

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“Truth is on the side of the oppressed.”

— Malcolm X

“Mississippi For A Just World” features return of Dr. Angela Y. Davis to Tougaloo

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Special to Mississippi Link

The organization, Mississippi For A Just World (M4JW), with its partners Black With No Chaser and Tougaloo College, presented its second installment in the lecture series “Voices for a Just World.”

The organization’s first sponsored lecture was held at Tougaloo in Woodworth Chapel Oct. 29, 2025, with a presentation by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, renown scholar, author and civil rights advocate.

Its New Year, 2026 event started with the blockbuster appearance of Dr. Angela Y. Davis Jan. 28 – about a 10-year span from her first appearance at the HBCU in 2015 – both times gracing the historic Woodworth Chapel, creating the backdrop that exudes “history is made and preserved here.”

Prof. Jacorius Liner, of the Tougaloo Political Science Department, welcomed everyone with a quote from France Fanon “not a prisoner to history,” notable at the institution that has the mantra “Where History Meets The Future.”

He emphasized that while “Tougaloo was born in the aftermath of colonial dominance..., it couldn’t defeat us. Reconstruction couldn’t malign us. Jim Crow couldn’t dismay us. Segregation couldn’t silence us. Neo colonialism couldn’t erode our purpose.”



Dr. Angela Y. Davis speaking to the audience and Moderator, Dr. Ebony Lumumba PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

In the arousing opening by M4JW, executive director and co-founder Candance Abdul-Tawwab, the central theme for the series was noted as “Freedom is a Constant Struggle” and examining how freedom struggles in the Deep South are connected to a global movement for human rights and dignity in Palestine, the Sudan, the Congo, Haiti and on....

She emphasized, “It is a constant struggle,” then giving the roll call of civil rights veterans historically and locally: Medgar Evers, Unita Blackwell, Hollis Watkins Muhammad, Fanny Lou Hammer, Vernon Dahmer,

the reverent Ida B. Wells..., and others.

Abdul-Tawwab referred to Davis as “a symbol of radical love, radical perseverance, radical brilliances, radical resilience and radical commitment to humanity....”

Present was Co-founder of M4JW a businessman and philanthropist, Emad Al-Turk, a Palestinian American who was educated in Mississippi, and has lived here with his wife Karen for over 50 years. Al-Turk, over the past three years, has witnessed at least 17 members of his Palestinian family killed in Gaza, among the recorded

63,000 genocide victims.

The overflow audience required that the Chapel doors be closed as the evening presentation turned to Dr. Angela Y. Davis. She was introduced by Tougaloo Senior Political Science / Pre-Law Minor student Sydney Armstrong.

He noted the times we are living in as “our country is devolving,” which made it more imperative to hear from someone like Davis who has lived through times like these in the past.

The moderator was Dr. Ebony Lumumba, assistant professor of

Davis
Continued on page 3

On Cusp of 250th Anniversary - The push to reclaim community narratives

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

As immigration enforcement actions intensify across the country in our communities, the Trump Administration pushes to rewrite or erase the nation’s nonwhite history - censoring national museum exhibits, removing plaques from public parks, scrubbing national holidays - we hear from speakers about the push to reclaim community narratives against formidable odds.

Sandy Close, the founder and Executive Director of American Community Media, the first and largest association of ethnic news outlets nationwide. Ms. Close will step down after three decades on February 1, 2026, and announced the appointment of Jaya Padmanabhan to succeed her. Ms. Close served as moderator for this national briefing held on January 30, 2026. She facilitated discussion with four panelists and 75 media outlets from around the globe.

She began with Ann Burroughs, President and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and Chairwoman the International Board of Amnesty International, asking who gets to decide what this country remembers and who gets to decide what we forget. “First let me say, the ethnic media has really been at the forefront of documenting community stories that might

otherwise, be ignored, distorted, or just simply erased... you have also been so unbelievably instrumental in ensuring that communities see themselves reflected with dignity and with accuracy, and we know that that is something that the mainstream media has absolutely failed to do.”

Burroughs continued, “So, this year, of course, it becomes especially urgent, because the Trump administration has made concerted efforts to present a very narrowed, sanitized version of American history that is tied to the 250th anniversary, one that minimizes conflict, that attempts to erase history, homogenized culture, erase diversity, one that entirely avoids accountability, and always seems to be framing the past through a single ideological lens. And of course, we know that that is not American history...we always know that authoritarian regimes, whether here in the US or whether the world over, that they consistently at-



Ann Burroughs. PHOTO: JAPANESE-AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM.ORG.



Margaret Huang. PHOTO: NWLC.ORG.



Ray Suarez. PHOTO: THE WILSON CENTER.ORG.



Annessia Hardy. PHOTO: TROY UNIVERSITY

tack culture and history first. They attack memory to create a climate of deliberate destabilization.”

Margaret Huang, Senior Fellow for The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and Human Rights, former President and CEO of Southern Poverty Law Center, shared next. “We really need to think about challenging the community narratives, the of-

Narratives
Continued on page 3

NNPA stands with Georgia Fort, Don Lemon, and all arrested, and demands all charges be dropped

By Dr. Ben Chavis
NNPA

History has a way of repeating itself. Today, it rhymes with the clicking of handcuffs on two of our own: Don Lemon and Georgia Fort.

We know this playbook. We saw it in 1942, when the Department of Justice threatened John Sengstacke and the NNPA with sedition. We saw it in the 1960s when Southern sheriffs labeled journalists “outside agitators” to hide their own brutality.

The strategy hasn’t changed—only the statutes have. By weap-

onizing the FACE Act and the Ku Klux Klan Act to turn reporters into “conspirators,” this government is attempting to resurrect the same walls of silence that the Black Press has spent two centuries tearing down.

There is a bitter, hollow irony in seeing the KKK Act—a law forged during Reconstruction to protect Black lives from white terror—now being used to prosecute Black journalists for the “crime” of holding a camera.

When federal agents arrived at Georgia Fort’s door while her children were watching, they are sending a message to every independent journalist of color: your camera is a liability, and your witness is a crime. In 1918, when the government tried to use the Espionage Act to muzzle W.E.B. Du Bois, he looked them in the eye and said: “The right of the people to speak and to print is a right which no government in a democracy can safely take

away.” He knew then what we must remember now: you cannot build a democracy by arresting its witnesses.

Dr. Du Bois taught us that the Black Press is the only press that is “really free” because it refuses to be owned by the powerful. He called this work the “voice of the voiceless.” We, the NNPA, stand with Georgia Fort, Don Lemon, and all those arrested. We demand these charges be dropped immediately. We close with Du Bois’s eternal warning: “If the government thinks it can silence our complaints, it is making a mistake.” And we shall not be moved.



Chavis

The Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition: Ground-Breaker for Black Economic Advancement



Books on Black History Month for Kids



Congressman Bennie Thompson hosts open house at his Jackson campaign headquarters

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Friends of The Honorable Congressman Bennie G. Thompson along with family members co-workers, community leaders and legislators gathered Friday, January 30, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. for the Congressman's Open House of his Jackson, MS campaign headquarters located at 3607 Medgar Evers Boulevard.

Thompson greeted his guests prior to Judge Johnnie McDaniels blessing the food. He reminded everyone present that his campaign for re-election will be normal, moving toward the March 10th election, and regardless of the weather, be it rain, sleet, or whatever the case, voters should go out to vote.

Thompson spoke of the state of the nation. He said, "We have a terrible thing going on. ICE has taken over cities and killed people." He reminded those present that every government that turned on its' people did not last long." He also pointed out how the FBI has gone into the courthouse in Georgia taking the voting results from the 2020 election. With a chuckle he said, "Here it is 2026."

It was a warm reception with plenty of food and an opportunity for those present to have one-on-one conversations with the congressman and other elected officials.

As time was winding down, Thompson told his guests, "I need good people like you, to rally around the campaign, and we will win!"



PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON

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

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

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



Davis

Continued from page 1



PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

English at Jackson State University and former First Lady of Jackson.

Davis received an audience shout out of HAPPY BIRTHDAY, impressing upon us that she is now 82 years old. Still the beauty with a distinguishing hairstyle, that is now shining white, her audience was a mix of students who were introduced to her for the first time, while others experienced the nostalgia of growing up with her activism on the hearts and minds and front pages of our everyday lives.

Her autobiography is titled: Freedom Is A Constant Struggle. She is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex.

During her first visit to Tougaloo in 2015, Davis explained how the U.S. government wanted her to get two (2) death sentences. Back then, she said, “They wanted to kill me two times.” This time around, her presence was reflective, almost a sense of “resolve.”

She talked about being born in Birmingham, Alabama, about knowing two of the little black girls who were killed in the Birmingham Church bombing in 1963 that occurred on a Sunday morning when they were attending Sunday School.

She recalled that Birmingham used to be called “Johannesburg of the South.” That is when she first learned about the importance of solidarity with South Africa. “If we were going to succeed

in moving forward in the struggle against racism, we also had to stand up for workers’ rights,” she said.

Davis said growing up in Birmingham was the “best possible place ...,” for experiencing the struggles. She spoke about her mother, Sallye Davis, who told her, “... this is not the way things are supposed to be... One day they will change and you will be a part of that change.” Davis said you must also have a “vibrant movement for gender justice.”

“Freedom is a practice; it is not a destination,” Davis said, as she reflected on the struggle of Palestinians and the MS4JW being an organization started in the struggle of Justice for Palestine and rapidly expanded to Mississippians for a Just

World.

When you “achieve freedom,” she reflected, “... what do you do? Do you just stop? The Palestinians have taught us how important it is to engage fully in the practice of freedom. And that practice is a continual practice.”

Culminating the program, a Special Presentation was made to Davis by the Tougaloo Student Government Association represented by Morgan Stanley, its 93rd President. Closing remarks for the evening were given by Atty. Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Chief Legal Counsel and Strategist for MS4JW.

For their next event and more organizational information, contact info@msjw.org and visit www.MississippiForAJustWorld.org

Narratives

Continued from page 1

official narratives that are coming out of this administration. Many of you will know the history of the Confederate loss in the South. But depending on where you grew up, you might know a different version. Where I grew up, in East Tennessee, we never talked about the Reconstruction era. We never talked about the incarceration of Japanese Americans. We never learned about the Civil Rights Movement. My American History class focused on the number of people killed in various battles over the course of U.S. history and that was about it...I first learned about Japanese American internment at the Smithsonian Museum for American history. Wat else didn’t I know. That led to a lifetime of commitment to challenging false narratives...the Southern Poverty Law Center has tracked

Confederate memorials around the country for many years now. And in fact, we put out our first report, I think in 2018, and we learned that there are Confederate memorials in nearly every state in the country, which is surprising, because the Confederate War was not fought outside of the South, and you know, the East Coast states. All of this is a reflection of what was documented. None of these memorials were put into place right after the war. These memorials were put in place 60-80 years later when white supremacy was at the forefront,

particularly in fighting back against the civil rights movement.”

Ray Suarez, Journalist and Author of “We Are Home: Becoming American in the 21st Century,” was the next panelist. “It’s almost in the sense of the last kick of a dying mule, giving white grievance a chance to be aired, a chance to be heard, a chance to use demographic muscle to impose a fantasy narrative on the United States as it considers its 250 years of existence...recently the history of slavery, at a presidential site, of a president who owned slaves was removed by National Park Service employees, because Donald Trump believes that too much of the national retelling of our history involves, in his words, that slavery was bad. This idea that it makes white people feel bad, or it makes white children feel guilty - it’s all baloney. This is all a power play to reassert the center spotlight on the stage of American history of just one kind of people. The idea of whiteness, which is a contrived, engineered, historical idea is becoming so powerfully asserted in the discourse now...legacy Americans is a term that people like Tucker Carlson and Nick Fuentes are now using.

Anneshia Hardy, Executive Director at Alabama Values, a cultural narrative strategist, shared, “I do want to add that honest history isn’t about assigning individual guilt, it’s about collective responsibility

and clarity. The problem is that we often confuse accountability with accusation... at Alabama Values, you know, we are approaching the commemoration of America’s 250th with a clear understanding that people are not just struggling with facts. They are struggling with meaning. We see communities grappling with overlapping political realities, escalating anti-immigrant attacks, the normalization of white nationalism, white nationalist rhetoric, persistence of anti-Blackness, the censorship of history and education, state violence, both visible and quietly bureaucratic. And so, in moments like this, simply providing information is not enough, so our work is rooted in meaning-making, which really helps communities connect the past to the present. It helps communities understand how power is operating now. The whitewashing of history is not a passive act, that it is an active political strategy, one that serves white supremacy by narrowing who is seen as fully American, and who’s suffering and resistance and humanity, you know, can be safely ignored.” Ms. Hardy’s final thought was, “our country can’t turn the corner on its own. It will only move when enough people decide that maintaining humanity is worth more than maintaining power.”



My mission: cut outages by 50%

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

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

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

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

We power life.™

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



U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson . . . “We fight today so the next generation can lead with freedom tomorrow”



RE-ELECT Bennie Thompson
“Defend Democracy”

VOTE MARCH 10TH, 2026

Paid for by Friends of
Bennie Thompson

Email: bennie_thompson@bellsouth.net

Phone: (601) 866-9100 or 1 (800) 423-6643

Website: <http://www.benniethompson.com>

More light needed in Mt. Olive mayoral challenge

Confident that irregularities violate state law, Maria Craft Hull appeals to Supreme Court

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

When the Final Order from last November's bench trial in Covington County was entered by Senior Status Judge Lamar Pickard January 20, 2026, it was met with complete dismay by the petitioner, Marcia Craft Hull, and scores of others, yet some expected nothing less, being painfully aware of Mississippi's tortured history of resisting African American's rising to positions of leadership.

In Judge Pickard's six-page ruling, issued thirty-six days after his established deadline for any pertinent information to be submitted by both parties, he ruled in favor of the respondents: Incumbent Mayor of Mt. Olive James Clifton Kelly, Mt. Olive Town Clerk Breyon Magee, and the Mt Olive Municipal Election Commission, thereby affirming Kelly as the duly elected mayor based on the June 3, 2025 elections. Six pages of information, yet certainly not all of the information that came out during the trial conducted November 25-26, and December 1, 2025.

On the surface, the election results that were certified showed Kelly with 169 votes and Hull with 126 - a total of 43 votes separating the two. Hull seemingly had two days of victory with a vote count of 120-118 but then came the core of Hull's challenge – the absentee ballots – 57 of them, with 51 going to Kelly and 6 going to Hull.

Does it strike anyone as odd



Incumbent Mt. Olive Mayor Kelly. PHOTO: WDOM.



Mt. Olive City Hall. PHOTO: WWW.TOWNOFMTOLIVEMS.COM.



Challenger Marcia Craft Hull. PHOTO: THE LITTLE WEB DESIGN SHOP, LLC.

COMMENTARY

or irregular that Hull won 50.4 percent of the votes on election day but that Kelly won 89.4 percent of absentee ballots? Or that it came out at trial that in recent Mt. Olive Mayoral contests, no more than two absentee ballots were cast, and yet for the June election the town clerk ordered 75 absentee ballots? Or that the trial record included admissions by the clerk of photocopying ballots, or that numerous absentee ballots contained no signature or voter initials? Does it strike anyone as odd or irregular that Mt. Olive, a town of 3.1 square miles in Covington County, with an estimated population of less than 900 and 74 percent African American, reportedly suffered a ransomware attack on town computers approximately one-hour before absentee voting ended, destroying the record

of absentee voting? Nothing to see here, right?

The court record further reflects that nine absentee ballots were mailed out to voters. Eight were returned by mail, yet five of the eight had no postmark. How often have you received official municipal correspondence without a postmark?

In a bench trial like this one, there is no jury of peers making the final decision, the judge's alone. In deciding the way he did, Judge Pickard did not find anything odd or irregular about the facts listed above. If he did, he could have simply vacated the results and ordered a new election. There is precedent to do so.

Instead, he finds that "Mississippi law provides that technical violations of election law do not vitiate an election absent fraud, intentional wrongdoing, or a radical departure from statutory procedures. The

Court finds that all irregularities in the conduct of subject election were technical irregularities in the casting of ballots are not grounds for invalidation. The evidence failed to establish there was any fraud or intentional wrongdoing in this election."

Vitiate is a new word for me, I had to look it up. It means "spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of," and secondarily it means, "destroy or impair the legal validity of," per www.dictionaries.com. You can sure learn a lot when you want to pay attention in Covington County, Mississippi.

On page five of his Final Order, wrapping up discussion of absentee ballots, Judge Pickard states, "Accordingly, Petitioner failed to meet her burden of proving that any alleged illegal votes or irregularities were of such magnitude as to change, or render uncertain, the result

of the election. The Court finds that the certified results accurately reflect the will of the voters of Mt Olive, Mississippi."

The case was dismissed with prejudice, stamping it as being without merit and legally prohibiting refiling of the same claim or against the same defendant. Fair-minded people will wonder if the will of the voters was truly honored or if the result would be the same if the racial dynamics were reversed and a white man was doing the challenging.

Marcia Craft Hull is represented by Attorney Scherrie L. Prince. Their appeal to the Mississippi Supreme Court was filed January 30, 2026. Time will tell if Judge Pickard's Order will be upheld. When Mrs. Hull, a native of Mt. Olive, was asked for a comment on the decision, she immediately invoked Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stating, "In-

justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I'll leave it at that."

Long ago a man I respected greatly reached to the coffee table between us and picked up a magazine. He held it up squarely for me and asked me what I saw. Knowing there was a lesson coming my way, I told him I saw a magazine, a TIME magazine, with a picture of Nelson Mandela. He said he was looking at the very same magazine but that he saw an ad with a cowboy-look-alike lighting a Marlboro cigarette. What is it that we choose to see, or care enough to see? When the Mississippi Supreme Court hears this appeal, do you suppose the justices will focus on the 'magnitude' of election irregularities, or the fact that a multitude of irregularities did exist and therefore voters of Mt. Olive deserve a special election?

Understanding your credit, credit report, credit score, and how to improve it: Part 2

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



In Part 1 of this article, I first discussed Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion, the three major credit reporting bureaus. I further explained their purpose, and how each consumer has what is commonly known as a "credit report" with each company.

Afterwards, I expounded on Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) and VantageScore, the two major credit scoring companies, and how they use the information inside of these credit reports to compose a three digit credit score ranging from 300 to 850 with each bureau.

These credit scores are used by companies, institutions, lenders, etc. to determine eligibility and interest rates for credit cards, loans, and services.

I ended Part 1 of the article by expounding on the five factors used by these two companies to calculate the credit score and the percentage each category contributes to computing that number. Those factors and percentages are: 1) Payment History (35 percent), 2) Amounts Owed (30 percent), 3) Length of Credit History (15 percent), 4) Credit Mix (10 percent), and New Credit (10 percent).

Since the fundamentals of understanding your credit, credit report, and credit score has been explained, I want to give strategies and techniques on how to improve it.

The first thing you want to do is order a copy of your credit report from each credit reporting bureau. You can obtain them free at AnnualCreditReport.com.

Once you receive all of your credit reports, you want to thoroughly analyze and review each one for fraudulent activity, inaccuracies, and outdated information.

If any is identified, you want to immediately dispute the item(s) with the credit bureau that is reporting it. You can submit a dispute request on each of the credit bureau's website. You can also do so via mail using dispute letter templates that can easily be found online.

If you determine you are a victim of identity theft, I highly recommend you place a credit alert or credit freeze on your credit reports. Doing so, mandates lenders to take extra measures to verify your identity to avoid identity theft and fraudulent activity.

For more information on your rights as a consumer when it pertains to the three credit reporting bureaus, read the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

Another method to improve your credit, credit report, and credit score is to fully understand the algorithm used to calculate the credit score.

It definitely benefits you to always pay your bills on time so you do not receive a late payment indicator on your credit reports. Keep in mind, late payments will only appear on your credit report when you are 30 days or more past due paying on an account. In saying that, paying on an account five, 10, 15, etc. days past the due date might get you a late fee with the company, but as long as you pay the monthly bill before 30 days, your credit reports is not negatively affected.

You also want to keep your balances and credit utilization low on credit cards and retail store accounts. Ideally, 30 percent or lower.

To keep your overall credit utilization low on your credit reports, I suggest you do not voluntarily close any of these accounts. Even if the balances are zero, or you plan on not using them, keep the accounts open.

In addition, it works in your favor to have a mixture of different accounts on your credit reports, such as automobile loans, credit cards, installment loans, mortgage loans, retail store accounts, etc.

On another note, you want to make sure you do not apply for credit frequently over a short period of time. Doing so, will have a negative impact on your credit reports.

Another method that I absolutely love and highly recommend you use to improve your credit, credit report, and credit score is called, piggybacking.

Piggybacking is a term used to describe someone adding a person as an authorized user to their credit card(s) or retail store account(s). This method instantly adds the account holder's length of credit history, payment history, and utilization to the other person's credit reports.

When using this strategy, just make sure that the person's payment history is excellent, and the utilization is what I recommend, 30 percent or lower.

Follow these steps and you will be surprised at how easy and fast it takes to improve your credit, credit report, and credit score. Who knows? You might even reach the maximum credit score of 850!

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 timelee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com



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

Hosted by CEO & Founder

of TCL Financial & Tax Services

TIM C. LEE

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

on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, Mississippi

or Listen Live at

www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

TCL
FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

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



TAX PREPARATION SERVICES (Individual and Business)

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

WE HAVE 4 LOCATIONS TO GLADLY SERVE YOU

- 6779 Siwell Road, Suite A, Byram, Mississippi 39272
(601) 371-8580
(LOCATED BETWEEN DOCKERY GRILL AND STORAGE MAX)
- 1022 East Peace Street, Canton, Mississippi 39046
(601) 859-5554
(LOCATED IN THE SAVE-A-Lot SHOPPING CENTER)
- 4317 Robinson Road (Highway 18), Jackson, Mississippi 39209
(601) 922-2TCL (2825)
(LOCATED BETWEEN PICCADILLY AND POPEYES ON HIGHWAY 18)
- 4612 Medgar Evers Boulevard, Suite 7, Jackson, Mississippi 39213
(601) 982-5880
(LOCATED BETWEEN DHS AND HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

Black History Month centennial channels angst over anti-DEI climate into education, free resources

By Terry Tang
Associated Press

For academics, historians and activists, the past year has been tumultuous in advocating the teaching of Black history in the United States.

Despite last year proclaiming February as National Black History Month, President Donald Trump started his second term by claiming some African American history lessons are meant to indoctrinate people into hating the country. The administration has dismantled Black history at national parks, most recently removing an exhibit on slavery in Philadelphia last month. Black history advocates see these acts and their chilling effect as scary and unprecedented.

“States and cities are nervous about retribution from the White House,” said DeRay Mckesson, a longtime activist and executive director of Campaign Zero, an organization focused on police reform. “So even the good people are just quieter now.”

In the 100th year since the nation’s earliest observances of Black History Month, which began when scholar Carter G. Woodson pioneered the first Negro History Week, celebrations will go on. The current political climate has energized civil rights organizations, artists and academics to engage young people on a full telling of America’s story. There are hundreds of lectures, teach-ins and even new books — from non-fiction to a graphic novel — to mark the milestone.

“This is why we are working with more than 150 teachers around the country on a Black History Month curriculum to just ensure that young people continue to learn about Black history in a way that is intentional and thoughtful,” Mckesson said about a campaign his organization has launched with the Afro Charities organization and leading Black scholars to expand access to educational materials.

New graphic novel highlights history of Juneteenth

About three years ago, Angélique Roché, a journalist and adjunct professor at Xavier University of Louisiana, accepted a “once-in-a-lifetime” invitation to be the writer for a graphic novel retelling of the story of Opal Lee, “grandmother of



Juneteenth.”

Lee, who will also turn 100 this year, is largely credited for getting federal recognition of the June 19 holiday commemorating the day when enslaved people in Texas learned they were emancipated. Under Trump, however, Juneteenth is no longer a free-admission day at national parks.

Juneteenth helped usher in the first generation of Black Americans who, like Woodson, was born free. “First Freedom: The Story of Opal Lee and Juneteenth,” the graphic novel, comes out Feb. 10. It is the culmination of Roché’s assiduous archival research, phone chats and visits to Texas to see Lee and her granddaughter, Dione Sims.

“There is nothing ‘indoctrinating’ about facts that are based on primary sources that are highly researched,” said Roché, who hopes the book makes it into libraries and classrooms. “At the end of the day, what the story should actually tell people is that we’re far more alike than we are different.”

While Lee is the main character, Roché used the novel as a chance to put attention on lesser known historical figures like William “Gooseneck Bill” McDonald, Texas’ first Black millionaire, and Opal Lee’s mother, Mattie Broadous Flake. She hopes this format will inspire young people to follow Lee and her mantra — “make yourself a committee of one.”

“It doesn’t mean don’t work with other people,” Roché said. “Don’t wait for other people to make the changes you wanna see.”

Campaign aims to train new generation of Black historians

When Trump’s anti-DEI executive orders were issued last

year, Jarvis Givens, a professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard, was thousands of miles away teaching in London, where Black History Month is celebrated in October. He had already been contemplating writing a book for the centennial.

Watching Trump’s “attack” cemented the idea, Givens said.

“I wanted to kind of devote my time while on leave to writing a book that would honor the legacy that gave us Black History Month,” Givens said.

The result is “I’ll Make Me a World: The 100-Year Journey of Black History Month,” a book with four in-depth essays that comes out Tuesday. The title is a line from the 1920s poem “The Creation” by James Welton Johnson, whose most famous poem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” is known as the “Black National Anthem.”

Givens examines important themes in Black history and clarifies misconceptions around them.

The book and the research Givens dug up will tie into a “living history campaign” with Campaign Zero and Afro Charities, Mckesson said. The goal is to teach what Woodson believed — younger generations can become historians who can discern fact from fiction. “When I grew up, the preservation of history was a historian’s job,” Mckesson said, adding his group’s campaign will teach young students how to record history.

How the ‘father of Black history’ might feel today

Born in 1875 to formerly enslaved parents, Woodson was among the first generation of Black Americans not assigned to bondage at birth. He grew up believing that education was a

way to self-empowerment, said Robert Trent Vinson, director of the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The second Black man to earn a doctorate at Harvard University — W.E.B. Du Bois was the first — Woodson was disillusioned by how Black history was dismissed. He saw that the memories and culture of less educated Black people were no less valuable, Vinson said. When Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926, he was in an era where popular stereotypes like blackface and minstrelsy were filling in for actual knowledge of the Black experience, according to Vinson. This sparked the creation of Black history clubs and Woodson began inserting historical lessons “on the sly” in publications like the “Journal of Negro History” and the “Negro History Bulletin.”

“Outside the formal school structure, they’re having a separate school like in churches or in study groups,” Vinson said. “Or they’re sharing it with parents and saying, ‘you teach your young people this history.’ So, Woodson is creating a whole educational space outside the formal university.”

In 1976, for the week’s 50th anniversary, President Gerald Ford issued a message recognizing it as an entire month. There was pushback then over the gains the Civil Rights Movement had made, Givens said.

As for today’s backlash over Black and African American studies, Vinson believes Woodson would not be surprised. But, he would see it as a sign “you’re on the right track.”

“There’s a level of what he called ‘fugitivity,’ of sharing this knowledge and being strategic about it,” Vinson said. “There are other times like in this moment, Black History Month, where you can be more out and assertive, but be strategic about how you spread the information.” Resistance to teaching Black history is something that seems to occur every generation, Mckesson said.

“We will go back to normalcy. We’ve seen these backlashes before,” Mckesson said. “And when I think about the informal networks of Black people who have always resisted, I think that is happening today.”

The Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition: Ground-Breaker for Black Economic Advancement

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

Fifty-five years ago, Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) was recorded in history as a proponent of job security, supporter of black-owned businesses, and improver of the economic conditions of Black communities. The particular date, December 18, 1971, was when the Rev. Jesse Jackson founded the organization in Chicago, Ill. He believed that Operation PUSH could achieve the above goals by negotiating, boycotting, and community organizing.

Jackson and his organization studied the hiring practices of major corporations. Based upon their findings, he knew that the lives of Black people could economically be improved via negotiated agreements if these corporations hire more Black workers and support Black-owned businesses across the United States. His logos led companies like Burger King and Coca-Cola to sign agreements to hire more minorities and support community initiatives.

Jackson’s action campaigns brought PUSH into expansion via social and political development. Through his weekly radio broadcast, the visionary did community outreach. Continuing public awareness, he honored prominent Blacks in the U.S. and around the world. He established a platform that targeted protection of black homeowners, workers, and businesses.

Jackson reached the young with reading programs and PUSH Excel, designed to retain inner-city youth in school and to mentor them with job placement. He was successful in compelling major corporations to adopt affirmative action programs to hire Black and minority executives and supervisors. Black suppliers, wholesalers, and distributors were also brought aboard. Jackson had a steady flow of prayer vigils and boycotts to obtain job conces-



Jackson

sions for Blacks and minorities from white establishments.

During Jackson’s presidential campaign in 1984, the National Rainbow Coalition was formed. Created by Fred Hampton, it demanded voting rights, social programs, and affirmative action for the disadvantaged across races and creeds. This fight against Reaganomics rejected President Ronald Reagan’s policies of reduced government domestic spending that spawned new unemployment, discouraged economic investment, and the rebuilding of urban industry.

The two organizations, Operation PUSH and the National Rainbow Coalition fought for achievement for the disadvantaged. Economic and educational opportunities were the strategies of PUSH. On the other hand, the National Rainbow Coalition targeted political empowerment and public policy issues.

Jackson merged these two organizations to create the Rainbow PUSH Coalition in 1996. RPC’s mission is “to protect, defend, and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields, and to promote peace and justice around the world.” Continuing today, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a significant force in the Civil Rights Movement in 2026. It strongly advocates against policies targeting civil rights and democratic freedoms, irrespective of new leadership.

Kanye West seeks forgiveness from the Black community in Wall Street Journal apology

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

“I’m not asking for sympathy, or a free pass, though I aspire to earn your forgiveness,” Ye wrote. “I write today simply to ask for your patience and understanding as I find my way home.”

Ye, the artist formerly known as Kanye West, used a full-page paid advertisement in The Wall Street Journal to directly address the Black community, apologizing for actions he says caused deep harm while describing a decades-long struggle with untreated brain injury and bipolar disorder that he says culminated in a destructive manic episode.

“To the Black community—which held me down through all of the highs and lows and the darkest of times,” Ye wrote, but notably did not place such

an apology in any of the 230-plus Black-owned newspapers that comprise the Black Press of America and led by former NAACP President and civil rights activist Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. “The Black community is, unquestionably, the foundation of who I am. I am so sorry to have let you down. I love us.”

The advertisement, titled “To Those I’ve Hurt,” appeared in the January 26, 2026, edition of the newspaper and is signed simply, “With love, Ye.” In it, the artist traces the origins of his mental health struggles to a car accident 25 years ago that he says caused an undiagnosed injury to the right frontal lobe of his brain.

“Twenty-five years ago, I was in a car accident that broke my jaw and caused injury to the right frontal lobe of my brain,”



South Florida residents still have the opportunity to see his “Jesus is King” documentary, which is showing only this weekend at IMAX theaters below is a list of dates and time you can watch the film.

Ye wrote. “At the time, the focus was on the visible damage—the fracture, the swelling, and the immediate physical trauma. The deeper injury, the one inside my

skull, went unnoticed.”

Ye said comprehensive scans were never conducted and that neurological exams were limited, delaying a diagnosis until

2023. “That medical oversight caused serious damage to my mental health and led to my bipolar type-1 diagnosis,” he wrote.

Throughout the letter, Ye described bipolar disorder as an illness that disguises itself as clarity and strength. “Bipolar disorder comes with its own defense system. Denial,” he wrote. “When you’re manic, you don’t think you’re sick. You think everyone else is overreacting.”

“According to the World Health Organization and Cambridge University, people with bipolar disorder have a life expectancy that is shortened by ten to fifteen years on average and a 2x-3x higher all-cause mortality rate than the general population,” Ye wrote.

The letter addresses the personal cost of his actions on loved ones and supporters.

“Some of the people I love the most, I treated the worst,” he wrote.

“In that fractured state, I gravitated toward the most destructive symbol I could find, the swastika, and even sold t-shirts bearing it,” Ye wrote. “I regret and am deeply mortified by my actions in that state and am committed to accountability, treatment, and meaningful change.”

“To the Black community—which held me down through all of the highs and lows and the darkest of times,” Ye wrote. “The Black community is, unquestionably, the foundation of who I am.”

“I’m not asking for sympathy, or a free pass, though I aspire to earn your forgiveness,” Ye wrote. “I write today simply to ask for your patience and understanding as I find my way home.”

Citizens shot, protests continue and the City of Minneapolis is in turmoil

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



Should you believe what you see? Can your eyes play tricks on you? Can emotions get in the way of making good decisions? Depending upon who you are and the circumstances at the time, you will get different responses to those questions. There are several different factors that go into these assessments. Back in the day, what happened in Minneapolis, Minnesota with two people being killed within days probably would not have been caught on tape. We

didn't have the technology then, but we have it now. These days, everyone has some type of device they can use to videotape. The phrase "caught on tape" applies to what was filmed in Minneapolis over the past few weeks. What is so troubling about these tragedies is that this administration uses the same explanation and justification to describe every action that ICE takes. Having sympathy for the victims' families isn't expressed. They have no intention of acknowledging the hurt caused by this agency. The ICE leader, Gregory Bovino has left Minneapolis. Most believe that administration officials told him to leave. His leadership was embarrassing

and just plain bad. Tom Homan, a career law enforcement officer and the border czar has replaced him. What will happen in the "City of Lakes" next is anyone's guess. There was a lack of direction in the city when Bovino was in charge. Traditional police personnel were left with no real authority over their own city. Federal folks just came in and snatched it away. Maybe things will be different now. We'll see. Chief of Minneapolis Police, Brian O'Hara said, "People have had enough." About Alex Pretti, he said, "This is an individual that was a city resident. It appears that he was exercising his First Amendment rights to record law enforcement activity and also exercising his Second

Amendment rights to be lawfully armed in a public space in the city. So, I think very obviously, there are some serious questions that are being raised." What is happening in Minneapolis has drawn the attention of all citizens who believe in fairness and justice. What matters least is your party affiliation as both sides are speaking out. Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), the former chair of the House Homeland Security Committee said, "I am troubled by the events that have unfolded in Minneapolis. As an attorney and former federal prosecutor, I believe a thorough investigation is necessary for both to get to the bottom of these incidents and to maintain Americans' confidence in our judicial system."

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota) whose district includes parts of Minneapolis said, "It is beyond shameful these federal agents are targeting our residents instead of protecting them." Americans, because of the media coverage are getting a first-hand account of the feelings and attitudes of the people there. We are realizing that what is taking place there could be taking place in our communities as well. This is our America and this should not be happening. Poll numbers don't favor what is happening in Minneapolis. Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst, Tim Malloy said, "More than eight in ten American voters say they've seen the video." It is my opinion which is shared by many that the shoot-

ings of Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti were avoidable and didn't have to happen. ICE has gone too far. Even loyalists to the new administration have admitted as such. Human life is too precious to be used for political gain. Those families are hurt forever. As tensions mount in Minneapolis, will ICE leave the city? Can the new leadership of it make a difference in how the laws are enforced? All these questions will be answered in days to come. I do know that the city cannot continue this way. Right now, at this very second, the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota is overwhelmed with fear, apprehension and intimidation. This is no way to live.

Black History Month and the power that holds democracy together

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



Chicago's Mayor Brandon Johnson has emerged as a clarion voice for American democracy in turbulent times. The values he represents reflect the voters who elected him. They remind us of the power of the Black community and the White, Asian American, Latino, and Native American voters who believe in multiracial democracy. Together they help ensure our country ultimately remains a place defined by a deep commitment to achieving freedom and opportunity for all. Yet events at home and abroad show how fragile that path can be. As Black History Month begins, let us rise to this moment again. Let us take stock of what has made the Black community the backbone of movements that strengthen democracy. Our strength has never been our size. Our strength has been that we hang together. Since we first won the ballot, Black voters have stood remarkably united. Often 80 percent or more have chosen the same candidate and the same vision of fairness. That unity has given us influence far beyond our numbers. It is no surprise that those who attack democratic rights try to break our voting bloc. They come for civ-

il rights. They come for workers' rights. They come for equal pay and fair treatment. I have helped lead coalitions to defend our community from those attacks. I have faith we can see through them. What keeps me up at night is quieter. It is the slow erosion of cohesion that fuels our power. Our political unity reflects our community life. For generations we were held together by congregations, by family reunions, by Sunday phone calls that crossed state lines. Cousins recognized one another by a reunion T-shirt. Even relatives we rarely saw were still close kin. Those bonds helped us resist the divisions that split others apart. That cohesiveness was not magic. It was history. The Black community remained confined to segregated towns and neighborhoods long after White America began to suburbanize. We built economically mixed communities out of necessity. In them, elders—especially grandmothers and great-grandmothers—kept the circle tight. They did it in church basements after service. They did it around kitchen tables late at night. From coast to coast, Black children heard the same maxim: "To whom much is given, much is expected." Elders organized the reunions. They made the long calls between holidays. They told the stories that reminded us of who we

were. That love became political power. It lifted leaders from Shirley Chisholm to Jesse Jackson to Brandon Johnson—leaders who speak clearly for democracy and equality. But the elders who held us together are disappearing. One by one. Funeral after funeral. They were born into communities that were integrated by necessity. Many of us were born into communities divided by class, except in a few sacred spaces, often the church on Sunday. As we entered the broader economy, we absorbed its class lines as well. This Black History Month, let us hold our community together by holding our families together. Replicate the reunion. Make the phone calls the elders used to make. Tell the stories they told us. Democracy is under pressure. That pressure should remind us we need one another. We must hang together so our children can live better lives than we have. Let us never forget that the elders we are burying have already shown us how to keep this country free—by keeping our families connected, in tough times and even across great distance. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania, former national president and CEO of the NAACP, and author of *Never Forget Our People Were Always Free*.

Husbands, she is not worth it

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



Husbands, I know that February is a special month dedicated to celebrating love, but the truth needs to be celebrated too about loving your wife. Husbands, please understand this – love the wife and be content with the wife God gave you. Husbands, if you are unhappy with your wives - although God hates divorce – you would rather divorce than to fall into the bosom of Sister Cheeks. Husbands, I know Sister Cheeks is tempting but I promise she is not worth it. Husbands, Sister Cheeks has been around for a long time. In fact, she has been walking about as a roaring lion seeking whose marriage she can devour (destroy) for centuries. Sister Cheeks is a charmer, convincing, irresistible, fraudulent, a perpetrator (ask all her victims), her cheeks nearly hang out of most things she wears – if you pay attention, her cheeks even growl when she walks. Furthermore, Sister Cheeks represents trouble – her way leads to destruction – destruction of you, your marriage, and family. I love how Proverbs describe Sister Cheeks. Proverbs 5:3-8 state:

"For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey (she drips sweetness – conversation is sweet, her voice/tone is sweet) and her mouth is smoother than oil but in the end she is bitter as wormwood (this is a poisonous type of wood that can be extremely harmful to the human body), sharp as a two-edged sword (two edges – she will cut you up mentally, emotionally, cut your marriage/family, cut your finances, cut your reputation, your job, and some will even cut physically). In other words, Sister Cheeks starts off all sweet and gentle but, in the end, husbands you will learn who the real Sister Cheeks is. Her feet go down to death, her steps (those delicate – sliding steps – Sister Cheeks sometimes don't even pick up her feet and walk, she slides and glides) lay hold of hell (destruction). Lest you ponder her path of life, her ways are unstable; you do not know them. (men/husbands have no idea how unstable Sister Cheeks is). Therefore, hear me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. God is warning every man and husband especially ministers do not forget this warning, take heed to my warning because I want to save you and your marriage from destructions. Husbands and wives please know that Sister Cheeks is looking for her next victim, it could be you and your marriage. Therefore, I have provided some tips below for you regarding safeguarding your marriage and home. WIVES:

- Pray daily for self, husband, marriage, and family, don't take a break away from praying; cover your marriage and family in prayer
- Seek God, get you and your family in a good faith-based Church (can check out my church, The Restoration Church – call me...)
- Become intentional about investing love in your marriage, communicate, listen, date, spend quality time together, etc.
- Communicate about everything.
- Don't nag too much
- Show gratitude/appreciation to your husbands
- Be present – be available
- Quench each other's thirst; your husband shouldn't be thirsty consistently, be intimate
- Seek professional marital counseling for unresolved issues, etc.
- Husbands:
- Pray daily for self, wife, marriage, and family, don't take a break away from praying, cover your marriage and family in prayer
- Communicate about everything
- Flee when Sister Cheeks approach you; run, run as fast as you can
- Remember your good thing that God gave you, don't be a fool and lose her; there's a man somewhere praying for a good wife
- Remember Sister Cheeks is a counterfeit turf
- Embrace the vows you took
- Hold on to this warning – let nothing or no one put asunder what God has joined together
- Live with your wives in an understanding way so that your prayers won't be hindered
- Cherish your wives; enjoy her conversation, her smell, protect her, provide for her, date her, love her, woo woo woo her, etc.
- Whatever you can't forgive or move on from, seek marriage counseling and remain in it until restoration begins to take place

In conclusion, I feel compelled to warn husbands, I know you may not be the happiest in your marriage and I promise I understand but trust God and do right by your wives, God will honor you one way or the other. Further, husbands if you have previously pursued Sister Cheeks and God dismantled it, leave it be. Don't return because this time God may not be as merciful. The bottom line is husbands, if you pursue Sister Cheeks, it will be a huge mistake, she is not worth it. Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: *letsstay2gether4ever* (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: *Dr. LaShunda Calvert* Email: *letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com* Contact # 601-596-2528

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213

601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

e-Mail

CHECK ONE

☐ 1 year

\$50

1 year subscription

☐ 2 year

\$100

2 year subscription

☐ 3 year

\$150

3 year subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4320

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

01/5/2022 01/10/2022

LEGAL


ZONING CASE NO. 4318

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


2/5/2026, 2/19/2026

U-RENTAL

Van Company



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



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



Foundation cracks getting worse?

Our Services:

Foundation Repair

Crawl Space Recovery

Water Management

Basement Waterproofing

Concrete Lifting

Basement Wall Recovery



Payment Plans as Low as \$125/mo



FREE Home Evaluations



Industry-Leading Warranty Options



Patented Technology

Limited Time Offer

Up to **\$250 off**

Foundation Repair

Schedule Your Free Evaluation!

(866) 264-5115

Offer valid from 9/1/2024 to 3/31/2026. Only valid to new customers. \$250 savings valid on projects \$2,999 or more. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Offer is non-transferable, has no cash value and cannot be applied to previous purchases. Void where prohibited by law. Terms of offer are subject to change.

Crossword Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | | | | 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | 19 | | | |
| | | | 20 | 21 | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| 31 | | | 32 | | | | 33 | | |
| 34 | | | | | | | 35 | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | 37 | | |

ACROSS

1. Dual

4. Boiled

10. Rend

11. Expand

12. Shoshonean

13. Flyers

14. Penman

16. Open forcefully

17. Pillow covering

18. Scale note

20. Lead (abbr.)

22. Interbreeding population within a species

26. Resort hotel

29. Scan pattern used by tv’s

31. National capital

33. Card game

34. Earn interest

35. Lemon

36. Lagging

37. Compass point

DOWN

1. Tie

2. Wizard

3. Musical production

4. Jab

5. Looter

6. Make a mistake

7. Weakling

8. Always

9. Refuse to believe

15. Pixy

19. Advertisements

21. Strength

23. Music used as practice

24. Meal listings

25. Wear away

26. Dab

27. Bpm

28. Bridge support

30. Reverent

32. __ Lanka

© Feature Exchange

Cryptogram Solution

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

ALWAYS BE A FIRST-RATE VERSION
UODUAS FN U PBHSJ HUJN KNHSBXT
OF YOURSELF, INSTEAD OF A
XP AXRHSNOP BTSJNUV XP U
SECOND-RATE VERSION OF SOMEBODY
S NEXTV HUJN KNHSBXT XP SXZNFXVA
ELSE
NOSN

© Feature Exchange

Crossword Solution

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | W | O | | S | T | E | W | E | D |
| R | I | P | | T | H | R | I | V | E |
| U | T | E | | A | I | R | M | E | N |
| S | C | R | I | B | E | | P | R | Y |
| S | H | A | M | | F | A | | | |
| | | | P | B | | D | E | M | E |
| S | P | A | | R | A | S | T | E | R |
| W | A | R | S | A | W | | U | N | O |
| A | C | C | R | U | E | | D | U | D |
| B | E | H | I | N | D | | E | S | E |

© Feature Exchange

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 32 • Number 16

February 5 - 11, 2026

© copyright 2026. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton

Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett

Sports Editor.....Tim Ward

Graphics.....Marcus Johnson

Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

The Mississippi Link (USPS 017224) is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39263-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

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




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

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39263-1307.

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

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

Member:



PICK UP

The MISSISSIPPI LINK

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

JACKSON
BULLY'S RESTAURANT
3118 Livingston Road
CASH & CARRY
Capitol Street and Monument Street
CITY HALL
219 S President St
GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX
2659 Livingston Road
DOLLAR GENERAL
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
4331 Highway 80W
DOLLAR GENERAL
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
MCDADÉ'S MARKET
Northside Drive
MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2
653 Duling Avenue
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive

SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

CANTON
A & I
716 Roby Street - Canton, MS
B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
BOUTIQUE STORE
3355 North Liberty - Canton, MS
BULLY'S STORE
Church Street - Canton, MS
COMMUNITY MART
743 Ruby Street - Canton, MS
FRYER LANE GROCERY
Martin Luther King Drive - Canton, MS
HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN
285 Peace Street - Canton, MS
JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY
507 Church Street - Canton, MS
K & K ONE STOP
110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS
LACY'S INSURANCE
421 Peace Street - Canton, MS
SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM
DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

CLINTON
DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

TERRY
SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
CITY HALL
West Cunningham Avenue

RAYMOND
HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WELCOME CENTER
505 E. Main Street
SUNFLOWER GROCERY
122 Old Port Gibson Street, Raymond, MS
LOVE FOOD MART
120 E. Main Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS
RAYMOND CITY HALL
110 Courtyard Square, Raymond
RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA
HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP
Mississippi Hwy 18
PITT STOP
101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN

Mississippi Classified Advertising Network

To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

AUTOS

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

FOR SALE

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-316-8630 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-764-2473

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-264-5115

SAFE STEP. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

INSURANCE

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-584-8517 www.dental50plus.com/mspress #6258

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-833-641-4206

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-428-0305 today!

REAL ESTATE

WE BUY HOUSES for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-601-273-8545.

SERVICES

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET with Earthlink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 866-831-4021

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143

TRAVEL

YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-906-2201
WEEK OF FEB. 1, 2026

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN 90 NEWSPAPERS STATEWIDE

Call your local newspaper or 601-981-3060 ext. 3

P R E S E R V E D

Living above See Level

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A number of years ago, I had one of my most challenging experiences with my natural vision. What started out as a normal day for me ended with me having a splitting headache and blurred vision. It started when I thought I might have had my contact lenses in the wrong eyes because my vision was a little blurry, so I switched them. But my vision seemed to get worse as the day progressed, so I switched them back. Over the next three days I did all that I could to clean them but there didn't seem to be a strong enough solution to remove what looked like a cloudy layer on the lenses. I reluctantly made an appointment with the eye doctor dreading having to buy another pair of contact lenses. I prayed for God to supernaturally heal my eyes on the way to the doctor's office, but God obviously had a

more important lesson for me.

When I went to the eye doctor, he was able to clean the lenses and remove most of what had clouded them. He stated that part of my physical discomfort was the fact that I was right eye dominant and it was my right eye's contact lenses that was the most blurred. The weaker left eye was trying to overcompensate for the temporary weakness of the right one.

He further explained that his great "top-secret" solution that cleansed my contact lens included baking soda. He carefully explained all that he did and recommended that I do the same thing to clean my contact lenses in the future. It was amazing how something as simple as baking soda seemed to be the solution to everything!

Later that day, I did what he said and marveled at the quick improvement to my eyesight. It was still a little fuzzy, but my headache was gone. I thought to myself how interesting that even though it was the weakest, my left eye was overcompensating for the temporary weak-

ness of the stronger right eye.

I also thought how that fight between my eyes to give me clear vision was similar to our battles with faith. We don't have enough faith that God will do something, and we overcompensate by taking matters into our own hands. We think we are doing the right thing, but in the end, we cause an imbalance of faith. We say we have limitless faith but our actions show that we actually have limited faith. Sometimes we also make the mistake of putting our faith in the wrong people or things, all because we want to control the situation.

There are so many things that we are seeing right now on the news and on social media that are disturbing and discouraging. This includes cell phone video of people being captured/ kidnapped and ultimately deported to shocking murders of American citizens being widely shared in a constant barrage of horrifying and unimaginable cruelty. For many, it's overwhelming. For others, they champion the images saying

this is what they wanted to happen. The point is that we have to believe that there is a more compassionate world than the one we are seeing.

2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal." Faith, like that dirty contact lens, is what we see the world through. If our faith is blurred, cloudy, distorted, or obscured, we make poor decisions because we have poor sight and insight. Like that damaged lens, we have to admit that our faith was shaken and replace our faithless eyes with the faithful eyes of God.

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

Wear red for women's health this National Wear Red Day

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement urges Metro Jackson to join the fight against the No. 1 killer of women.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. On Friday, February 6, National Wear Red Day®, people and landmarks across the nation will "go red" to raise awareness of women's No. 1 killer.

The public is invited to "The District Goes Red" from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at the District at Eastover. This free, fun, family event features Hands-Only CPR training and live music on the Green.

The American Heart Association is devoted to changing the future to a world of healthier lives for all and is working to raise awareness that heart disease and stroke can happen at any age.

On National Wear Red Day, the Heart Association urges everyone to join the Go Red for Women® movement in championing better health and well-being for all women by wearing red and spreading awareness. You can join the conversation online by sharing on social media using #GoRedJXN #WearRedDay, #WearRedAndGive and #GoRedforWomen.

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement, nationally sponsored by CVS Health, is asking women to make bold moves today for a healthier tomorrow:

Know your numbers: Maintaining good blood pressure, blood glucose, total cholesterol and body mass index can lower your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Join Research Goes Red to help ensure more women are represented and counted when it comes to scientific discovery: Women continue to be underrepresented in cardiovascular research

Learn Hands-Only CPR and be equipped with the knowledge to save a life: women are less likely to receive bystander CPR

"National Wear Red Day is about more than kicking off American Heart Month, it's about everyone coming together to support the health and well-being of our mothers, daughters, sisters and the people who love them," said Pam Gordon, Jackson Go Red for Women chair and President, Chief Operating Officer with Story Financial Partners. "This is a great example of people across the country, not just here in Metro Jackson, banding together to unite for women's health. And the health of our communities."

Find resources to support women's heart health at every age and stage of life at GoRedforWomen.org and learn more about National Wear Red Day at WearRedDay.org. For more information about the Metro Jackson Go Red for Women movement, contact Kathryn Byrd at Kathryn.byrd@heart.org.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, X at AHA Mississippi or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-355-2670 • 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

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



New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhcms.org

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

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

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

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

True Light Baptist Church
224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: 601.398.0915
WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG

THE Light Line PRAYER

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

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



REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir




Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



"A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man"

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Sunday School:
9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship
Services: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(Fellowship following
worship service 1st
Sundays!)

Wednesday
Prayer/Bible
Study:
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

Finding the truth about health

How to get the right info: How my column helps

By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

In today’s world, we are surrounded by health advice. It’s on TV, in magazines, on social media and even from friends and family. Some of it is helpful. Some of it is confusing. Some of it is just plain wrong.

So how do you know what to believe?

That’s where this column comes in. My goal is to help you understand health, nutrition and fitness in a way that’s clear, honest and useful, especially for older adults and Black communities who are often left out of the conversation. I want to give you the tools to make smart choices for your body, your mind and your future.

Health information is anything that teaches you about how your body works and how to take care of it. This includes:

- How to eat better
- How to move more
- How to manage stress
- How to prevent or live with diseases like diabetes or high blood pressure

You might see this information in many places, websites, books, TV shows, TikTok videos or even from your cousin at the cookout. But not all sources are created equal.

Misinformation is when someone shares health advice that isn’t true or isn’t the full story. Sometimes it’s by accident. Other times, it’s to sell you something.

Here are some red flags to look out for:

- “Miracle cures” that promise fast results



IMAGES CREATED BY VINCENT FAUST

- Advice that tells you to skip your doctor
- One-size-fits-all plans that ignore your age, culture or health history
- Scary headlines with no science behind them

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

How to Find Good Health Info
Here are five ways to tell if health advice is trustworthy:

1. Check the source.
Is it from a hospital, university or health organization like the CDC or American Heart Association? That’s a good sign.
2. Look for science.
Are there studies or experts backing up the claims? Real health advice is based on research, not rumors.
3. Watch the language.
Be careful with words like “detox,” “cleanse,” or “superfood.” These are often used to sell products, not to educate.

4. Ask your doctor.
If you’re not sure, talk to a health-care provider who knows your history.

5. Trust your gut. If something feels off or extreme, take a step back and do more research.

Understanding Nutrition
Nutrition is about what you eat and how it affects your body. But with so many diets out there like keto, vegan, low-carb, high-protein it’s easy to get lost.

Here’s what really matters:

- Eat more whole foods. Fruits, vegetables, beans, nuts, whole grains and lean proteins are your best friends.
- Watch your portions. Even healthy foods can be too much if you overdo it.
- Limit added sugar and salt. These sneak into many packaged foods and can raise your risk for diabetes and

high blood pressure.

- Drink water. It helps your body work better and keeps you feeling full. Remember, food is not just fuel, it’s culture, family and joy. You don’t have to give up your favorite dishes; you just have to learn how to make them work for your health.

Understanding Fitness

Fitness doesn’t mean you have to run marathons or lift heavy weights. It means moving your body in ways that keep your heart, muscles and joints strong.

Here’s what helps:

- Walking is one of the best exercises. It’s free, easy and gentle on the body.
- Warming up helps prevent injury.
- Strength training (even with soup cans!) helps protect your bones and balance.

The key is to find something you enjoy and do it often. Even 10 minutes a day makes a difference.

Why This Column Matters

I started writing this column because I saw a gap. Too many people, especially older adults and people in Black communities, were getting left behind in the health conversation. The advice out there didn’t always speak to their lives, their foods or their challenges.

So I decided to change that.

In every article, I try to:

- Break down complex topics into plain language
 - Highlight real-life examples
 - Share tips that work for people with busy lives, tight budgets or chronic conditions
 - Respecting culture while offering healthier ways to enjoy it
- Whether I’m writing about the gly-

cemic index, the power of walking or how to read a food label, I always ask: “Would this help my neighbor?”

If the answer is yes, then I know I’m on the right track.

How to Use This Column

Here are a few ways to make the most of what you read here:

- Cut it out and save it. Keep a folder of articles that speak to you.
- Share it. Talk about it at school, in your book club or with your barber.
- Try one tip at a time. You don’t have to change everything overnight.
- Ask questions. If something doesn’t make sense, write in! I love hearing from readers.

Health isn’t just about what you eat or how you move. It’s also about being heard, respected and supported. That’s why I believe in community health, where we learn from each other and lift each other up.

If you have a story to share, a question to ask or a topic you want me to cover, let me know. This column is for you.

Getting healthy doesn’t have to be confusing. With the right information, the right support and a little bit of patience, you can take steps toward a stronger, happier you.

And I’ll be right here, walking with you every step of the way.

Let’s keep learning, growing and thriving together.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

Heart disease, stroke deaths down, yet still kill more in U.S. than any other cause

The American Heart Association

Following a five-year upward trend likely impacted by the COVID pandemic, the number of heart disease and stroke deaths has declined, yet, heart disease and stroke still kill more people in the U.S. each year than any other cause, according to data reported in the 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics: A Report of U.S. and Global Data From the American Heart Association. Together, heart disease (22 percent of U.S. deaths) — the leading cause of death for more than a century — and stroke (5.3 percent of U.S. deaths) — now replacing COVID as the 4th leading cause of death — accounted for more than a quarter of all deaths in the U.S. in 2023, the latest year for which data is available.

The overall deaths from heart disease and stroke continue to decline with fewer total deaths and modest improvements in the age-adjusted death rate. Age-adjusted death is a way to compare death rates fairly by removing the effect of different age structures in populations.

Failure, down from 941,652 CVD deaths in 2022. The age-adjusted rate of CVD deaths in 2023 was 218.3 per 100,000 people, compared with 224.3 per 100,000 in 2022.

“It’s encouraging to see that total deaths from heart disease and stroke declined. The past five years appear to have been an anomaly given the huge impact the pandemic had on all health during that time,” said Stacey E. Rosen, M.D., FAHA, volunteer president of the American Heart Association and senior vice president of women’s health and executive director of the Katz Institute for Women’s Health of Northwell Health in New York City. “The fact remains that heart disease and stroke continue to



A computer generated graphic animation of a heart beating in a chest

take the lives of too many of our loved ones each and every day. Together, they still kill more people than the #2 and #3 causes of death which include all types of cancer and accidents combined.”

When looking at ranking, stroke now sits at the #4 spot on the list of leading causes of death correlating with the fact that COVID deaths dropped from that spot to #10. While the total number of stroke deaths dropped for the first time in several years, an increase in stroke deaths among the youngest and oldest populations remains a major health concern:

There was an 8.3 percent increase in the crude stroke death rate among people 25 to 34 years of age between 2013 and 2023, a significant contrast to no increase in that rate between 2012 and 2022.

There was an 18.2 percent increase in the crude stroke death rate among people older than 85 years of age between 2013 and 2023, up from a 12.1 percent increase between 2012 and 2022.

“The good news is that, overall, fewer people are dying from any cause, and death rates are improving as life expectancy continues to rebound after the COVID19 pandemic,” said American Heart Association volunteer chair of the statistics update writing committee Latha P. Palaniappan,

M.D., M.S., FAHA, a professor of cardiovascular medicine at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. “However, about half of all U.S. adults continue to have some form of cardiovascular disease. Those rates are still higher than they were before the pandemic and persistent increases in common conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity continue to drive the risk.”

Palaniappan said the growing prevalence of these health conditions that contribute to stroke and to overall cardiovascular disease continues to be worrisome. Comparing data from 2017 to 2020 with data from 2021 to 2023:

About 125.9 million (47.3 percent) U.S. adults now have high blood pressure, compared to 122.4 million (46.7 percent) people previously.

Nearly 29.5 million U.S. adults have diagnosed diabetes, compared to 29.3 million people previously.

About 50 percent of U.S. adults have obesity or severe obesity, and while that’s slightly lower than 51.1 percent previously, an alarming increase in obesity and severe obesity was seen in youth 2 to 19 years of age over this time — from 25.4 percent previously to 28.1 percent now.

These health factors not only contribute to heart disease and stroke, but they also lead to other

complications. Because of the interconnectivity of these conditions, for the first time this year’s Statistics Update includes a chapter on cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome, a health disorder made up of connections between heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and obesity, leading to poor health outcomes. CKM syndrome is identified by the presence of risk factors including high blood pressure, high triglycerides, abnormal cholesterol, high blood glucose (sugar), impaired kidney function and elevated weight or obesity. Data from this year’s report shows:

Nearly 90 percent of U.S. adults have some level of CKM syndrome and

Over 80 percent of U.S. young and middle-aged adults already show early CKM risk.

“These numbers should ring alarm bells, particularly among young adults because that’s a snapshot into our future,” said Sadiya S. Khan, M.D., M.Sc., FAHA, volunteer vice-chair of the statistical update writing group the Magerstadt Professor of Cardiovascular Epidemiology and an associate professor of cardiology and preventive medicine at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. “Overall projections for these health conditions show increases expected on nearly every level in the next few decades. Even though these rising numbers can feel discouraging, the advances in our diagnostic and therapeutic arsenal provide hope. We can detect warning signs before events occur and we now have many tools to prevent events. Prevention is our most powerful way to have the greatest impact and the more we use it, and the sooner we use it, the more lives we can save.”

A number of studies cited in the Statistics Update note that following the American Heart Association’s Life’s Essential 8™ healthy lifestyle guidance can make inroads preventing heart disease and stroke and improving brain health. Life’s Essential 8 is a set of four health behaviors (eat better, be more active, quit tobacco and get healthy sleep) and four health factors (manage weight, control cholesterol, manage blood sugar and manage blood pressure) that are key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health. Adherence to the measures determines a cardiovascular health score ranging from ideal, to moderate to low.

“There is a growing body of scientific evidence that shows following these eight measures can dramatically reduce the overall burden of cardiovascular disease. We were very encouraged by the findings of many of those studies featured in this year’s Statistics Update,” Palaniappan said.

Those reported findings include:

A review of 59 studies from 2010 to 2022 found that people who had ideal cardiovascular health as measured by Life’s Essential 8 had a 74% lower risk of cardiovascular events compared with those who had poor cardiovascular health.

In the United States, optimal Life’s Essential 8 scores could prevent up to 40 percent of annual all-cause and CVD deaths among adults.

Better cardiovascular health was also associated with better brain health including younger brain age, less subclinical vascular disease, slower cognitive decline, and reduced dementia risk. For example, in a meta-analysis of 14 studies, a 1-point improvement in cardiovascular health was

associated with a 6 percent lower rate of dementia and the negative impact of poor cardiovascular health was more pronounced for midlife than later in life. Vascular risk factors are increasingly recognized as the most important cluster of risk factors for brain health, particularly because of their high prevalence and potential for modification.

Palaniappan noted that, unfortunately, data continues to show poor adherence to Life’s Essential 8 measures:

Diet scores are the lowest of the eight measures among adults and youth.

Only 1 in 4 (25.3 percent) of U.S. adults meet national physical activity guidelines. Only 1 in 5 (19.5 percent) U.S. youths 6 to 17 years of age are physically active for 60 minutes or more every day of the week.


Overall cigarette smoking rates appear on a decline; however, e-cigarettes are now the most used tobacco products in youths: 18.1% of high school (2.84 million) students in the U.S. report using e-cigarettes. Among middle and high school students who currently use e-cigarettes, 26.3 percent reported daily use.

Less than half (43.5 percent) of U.S. adults being treated for Type 2 diabetes have their condition under control.

“We know that as much as 80 percent of heart disease and stroke is preventable with lifestyle changes and many chronic health conditions that contribute to poor cardiovascular health are manageable,” Rosen said. “Improving your cardiovascular health is possible. However, it will take a concerted effort. The data provided in the Statistics Update may look like just numbers to many, but to the American Heart Association, they are lives on the line.”



Nissan believes in the power of education.



nissan-canton.com

Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

Pamela Moody earns national honor for Excellence in Music Education



Pamela Moody has spent more than two decades helping scholars find their voices, and now her work is being recognized on a national stage.

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Jim Hill High School choral director has been named a 2025–26 Outstanding Music Educator for Section 3 (Mississippi) by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The honor places Moody among a select group of performing arts educators nationwide recognized for excellence, leadership, and lasting impact.

Each year, NFHS honors outstanding educators across music, speech and debate, and theatre. For the 2025–26 school year, only eight high school music educators nationwide were selected for section-level recognition. Moody represents Mississippi in Section 3.

Moody’s career with Jackson Public Schools spans more than 20 years, beginning at Siwell Middle School and continuing at Jim Hill High School, where her choral ensembles consistently earn superior ratings at district, state, and national competitions. Colleagues credit her success to high expectations, intentional instruction, and an unwavering belief in her scholars.

“I teach music because it is my passion and I love my scholars, believe in their potential, and know that our community is stronger when their voices are heard,” Moody said.

Her influence extends well beyond her own classroom. Moody serves as High School Choral Division Chair for Jackson Public Schools and District VI Chair for the Mississippi Music Educators Association. She mentors future educators, conducts honor choirs, and leads professional development workshops for choral directors across the state.

Moody holds advanced degrees in music education and educational leadership and was named Mississippi Music Educator of the Year in 2025. Known for her professionalism, artistry, and service, she continues to elevate music education while creating spaces where scholars are challenged, supported, and inspired.

This national recognition reflects not only Moody’s dedication to her craft, but also the strength of arts education within Jackson Public Schools. For her scholars and colleagues alike, her leadership is a reminder that excellence, when paired with purpose, has the power to resonate far beyond the stage.

“What about people like me?” Teaching preschoolers about segregation and “Peace Heroes”

By Nadia Jaboneta
Teacher, Pacific Primary Preschool,
San Francisco, CA

The following article is an excerpt from *Each and Every Child: Teaching Preschool with an Equity Lens*, published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

As part of the anti-bias curriculum at the preschool where I teach, we study the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Learning about Dr. King’s life provides us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the principles he stood for.

These are ideas my colleagues and I believe are very appropriate for preschoolers to explore and revisit often. We focus on Dr. King’s desire for all people to be treated fairly, regardless of the color of their skin. Solving problems with words; being fair, kind, and inclusive; appreciating similarities and differences among people—these are all ideas we include during morning meetings, small group activities, read-alouds, and regular conversations.

In October 2018, I began by reading a book to the 4- and 5-year-olds in my classroom that was written by a former teacher at our school. Titled *Martin Luther King, Jr. and You*, the book begins by describing Dr. King and his family, his work as a pastor, and his role in the community. One page introduces his work with Rosa Parks and states that the bus company had an unfair rule: “Their rule was that only some people could sit at the front of the bus.” The next page then shares how the community boycotted the bus company. The book does not explain segregation.

When I read this part of the book, I noticed that many of the children looked confused. I paused the read-aloud and asked them to share their questions. Elena asked, “Who could sit at the front?” Then Jane wondered, “Why couldn’t Rosa Parks sit at the front of the bus?”

I wasn’t sure how to respond. I thought to myself, “Is it age appropriate to introduce them to segregation? How would I explain it?” I decided to respond by telling the children, “Our country has had a lot of unfair rules based on the color of people’s skin. There used to be a bus rule that said only White people could sit in the front. Black people had to sit in the back. Rosa Parks was a Black woman and she had to sit in the back.”

Many of the children looked shocked. Several shouted out, “That’s not fair!” and “That’s not okay!” One child put her hands over her ears and said, “This is scary. I don’t want to hear about it.”

Marie, a White child, then announced, “Oh, phew! That wouldn’t happen to me. I’m White!” Before I had time to think about how to reply to this statement, Elena, a multiracial child, exclaimed, “What about people like me? Like Sofia? That is



not fair! We are your friends!”

I first responded by agreeing with the children that this was not a fair rule. I reminded them that the rule changed because Rosa Parks worked closely with Dr. King and their community to make it better. “They worked together, just like we do in our classroom community,” I told them. “If something unfair happens to someone in our community, it is all of our responsibility to help make change. People of all skin colors work together to make things fair.” Marie really listened. She then added, “I want to help my friends! I want to help change unfair rules!”

Reflections, Questions, and a Passion for Developing Leaders

As I reflected on our conversation later that day, I felt unsure about what I said and the role I should have played in this discussion. Had I given the children too little information? Too much?

Marie’s remark, “Oh, phew! That wouldn’t happen to me. I’m White!” really stood out. It reminded me that educators have lots of work to do in helping young children (and many adults) see that just because something may not directly affect us, that does not mean we should not care or should not do something about it.

I also thought about Elena’s response. She immediately shared her thoughts, standing up for herself and others as a leader. She helped Marie think about what she was saying and prompted the whole class to understand that working to increase fairness is about all of us and is everyone’s responsibility. As her teacher, it was wonderful for me to see her confident self-identity. In a moment in which I hesitated, she was willing to take a risk to speak up about unfairness. She was showing her competence—and she answered my inner question showing that, yes, these are topics children can handle.

Using the Thinking Lens to reflect further on my role with the children, families, and colleagues, I thought about the following:

- What is my role as the children’s teacher? I would like to learn along-

- side the children as well as be a leader in helping to guide their critical thinking and problem-solving around social justice issues. I want them to be well prepared for their future history and civics classes and, as an essential part of that preparation, I want them to develop their power to make the world better.
- What do children want to know? What do children already know and understand? Children have questions about what is happening in the world today and about history. I planned to observe, listen, and think deeper with the children about these questions.
- What is developmentally appropriate and socially and emotionally appropriate for young children? As I listened to the children’s questions, I thought about the best way to answer. How much should children know about past and present injustices? How much background knowledge did I need to provide for them to think meaningfully about social justice issues? Was I telling them enough? Was I going too far? I planned to do research and collaborate with my colleagues and the children’s families to agree on what is appropriate for the different age groups.
- How can I help children feel safe with all the scary things going on in our world? Often children come to school and share knowledge they have learned at home about our current political climate or about violence in their communities or other places. What is my role when these conversations emerge? How can I help them develop their sense of safety?
- How can I introduce powerful “Peace Heroes” in a positive way? An important part of my anti-bias teaching is exposing children to a diverse group of leaders we call Peace Heroes from history and from today. I purposefully select Peace Heroes from around the world, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi, and also from our community, such as Harvey Milk (California’s first openly gay elected official). I know I have to provide context to explain these leaders’ accomplishments, but should I include information about the violence that was often a part of these people’s stories? If yes, how might I do that?
- Asking Big Questions and Developing Powerful Knowledge.

After our initial conversation about segregation, we embarked on a 7-month journey learning about important Peace Heroes in our world and what our role could be in making this world a better place. Several weeks in, I realized that our investigation was about so much more. The children had big questions. They wanted to have real conversations and understand why things happen in our world. They asked about life, death, fairness, skin color, and race.

Recently, I was asked by a colleague, “What’s your favorite thing about your work with young children?” I answered, “The spontaneous conversations we have about how the world works.” As I continue my journey as an anti-bias educator, I often reflect on what is hard and what is rewarding about this work. Although I love engaging in real conversations with the young children in my classroom, it is challenging. I don’t know when these conversations will arise or what children will say or ask. My hope is that I can be as prepared as possible and answer children in a way that is honest, is developmentally appropriate, respects their competence and point of view, helps them feel safe, and shows them their power to change the world.

The rest of the school year, the children, my colleagues, and I thought together about what our roles are and what we can do as Peace Heroes in our communities to make this world a better place. We often sang the song “What Can One Little Person Do?,” by Sally Rogers. The children answered that question with many ideas that give me hope for the future.

People should sit wherever they want on public transportation! I want to help change unfair rules.



BOOK REVIEW: BOOKS ON BLACK HISTORY AND BLACK LIFE FOR KIDS

BY VARIOUS AUTHORS
C. 2025, 2026, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS
\$17.99-\$18.99 • VARIOUS PAGE COUNTS

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Everybody in your family has stories to share. Your parents have told you some, no doubt. Your grandparents have offered a few, too, and aunts and uncles have spun some good tales. But there's so much more to know, so grab one of these great books and learn about Black History and Black life... For the youngest reader, "As You Are: A Hope for Black Sons" by Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle, illustrated by David



Wilkerson (Magination Press, \$18.99) is a book for small Black boys and for their mothers. It's a hope inside a prayer that the world treats a child gently, and it could make a great baby shower gift. If someone said you couldn't do something that you were clearly able to do, would you fight to do it anyhow? In the new book, "Remember Her Name! Debbie Allen's Rise to Fame" by Tami Charles, illustrated by Meredith Lucius (Charlesbridge, \$17.99), a young girl in the Jim Crow South is told that

she can't dance because of the color of her skin. She didn't listen, though, and neither did her mother, who took her daughter to Mexico, where the girl soared! This is an inspiration for any 5-to-7-year-old; be sure to check out the back-of-the-book information, if you're an adult fan. Do you often hear your elders say things that sound like lessons? They might be, so "Where There is Love: A Story of African Proverbs" by Shauntay Grant, illustrated by Leticia Moreno (Penguin

Workshop, \$18.99) is a book you'll like. It's a quick-to-read collection of short proverbs that you can say every day. Kids ages 4-to-6 will easily remember what they find in this book; again, look in the back for more information. Surely, you love your neighborhood, which is why the tale inside "Main Street: A Community Story about Redlining" by Britt Hawthorne and Tiffany Jewell, illustrated by David Wilkerson (Penguin Kokila, \$18.99) is a book for you. Olivia's neighborhood is

having a block party, but she's sad when no one shows up. That's when she learns that "the government" is discriminating against the people and businesses near where she lives. So what can she and her neighbors do? The answer might inspire 6-to-8-year-old kids to stand up to wrongs they see, and to help make their neighborhoods stronger and safer. And finally, if a kid wants a book, where can they go to find it? In "I'm So Happy You're Here: A Celebration of Library Joy" by Mychal Threats, illus-

trated by Lorraine Nam (Random House, \$18.99) is a good introduction to the best of what a library has to offer. The freedom to walk into a library and borrow a book is the theme here, as is the sheer happiness of being welcomed, no matter who you are. This is an easy book for kids as young as two and as old as five to enjoy. On that note, if you want more, head to that library, or a nearby bookstore. They'll be glad to see you. They've got stories to share.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

SERVICES OF THE CLERK:

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

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)

VOTER INFORMATION
Verify/Update your Registration Today

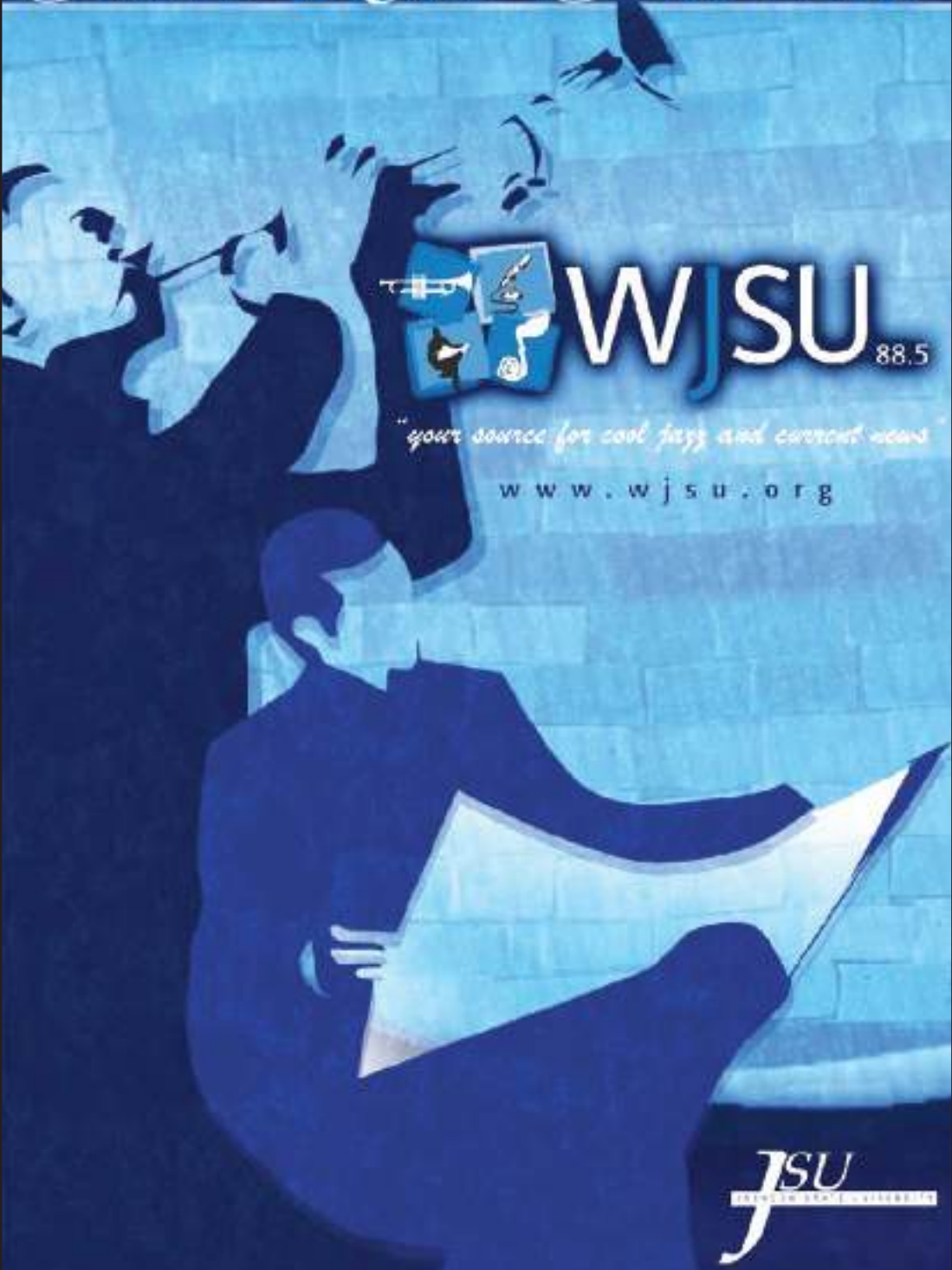
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

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.

Website: www.hindscountymiss.com
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

Cool And Current



WJSU 88.5
"your source for cool jazz and current news"
www.wjsu.org

JSU
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



WRTM
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

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

Patriots and Seahawks set to battle in Super Bowl LX

By Ito N. Umontuen
Black Press USA

Super Bowl LX will feature a marquee matchup between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks. The championship game is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California — home of the San Francisco 49ers.

This marks the Patriots' 12th Super Bowl appearance in franchise history and their 10th since Robert Kraft took ownership of the team. For Seattle, this will be their first trip back to the Super Bowl since the 2014 season, adding another chapter to the team's postseason legacy.

Patriots Survive Snowy Battle Against Broncos to Claim AFC Title

New England punched its ticket to Super Bowl LX by edging the Denver Broncos 10–7 in a weather-marred AFC Championship Game. Heavy snowfall in the second half drastically limited scoring opportunities, with just three total points recorded after halftime. A clutch Patriots field goal ultimately proved decisive.

The win capped a dramatic turnaround for New England, which managed only eight victories across the previous two seasons combined. The arrival of head coach Mike Vrabel, paired with the rapid growth of quarterback Drake Maye, propelled the Patriots back into contention among the NFL's elite.

A key moment came in the second quarter when Broncos head coach Sean Payton opted against an easy field goal, choosing instead to attempt a fourth-down conversion. With worsening



The Vince Lombardi Trophy is displayed during a news conference for the winning head coach and MVP of Super Bowl LVIII at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on February 12, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO BY: ITORO N. UMONTUEN

weather conditions later limiting offensive production, the decision loomed large.

"There's always hindsight," Payton said postgame. "At the time, we liked the situation. You're making decisions based on momentum and the opponent. Unfortunately, it didn't work out."

He added that Denver failed to fully capitalize on favorable field position and acknowledged that turnovers played a major role in the loss.

For Patriots wide receiver Stefon Diggs, the victory carried extra meaning. Five years after losing an AFC Championship Game with Buffalo, Diggs is finally headed to the Super Bowl.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group," Diggs said. "Coming back from injury, trusting the process, and being surrounded by the right people made everything worth it. We're not done yet — there's one more goal."

Seahawks Outlast Rams in NFC Championship Thriller

Seattle earned its fourth Super Bowl berth by defeating the Los Angeles Rams 31–27 in a high-scoring NFC Championship showdown. Quarterback Sam Darnold delivered one of the best performances of his career, throwing for 346 yards and three touchdowns. Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford answered with 374 yards and three scores of his own in a back-and-forth duel.

Despite Seattle entering the game with the NFL's top-ranked defense, the spotlight belonged to Darnold's composure, precision, and leadership. Once selected third overall by the New York Jets in 2018 and later written off after stints in Carolina and San Francisco, Darnold resurrected his career with a breakout season in Minnesota in 2024. Sunday's performance silenced lingering doubts about his ability to deliver in high-pressure moments.

Darnold leaned heavily on wide re-

ceiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who recorded 10 receptions for 153 yards and a touchdown. The former Ohio State standout consistently created separation and made critical catches throughout the game.

Seattle faced adversity late in the third quarter after cornerback Riq Woolen was flagged for taunting, extending a Rams drive that appeared destined to stall. On the very next play, Puka Nacua beat Woolen near the goal line to pull Los Angeles within four points.

Still, the Seahawks' defense responded when it mattered most. A crucial goal-line stand with under five minutes remaining preserved the lead, and Seattle's offense followed with a time-consuming drive to seal the victory.

Key Details for Super Bowl LX

The NFL's 60th Super Bowl will kick off at 6:30 p.m. ET (3:30 p.m. local time) on February 8, 2026, from Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. NBC will broadcast the game, with Mike Tirico handling play-by-play duties alongside analyst Cris Collinsworth. Melissa Stark will report from the sidelines.

A win would place Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel in rare company. Vrabel, who won three Super Bowls as a player with New England, could become the first individual to capture a championship both on the field and on the sideline for the same franchise.

Bad Bunny set to headline Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show

Global music icon Bad Bunny will headline the Super Bowl LX halftime show. The three-time Grammy Award winner, whose real name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, was offi-

cially announced as the performer by the NFL, Apple Music, and Roc Nation in September.

The 31-year-old Puerto Rican superstar released his sixth studio album in January 2025 and finished the year as Spotify's most-streamed artist worldwide for the fourth time, amassing more than 19.8 billion streams. While best known for performing in Spanish, Bad Bunny is no stranger to major sporting events, having previously appeared during the Super Bowl 54 halftime show alongside Shakira and Jennifer Lopez.

Notably, President Donald J. Trump announced he will not be attending Super Bowl LX in an interview with the New York Post.

"It's just too far away. I would. I've [gotten] great hands [at] the Super Bowl. They like me," Trump said.

Meanwhile, Bad Bunny has been a vocal critic of the Trump Administration. Trump hit back at the Puerto Rican performer.

"I'm anti-them," Trump said. "I think it's a terrible choice. All it does is sow hatred. Terrible."

The NFL has continued to back Bad Bunny since the September announcement.

"There's a lot of people right now who don't like Bad Bunny being in the Super Bowl halftime show," said NFL chief marketing officer Tim Ellis. "Well, not everyone has to like everything we do. Bad Bunny is awesome."

Ito N. Umontuen serves as the National Sports and Entertainment Editor with Black Press USA. He is also a veteran photographer for 20 years, based in Atlanta for the past 15 years



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

~ **Fifteenth Annual** ~

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

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








Dr. Greta TERRY
Educator

Mr. Richard POLK
Ret. EEOC

Dr. Amos BROWN
Civil Rights Icon







Travanti HILLS
~ Gospel Recording Artists ~

The WATSON FAMILY

Chandra WISE

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

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

Dr. Daphne C. WILSON
Historian

Waikinya CLANTON
Legal Activist

Bro. Melvin MILLER
Administrator

Lt. Ralph MOORE
US Navy


Dr. Tonya MOORE
Nurse Educator

Benjamin CONE, III
Gospel Artist

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

Featured on the YouTube channel

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



Tutor Me

Register Today

JANIECE AUSTIN, FOUNDER

P.O. Box 68876 | Jackson, MS 39286 | (601) 862-7535
Austin.janiece@yahoo.com | www.mystudyhall.org

Tutor Me offers ACT Prep and an ACT WorkKeys Skills Camp. The Camp consist of skill building in English, Math, Reading, Science, Graphic Literacy, Applied Math, and Workplace Documents. ACT WorkKeys Assessment prepares students for the workforce.

Ms. Austin is a nationally certified ACT instructor and has taught ACT Prep and ACT WorkKeys Prep at a Jackson-Metro Area High School for 5 years.

Come one Come All to get tips and strategies to boost your ACT and ACTWorkKeys Score.

Time is now to prepare to increase your child's skills in English and Math. Tutor Me is a non-profit tutoring company that offers tutorial sessions in person and virtual for K-12 graders.

Please visit Tutor Me website at <http://www.mystudyhall.org> and email austin.janiece@yahoo.com Tutor Me has been in business since 2015 and is a first class tutoring company.

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

2025 concluded with a meaningful and celebratory final Board Meeting in December. As always, we proudly recognized our S.P.E.C.I.A.L. award recipients and honored those whose dedication continues to move Hinds County School District forward. We also paused to honor Dr. Carolyn Samuel for her 12 years of devoted service to the Hinds County School Board, including her leadership as Vice President. Her integrity, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to the students, families, and community of Hinds County have left a lasting impact on our district.

