in the mirror." There is no way to get on the spiritual scale and expect change without denying the self. Hence, carrying the cross daily means spiritual growth. "We are not at liberty to lay down our religion," she said.

Jones concluded that gaining spiritual muscles requires following Jesus. "Obey the Father. Obey the Word of God. You've got to push pass all the distractions and give God some time," she said.

Minister Bessie Martin taught the Adult Class by weaving scriptures on tithing from the Old and New Testaments. She asserted that if we do not have the power of God in us, we give grudgingly. "This is why people leave the church saying, 'All they want is money.'"

The minister noted that tithing belongs to God. It allows us to put God first in our lives. "The house of God has to have money to run, so God said, 'Bring ye all the tithes to my house.'" Then the teacher asserted that during biblical days,

the people wanted to take part in the tithing ministry because they wanted to magnify God.

Martin discreetly and skillfully reminded the listeners of the A.M.E. Zion Church's mission: "to increase our love for God and to help meet the needs of humankind." This mission caters to loving God "with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves." Sharing Jesus' mission in healing the sick; helping the blind to receive sight; the lame to walk; the leper to be cleansed; the deaf to hear; the dead to be raised; and the poor to have Good News preached to them is also included in the church's mission.

Adams echoed the cries of both Jones and Martin. He then issued an appeal to the church: "Walk away with the theme for the next 40 days to spend time with scripture, prayer, and with God, and make a decision to look in the mirror at yourself." This should be in keeping with the church's significant presence worldwide, focusing on ministry and social change.

## Get an Estate Plan: They will love you for it

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



If I am married, my spouse will automatically inherit my assets when I die. If I am not married, my children will automatically inherit my assets when I die. If I do not have any major assets, there is no reason for me to have a "Will" in place. If I become incapacitated, my spouse and/or children will automatically make my end-of-life decisions for me. My spouse can automatically sign my name if I am not present or unable to do so.

As a Financial Coach and Counselor, I have personally heard all of these statements and more. The truth is, all of them are myths.

If you are 18 years of age or older, any age if married, or any age and have children, then an estate plan is essential and definitely a must-have for you.

Properly planning for the inevitable can save money, time, and will reduce a lot of pain and suffering among your family, friends and loved ones during an already difficult and emotional time.

When creating your estate plan, I recommend that you have three documents in place.

1) Power of Attorney: This document allows you, the principal, to appoint a trusted individual(s), referred to as an agent, to act on your behalf when you are unavailable to do so. Being out of town, incapacitated due to a terminal disease or illness, incarcerated, and military deployment, are just a few reasons why having a Power of Attorney in place is necessary. The individual(s) you appoint will be able to conduct and execute any type of business and financial affairs in your absence. Keep in mind, not having this document in place before you are considered incapacitated, can force the court to appoint someone as your agent. This court appointed person could also be someone you do not personally know, or an individual you never would have knowingly chosen. Going this route, could also cost your loved ones thousands of dollars in attorney and legal fees, headache, and a lot of wasted time. Be mindful, a Power of Attorney is automatically voided upon the death of the principal.

2) Living Will (Healthcare Directive): This document allows you, the principal, to detail your preferences about the types of medical treatment you do or do not want to receive in the event you become incapacitated due to a terminal disease or illness. In your Living Will, you will appoint a trusted individual(s), referred to as an agent, whose primary purpose is to make sure that all of the details and your wishes in this document are fulfilled. Having this document in place ensures that your loved ones will not face the burden of making im-

portant and uncertain medical decisions on your behalf. Not having this document in place could also force courts to make end-of-life decisions for you. If you are not convinced of the importance of this particular document, do your research on the now deceased, Terri Schiavo. Her sad, nationally headlined case and court battle, which cost her loved ones thousands of dollars in attorney and legal fees, lasted from 1998 to 2005 because this particular document was not a part of her estate plan.

3) Last Will and Testament (Will): This document allows you, the principal, to detail who you want to be the beneficiaries of your assets and belongings, who will become the guardian of your minor children, and who will take ownership of any pets you might have. This document can also express your wishes in regards to burial, cremation, and funeral arrangements. In your Last Will and Testament, you will appoint a trusted individual(s), referred to as an executor(s), whose primary purpose is to make sure that all of the details and your wishes in this document are fulfilled. Never include checking, money market, savings, investment, life insurance, or retirement accounts inside your Last Will and Testament. For these particular accounts, you can list your beneficiaries directly with the financial institutions. Doing so, will save money on attorney and legal fees when the time comes to execute the Last Will and Testament upon your death, as well as it will allow the beneficiaries to receive the proceeds from these accounts a lot easier and faster.

Creating these three estate planning documents for the average person is quite simple. There are plenty of do-it-yourself platforms to choose from. Personally, I recommend Rocket Lawyer. Their website is [www.RocketLawyer.com](http://www.RocketLawyer.com). Their platform will guide you step-by-step through the process to complete these three documents. Upon completion, you can also choose for Rocket Lawyer to have an attorney review your documents for accuracy. Going this route can definitely save you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in legal fees.

If you are uncomfortable using the do-it-yourself forms to complete your estate planning documents, hire a reputable attorney that specializes in estate planning to do so.

Regardless of the method you choose, show your loved ones you truly care about them and get your estate plan done as soon as possible. Trust me, they will love you for it.

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



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## MSU Alumni Chapter recognizes First Gen Doctor among 2026 Honorees for Excellence

By Gail Gettis  
Contributing Writer

When the envelope was opened the content should not have been a surprise for E. Katelynn Jackson who has been an outstanding individual and scholar from an early age. In that envelope, Jackson learned that she had been named one of 25 distinguished honorees among the Class of 2026 alumni of Mississippi State University. In March, a reception will be held to celebrate the honorees.

Jackson is a pediatric resident physician at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. Administrators and staff have taken note of her professional achievements and dedication to advancements in child health through clinical care, research, service and special patient care.



Jackson

about an area of specialty early in life. "I've always wanted to be a pediatrician. I want to be

one of the first people to impact the trajectory of a child's life, and I feel called to help peo-

ple," said Jackson. She plans to return to Mississippi in 2027 to practice, where her expertise will be greatly needed with many children facing poverty and limited access to healthcare, and very few pediatricians practice.

As a pediatric resident, Jackson advocates for child health policies as her program's delegate to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Globally, her work includes medical outreach in Kenya. She supported surgical procedures, provided care to underserved communities, and delivered patient education that earned her the University of Mississippi Medical Center Scholars Travel Award.

Additionally, Jackson's research included cardiovascular health disparities and she contributed to the Jackson Heart Study and has co-authored several peer-reviewed publications, presenting her

work at national conferences, including multiple American Academy of Pediatrics meetings. Other research included childhood obesity prevention, microbiome science, and infectious disease.

Jackson's many recognitions and achievements include Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholar, President's Commission on the Status of Women Award, Outstanding Montgomery Leadership Fellow, and MSU Homecoming Senior Maid.

Not only is she recognized among Cornell professionals, she also made an indelible impression at her alma mater before entering the medical program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (Jackson) in 2020 to pursue her dream of earning a medical degree as the first doctor in a family of various other respectable professions.

In spite of a busy and intense schedule Jackson always found time to commit to service with the Starkville Boys and Girls Club and PEDS to Read, a book-buddy initiative promoting literacy and mentorship, West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Jackson Free Clinic, UMMC Covid-19 Response, and other outreach initiatives.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi to Rev. Dr. Embra Jackson and Mrs. Rosia Jackson, who currently resides in Brandon. She graduated from the School for the Math and Sciences (Columbus), earned her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences as a Shackouls Honors College and Phi Beta Kappa scholar (2020, Summa Cum Laude) from Mississippi State University, and earned her Doctor of Medicine in 2024 from the University of Mississippi before moving on to residency at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

## Reverend Tonie Crisler prayed for Mississippi Senate

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Reverend Tonie Crisler, Pastor of Belmont Missionary Baptist Church in Raymond, and Grand Master of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliation/F&AM, Jurisdiction of Mississippi, delivered an opening prayer to the Mississippi Senate Monday, February 23, 2026, at the invitation of Senator David Blount, who led the Pledge of Allegiance before President Pro Tempore Dean Kirby, guided lawmakers through the day's agenda.

Several members of Belmont Baptist Church accompanied their pastor to watch him pray for lawmakers.



(L-R) Senator Hillman T. Frazier, Senator Kamesha B. Mumford, Senator David Blount, Pastor Tonie Crisler, Belmont Baptist Church, President Pro Tempore Dean Kirby, Senator Sollie B. Norwood and Senator Albert Butler.



Seen here are several members of Belmont Baptist Church who accompanied Pastor Crisler to the Mississippi Senate to watch him pray for lawmakers.

### The Mississippi Link™

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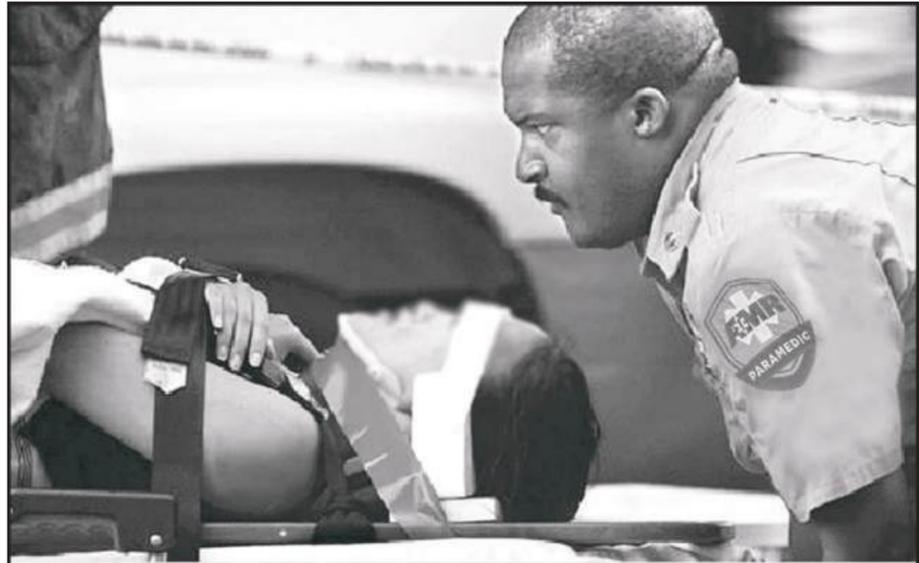
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# Mapping the Vaccine Landscape featuring Dr. Richard Besser

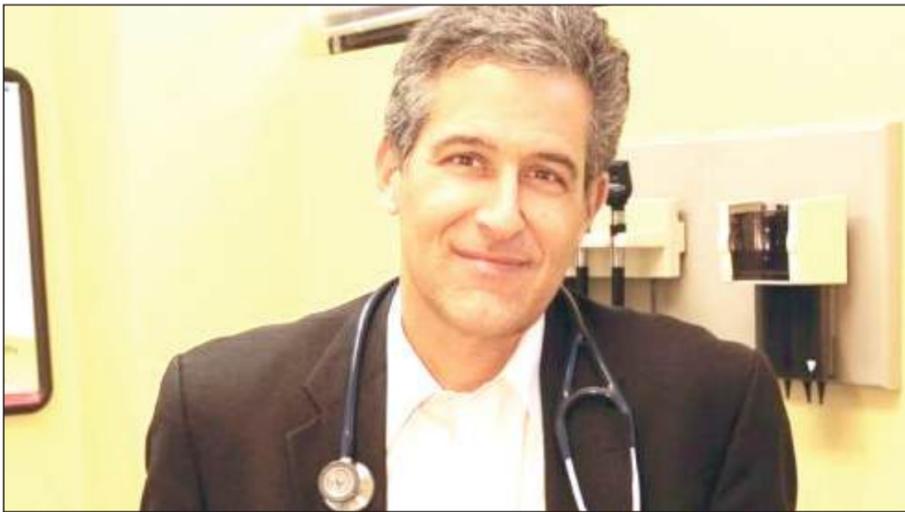
*In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series*

By Chris Young  
Contributing Writer

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is scheduled to meet the week of February 25-27. The Committee has not yet posted the agenda for the upcoming meeting to the CDC website but is expected to make several recommendations on seasonal vaccines, including flu, RSV, and Covid-19. ACIP members have already expressed concerns about Covid-19 vaccine — particularly the single dose mRNA vaccine — claiming it is dangerous and should be taken off the market.

In June last year, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy fired all existing members of ACIP; many of the new members are vaccine skeptics. Over the past year, the ACIP panel has issued several controversial recommendations, particularly on the measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella — MMRV — vaccine; eliminating the Hep-B vaccine at birth; and tightening eligibility for the Covid-19 vaccine. ACIP Chair Kirk Milhoan stated in January that the polio vaccine should not be mandatory.

The committee's recommendations come amid a rise in vaccine preventable illnesses, including measles, which was declared eliminated at the start of this century. Vaccine skepticism has also dramatically risen in the US: roughly 1 in 6 parents — 16 percent — have skipped



Richard E. Besser, M.D. PHOTO: ABC NEWS.

or delayed a recommended vaccine, according to a 2025 poll released jointly by KFF and The Washington Post.

On Friday, February 20, 2026, Dr. Richard Besser joined American Community Media to address the vaccine landscape. Dr. Besser is CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and former acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Besser discussed ACIP's previous recommendations, what to expect from the February meeting, as well as other recommendations expected in the coming year. Besser, a pediatrician, also provided an overall perspective on vaccines, and what decreased vaccine uptake might mean for American

families at large, especially in vulnerable communities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest health-focused philanthropy in the United States.

Sunita Sohrabji, co-producer of the National Briefing Series, served as moderator for the call that was joined by seventy-five media outlets from around the globe joining the call. Besser began with remarks before responding to questions. "The foundation that I now lead is focused on a future in America where health is no longer a privilege for some. It's a right for all. And that's a bold vision. We are nowhere near seeing that vision be a reality in America. And I have grave concerns that over

the past year, we've been moving in the wrong direction. And you know, part of that is tied to vaccines and what we're talking about today, but more fundamentally, we see an administration that no longer sees the role of government as providing the opportunity for health for all. And so, we're seeing access to healthcare more broadly be limited at the end of this year, millions of people who had access to Medicaid will be losing that access. It's very hard to live your healthiest life if you don't have access to high-quality, comprehensive, affordable healthcare."

He continued, "But the topic that we're focusing on today is vaccines. And during my

30-plus years of pediatrics, I can say, without a doubt there was nothing that I did that had more proven value in terms of protecting and maintaining the health of my patients, than helping to ensure that they were vaccinated fully and on time... it was a lot easier than the times we're in now. A lot of mistrust in healthcare, in public health developed during the response to the COVID pandemic. And it's hard for me to see the path towards restoring the trust that was damaged.

The challenge now is that we have, as our Secretary of Health, one of the nation's leading anti-vaccine advocates. Secretary Kennedy, before he was Secretary of Health, he founded one of the organizations that is really challenging the concept that vaccines are safe and effective. It flies in the face of science, it flies in the face of fact, but having someone in that critical role has damaged people's trust in vaccination. You can see in South Carolina, the massive measles outbreak that's taking place. It started last year in Texas, but it's not limited to those states. Viruses don't respect the borders of states. They don't care what political party you align yourself with. And now I'm told that the ACIP meeting for next week has been canceled."

Nestor Fantini, Co-Editor of HispanicLA.com asked - during your tenure as acting di-

rector of the CDC, how often did political leaders attempt to influence vaccine recommendations, and how does the current situation compare? "Well, I was only acting director for about 6 months, but I was at the agency for 13 years, and I was there during Republican and Democratic administrations, and I never saw an attempt by political appointees to influence the vaccine recommendations...what we are seeing now is absolutely unthinkable."

In responding to a question by Peter Schurmann, the Managing Editor of American Community Media, Besser spoke to the importance of the school lunch program. "What I would love to see the Secretary of Health do is work with the Secretary of Agriculture and revamp the school lunch program. Over half of the children in America get their main meal from our school lunch program. But the amount of dollars that go into that are measly, and the number of schools that have a kitchen that can prepare real food is dwindling. So put the money in to ensure that children can have a healthy lunch that's made of real food, food that you can identify and that isn't a list of chemicals on the side of a box."

Please go to <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/mapping-the-vaccine-landscape> to view the entire briefing.

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## Hinds CC Utica Campus students inducted into National Technical Honor Society

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Hinds Community College's Utica Campus inducted students into the National Technical Honor Society Feb. 11. The honor society was founded to recognize excellence in technical students.

The mission of the National Technical Honor Society "is to advocate for and empower all students to pursue the skills needed to build their careers and the global workforce." Students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA to be a member.

Students inducted included Destiny McDonald of Jackson, Clarence Jackson of Jackson, Iyanna Martin of Utica, Mars-

huntis Glasper of Isola, Tanaya Gibson of Jackson, Jakayla Diamond of Canton, Norquashia Smith of Crystal Springs, D'Angelo Smith of Port Gibson, Kaelyn Alexander of Jackson; back, Kenya Sanders of Jackson, Davis Rogers of Yazoo City, Marqueshia Peters of Vicksburg, Jere'Quarias Woods of Yazoo City, A'Javion Wilson of Port Gibson, Ja'Darrian Williams of Tallulah, La., Sequoia White of Fayette, Zechariah Travis of Jackson, Cameron Davis of Canton, Ja'Niyah Bounds of Jackson, Jordan Banks of Benton and Jayden Sims of Brandon

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With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.



Students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Hinds Community College Utica Campus



"God, we have pushed so many of our children into the tumultuous sea of life in small and leaky boats without survival gear and compass. Forgive us and help them to forgive us. Help us now to give all our children the anchors of faith and love, the rudders of purpose and hope, the sails of health and education, and the paddles of family and community to keep them safe and strong when life's sea gets rough."



Marian Wright Edelman from her book *The Sea is So Wide and My Boat is So Small*  
 Founder and President Emerita  
 Children's Defense Fund

Marian Wright Edelman was the first African American woman admitted to The Mississippi Bar in 1964. She began practicing law with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Mississippi office, working on racial justice issues connected with the civil rights movement and representing activists during the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. Mrs. Edelman also worked with Dr. King on the March on Washington in 1963.

# What to know about Cardiovascular Complications and Pregnancy

## StatePoint

As you prepare for the arrival of your new baby, there's likely one item on the top of your wish list: optimal health for you and your newborn.

A new study in the American Heart Association's *Circulation* journal reports that cardiovascular-related complications during pregnancy may occur in as many as 1 in 7 pregnancies, even among people with no previous heart disease. This prevalence is on the rise due to increases in health risk factors for cardiovascular disease like obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

Because risk factors sometimes go undetected, it's critical to engage with a health care provider about heart health before, during and after pregnancy, regardless of health status.

### Being a Self-Advocate

Getting proper care during pregnancy may require some self-advocacy. At 33 weeks pregnant, Molly McGuire experienced swelling, severe headache, vomiting and pain on the right side of her body. Her doctors dismissed her symptoms as a normal part of pregnancy and possibly the flu. While attending a class on gestational diabetes, the instructor hooked McGuire up to a fetal heart rate monitor. She soon learned that her baby had died and she was suffering from severe preeclampsia that had morphed into HELLP syndrome, a life-threatening pregnancy complication involv-

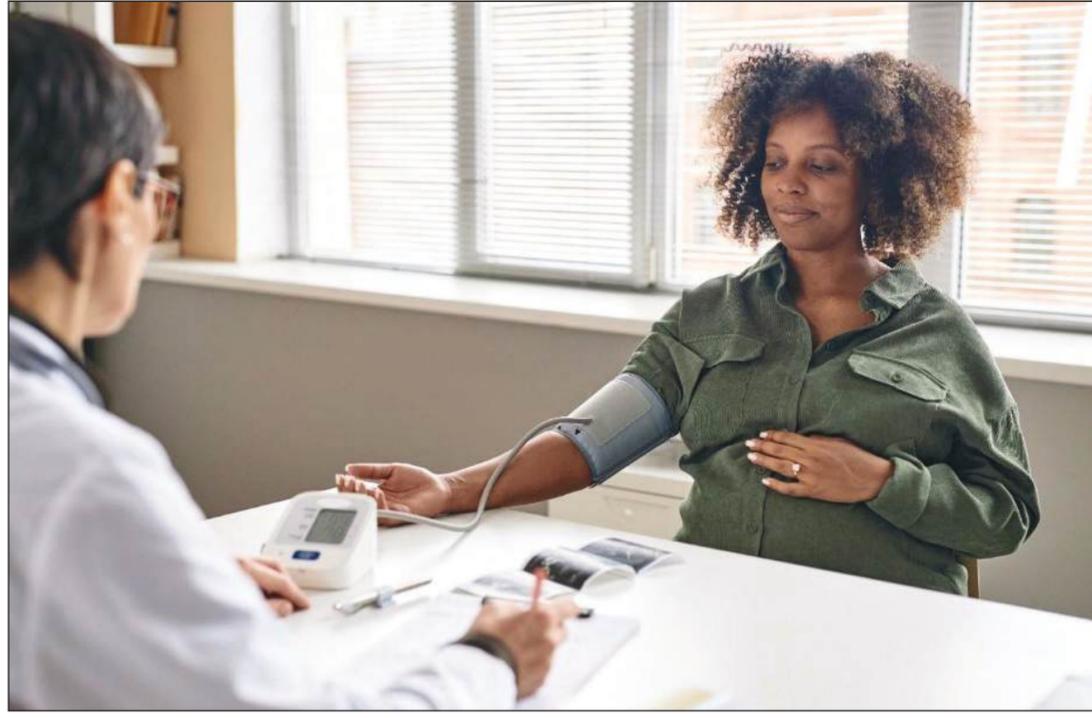


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ing destruction of red blood cells, elevated liver enzymes and low platelet count. Doctors told her family she may not survive, and if she did, could be at risk of stroke or seizure that could lead to life-long disabilities.

Today, McGuire is part of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Class of Survivors, a group of national volunteers who

share their stories to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke in women. She advises any woman who is pregnant, or planning a pregnancy, to practice self-advocacy throughout her term and beyond: "I knew something was wrong, but my concerns were not heard. You know your body best. Advocate for yourself and don't be afraid to get a second or even third

opinion."

### Supporting Healthy Policies

Beyond individual heart-healthy choices women can make during pregnancy to reduce their risk of cardiovascular-related complications, advocates say that changes need to be made at all levels of government.

April Wallace, the National Strategy and Partnerships Senior Manager

for the National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers (NCIT), knows firsthand how governmental policy decisions can support healthy moms and babies. After both her pregnancies, her blood pressure spiked to dangerously high levels.

"I was fortunate: I'd worked for the American Heart Association for a decade, so I already knew the basics of blood pressure monitoring. Most new moms don't have that background and they deserve clear, consistent education and support," says Wallace.

According to Wallace, navigating common, yet dangerous health risks is easier with the full support of the health care system. This includes strengthening Medicaid coverage so that all parents can access the postpartum checkups, medications and monitoring that save lives; passing policies like Paid Family and Medical Leave, so that new parents have the time to heal and attend critical follow-up appointments without risking their jobs or income; and investing in programs that make home blood pressure monitors, community-based doulas, and culturally responsive care accessible to every family, not just those who can afford it.

To learn more, visit [ncit.org](http://ncit.org).

No matter your age, background or health status, connecting with a clinician can help you understand your risks for cardiovascular-related complications during pregnancy, and what steps you can take to reduce them.

## Is a Nebulizer right for your chronic lung disease?

## StatePoint

If you're one of the 35 million people living with a chronic lung disease in the United States, the form of treatment you receive can impact your health outcomes and quality of life.

That's why the American Lung Association has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the potential benefits of nebulized therapy and aims to encourage conversations between health care providers and patients.

Frequently asked questions: What are nebulizers? A nebulizer converts liquid medicine into a mist that you inhale to get medicine deep into the lungs. It can be used if you have a disease such as asthma, COPD or bronchiectasis.

What are the benefits of nebulizers? Nebulizers can deliver all classes of medication to treat all stages of chronic lung disease, including certain medications only available via nebulizer. Most insurance companies provide a nebulizer, and the nebulized medication may be a more affordable option to treat your lung disease. Plus, they are easy to clean, maintain and use. Multiple studies show that people living with chronic lung disease fail to use their inhalers properly and therefore, are not getting the optimal dose of medicine to treat their disease. Like driving a car with a manual transmission, inhaler technique can be complicated to learn. For example, some inhalers require breathing out completely first, inhaling at the right pace, activating the inhaler at just the



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right time, and holding your breath for 5-10 seconds after each dose. A nebulizer, however, is more akin to driving a car with automatic transmission. When you use a nebulizer, the directions are simple — breathe normally. That's why nebulizers can be an especially effective alternative for young children, older adults, those who struggle to use an inhaler and those who require a higher dose of medication to effectively manage their symptoms.

Can you rely on nebulizers while traveling and in emergencies? Fortunately, it is easy to travel with a nebulizer. While some nebulizers are stationary and plug into an outlet, newer, smaller and portable nebulizers can be plugged into an outlet, car adaptor or operated with a battery pack, making them handy not only during travel, but also in power outages and emergencies. When flying, check with the airline on how to properly pack your nebulizer, and if you're traveling out of the country, make sure you have the appropriate adapter so your device will be

compatible with power outlets at your destination. For a stationary device, it's important to have a backup plan like a generator so that you can use your device if the power goes out.

What resources are available to learn more about nebulizers? The American Lung Association hosts numerous patient resources on its site, including videos on how to use and clean a nebulizer. New resources for healthcare providers, including a hub to access nebulized therapy videos and tools, are provided in partnership with Verona, Viatrix and Theravance Biopharma. For more information and to access these resources, visit [Lung.org/nebulizer](http://Lung.org/nebulizer).

At the end of the day, determining if a nebulizer is a good treatment option for you starts with a conversation between you and your healthcare provider. The most important thing is knowing how to properly take your medication — via nebulizer or inhaler — so that you get the best possible relief from your symptoms.

## How to live to be 100 years old

## StatePoint

Living to 100 may sound extraordinary, but research suggests it's more achievable—and enjoyable—than many people think. Studies show the majority of centenarians rate their health as good, and large numbers of people in this age group are mobile, active and optimistic.

According to the American Medical Association, adopting these seven habits can improve longevity and quality of life:

1. Eat healthy. Think of food as medicine. Choose nutritious, whole foods. Eat more fruits that are dark in color — blue, purple and red — to get the most nutrients, as well as fiber-rich vegetables, especially non-starchy vegetables such as broccoli, carrots and leafy greens. Incorporate whole grains, nuts, seeds, lean meats and fish. Drink more water, or as an alternative, flavored or sparkling water with no added sugar.

2. Exercise. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity weekly. A recent study published in *JAMA Network Open*. Eat fewer processed meats, which tend to be high in fat and heavy on added salt and preservatives. Limit your intake of refined grains, such as breads, crackers, baked goods and white rice. Drink less alcohol.

3. Get enough sleep. Ad-



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) JACOB WACKERHAUSEN / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

4. Live with purpose. A sense of purpose can lead to increased energy, motivation, emotional stability and resilience. Take time for self-reflection and try meditation or yoga. Prioritize your values and beliefs and put them into action toward a goal that's meaningful to you and benefits others.

5. Stay positive. To bust stress, take a break from decisions, connect with others, pet your dog or cat, write a to-do list (stick to three items), take time to recharge, laugh, sing, curb clutter, set boundaries, perform mindfulness exercises, practice gratitude, and seek help from a professional when stress becomes overwhelming.

6. Stay connected. Research shows that having social con-

nections is a significant predictor of longevity and better physical, cognitive and mental health, while social isolation and loneliness are significant predictors of premature death and poor health. Unfortunately, there is a nationwide loneliness epidemic that medical experts consider a major public health concern. Combat loneliness with social clubs and community groups, or by taking up a hobby, learning something new or volunteering. If you're struggling with loneliness, reach out to a professional, your doctor, family member or friend. You can also call the 988 crisis helpline for support.

7. Get screened. Schedule preventive care, tests and health screenings to help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious. Your doctor can recommend needed tests based on your age, gender and health conditions — including colonoscopies, mammograms, gynecological and prostate exams, and vision screenings.

Today, there are many at-home screening options available. Some are more effective than others, and all work best — and minimize stress around results — when taken in consultation with a doctor.

For more resources on staying healthy, visit <http://www.ama-assn.org>.

# Childcare on shaky ground: Families left in the balance

Mississippi Link Newswire

Childcare providers, parents, and advocates gathered on the South Steps of the Mississippi State Capitol Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. to address what they describe as a manmade crisis in Mississippi's childcare system. In so doing, they called for immediate action to stabilize care for families and providers.

"Stability matters," said Cantrell Keyes, Director of Agape Christian Academy World. "When childcare businesses are stable, families can work, children can learn, and employers can keep their workforce. When providers lose stability, everyone in the community feels the impact."

According to the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative and reporting by Mississippi Today, nearly 20,000 families are on the childcare voucher waitlist. MLICCI also found that when vouchers were lost, 75 percent of affected children exited care entirely, contributing to an already 17.5 percent decline in enrollment. In 2025 alone, 170 licensed



Human Resource Agency Board of Directors & Head Start/Early Childhood Staff: (l-r) Amanda Mims, Health Services Specialist, Senator Hillman Frazier, Bridgett Newsome Funchess, Board Chair, Catera Jordan, Nutrition Services Specialist, Jacqueline Kimble, Disability Services Specialist, Leroy Lee, Interim Vice President of Head Start and Early Childhood Programs and Tummutual Norton, Disability Service Specialist.

childcare centers closed. the highest number in nearly a decade, based on Mississippi State Department of Health licensing

data. Childcare providers operate as small businesses. When enrollment drops, revenue drops.

When revenue falls, staff are laid off and classrooms close. As classrooms close, some providers are forced to shut their doors.

Directors are left making painful decisions about families they have served for years, while parents face missed shifts, reduced

hours, and job loss. For children, the loss of stable care means disruption to learning, routines, meals, and trusted relationships.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY







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# U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson ...

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# BOOK REVIEW: BLACK HISTORY BOOKS BY VARIOUS AUTHORS C.2026, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS \$30.00 - \$35.00 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

For weeks now, you've been remembering, studying various subjects, and celebrating Black History Month. But just a reminder: every day is a good day to learn about Black History. These great books can help...

About a year or so ago, we marked the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and we remembered the men and women who served. Now step further: in "Until the Last Gun is Silent: A Story of Patriotism, the Vietnam War, and

the Fight to Save America's Soul" by Matthew F. Delmont (Viking, \$32), you'll read about Black soldiers, activists, and protesters who helped bring the war to its end. This book isn't just about war and peace, though; it's also about justice, racism, rights, and it's great for anyone too young to remember.

Another book about battlefields – in this case, airfields – is "Forgotten Souls: The Search for the Lost Tuskegee Airmen" by Charyl W. Thompson (DaFina Books, \$30). This small book packs twenty-seven tales

of airmen who vanished while fighting America's enemies, and the injustices their families endured after they were lost. Written by the daughter of a Tuskegee airman, this is a must-read if you want a book that'll thrill you and sadden you, both. Perfect for young readers, this is also one you'll want to share with an elder.

For readers who want to reach back much more in their Black History quest, look for "A High Price for Freedom: Raising Hidden Voices from the African American Past" by

Clyde W. Ford (Amistad, \$30). It's one of those little-known-history books that are intriguing, thought-provoking, enjoyable, and hard to put down. Also look for "The Great Resistance: The 400-Year Fight to End Slavery in the Americas" by Carrie Gibson (Grove Atlantic, \$35). This is a huge book but don't let its size scare you. Its comprehensiveness makes the time it'll take to read it, worth it.

When thinking about Black History, the Cold War era might not come to mind, but "Kings

and Pawns: Jackie Robinson and Paul Robeson in America" by Howard Bryant (Mariner, \$32) takes readers to those years. It's the story of two men, one who'd just integrated America's favorite ball game, and how his testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee affected the other man, who was one of the country's leading Black American athletes and performers. But this book doesn't stop there: it follows both Robeson and Robinson as an equally tumultuous event happened,

years later – the aftermath of both that, says the author, still resonate today.

So you say you still need more? You want a book about African American women, or a book on reparations, or one for kids or teens or more on the subjects above. Then now's the time to head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help finding what fits your interests best. The staff there can help you get the exact book you're seeking, and more because any day is a good day to read about Black History.




**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)

**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.

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P R E S E R V E D

## Elevate with Excellence

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Recently, I was honored to be the guest speaker at the New Mt. Rose Missionary Baptist Church's Red Hat Tea. Special thanks to Pastor Rev. Kye Tatum and First Lady Tonya Tatum for the opportunity. I'd like to share part of that message in this week's column. The theme was Elevate with Excellence and the scripture reference was Colossians 3:23:24 - "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

As I studied the theme, I started to think about how elevation happens and how to define excellence. We have to do three things to elevate with excellence. We have to walk in excellence before you get elevated. Next, we

have to move in the direction that God has for us. Then, we have to follow a Kingdom vision and follow an internal compass of Christ-centered integrity.

Elevation is a phrase that we are familiar with. In fact, we often pray "Lord take me to next level." But the question remains: what are we doing at the level that we are currently at? Elevation occurs after years of being excellent. You don't become excellent after the promotion. You walk in excellence before it happens. This means that you start getting to work on time or even early. That means you change your attitude before you start working in ministry (no longer using the excuse that you will get right once God blesses you). In other words, you have to be it so you can see it and then you become it.

In looking at elevating with excellence, I also looked at the word "with" and found one definition that says it means to move in the same

direction. How does this connect with

elevation and excellence? We have to go back to Colossians 3:23: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Curious, I looked up the word "heartily" and found both Greek and Hebrew definitions of heart pointed back to the words psuché or psyche. Other definitions of these words also mean to breathe or blow. The soul is the direct aftermath of God breathing (blowing) His gift of life into a person. God breathes on us and hopefully we will move following His direction. Proverbs 16:3 says "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." As with wind, you go further when you go in the direction that God is leading as opposed to against his plans and purpose.

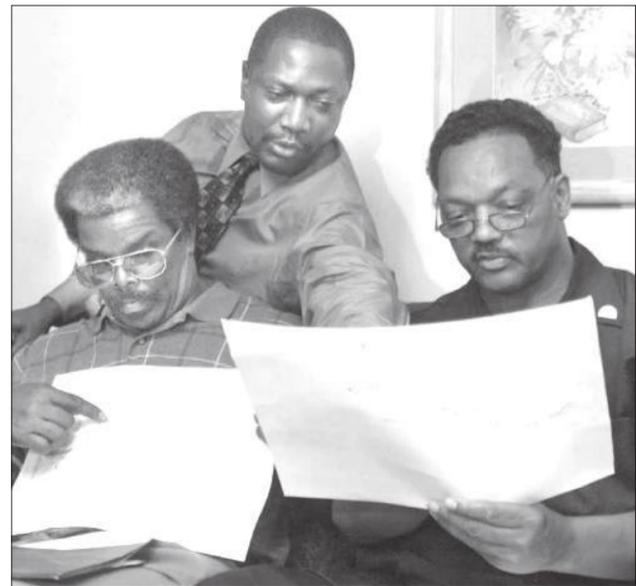
Excellence goes beyond being nice, looking nice or working hard. Being excellent means that we are intentionally persistent. Romans

12:2 says "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." The big difference for Christians is that we persistently follow a Kingdom vision with a Christ-centered identity and focus.

Compromise hinders excellence. Like producer and actress Issa Rae said "Black women ain't bitter. They are just tired of being expected to settle for less." When we elevate with excellence, we are saying that we choose not to settle or compromise for less than what God has promised.

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

## Mayor John Horhn's statement on the passing of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.



The Mississippi Link Newswire

"Reverend Jesse Jackson was a giant of the American story and a moral voice for the world. From the streets of the civil rights movement to the halls of power, he devoted his life to confronting injustice, expanding democracy, and calling this nation to live up to its highest ideals.

I was blessed to know Reverend Jackson and to witness his commitment up close. He never lost faith in the power of ordinary people to do extraordinary things, and he never stopped urging us to 'keep hope alive' even in our hardest hours. His leadership helped register voters, open doors that had long been closed, and build coalitions.

Today, we mourn a pastor, a

freedom fighter, and a statesman whose work reshaped our politics and our conscience. We also celebrate a life spent lifting up the poor, defending the voiceless, and challenging racism and inequality wherever he found them. His legacy will live on in every ballot cast, every young leader he inspired, and every community still striving for justice.

On behalf of the City of Jackson, I extend my condolences to his wife, Jacqueline, their children, the entire Jackson family, and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition family. May we honor Reverend Jackson by continuing the work to which he gave his life, expanding opportunity, protecting the right to vote, and bending the arc of history toward justice."

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Chauncy L. Jordan

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

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Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
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7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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Church: 601-859-2858

### LEGAL

#### Advertisement for: RFP 2026-08-26 JPS ERATE – Network Modernization

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 Tuesday, March 17, 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 Please email RFP@jackson.k12.ms.us 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: 16 February 2026 (Clarion); 19 February 2026 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)  
• 2nd Advertise: 23 February 2026 (Clarion) 26 February 2026 (Jackson Advocate, MS Link)  
• Final Date for Questions: 27 February 2026  
• Addendum (if applicable): 02 March 2026  
• Bid Opening Day: 17 March 2026 @ 10:00 A.M.  
• Vendors may be notified of Board Review and Potential Award after the Bid Date

All questions and answers will be listed on the link below:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ejXaFoy6-QjYhtbSFzs6eKS09uVXLOGexpBkto-ChU/edit?usp=sharing>

2/19/2026 2/26/2026

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS City of Jackson Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

Twelve-Month Contracts with 12-Month Options to Extend for City Right-of-Way Maintenance

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV

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

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

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City.

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

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 @ 10:00 am in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson MS 39201. Interested Contractors will be able to ask question relating to the bid and submitting proposals.

2/26/2026, 3/5/2026

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 11:00am IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. CASE NO. HPNC-26-5  
LOCATION: 111 E CHURCH ST (PARCEL 79-16)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET APPLICANT: MARC ROWE  
AMENDED REQUEST: INSTALL A GUARD RAIL ON THE FRONT STEPS, GUTTER ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, & CLOSE IN THE REAR PORCH TO EXPAND THE KITCHEN.

B. CASE NO. HPNC-26-6  
LOCATION: 1828 LYNCREST AVE (PARCEL 9-92)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BEHAVEN APPLICANT: MARC TREADWAY  
AMENDED REQUEST: DEMOLISH A STRUCTURELY UNSAFE DETACHED GARAGE.

C. CASE NO. HPNC-26-7  
LOCATION: 1203 PINEHURST ST (PARCEL 15-42)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: DONALD JORDAN  
REQUEST: CONSTRUCT AN INFILL SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE AND REMOVE A TREE.

D. CASE NO. HPNC-26-8  
LOCATION: 800 N FARISH STST (PARCEL 74-1)  
HISTORIC DISTRICT: FARISH STREET APPLICANT: KIMBERLY VIVERETTE  
REQUEST: REHAB A MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
II. OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

2/19/2026 2/26/2026

### 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 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

*Eddie Jean Carr*, D.C.

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

CAUSE NO.: 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

2/19/2026 2/26/2026

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS City of Jackson Jackson, Mississippi

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Twelve-Month Contracts with 12-Month Options to Extend for City Right-of-Way Maintenance

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A pre-proposal meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 @ 10:00 am in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson MS 39201. Interested Contractors will be able to ask question relating to the bid and submitting proposals.

Publication Dates: February 26 & March 5, 2026

2/26/2026 3/5/2026

### 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)

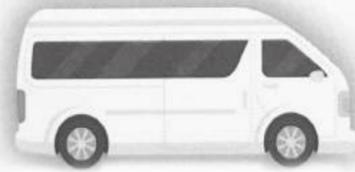


Eddie Jean Carr  
Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi

*Eddie Jean Carr*, D.C.

2/12/2026, 2/19/2026

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**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
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Church Street - Canton, MS

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Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS

**HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN**  
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

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507 Church Street - Canton, MS

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**SUNFLOWER GROCERY**  
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS

**LOVE FOOD MART**  
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## Unprofessionalism displayed by Administration Officials isn't a good look

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



Do you ever wonder why some must yell and scream to get their point across to people? Do you counter it by returning the screams and having loud voices? You know the classic British expression, "what's good for the goose is good for the gander". I have never been an advocate for bad behavior. Being around folks who practice it won't curry favor with me. They will never gain my respect. There are many people who want to be leaders. They want

to be the first to receive the information or the first to receive the important telephone call. Having high expectations means acting in an appropriate manner. That is my opinion. Being a leader also means having grace under fire. There will be times when you are hard pressed to answer tough questions. You must keep a high level of deportment when you give your response. Keeping your cool when it is not easy to do so will go a long way to winning the public's trust. Even if it is not the answer people want to hear, they will respect the way in which you gave it. Many of us were fortunate enough to be around people as we matured in our careers

who we could emulate. They had qualities that made them stand out. Kindly and humbly, I have had leadership positions where being thoughtful in my response put out a lot of would be fires and bad outcomes. Now in my post-leadership days, I have had enough chances to observe leaders both in person and on television. In addition, I have had a chance to read some of their responses. Today, there is a climate of meanness in the air within this administration. Sounding mean and having a scowl on their faces are acceptable modes of behavior for them. For example, the current group in Washington gives

no credit to former President Barack Obama for his eight years of service to this nation. At every turn, they blame him for everything that's wrong with our country. Much has happened since his time in office. The Affordable Care Act passed during President Obama's administration has been critiqued to no end. The current group can't applaud the fact that Obamacare has provided millions of people with healthcare. I believe because it is commonly referred to as Obamacare is the reason that he wants everything named after him. Even more disturbing is that if he does not get his way, he simply withholds federal money from a project. Just ask

the state of New York. Sounding and looking mean have also affected a few loyalists in his circle. Let's call out Greg Bovino and Kristi Noem for their callousness and calculated rants. Bovino oversaw ICE when it was wreaking havoc in the city of Minneapolis. Finally, he was removed and is now in California. America, I don't think we will ever hear his name again. His abrasiveness caught up with him. The Department of Homeland Security has been under fire because of its leader, Secretary Kristi Noem. Most recently, her vitriol reached a new level of indignation when she recently appeared at a Congressional hearing. She refused to answer any ques-

tions and blamed everything on anybody not affiliated with the current administration. Unfortunately, for Secretary Noem, her own members in the GOP want her to resign, retire or be fired. Senator Thom Willis (NC) said, "If I were in her position, I can't think of any point of pride over the last year." Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) said, "I supported her, I've supported her nomination. I had great hopes for her in the department, and I've been disappointed." Finally, operating from a space of arrogance and insult-driven barbs will get you put in your place. This axiom will be played out with more people in this administration. Just sit back and wait. You'll see.

## Our Black History Crisis

By Dr. John Warren  
Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



As Black History Month draws to a close, Black Americans, in many ways, are being steered backward towards segregation and inequality similar to what followed reconstruction after the Civil War. The attack on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is similar to the "Jim Crow" attitudes, but without the laws that were enacted to enforce them. The efforts to wipe out books, monuments, remove us from historical acknowledgements and recognition, while carrying the Trump label, are being met with little or no resistance by those in positions of authority to speak

out and fight back. As we enter the 2026 Primary season, now is the time to determine what will be our contribution to the Black History we are making today. Too many of us are still not registered to vote. Too many of us appear detached from the racism the Trump Administration is encouraging. Our silence gives consent. The immigration issue should be of concern to us. It will not be long before ICE will not care whether you are Somalian or just a Black American, without your passport. Now the question is where do we go from here? We need to look very closely at how we are spending more than 2 trillion dollars a year as our contribution to the American economy and getting nothing back. Well, let's look at how much we are

spending with companies like Target and Pepsico, which owns Pizza Hut, KFC, Taco Bell, and the many soft drinks and power drinks produced by this company. Why are we still spending with McDonalds, Popeyes, and Jack in the Box? Are any of them hiring people that look like us? If you know differently please let us know. And what about the Blacks who have risen to positions of decision making. Why are so many afraid to do anything for their own when others in their positions do so all the time. This Saturday is "No Kings Day", as millions of Americans will take to the streets to protest Donald Trump and his policies. Will we be included? It's up to each of us. We are still making Black History. Will it be as significant as our past?

## Economic Empowerment Has Always Been a Part of Black History

By Louis J. King II  
President & CEO, OIC of America



As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, I'm reflecting on the century of economic volatility and roadblocks that have often defined the experiences of disenfranchised communities. Our collective legacy is marked by resilience to overcome the economic challenges faced while trying to achieve the American dream. For the last 50 years, many have pushed a single narrative: success can only come from a four-year college degree. While this opened pathways to education, access, and wealth creation, this singular focus doesn't account for the diverse ways people work to make our world function. That path doesn't fit everyone, and it doesn't have to. Check the news: the best-kept secret is out, and it is a career in the trades. Starting a career in the skilled trades now means entering an in-

dustry with financially rewarding in-demand careers that are essential to the future of our economy. Skilled trades — like construction, plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, masonry, and HVAC — are not only in high demand, but they're also recession-resistant. As America rebuilds its infrastructure, provides disaster relief, and moves toward a greener economy, these trades are leading the way. And at OICA we are building America's workforce to rebuild America by enrolling thousands of people per year to start their careers in the skilled trades. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 500,000 skilled trade workers are needed each year to fill open positions. With roughly 40% of skilled trades workers expected to retire over the next decade, demand will continue to grow, and more pathways to the middle class will open. These are careers that can't be outsourced and that AI won't replace. They require technical know-how, problem-solving skills, and hands-on training. Another pathway to build a finan-

cially stable life. At OIC of America, along with our affiliates across the country, we're working to dismantle the negative assumptions around vocational careers and open doors for young people and adults alike to explore these life-changing opportunities. We're also making sure women, returning citizens, multicultural and multigenerational folks are at the table — and in the field — where these good-paying jobs are waiting. By 2030, we're on track to place over 50,000 people in the skilled trades per year — a pivot that opens up a world of economic potential they were previously locked out of. A career in the skilled trades is not just about working with your hands. It's about building an economic future — for yourself, your family, and your community. In my view, that's truly one of the best ways to honor the legacy of Black History Month. For more information, or to be connected to a training program near you, visit [www.oicofamerica.org](http://www.oicofamerica.org).

## I cannot forgive my spouse

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



One of the most difficult acts of grace is to forgive someone, especially someone you love. Unfortunately, unforgiveness is one of the leading causes of separation and divorce. Unforgiveness in marriage is like a deadly disease. When a disease attacks the human body, it can lead to major health problems, and it can be fatal if the disease is left untreated. Like the human body, the disease of unforgiveness can be fatal in marriages if left untreated. Signs when unforgiveness is left untreated in marriage include the following:

- Always living in what occurred yesterday (in the past) — every plan is embraced and marked by yesterday rather than today and tomorrow
- Constantly thinking about the offense/hurt
- It (unforgiveness) constantly eats at your soul — constant distraction and it consumes you
- Constant arguments
- Contention
- Hurt resonates with you daily and is worsening
- Anger
- Animosity
- Gas Lighting
- Bitterness
- Irritated — especially when you are around your spouse
- Little to no communication
- Sadness
- Depression
- Pursue solo lives
- It impacts your physical and mental health
- Family and friends and even strangers notice it
- Nothing your spouse does satisfy you
- Grow in insolation
- Silence
- Imagine life often without your spouse
- The children suffer, mentally and emotionally draining, life begins spiraling
- Stop working together
- You can hear crickets in the bedroom
- The thrill is gone. I am so sorry but once this has occurred there is almost nothing you can do to win your spouse over
- Pending divorce

There are many marriages and families that end in divorce because spouses are holding on to yesterday's hurts and offenses and refusing to let it go. Should you continue letting unforgiveness destroy your homes? I realize it is not easy to forgive. It's especially not easy to forgive those who you love like your spouse

that have caused you pain in some way. In fact, some offenses perpetrated by a spouse can almost seem impossible to forgive like infidelity, bad financial decisions, abuse, deception, controlling, extreme nagging, lack of intimacy, not helping with your children, spouse abandonment, neglect, etc. Although it is not easy to forgive your spouse, it is possible. However, are there times that you can forgive your spouse for an offense and still file for a divorce? Yes, although God hates divorce—forgiving your spouse doesn't mean you must stay with your spouse, yet God also understands how much one can bare. And He doesn't want anything or anyone to distract you that will cause you to lose focus on Him and your God given purpose (Lay aside every weight that can easily beset (distract) you — Hebrews 12:1). Therefore, I believe God will make it plain to you if your situation warrants forgiveness and moving forward and fighting for your marriage or if it will warrant forgiveness and divorce. I would advise that if possible until you or both of you have made your final decision on rather you remain married or divorced, PRAY, seek immediate marital and/or pastoral counseling. I and no one else can make this decision for you — only you can make this decision. However, in any instance, you should forgive because it will help promote self-healing for you if you remain in your marriage or if you choose to divorce and seek a new relationship/marriage. And it is certainly important that you heal first before transitioning to a new relationship/marriage because according to research and statistics, approximately 60 percent to 70 percent second marriages will end in divorce, and I won't even give you the third marriage statistics — up to 75 percent. But of course, some second and third marriages blossom, yet one can't deny the strong statistics of marriage failure. To conclude, I am sorry to tell you — but you can't change what happened yesterday. It is done and nothing you do will alter it, but you can change the dynamics of today. I know some of you are thinking, Dr. Calvert, I just can't forgive my spouse — you don't what they did. Both my husband and I have felt these same sentiments although it is not always easy, we have decided to put the past behind us, forgive each other and fight for our marriage. I empathize with you in other words, but aren't you tired of letting unforgiveness be your master — a master controls you. A master keeps you (heart, soul, and mind) in chains of bondage, despair, and turmoil. Let it go today — if you are determined that you cannot forgive your spouse—ask God to help you let it go, forgive your spouse today.

# This year's Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl gave fans excitement and players memories

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D  
Contributing Writer

The atmosphere at the 2026 Allstate Legacy Bowl was electric. Coaches and players alike understood the opportunity presented to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

It was a chance to showcase its football talent on a national stage. The game was televised on the NFL Network and was played at Yulman Stadium, home of the Tulane University Green Wave in New Orleans.

Leading up to the game were practices in front of NFL scouts. Their eyes were on several players who had made all-conference and some dark horses, too. We shouldn't be surprised to see them on a National Football League roster in the fall.

Team Gaither had as its co-coaches, Chennis Berry from South Carolina State University and Maurice Flowers from Johnson C. Smith University. Team Robinson had as its co-coaches, Tremaine Jackson from Prairie View A&M University and Quinn Gray from Albany State University.

The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl is much more than a football game. It is also a chance for alumni and friends of HBCUs to get together and swap stories about the good ole days. In addition, it is one last chance for the players to be introduced and to hear their names called in front of admiring fans.

Let's just say they'll never forget this one last shining moment in their football lives. Meeting the other college stars, to be seen by NFL scouts and participating in the Annual Career Day will be forever etched in their hearts and minds.

If you were getting some popcorn and you heard cheers from the stands, it was because Team Robinson scored a touchdown. Bethune Cookman University quarterback, Cam'Ron Ransom tossed a touchdown pass to Alabama A&M University tight end Traunta Abner for the first score of the game. The extra point was missed by Mississippi Valley State University place-kicker Marko Jovisic.

Not to be outdone, Team Gaither answered the touchdown call, too. JaQuan Kelly, running back from Winston-Salem State University, ran it in from 22 yards out for a touchdown. The



Team Gaither co-coaches, Chennis Berry from South Carolina State University and Maurice Flowers from Johnson C. Smith University

Jim Ewers with co-coaches Tremaine Jackson from Prairie View A&M University

extra point was good by North Carolina A&T State University placekicker Andrew Brown IV. That ended the 1st quarter with Team Gaither having a 1-point lead at 7-6.

Here are some other highlights:

2nd Quarter

Andrew Brown IV kicked a field. Team Gaither leads 10-6.

Jerrod Sims from Florida Me-

morial University scored a touchdown with a Marko Jovisic extra point. Team Robinson leads 13-10.

Andrew Brown IV kicked a field goal for Team Gaither. The score is tied 13-13.

3rd Quarter

Kelvin Durham quarterback from Johnson C. Smith University threw an 8 yard pass to his wide receiver and JCSU team-

mate Deandre Proctor. Team Gaither leads 20-13

JaQuan Kelly scored his second TD. Team Gaither leads 27-13.

Blake Davis, defensive back from Grambling State University, intercepted a pass for Team Robinson and ran it in for a touchdown. The extra point is good.

Team Gaither leads 27-20.

Marko Jovisic kicked a field goal for Team Robinson. Team Gaither leads 27-24.

A fumble by Team Robinson ended the game with 15 seconds to go. The referees made the decision to end it.

Final score- Team Gaither 27 and Team Robinson 23.

Offensive MVP- JaQuan Kelly Winston-Salem State University.

Defensive MVP- Michael Lutz II South Carolina State University.

The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl continues to have a significant and defining imprint on the HBCU landscape. It is a win for everyone involved in the planning and implementation of it. Next year will be here before you know it. See you next year at the Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl.

# Take me out to the Negro League Ball Park

By Dr. Timothy Rush Sr.  
Guest Writer

Unlike today, where it appears that basketball and football have taken center stage in our community there was a time in the early 1920s, and 1940s when baseball ruled and was king. After Reconstruction, segregation hardened across the United States. By the late 1800s, Black players were pushed out of professional baseball through an unwritten but strictly enforced "color line."

Because exclusion was the rule, Black athletes, entrepreneurs, and communities built their own institutions. The Negro Leagues officially began in 1920, when Rube Foster, a visionary player and manager, founded the Negro National League. Foster had been Black baseball's best pitcher in the early years of the 20th century; he dreamed championed thoughts that his Black major league would play the best of the white league clubs in an interracial world series.

Nevertheless, the Negro National League was established during a two-day meeting - the Negro Southern League was organized with clubs in the larger cities of the South. During these times, the new league experienced fairly frequent shifts; they were somewhat more stable than the circuits of the 1920's.



(L-R) Jerome Gladney, Curtis Augustine, Isaiah Rush, Tim Rush, Sr. at the Negro League Baseball Museum marker in Kansas City, MO

During World War II prosperity was brought to many blacks as well as white people, Black baseball became a \$2 million-a-year-business, probably the most lucrative Black dominated enterprise in the United States at that time, salaries for the journeymen players, which had been \$150 a month during the 1920's soared to \$400 or more during the war. Stars could earn \$1000 a month. Satchel Paige, the

most famous player, and showman of the Negro leagues, earned \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year through exclusive deals calling him to pitch one to three innings for scores of independent teams, both Black and white, each season. The leagues produced legends like Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, and countless others whose talent rivaled or surpassed their white contemporaries.

The story of the Negro Leagues isn't just history, it mirrors patterns we still see in sports, business, and society.

As times and mindsets began to change, the Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey, a onetime big-league catcher and manager, had put into motion a secret plan to find and sign an African American player. It culminated October 23, 1945, when Jackie Robinson, a first-year shortstop for the Black Kansas City Monarchs, officially signed a contract with the Dodgers. He spent the 1946 season with the minor league Montreal Royals. In 1947 Robinson was promoted to the Dodgers, becoming the first Black player to the major league in 63 years. The Cleveland Indians soon after signed Larry Doby, a hard-hitting infielder from the Black Newmark Eagles, making him the first African American in the American League.

This League represented Black excellence in a segregated society; providing economic independence; Black-owned teams, stadiums, hotels, newspapers, and community pride, games were major social events, innovative, fast-paced, aggressive style of play that influenced modern baseball.

Black athletes dominate many sports today, but note ownership remains over-

whelmingly white; front-office leadership is still disproportionately white; economic power is concentrated away from the communities producing the talent. This echoes how MLB embraced Black players but not Black leadership.

Although we have come a long way, the fight for historical recognition continues. Only recently has MLB begun acknowledging Negro League statistics as "major league." "This reflects a broader pattern: The Negro Leagues will always remain a catalyst and a model of community strength and self-determination forging the continued foundation for entrepreneurship, community-driven success, and cultural pride.

Negro League Baseball was born out of the concept that if we can't play with you all, then we will start our own league. Negro League baseball audiences were larger than its white counterparts; and we were the first to play under lights at night. Crowds of under 30,000 plus fans would attend the Negro League World Series and AllStar star games!

We must always remember the same spirit that built the Negro Leagues is alive—it is just reshaped into new forms. So, as we reflect on our Black history and as spring approaches let us always remember...to PLAY BALL!

# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## READ ACROSS AMERICA 2026

Gary Road Intermediate School participated in Read Across America 2026 and would like to thank all of those who were volunteer readers! We had parents, THS National Honor Society Members, Members of the JSU National Alumni Association Byram-Terry, The JSU SEA and more. Thank you to everyone who shared their love of reading and time with us!

