



Gladys Marie Johnson marks 'Four Score' in ageless style

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Oh, how the tea was spilled! Who would have ever guessed that the young woman from Fitzgerald, Georgia, who married a preacher and served as First Lady of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi for fifty-six years, would have told her sister Diane as a youngster that marrying a minister would be too restrictive? And who knew that the same phenomenal woman always told her family that she wanted four boys, but once marrying that preacher – Reverend Dr. Hickman Morgan Johnson – five amazing daughters came forth?

You just had to be there at VenU by Roseburgh, 420 Meadowbrook Road in Jackson Saturday, April 11, 2026, to feel the love for, and get the inside scoop on, the deeply revered Birthday Queen. Many still call her First Lady, others say Marie, and a few say MJ. To those grands, all eight of them, she is Maaga. The program created by her devoted daughters ensured a grand celebration for their mother's 80th birthday. The theme was Motown Fancy. The prescribed attire was Fancy Fascinators & Fedoras. Adrian & The Deltones provided the classic Motown sound throughout the event – solid gold.

On this special night, the Birthday Queen left the wearing of her hats to her granddaughters. Each in turn introduced by emcee - Dr. Lori Johnson – before sauntering past the head table wearing the hats that Gladys Marie had showcased through the decades.

Farish Street Baptist Church Pastor, Reverend Eric D. Williams blessed the food before guests were treated to a feast provided by Kreole Soul, LLC. The birthday cake was delicious, as was the crème brule. After the



Gladys Marie Johnson with her loving family, including Diane, seated left, and Joyce, seated right. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG



Cake table.



Farish Street Baptist Church Pastor Emeritus Hickman M. Johnson sharing about his wife Marie.



Hickman and Marie Johnson dancing to Midnite Train to Georgia.

meal, the grands danced and sang to selections being played by Dee Jay "Cynt Marie," "droppin the beats and not the ball," on you guessed it, WGMJ radio's "Saturday Soul on Motown Memory Lane" program, including Marvin Gaye and Tammy Terrell's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," The Marvelettes "Wait A Minute Mr. Postman," and Smokey Robinson's "Cruisin."

Special flowers were presented to the Birthday Queen in the form of sharing by select guests beginning with former co-worker at Provine High School, Mrs. Peter's – they have been friends for twenty-five years. From Marie's church family, came Ms. Nellie Tolliver, "Marie and I have been knowing each other for over 55 years...we met on the campus of Atlanta University (now Clark At-

lanta University), we were graduate students, I was having a bad day. Marie prayed with me and for me and we have been friends ever since. Someone once said that God gives us a friend so that we won't walk alone. Marie has been by my side. Thank you, Marie. Also, in Proverbs it tells us that a friend is like a relative and

Johnson
Continued on page 3

Former Sharecropper Delen Lee remembers his mother's love since childhood

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

Sharecropping was a post-Civil War Economy that emerged when the plantation economy and the need of labor collapsed. Largely a southern act of living and labor, the system had an exploitative nature – often called "slavery rerouted" or a form of "financial prison." This system set out to hold Black families, in particular, hostage by keeping them in poverty, controlling them, and keeping them dependent. During the 1940s, increased mechanization and better economic opportunities in cities occurred, and sharecropping began to disappear.



Lee

Jackson resident Delen Lee recently shared his sharecropping years and years thereafter during a face-to-face interview. He said that times were tough. The family lived in a rough wooded house with a corrugated tin roof. The house had no gas, no lights, no tv, no radio, no water, and no toilet. There was, nonetheless, an outhouse.

"Something like a gutter ran down the house, which is how we got our water," said Delen. From there, the family collected their

water that flowed in cans. That water was for drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning. Early-on, Delen's father David Lee deserted the family, leaving his mother (Vergie Mae Lee), him and his 11 siblings in the sharecropping system to fend for themselves. Eventually, his brother Louis left for New Orleans, LA, and his sister Bennie Mae moved to Jackson and married thereafter.

"Whenever I go to Flora off highway 22 and look at those fields, I feel myself working there. When we left Flora, I was around four-years-old. Our mother told me I was going to the cotton field. She told me to bring the cotton. I picked it and put it in the sack. I got hot, and she told me to get on the sack. I laid on it, and I asked her were we ever going to get to the end of the row. She said, 'Don't worry. We're going to get there when we get there.'"

Delen accentuated that he, his siblings, and his mother were poor. The family continued to work as sharecroppers when they

left Flora and settled in Jackson. They labored as sharecroppers for 15 or 20 years.

The interviewee shared that Ms. Lee had a third-grade education, but she knew how to make ends meet. A professional cook, she would cut a chicken and make a six-course meal. "We ate commodity cheese and meat from the government, and our mother could make them last. Some of our friends would come by our house and ask us to ask our mother to fix them a plate. Somehow, she always had enough to share with others in the neighborhood," he mentioned.

"Our mother worked at Rhodes Cleaners on Woodrow Wilson beside AutoZone. Seven of us and our mother lived on Elm Street (Elm Court off Pleasant Avenue) in a small, one-bedroom apartment with a kitchen, a front room, and a toilet. We made pallets. I don't know how we made it, but our mother made us feel like we

Lee
Continued on page 3

Unforeseen consequences of a ban on Birthright Citizenship

In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

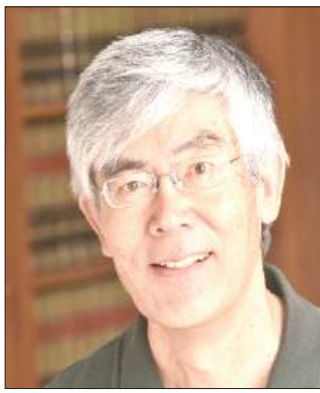
On his very first day in office — January 20, 2025 — President Donald Trump signed an executive order denying US citizenship to babies born to undocumented parents and "lawful but temporary" residents, such as students, several categories of workers from abroad, and tourists. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments April 1 challenging the ban and is expected to issue a ruling in June.

Left out of his rationale for the ban are the long-term economic consequences — potentially in the trillions — of shrinking the American born workforce and the generational hit to the pipeline of workers the country will desperately need: doctors, nurses and caregivers for America's rapidly aging population. Also ignored are the ramifications of creating an underclass of children born in the US but without status, essentially stateless. Seven states are currently considering legislation which would ban unauthorized children from attending public schools. Such legislation challenges a 1982 Supreme Court ruling, which guarantees a free public-school education to all children, regardless of immigration status.

On Friday, April 10, 2026, four experts formed a panel led by Sunita Sohrabji, American Community Media's Health Editor, to discuss the wider consequences for American society of a ban on birthright citizenship. Nearly seventy media outlets from around the globe joined the discussion.

Discussion began with a video of Pilar Marrero interviewing Dr. Hiroshi Motomura, the Susan Westerberg Prager Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law, who has spent decades helping others understand immigration and citizenship. She asked, if we are debating immigration policy or are we debating what type of country the United States is meant to be. "Fundamentally we're debating what type of country the United States is meant to be. You can think of it in legal terms, but it's really about the fundamental result." The US has already said that certain people, especially Black Americans should not belong. How much was the 14th Amendment about correcting that exclusion and redefining who counts as American.

"There's two ways to think about the 14th Amendment and one of them is focused on Black Americans. There was the Dred Scott case in the 1850's that said that Black people couldn't be citizens. In one respect the 14th Amendment was intended to overturn or remove the stain of the Dred Scott decision on



Dr. Hiroshi Motomura. PHOTO: CARNEGIE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE.



Dr. Phillip Connor. PHOTO: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.



Dr. Julia Gelatt. PHOTO: URBAN INSTITUTE



Xiao Wang. PHOTO: BOUNDLESS IMMIGRATION.

American history, and this is of course what the American Civil War was about – to end slavery and the southern states wanting to continue slavery. But the other thing the 14th Amendment does is goes beyond to provide a broad vision of America that goes beyond overturning Dred Scott. It embodies an inclusive vision of the United States, it involves a rejection of inherited citizenship from your parents – what became appropriate for a nation of immigrants, where it is designed to give people a stake in their future for their children and grandchildren. Citizenship is a vehicle of belonging. The denial of birthright citizenship is a turning away from America's ideals and if birthright citizenship is overturned it will affect millions and will change the landscape of America."

Dr. Phillip Connor, a Re-
Birthright
Continued on page 3

Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Inside
'From Generation to Generation,' College Hill Baptist Church celebrates 119 years



Page 4

Books for Poetry Month



Page 14

West Jackson Girl Scout Unit recognizes high school graduating seniors

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The West Jackson Girl Scout Unit of Greater Mississippi Girl Scouts recognized seven seniors from various troops in the Jackson Metro area that are soon to reach a special milestone in their lives, as high school graduates.

The event was held Monday, April 13, 2026, in the Greater Fairview Baptist Church Recreational Outreach Center located at 1909 Boling Street in Jackson at 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 4235 served as hosts. Graduates included Aaliyah Fisher, troop 5351, Jada Lambert, troop 5351, MaKayla Duckworth, troop 4235, Zemia Bass, troop 5149, Malaiah Golliday, troop 5575, and NeKeyah West, troop 5120.

Each senior student spoke about their experiences as girl scouts, their role models [which included family members and troop leaders], and their plans after graduation. For many, those plans not only included where they would attend college but also their prospective majors and career goals.

The leaders, parents and other family members were given the opportunity to speak directly to the graduates. Some of what was shared included advice to help



Troop Leader Peggy King and graduating seniors (L-R) Aaliyah Fisher, Jada Lambert, MaKayla Duckworth, Madison Russell, Zamiya Bass, Malaiah Golliday, and Nekeyah West.



Graduating Seniors along with their mothers and other family members after receiving cash rewards from the West Jackson Service Unit and baskets of gifts from their individual troops and troop leaders.



them through their journey, a personal invitation to contact the speakers when needed, to always put God first, follow their dreams, and choose their friends and associates wisely. The young ladies were very receptive of the advice and accolades they received. A few tears were shed not only from a few of the scouts but also from family members and leaders.



At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

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

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

It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Birthright

Continued from page 1

search Fellow at Princeton University's Center for Migration and Development, shared about economics studied by him and his colleagues. "Two-thirds are in occupations that will require at least some college – without citizenship that could not happen – that's 3.1 million people. Contributions to GDP by these immigrants \$7.7 trillion dollars over the century-long period of study." Connor was asked about other sectors besides healthcare that will be impacted. "The remaining areas beyond tech and healthcare, one-third are in transportation, construction, and foods preparation."

Dr. Julia Gelatt is Associate Director of U.S. Immigration Policy Program at the Migration Policy Institute. "The goal of Trump's Order was to reduce illegal immigration and to reduce the size of the unauthorized population, but we find in fact the EO would do quite the opposite because children would be born in the US without legal status if they didn't have birthright citizenship, the unauthorized immigrant population would actually grow by 2.7 more over the next 20

years, and 5.4 million more over the next fifty years...it would create a self-perpetuating class excluded from social membership, spanning across generations...no access to benefits, constrained access to education."

Nestor Fantani, an Argentine American educator, former political prisoner, and human rights activist, posed a question for all to consider amid the discussion. "What does it say about the United States and one of its major political parties that a 2025 Pew Research Center poll found that 72% of Republicans and Republican-leaning respondents approve of the (birthright citizenship) executive order, including 42% who strongly approve?"

Xiao Wang is the CEO and Co-Founder of Boundless Immigration, which focuses on simplifying the immigration process. "This debate is typically heard in Constitutional terms, but that conversation misses the side of the debate that will have long-term impact – hospital staffing, research staffing. And it challenges how people view living a

life in the US. If you are a highly skilled worker and you are deciding where to build your future – a stable life – this ban will cause people to question if America is what's best for their family. In rural communities, American Medical Colleges says the US faces a physician shortage of 86,000 doctors by 2036. If even a modest amount of these workers decide that America has become too unstable of a place to raise their family. The hardest hit places will be in rural areas that are already struggling to recruit workers."

Please use this link to view the entire briefing on this important subject - <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/unforeseen-consequences-of-a-ban-on-birthright-citizenship>. Also, the following links are to research papers done by Dr. Connor and his team, and by Dr. Gelatt and her team, respectively. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/23315024261434042>

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/birthright-citizenship-repeal-projections>.

Johnson

Continued from page 1



Nellie Tolliver and Marie at Services April 12th.
PHOTO: DR. LORI JOHNSON

so thank you for being like a family member, Marie. I pray that your day and your gifts will be a blessing from God and I am thankful that God has given me a true, good friend, for over 55 years. Happy Birthday!"

Marie's baby sister Diane spilled the tea mentioned above, and also a story about how as young girls, "Marie and our sister Shirley were always spending time in a little playhouse not far from the main house and they stayed late until it got dark and it worried my mother, who said she was going to

break that up. They came to the playhouse and put white sheets on it. That did work. It scared them so much they never went back there. She shared that she stayed with Hickman and Marie when she was attending Thee I Love, and "one night Hickman knocked on my door and said, Diane I think Marie is in labor, and she was, and so out the door we went and she had her little bag and she would take a few steps and when the contractions came she would (fill in Diane's demonstration of Marie wobbling and cooing fluttery noises), but we made it to the hospital and a few hours later Cynthia was born. She stated in a tone that made the room go completely still, "Marie always encouraged me. She has always been there for me, and I will forever appreciate her as my sister. I love her so much...they didn't have to open their doors to me when I was going to Jackson State, but they did. She was the maid of honor at my wedding..."

Marie's neighborhood bestie, Diana Kerry Smith, shared about their love of quilting and presented a special quilt that she had made for this occasion. Grands Courtnei, Denea, and Allyson then shared

endearing messages of how "Maaga" supports, advises, encourages, takes them places and is always there for them, keeping them busy, and even waking them in the middle of the night to pray. The room grew still once again as the youngest, Allyson – age 11, shared her love for her grandmother through heartfelt tears, until her aunt and godmother, Dr. Lori, stepped in to relay, "she just wanted to say she loves you MAAGA for everything, everything, and everything."

Has there ever been an occasion that wasn't lifted by the words and delivery of Reverend Dr. Hickman Morgan Johnson? This high occasion was no different – imparting his unique knowledge, stories, and humor. "She asked me to jump, and I said how high baby? What makes for a good marriage? One word – Yes. Y E S makes for a really good marriage... what do you get for someone who has everything... I decided the one thing that would make her day complete is to do this," and he bent down and delivered what sure seemed to be the perfect birthday kiss. One of the grands then stated, "I've been on this earth for seventeen years and I have never seen them

kiss before, and he just did it three times in a row."

And then it was Marie's turn, "Well the Lord being in charge you never know what you're going to have to do. I'm very happy and thankful for this time in my life. You have given me so much by being here with me today. The children didn't really tell me, especially Lori, what they were going to have today...it is a blessing to be standing here just a few hours before April 12th, my actual birthday." She spoke about her own mother, midwives, and her becoming a seven-month baby...I reflect on that...it has been a great journey...once you have your children and go through what you do, you just thank God so much for the blessings. God knows what's best for you because I wouldn't take anything in the world for these five daughters that we have...they have been the greatest joy in my life. To all of you, you have given my heart joy that is filled beyond the amount that you can say in words." She mentioned Mrs. Maggie Turner's profound help to her during her early years as First Lady, then asked everyone to stand and conclude the event by praying together, the Lord's Prayer.

Lee

Continued from page 1

were rich.

Delen remembered when the landlord came to the house and told Ms. Lee that they had to move because she fell behind in paying the \$6 monthly rent. She wept a long time. Although some of the oldest brothers tried to work and keep the apartment, the family had to move anyway. "Our mother told us that God was going to bless us. She was a strong mother who believed in Jesus Christ," he said.

One day Delen heard Ms. Lee talking in her room behind the closed door. "I thought she was fighting with somebody, but when I got older, I found out that she was talking to Jesus. Approximately six months after she was praying, a white man from the federal government came

to the house and asked if she was Ms. Vergie Mae Lee. He then asked what was her occupation. 'I'm a sharecropper,' she proudly stated. Mama had nothing to be ashamed of, for she was a hard worker. The visitor told her that our daddy had passed and she was going to get a check for every kid that they had."

Delen recalled that his mother started shouting and calling Jesus. She purchased a new home at 3546 Newman Ave. "The house was built by Jim Walker, and our mother told us to never forget where we came from. She planted a garden in the back yard and roses in the front yard."

While reflecting on the trials and tribulations of life, Delen was

quick to acknowledge that his mother had power. "She believed in faith, and all of us stayed in that house until we got grown." He further expressed that everybody in the neighborhood knew Ms. Vergie Mae Lee, a "cornerstone" and a giving person who died when she was 86.

Deacon Delen Lee and his wife, Deaconess Shelor Louise Lee, are members of Friendship Baptist Church (2948 Bailey Ave., Jackson, MS 39213, shepherded by Pastor Joshua E. Myers). Deacon Lee is a security guard, and Deaconess Shelor Louise Lee is a care giver. They work with many children and have four adult children: Alyson Lee; Delen Lee, Jr.; Nancy Lee; and Laquita Lee.

Healthcare with us,
FMOLHealth.org

LOCAL CARE, BIG-TIME MEDICINE

This is how we healthcare.™



FMOL Health

St. Dominic

FMOL Health is one connected health system, where excellence meets empathy, and you always feel seen and understood. We healthcare with purpose, compassion and great love. Wherever you meet us, you'll find the same promise: the best care possible.

FMOL HEALTH OUR LADY OF THE LAKE | FMOL HEALTH OUR LADY OF LOURDES | FMOL HEALTH ST. DOMINIC | FMOL HEALTH ST. FRANCIS

‘From Generation to Generation,’ College Hill Baptist Church celebrates 119 years

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Having its humble beginning in 1907, under an oak tree which was located on the south side of Florence Avenue in West Jackson, also known as Gowdy, MS., College Hill M. B. Church was established. This century old church, which is located at 1600 Florence Avenue, about one hundred yards from its original site, celebrated its 119th year anniversary Sunday, April 12, 2026.

After an overview of the Sunday School Lesson by church member Vanette Montgomery, Brother Archer Wilson presided over the service of which members of various generations were represented.

The theme for the occasion was “From Generation to Generation: Still Standing, Still Serving, Still Believing.” It, with the chosen scripture from Psalm 145:4, exemplifies how one generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

A very touching part of the service included a media presentation of historical reflections from long-time members of College Hill that had been interviewed by Brandon Mitchell, the director of music and media production. These members shared their love for the church and how being a member has impacted their spiritual growth. They reflected on individuals, some of whom have transitioned, that impacted their lives, and the activities of the church which have kept them grounded and united for a lifetime.

The preached word was given by Rev. Robert McCallum, pastor of Priestley Chapel M.B. Church in Canton, MS. He thanked Pastor Chauncy Jordoan, Sr. for giving him the opportunity to speak on

the special occasion of the church anniversary.

McCallum was remarkably familiar with College Hill. He recalled many of his experiences regarding the church, which he attended as a little boy. He stated his spiritual education started at College Hill and spoke fondly of his relationship with the late, Pastor R.E. Willis who served as pastor from 1965-1989. McCallum shared his memories of attending Vacation Bible School at College Hill which he said, “was one of the largest attended in the area,” when he was growing up.

He spoke on the subject, “We Are Still Standing.” McCallum emphasized the importance of passing the baton to the young people that are serving in the church and the importance of preparing each generation to carry on so that the church can be around for another 119 years.

McCallum echoed the importance of having churches in the community. “College Hill has been, and still is a great light-house, a beacon of hope and a family of faith in the community as a result of the teachings throughout the years,” stated the speaker of the hour. He said as a result of the teachings of the church, homes have been changed, and sinners have been converted. “The church is a place where businessmen and broken men can sit on the same pew and be blessed.”

At the end of service, remarks and words of gratitude were given by Deacon Robert and Deaconess Audrey Green, who served as Co-Chairs of the church anniversary committee.

Afterward, Jordan thanked McCallum for his powerful message along with special thanks to the anniversary committee, the choir, and all the service participants.



I’m on a mission to save you money

Superpower Mississippi will help lower customers’ future bills 16% through 2030

Entergy’s Superpower Mississippi plan is creating more and better power that helps save you money.

Our new, more efficient power plants will reduce fuel costs by 40%. Replacing older plants now helps us save customers billions in projected infrastructure costs. Those savings are passed directly to customers and will help keep future bills 16% lower through 2030.

Our rates are below the national average, and since Mississippi is our home, too, every Entergy employee is on a mission to keep costs low. Learn how Amazon and other large customers’ new contributions to the grid are lowering power costs for Mississippi customers and more 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. | ©2026 Entergy Services, LLC. All rights reserved.



Earth Month Event: Free String Recycling for Musicians in Madison

Mississippi Link Newswire

Musicians in Madison will have the opportunity to refresh their instruments and recycle used strings during a free Restring & Recycle event at DC Guitar Studio on April 22nd from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The event invites local musicians to bring in used strings from any brand, have their instruments restrung with D'Addario® strings, and recycle the old ones through Playback, an instrument string recycling program created by D'Addario and powered by TerraCycle®.

"At DC Guitar Studio, we're not just building musicians, we're building a community," said Dan Confait, DC Guitar Studio. "With the help from D'Addario, this Earth Day event is our way of bringing people together to make a small im-



pact that adds up, and through the Playback program, every set of used strings our customers bring in stays out of a landfill."

For musicians, replacing worn strings is part of maintaining sound quality and performance — but it also creates a surprising amount of waste. Industry estimates indicate that approximately 1.5 million pounds of musical instrument strings are discarded in the United States each year — equivalent to the weight of more than two and a half Statues of Liberty.

The event at DC Guitar Studio is among several taking place at music retailers nationwide throughout Earth Month, giving musicians an easy way to recycle used strings while keeping their instruments performing at their best.

Playback, an instrument string recycling program created by D'Addario and powered by TerraCycle, gives musicians a responsible alternative to sending used strings to a landfill or incinerator. Once collected through the program, the ma-

terials are recycled so they can be used again: metal strings are smelted into new alloys, while nylon strings are recycled for industrial plastic applications. The program has collected and recycled more than 16 million strings, and counting.

Musicians interested in recycling through Playback can visit www.daddario.com/playback. For more information on the Restring & Recycle event, please contact DC Guitar Studio at (769) 218-3736.

About D'Addario & Company, Inc.

D'Addario is the world's largest manufacturer of musical instrument accessories, marketed under several product brands: D'Addario Fretted, D'Addario Orchestral, D'Addario Woodwinds, Promark Drumsticks, Evans Drumheads, and Pure-

sound Snare Wires. A family-owned and operated business with roots dating back to the 17th century, D'Addario now has over 1,100 employees worldwide, and manufactures 95% of its products in the U.S. while utilizing Toyota's Lean manufacturing principles. D'Addario musical accessories are distributed in 120 countries, serve more than 3,300 U.S. retailers, all major e-commerce sites, and are the preferred choice of musicians worldwide.

The D'Addario Foundation believes in the power of music to unlock creativity, boost self-confidence, and enhance academics. D'Addario also reinforces its role as a social and environmental leader with initiatives such as Playback and Play.Plant.Preserve.

About TerraCycle

TerraCycle is an international leader in innovative sustainability solutions, creating and operating first-of-their-kind platforms in recycling, recycled materials, and reuse. Across 18 countries, TerraCycle is on a mission to eliminate the idea of waste and develop practical solutions for today's complex waste challenges. The company engages an expansive multi-stakeholder community, from Fortune 500 companies to schools and households, across a wide range of accessible programs and has raised millions for schools and nonprofits since its founding more than 20 years ago. To learn more about TerraCycle and join them on their journey to move the world from a linear economy to a circular one, please visit terracycle.com.

Stop going to companies that "Just Do Taxes"

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



The tax preparation industry has become very attractive and lucrative for a lot of individuals and businesses. So much, that each year, you see dozens of new tax preparation companies opening up to be a part of the industry.

Even nontraditional businesses, such as car dealerships, check cashing companies, grocery stores, pawn shops, and payday lenders are adding tax preparation to the list of services they offer.

So what is it that makes a lot of businesses and individuals swarm to this particular industry?

If you think about it, what other business can you open up that would give you the potential to make hundreds of dollars in one hour or less from just one customer? To answer that question, "Very few."

To go even further, what other business can you open up that would give you the potential to make hundreds of dollars in one hour or less from just one customer without you being required to attend any educational classes, be licensed, or fully trained? To answer that question, "Probably none, but a business in the tax preparation industry."

The majority of these new companies "Just Do Taxes," but the question you should ask yourself is, "Do they KNOW TAXES?"

Even Albert Einstein once said, "The hardest thing to understand in the world is the income tax."

According to the Internal Revenue Service, millions of dollars go unclaimed each year due to taxpayers failing to take advantage of all the adjustments, credits, and deductions that are allowed. In saying that, whoever prepares your tax return plays a significant role in whether your refund is going to be maximized, or your balance due amount is going to be minimized.

If you get someone to prepare your tax return that relies solely on a computer and tax preparation software for answers instead of them being knowledgeable, then it is as equivalent to you preparing your own tax return using a computer and tax preparation software. Remember, the main purpose of you seeking a third party to prepare your tax return is the notion that they are more informed than you on the subject.

With identity theft on the rise, and the IRS and state tax agencies investigating unethical tax preparers filing fraudulent tax returns, it is to your benefit to find a reputable individual or business meet your tax preparation needs.

When the time approaches to choose a business or individual to prepare your tax return, always do your due diligence first.

Contact the Better Business Bureau to inquire about their rating information. The BBB ratings range from A+ to F, based on the number of consumer complaints reported, as well as other criteria. In addition, visit the IRS's website to determine if the tax preparer you are considering

using has a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). This number is a requirement by the IRS for every tax preparer.

You should also know how long the company has been in business, and personally ask the tax preparer about their level of experience pertaining to tax preparation services.

Due to the possibility of your tax return being selected for an audit, you should further ask the availability of the business or individual following the end of the tax season date of April 15th.

You should never get your taxes prepared with someone that is only open four months out of the year and nowhere to be found after April 15th. Keep in mind, the majority of audit and examination letters are sent to taxpayers by the IRS and state tax agencies after April 15th.

If you think about it, if you did not have the expertise to complete your own tax return, then you are definitely not capable of representing yourself before the IRS or a state tax agency in regards to an audit or an examination.

Your main goal and purpose as a taxpayer should be to only pay your fair share of taxes, and not a penny more. That can only be done by choosing the right business or individual to prepare your tax return.

Remember, you do not want someone that "Just Do Taxes." You should always choose someone that "KNOW TAXES."

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." Got an article idea or a question you would like answered, e-mail Tim at timclee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

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

- ✔ Budgeting Techniques
- ✔ Business Bookkeeping
- ✔ Business Start-Up and Development
- ✔ Credit Restoration
- ✔ Debt Elimination Techniques
- ✔ Estate Planning
- ✔ Identity Theft Insurance
- ✔ Life Insurance
- ✔ Notary Public
- ✔ Pre-Paid Legal Protection
- ✔ Saving for Retirement
- ✔ Tax Preparation (Individual and Business)

Tim C. Lee
CEO & Founder

BIYAM
(601) 371-8580

CANTON
(601) 859-5554

HIGHWAY 18
(601) 922-2700 (2025)

MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD
(601) 952-5980

Tune in to "The TCL Show," hosted by CEO & Founder, Tim C. Lee, every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the show that is about You, Life, and Money!

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

Subscribe TODAY

2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

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

The Mississippi Link

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

1 year

2 year

3 year

\$50
subscription

\$100
subscription

\$150
subscription

The Mississippi Link™
Volume 32 • Number 24
April 16 - 22, 2026
Copyright 2026. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Sports EditorTim Ward
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

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

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

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

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

Member:

MISSISSIPPI PRESS
ASSOCIATION • SERVICES

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

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.

Trump's Personnel Agency is asking for federal workers' medical records

By Amanda Seitz and Maia Rosenfeld
KFF Health News

The Trump administration is quietly seeking unprecedented access to medical records for millions of federal workers and retirees, and their families.

A brief notice from the Office of Personnel Management could dramatically change which personally identifiable medical information the agency obtains, giving it the power to see prescriptions employees had filled or what treatment they sought from doctors. The regulation would require 65 insurance companies that cover more than 8 million Americans — including federal workers, retired members of Congress, mail carriers, and their immediate family members — to provide monthly reports to OPM with identifiable health data on their members.

The proposal is prompting unease from insurers as well as health policy and legal experts, who are concerned about the legality of OPM acquiring such a sweeping database of sensitive health information, and the agency's ability to safeguard it.

OPM could use the data to analyze costs and improve the system, said Sharona Hoffman, a health law ethicist at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

"But," she said, "they are going to get very, very detailed and granular data about everything that happens. The concern here is the more information they have, they could use it to discipline or target people who are not cooperating politically."

OPM spokespeople did not respond to repeated requests for comment. The agency's notice asks insurers that offer Federal Employees Health Benefits or Postal Service Health Benefits plans to furnish "service use and cost data," including "medical claims, pharmacy claims, encounter data, and provider data." It says the data will "ensure they provide competitive, quality, and affordable plans."

The notice, posted and sent to insurers in December, does not instruct them to redact identifying information — a burdensome process that they would need federal guidance to complete.

Instead, it states that insurers are legally permitted to disclose "protected health information" to OPM. Several experts in health policy and law consulted by KFF Health News said they interpreted the request to mean the Trump administration was seeking identifiable data.

The ask comes a year into a Republican administration that has been defined by haphazard mass layoffs and firings of thousands of federal workers, including dozens who say they were targeted in acts of political retaliation or for not embracing the White House's agenda. Under President Donald Trump, the government has also routinely tested the legal bounds of sharing sensitive and personally identifiable tax or health information across government agencies in its efforts to carry out mass immigration arrests or pursue identify fraud.

"You can anticipate a scenario where this information on 8 million Americans is now in the hands of OPM and there's a real concern of how they use it," said Michael Martinez, senior counsel at Democracy Forward, an advocacy organization that filed a public comment opposing OPM's proposal in February. Martinez previously worked at OPM.

"They've given no information about how they would treat that information once they have it," he said.

Among Martinez's concerns is how the administration might use information about employees who have sought abortions — 41 states have some type of abortion ban — or transgender treatment, medical care that the Trump administration has tried to curb.

The American Federation of Government Employees, the largest union representing federal workers, did not respond to requests for comment.

Martinez and others who reviewed the notice for KFF Health News said the proposal was so vague that they were uncertain, exactly, what medical records OPM wants to access.

At the very least, they said, the proposal would allow the agency to access the medical and pharmaceutical claims of patients with their identifying information, such as names and birth dates. Claims data also includes diagnoses, treatments, visit length, and provider information.

OPM's request to view "encounter data" could allow the agency to look at "anything and everything," Hoffman noted.

That could include detailed medical records, such as a doctor's notes or after-visit summa-

ries.

Jonathan Foley, who worked at OPM advising on the Federal Employees Health Benefits program during the Obama and Biden administrations, said he doubts the agency has the capability to ingest such minutiae.

The agency, however, could easily begin collection of personally identifiable medical and pharmaceutical claims information from insurers, he said.

Foley said he sees a benefit to OPM having broader access to de-identified claims data. In recent years, OPM has ramped up its analysis of claims data, which has allowed it to examine prescription drug costs and encourage plans to offer federal workers cheaper alternatives. He's worried, though, that the Trump administration's proposal goes too far, because it appears to seek identifiable data.

"It's kind of shocking to think of them having protected health information without having strict guardrails," he said.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, requires certain organizations that maintain identifiable health information — such as hospitals and insurers — to protect it from being disclosed

without patient consent.

Those entities can disclose such information without consent only in specific scenarios, with a justification that it is deemed "reasonable" or "necessary." Even then, HIPAA mandates that they provide only the minimum amount of information required.

OPM argues in its notice that it is entitled to the information from insurers "for oversight activities."

But several people who reviewed the notice questioned whether OPM's explanation for requesting the information is sufficient.

"The language in it seems quite broad and encompasses potentially a lot of information and data and is sort of light on justification," said Jodi Daniel, a digital health strategist who helped develop the legal framework for HIPAA privacy rules over two decades ago.

Several major insurers that offer federal employee health plans — including the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Kaiser Permanente, and UnitedHealthcare — declined to comment on their plans to comply with the notice or offer insight on where plans to implement the data sharing

stood.

Only one insurer individually weighed in with a public comment on OPM's plan. In March, CVS Health executive Melissa Schulman urged the federal agency to reconsider its proposal.

"OPM's request raises substantial HIPAA compliance issues," Schulman wrote, arguing that federal law allows the agency to examine records but not to collect data. Insurers would be breaking the law by providing personal health information for OPM's "vague and broad general purposes," she added.

Schulman, who did not respond to additional questions from KFF Health News, also raised concerns about a lack of data privacy protections. She noted that insurers could be liable for security breaches or other situations "where consumer health information is inappropriately shared and outside of our control."

In 2015, OPM announced the personal records of roughly 22 million Americans had been stolen from the agency in a data breach that has been blamed on the Chinese government.

The Association of Federal Health Organizations, which represents CVS Health and dozens of other federal health plan

carriers, also weighed in with a 122-page comment opposing the notice. In it, AFHO Chair Kari Parsons emphasized that insurance carriers are bound by HIPAA to safeguard personal health information.

Federal law requires carriers "to furnish 'reasonable reports' OPM determines to be necessary," Parsons wrote, "not to furnish the individual claims data of every individual."

This isn't the first time OPM has requested detailed data from insurers. In the AFHO comment, Parsons noted OPM had made a similar proposal in 2010, prompting HIPAA concerns. She described how, after several years of negotiations with AFHO, they discussed — but OPM never finalized — an agreement in 2019 for carriers to share de-identified data with OPM.

But since then, Parsons wrote, OPM has collected such detailed information on enrollees and their families that, with OPM's new request, the agency may be able to trace even de-identified records to individuals.

OPM has not provided any update since closing comments in March. The agency would need to publish a final decision before anything officially changes.

we must vote
April 1, 2026

Contact: Toni Johnson
601.208.0983 / Toni@WeMust.Vote

STATEMENT ON SHIELD ACT

JACKSON, MS – Toni Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of We Must Vote, released the following statement regarding Gov. Tate Reeves signing the SHIELD Act into law.

"We must be clear: this law is based on debunked conspiracy theories but will have the very real result of disenfranchising thousands of eligible Mississippi voters – stripping them of their right to register and vote. It will disproportionately hurt women - whose names no longer match their birth certificate as well as rural voters and college students - who have a harder time accessing services to get government documents.

"Our lawmakers should be working to expand access to voting for all Mississippians, not trying to deny them this most basic and fundamental right. Every eligible voter must be assured they have the right to register and to vote. And, we will continue to stand up for that right and work to ensure they are able to access the ballot box."

– Toni Johnson, Executive Director

WWW.WEMUST.VOTE

WE MUST VOTE, INC. | 317 E. CAPITOL STREET-SUITE 229 | JACKSON, MS 39201

Coach Geno Auriemma apologized. Coach Dawn Staley accepted. Let's move on!

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



Let's say right away that Geno Auriemma is a championship basketball coach. I would opine that he is the greatest coach ever in women's college basketball. His record of winning is undeniable. Coach Auriemma has won 12 national championships, been to 23 Final Fours and had 6 perfect seasons. That is just a small sample of his accomplishments. He is a coach, mentor and ardent supporter of women's college basketball. He has won and will continue to win. Now, let's get to what

happened on Friday, April 3, 2026, to Geno Auriemma and the UConn women's basketball team. They made the Final Four and their opponent was the University of South Carolina. Their coach is Dawn Staley. The hype and publicity surrounding the game had everyone talking. UConn entered the game on a 54-game winning streak. The University of South was the betting underdog. The beauty of sports is contests are played on courts and fields. When the final horn sounded, USC defeated UConn 62-48 and was going to the title game. The Huskies' winning streak was snapped. Both coaches approached midcourt for the customary end

of game handshake and that is when the dustup occurred. Coach Geno didn't want to shake Coach Dawn's hand. Why? In postgame comments, he felt slighted that she didn't come to the scorer's table to shake hands with him. There is a pre-game custom where coaches shake hands. However, Coach Staley shook hands with every UConn coach and player prior to the game being played. It is my opinion and the opinion of many others that Geno Auriemma was simply frustrated because he lost. He was out-coached and his players were out-played. In an immediate post-game interview with ESPN's Holly Rowe, Coach Staley said, "I

have no idea, imma let you know this: I'm of integrity. So, if I did something wrong to Geno, I have no idea what I did. I guess he thought I didn't shake his hand at the beginning of the game. I didn't know. I went down there pre-game, shook everybody on his staff's hand. I don't know what he came with after the game. But hey, sometimes things get heated, we move on." Dawn Staley is an ambassador for women's sports. Her vision and her opinions matter. Young women see her as the consummate role model. She understands the slippery slope between winning and losing. You can't have one without the other. That is simply the nature of sports.

If you can learn that early on as a player or coach, the losses will become a lot more bearable. You can't win them all. Coach Auriemma released two apology statements. The first one didn't mention Coach Staley by name. The second one did. It said, "Those who know me know I have nothing but respect and admiration for the game and the coaches who coach it. Dawn and her team deserved to win, and they deserved better from me." Further, he stated that in the loss, he lost himself. Simply put, his emotions got the best of him. Some of us have been student-athletes and coaches at the college level. Winning is wonderful and it gives us a euphoric feeling. Smiles and

pats on the back usually follow. Losing on the other hand is an empty and painful experience. It's draining and you are temporarily in a losing drought. Sometimes depending upon what is at stake, recovery time is slow to happen. The game of women's college basketball is growing by leaps and bounds each year. Television ratings and attendance figures are at an all-time high. This has translated into more girls at the elementary, middle and high school levels playing basketball. Dawn Staley and Geno Auriemma have placed their imprint on this growth in basketball. Let's be happy that we have these two legends in a sport that we love.

Student Debt is failing millions. Apprenticeships offer a better way

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



America's student debt system is failing millions of people. About 42.7 million borrowers owe more than \$1.6 trillion. More than 5 million have already gone more than a year without making a payment and are in default. Another 4 million were already in late-stage delinquency when the U.S. Department of Education issued its warning last year. People do not usually end up in default because they are reckless. They end up there because the payoff they were promised never arrives strongly enough or fast enough. Some cannot find steady work. Others find work that simply does not pay enough to carry the debt. That is what it looks like when a path to mobility stops working for too many people. That is why apprenticeships matter. They start with work, wages and skill, not a bill. They let people earn while they learn. They connect training directly to real jobs and real employers. And they do not belong only to the old trades, important as those trades remain. America still needs more electricians, welders, plumbers, carpenters, machinists and construction workers. We need people who can build homes, modernize the grid,

maintain infrastructure and keep the physical country running. But apprenticeship is also being used in teaching, health care, public service, information technology and cybersecurity. Teacher apprenticeship has spread rapidly in recent years because states and employers are looking for better ways to fill essential jobs. Several states are making real progress. Illinois has made meaningful moves, including a tax credit of \$3,500 per eligible apprentice, with another \$1,500 available when the apprentice or the employer is in an underserved area. North Carolina has built a substantial statewide apprenticeship system. Pennsylvania is putting more money into expansion. That is real progress. But Maryland is showing what it looks like when a state decides that apprenticeship belongs near the center of an economic mobility agenda. Gov. Wes Moore signed the RAISE Act and then launched a \$5 million incentive program to help employers hire and train more apprentices. His administration has made clear that apprenticeship is a way to grow the workforce and expand economic opportunity. For most families, the question is simple: Does a path lead to upward mobility or not? Too many young Americans were told that if they studied hard, borrowed what they had to and got the

degree, they would move up. Too often, they are still struggling to get started. The class side of this story is impossible to ignore. The people most likely to get crushed by student debt are the people who had the least room for error to begin with. If your family has savings, a setback is still painful, but it is less likely to become a crisis. If your family does not, one loan payment can throw off the rent, the groceries, the child care or the car note. That is why apprenticeships make so much sense. They let people build skill and income at the same time. They let people move forward without first mortgaging their future. Of course, apprenticeships are not perfect. They have to be funded well. Employers have to take them seriously. Programs have to help people finish. But those are problems worth solving. They are better problems than telling another generation of young people to borrow first and hope it works out later. Student debt has left too many Americans stuck. Apprenticeships offer a better road. Illinois has started down it. Maryland is showing how much farther states can go. The rest of the country should be paying attention. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

My marriage is failing

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



I promise, someone you know or someone who knows someone you know; marriage is failing – includes newlyweds and seasoned couples. There are so many couples struggling to stay married today. Further, devastatingly, many spouses are sleeping in separate bedrooms, and many couples have separated and are living single lives. Furthermore, many couples are just going with the flow – they are remaining married for convenience or until the marriage expires whenever that may be. In fact, in many marriages – the legal binding (the marriage license) is the only thing still holding them together. Why are so many marriages failing? Some marriages are failing due to a lack of commitment, lack of communication, unforgiveness, lack of compromise, lack of empathy, impatience, financial issues, infidelity, emotional affairs, spouse neglect, spouse abandonment, addictions, abuse, issues with children, and so many more factors. If you sense or know that your marriage is failing – seek help NOW, especially if you both want to stay married. In other words, your marriage does not have to remain in a failing stalemate – you two can fight to avoid that. And the sooner you address the factors that are leading to the failure and dismantling of your marriage – you will have a better chance of saving your marriage. Signs that your marriage is in failing can include any of the following:

- You can feel and sense it
- Simply unhappy
- Never consider your Marriage Vows
- Can't remember the last time, I love you was expressed by you or both of you
- You or both of you are completely checked out of the marriage
- Have no joy seeing or talking to each other
- Staying married only for the sake of the children
- Life becomes consumed by your children's affairs/activities
- Rarely or do not celebrate special occasions/holidays with each other
- Sad
- Little to no communication
- Arguing more frequently
- No arguments
- Gaslighting becomes the norm
- Silence
- Loneliness
- Little to no dating
- Find ways to avoid being around one another
- Sleep in separate spaces/beds
- Plan without considering your spouse
- Begin not to care about your spouse or marriage
- Marriage is about convenience
- Fantasize life solo
- Fantasize being with someone else especially if you feel they are the total opposite of your spouse

Contemplating cheating
Emotional and physical affairs begin
Diminished sex life or no sex life
Contemplate leaving or divorcing frequently if not constantly
Looking for divorce attorneys
Hopelessness
Find yourself googling, is my marriage failing
This article is talking to you
If you are having signs and symptoms of a heart attack – would you just sit day after day, week after week and do absolutely nothing about it? You more than likely would seek immediate medical attention if you felt that you were sick or could be dying. Clearing my throat, hey you, husbands, wives... if you are experiencing any of the signs above, seek immediate help for your marriage today before it is too late. Divorce doesn't have to be your final solution, but I support whatever you feel is best as God knows how much one can bare! However, let me be clear on the fact that God hates divorce!
James 5:16: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed..." The word "confess," is the Greek word ekzomologeio, a word that means to declare, to say loud, to exclaim, to divulge, or to blurt." Did you read that? Confession + prayer = healing! I am not the best in math, but I do know how to add. God uses James to emphasize the importance of communicating (talk & talk) with one another – one another should be you two first and perhaps a Marriage Counselor, Pastor, etc.
In conclusion, there is nothing too hard for God to do even in your failing marriage; God saved and is saving our marriage, so I know He can save your marriage too. If you want Him to! If your marriage meets any of the failing signs above and you both want to save your marriage you need to take the immediate following actions: communicate transparently with each other, get to the root issue(s), seek professional help from Pastor/Marriage Counselor, start a prayer life individually and together (prayer is your greatest weapon), make the necessary changes and adhere to it, spend quality time with each other, forgive, hold each other accountable, empathize, practice patience, build/rebuild trust, let love rule, befriend each other (are you friends?), and go out of your way to protect each other's heart and marriage!
Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, 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 _____

1 year 2 year 3 year

\$50
1 year subscription

\$100
2 year subscription

\$150
3 year subscription

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

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4327

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that John Terre Miller db/a Joyspreaders, Inc. has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for the operation of a community recreational center/event venue within a FSA Arts & Entertainment District for property located at 752 N. Farish St. (Parcel 75-43-1), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land being a part of Lots 19 and 20, Block 1, Ewing Survey, according to the map or plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book A, at Page 278, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at an iron pin marking the Southwest corner of Lot 21, Block 1, of the aforesaid Ewing Survey; said iron pin being on the East right-of-way line of Farish Street (as now laid out and improved, February, 1985); run thence Northerly along said East right-of-way line of Farish Street for a distance of 126.8 feet to an iron pin and the POINT OF BEGINNING of the parcel of land herein described; continue thence Northerly along said East right-of-way line of Farish Street for a distance of 107.98 feet to an iron pin; leaving said East right-of-way line of Farish Street, turn thence right through a deflection angle of 90 degrees 53 minutes and run easterly for a distance of 63.10 feet to an iron pin; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 89 degrees 13 minutes and run Southerly for a distance of 107.95 feet to an iron pin; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 90 degrees 42 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 63.0 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens' need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO April 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 26th day of March 2026.

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

4/2/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Jackson will receive unpriced proposals for prequalification until 2:00 PM on May 1, 2026, for furnishing the City of Jackson's requirements for the following:

ONE (1) COMPACT EXCAVATOR

Copies of the Bid Package are available for free download at www.jacksonsbids.com. Documents must be downloaded through the website to be on the official plan holders list. For questions regarding website accessibility or obtaining bid documents, please contact PH Bidding Group at 662-407-0195 or via email at bids@phbidding.com.

Unpriced proposals shall be submitted through the bid site. Responses will be reviewed and vendors meeting the requirements in the bid package will be invited to participate in the online reverse auction, which will be held on May 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Pricing will only be received by approved bidders through the online reverse auction.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders bound in the Documents. The City of Jackson reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any and/or all bids.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime bidders and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities and equipment, material, and/or supply needs.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole by the City of Jackson. This procurement will be subject to the provisions of Section 311-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

4/9/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ANNIE LAURA WILLIAMS, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2024-226 T/1

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE LAURA WILLIAMS, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Brenda Faye Williams Petitioner seeking the adjudication of heirs of Annie Laura Williams, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:30 o'clock p.m., on the 13th day of May, 2026, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable DeWayne Thomas, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

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

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 30 day of May, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR,
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI
EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

BV: P N atkma

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 4325

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Dakeidra Lowe has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a commercial child care center in a C-1A (Restricted) Commercial District for the property located at 4417 O'Bannon Dr. (Parcel: 411-28), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

LOT 11, BLK C MILO PARK SUBDIVISION

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens' need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO April 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 26th day of March 2026.

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

4/2/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Jackson will receive written sealed bids until the hour of 3:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Municipal Clerk's Office located in City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the construction of the following projects:

COJ-RS-01, COJ-RS-02, COJ-RS-03, COJ-RS-04, COJ-RS-05, COJ-RS-06, & COJ-RS-07

Each project consists of the construction of: Overlay, Leveling, Base Repair, Milling, and Striping, and all related appurtenances shown on the Bid Form for each project.

The total Contract Time for each project will be 90 consecutive calendar days and the liquidated damages will be \$750 per consecutive calendar day thereafter. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment and subcontracting opportunities.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bidders need not submit a bid for all projects. Bidders must submit a separate bid, in a separate envelope, for each project on which they wish to bid. Each Bid shall be made out on the bid proposal forms provided. Each bid shall be sealed separately in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for <Project Number>". Each bidder shall write their Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of each sealed envelope containing a proposal for a project.

Each Bidder must submit with each proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Each bid shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from www.jacksonsbids.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.jacksonsbids.com. As with paper bids, a separate bid must be uploaded in a separate file for each project on which a bidder wishes to bid. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call 662-407-0193 or email admin@phbidding.com.

Each Bidder must deposit with each bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a separate Payment Bond and Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount, for each project awarded.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson, Mississippi, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration, City of Jackson, Mississippi, and the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

The Engineer is IMS Engineers, 126 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of the plans and specifications, together with contract documents and bid form, may be obtained from the Engineer upon payment of \$150 for each set per project, none of which is refundable.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.
Department of Public Works

4/16/2026, 4/23/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING

ZONING CASE NO. 4326

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Jacqueline Brown has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from C-2 (Limited) Commercial District to C-3 (General) Commercial District to allow for the operation of a General Restaurant and Tire Center for the property located at 4140 Bullard St. (Parcel 308-106). The applicant is also requesting a Use Permit for accessory off street parking within a R-1A (Single-family) Residential District for the property located at Parcel 308-103 on Broadview St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

15 FT E/S LOTS 6 & 7 & LOTS 13 & 14 LESS 15 FT E/S TO ST
BLK F BOLING SUBN 1ST ADDN LESS TO CITY FOR ST

15 FT E/S LOTS 5 & LOT 12 LESS 15 FT E/S TO STREET
BLK F BOLING SUBN 1ST ADDN LESS TO CITY FOR ST

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens' need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO April 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 7th day of April 2026.

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

4/2/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Jackson will receive written sealed bids until the hour of 3:30 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Municipal Clerk's Office located in City Hall, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the construction of the following projects:

COJ-CC-01, COJ-CC-02, COJ-CC-03, COJ-CC-04, COJ-CC-05.

Each project consists of the construction of: Creek Clearing and Grubbing, Debris Removal, and Slope Stabilization, and all related appurtenances shown on the Bid Form for each project.

The total Contract Time for each project will be 180 consecutive calendar days and the liquidated damages will be \$750 per consecutive calendar day thereafter. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment and subcontracting opportunities.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid. Bidders need not submit a bid for all projects. Bidders must submit a separate bid, in a separate envelope, for each project on which they wish to bid. Each Bid shall be made out on the bid proposal forms provided. Each bid shall be sealed separately in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for <Project Number>". Each bidder shall write their Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of each sealed envelope containing a proposal for a project.

Each Bidder must submit with each proposal a separate attachment stating the Bidder's qualifications to perform the Work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list past projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Each bid shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the Municipal Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from www.jacksonsbids.com. Electronic Bids may be submitted at www.jacksonsbids.com. As with paper bids, a separate bid must be uploaded in a separate file for each project on which a bidder wishes to bid. For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call 662-407-0193 or email admin@phbidding.com.

Each Bidder must deposit with each bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent of the bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a separate Payment Bond and Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount, for each project awarded.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson, Mississippi, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration, City of Jackson, Mississippi, and the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

The Engineer is IMS Engineers, 126 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of the plans and specifications, together with contract documents and bid form, may be obtained from the Engineer upon payment of \$150 for each set per project, none of which is refundable.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.
Department of Public Works

4/16/2026, 4/23/2026

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

LEGAL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, PROHIBITING THE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSPORT AND DROP-OFF OF UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS INTO THE CITY OF JACKSON BY OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITIES, JAILS, MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE GROUPS, OR INDIVIDUALS; PROVIDING FOR COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, is seeing an increase in unboxed individuals and is seeking to combat the capital city's growing homelessness problem; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson finds the unauthorized transportation and abandonment of unboxed individuals into the City by surrounding municipalities, jails, mental and behavioral facilities, non-profit organizations, private groups, and individuals places undue strain on municipal services, undermines regional cooperation, and exposes vulnerable individuals to harm; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson encourages and expects surrounding municipalities, jails, mental and behavioral facilities, non-profit organizations, private groups, and individuals to establish, maintain, and adequately fund their own facilities, services, and coordinated-entry systems to address the needs of unboxed individuals locally, rather than shifting such responsibility to the City of Jackson through uncoordinated transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson does not seek to criminalize homelessness or penalize individuals solely for being unboxed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson desires to address local residents experiencing homelessness, while protecting such efforts from irresponsible individuals, organizations, and governmental bodies contributing to the homelessness crisis by displacing unboxed, individuals within the City of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance shall be added to the code of the City of Jackson, Chapter 89 Offense and Miscellaneous Provisions, as Article XII by enacting a new section prohibiting the displacement of unboxed individuals within the city; and

WHEREAS, a municipality is authorized to pass ordinances and set limits on the penalties for any such ordinances, in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated Section 21-13-1.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Unboxed Anti-Dumping and Coordinated Placement Ordinance."

Section 2. Purpose; findings; regional responsibility.

(a) The regulations contained in this article are ordained for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, good order, convenience, and general welfare of the community.

(b) The City of Jackson finds that the unauthorized transportation and abandonment of unboxed individuals into the City by surrounding municipalities, jails, mental and behavioral facilities, non-profit organizations, private groups, and individuals places undue strain on municipal services, undermines regional cooperation, and exposes vulnerable individuals to harm.

(c) It is the intent of this article to prohibit the uncoordinated drop-off of unboxed individuals into the City of Jackson, while ensuring humane, dignified, and planned placement through appropriate service coordination.

(d) Regional responsibility. The City of Jackson encourages and expects surrounding municipalities, jails, mental and behavioral facilities, non-profit organizations, private groups, and individuals to establish, maintain, and adequately fund their own facilities, services, and coordinated-entry systems to address the needs of unboxed individuals locally, rather than shifting such responsibility to the City of Jackson through uncoordinated transportation.

(e) Nothing in this article shall be construed to criminalize homelessness or penalize individuals solely for being unboxed.

Section 3. Definitions.

For purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings set forth below:

(a) Unboxed individual means a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

(b) Drop-off means transporting, releasing, abandoning, leaving, depositing, delivering, or otherwise causing an unboxed individual to be left within the corporate limits of the City of Jackson, including but not limited to public rights-of-way, parking areas, shelters, service locations, or other properties, without compliance with this article.

(c) Transporting party means any person or entity that transports or causes the transport of an unboxed individual into the City of Jackson, including but not limited to:

An outside municipality or political subdivision or any agent, contractor, or employee thereof;

A jail, prison, detention center, or other correctional facility;

A mental or behavioral health facility, including psychiatric hospitals, crisis stabilization units, inpatient or residential treatment facilities;

A nonprofit organization, outreach group, or private organization; or

An individual acting alone or in concert with others.

(d) Verified placement means documented confirmation, obtained prior to transport, that a receiving destination within the City of Jackson has affirmatively agreed and is available to receive the unboxed individual at the time of arrival, including but not limited to:

Acceptance into a shelter bed or housing program;

Coordinated-entry placement approval;

Admission to a treatment or recovery facility; or

Reunification with a verified address.

(e) City limits means the incorporated municipal boundaries of the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

(f) Designated coordinating office means the Unboxed Services Division within the City of

Jackson Department of Planning and Development, or such other office within the Department of Planning and Development as may be designated in writing by the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Planning and Development, or their lawful designee.

Section 4. Prohibited Drop-offs

(a) General prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any transporting party to conduct a drop-off of an unboxed individual within the City limits without:

Prior written notice to the designated coordinating office; and

Coordination through the designated coordinating office and documentation of verified placement obtained prior to transport.

(b) Covered sources. This prohibition expressly applies to drop-offs originating from or arranged by:

Jails, prisons, detention centers, or correctional facilities;

Mental or behavioral health facilities;

Nonprofit organizations or outreach groups;

Private entities or informal groups; and

Individuals.

(c) No curb drop-offs. No transporting party shall leave an unboxed individual on a street, sidewalk, parking area, transit stop, or other public or private location within the City limits without compliance with subsection (a), regardless of any purported consent by the individual.

(d) Each unboxed individual unlawfully dropped off shall constitute a separate violation.

Section 5. Exceptions.

This article shall not apply to the following:

Emergency medical transportation to a hospital or licensed healthcare facility when such transport is medically necessary and time-sensitive;

Transporting a person to be booked in a jail; or

Transporting a person to reside at a shelter, temporary housing, or permanent housing, when the officer, agent, or employee has independently verified that the individual being transported has already been accepted to reside at the facility; or

Transporting a person to attend a verified appointment with a health care provider, governmental, or nonprofit social service provider; or

Court-ordered or lawfully mandated transfers to a specific destination; or

Individuals who travel to the City of Jackson independently and not under the direction, arrangement, or authority of a transporting party.

Section 6. Coordinated enforcement within City limits.

The Jackson Police Department shall serve as the primary enforcement agency for this article within the City limits.

The Hinds County Sheriff's Department and the Mississippi Capitol Police are authorized to assist enforcement within the City limits, consistent with their lawful authority, including investigation, evidence collection, identification of transporting parties, and referral of violations.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand or diminish the statutory jurisdiction of any law enforcement agency.

The designated coordinating office shall serve as the administrative point of contact for receipt of notices and verification of placement documentation and may, upon request, confirm compliance status to JPD or assisting agencies, consistent with applicable privacy laws.

Section 7. Penalties, restitution, and civil remedies.

Any transporting party found in violation of this article shall be subject to a civil fine up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for each offense and/or one-year of jail time.

In addition to fines, the violator may be required to pay restitution for documented costs incurred by the City of Jackson as a direct result of the violation, including emergency response, transportation, sheltering, or other municipal services.

Any violation of this article may be declared a public nuisance, and the City may pursue civil enforcement, injunctive relief, cost recovery, or other remedies allowed by law, including against repeat or egregious violators.

Section 8. Records and reporting.

The Jackson Police Department shall maintain records of complaints, investigations, citations, and enforcement actions under this article and shall provide an annual summary report to the City Council.

Section 9. Severability.

If any provision of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

Section 10. Effective Date.

That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Stokes seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.
Nays – None.
Absent – None.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting February 10, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 992-998".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 14th day of April 2026.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITHIN WARD 5 ON THE APPROVAL OF NEW OR EXPANDED COVERED UNHOUSED LODGING USES AND NEW BUILDINGS PRIMARILY FOR CHARITABLE FOOD DISTRIBUTION.

WHEREAS, the City Council has authority to adopt ordinances for the immediate and temporary preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, through land use regulation, permitting, and coordinated planning; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes housing instability as a citywide issue requiring a coordinated and equitable response across all wards; and

WHEREAS, residents of Ward 5 and West Jackson, specifically those in Ward 5, have expressed ongoing concerns that the concentration of facilities and programs serving unboxed, housing-insecure, and low-income individuals and families in and near their Ward 5 neighborhoods has created an outsized burden on local Ward 5 public spaces, infrastructure, and quality of life in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple service sites for unboxed, housing-insecure, and low-income individuals and families located within close proximity to key Ward 5 assets, including approximately ten (10) services within a three (3) mile radius of Pittman Park and

WHEREAS, residents and park users have reported that despite existing service locations, the community has experienced a continued or increased presence of unboxed or housing-insecure individuals in parks and on streets. Residents have voiced concerns regarding trash accumulation, public health conditions, and fires in or near public spaces; and

WHEREAS, residents have further expressed concerns that additional concentration of overnight residential capacity for programs serving unboxed residents may increase demands on police, fire response, sanitation, code enforcement, and emergency medical services, discourage private investment, small-business growth, and revitalization efforts, and negatively affect neighborhood stability and confidence; and

WHEREAS, the City's Zoning Ordinance defines and regulates various lodging and residential facility use types, including "Emergency Shelter/Mission" and "Transitional Housing," which indicate that certain zoning designations impose limitations on usage types; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Ordinance requires review of building permit applications by the Zoning Administrator, City Planning Board, and City Council for matters including Use Permits, Special Exceptions, and related public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that food insecurity is serious and that existing, established food distribution centers, such as Stewpot Community Services, already serve residents in need. However, residents have expressed concern that building or rehabilitation of buildings primarily for charitable distribution of food in areas already carrying a high concentration of social service activity may further strain limited neighborhood resources and complicate ongoing revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a temporary, 180 day moratorium, paired with a mandatory planning and an impact study, will allow the City to complete a verified inventory and map of facilities, programs, and capacities, evaluate impacts on parks, public safety, sanitation, infrastructure, and emergency response, confirm consistent application of zoning, building, fire/life-safety, and licensing requirements, and develop an equitable, citywide framework for the siting and coordination of services and supportive housing options, in collaboration with nonprofit and public partners and affected neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, as follows:

Section 1: DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall apply:

1.1 Zoning Ordinance Incorporated Terms.

The terms listed in subsections (a) through (k) below shall have the same meaning as set forth in the City of Jackson Zoning Ordinance – December 19, 2024, as amended, incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth:

- (A) "Emergency Shelter/Mission" — Section 202.55.
- (B) "Transitional housing" — Section 202.174.
- (C) "Boarding House" — Section 202.19.
- (D) "Rooming House" — Section 202.146.
- (E) "Single Room Occupancy Hotel (SRO)" — Section 202.155.
- (F) "SRO" — Section 202.162.

1.2 Tiny Home – A dwelling that is 400 square feet (37 m2) or less in floor area, excluding lofts.

1.3 Covered Unboxed Lodging Use.

Any proposed new facility, site, or project—or proposed Expansion of an existing facility, site, or project—within the Moratorium Area that is intended or represented (including in applications, operating plans, funding descriptions, or public materials) to provide overnight lodging primarily for unboxed residents, and that is classified, licensed, or permitted as, or most closely aligned with, one or more of the following: Emergency Shelter/Mission; Transitional housing; Boarding House; Rooming House; Single Room Occupancy Hotel (SRO) / SRO, or a Tiny Home /Tiny Home Project.

1.4 Moratorium Area.

The geographic boundaries of Ward 5 of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as established by City ward boundaries on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

1.5 Expansion.

Any change that results in a net increase in: (a) sleeping capacity/beds; (b) residential floor area used for overnight stays; (c) the maximum number of overnight occupants approved by permit, license, or certificate of occupancy; or (d) the number of dwelling units or structures used for overnight occupancy within a project.

1.6 Unboxed; unboxed residents.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the City uses the term "unboxed" (and "unboxed residents") as the preferred terminology when referring to persons without a regular nighttime residence; this terminology does not alter the meaning of any incorporated definition from the Zoning Ordinance.

1.7 Charitable Food Distribution Facility.

(A) For purposes of this Ordinance, the Jackson Zoning Ordinance does not define or has a zoning classification for Charitable Food Distribution Facility; therefore, the Department of Planning and Development shall assess every specific zoning action

required for a proposal (including, as applicable, Use Permit, Special Exception, rezoning, variance, or other zoning relief) to determine if the applicant intends to utilize a building, structure, or portion of a building where the principal and regular on-site activity is the distribution of unprepared groceries and/or prepared meals to members of the public without charge or for a nominal charge, including operations commonly described as a food pantry, food giveaway, soup kitchen, or community kitchen.

(B) A use shall be presumed to be a Charitable Food Distribution Facility when either of the following use is met:

(i) Distribution open to the general public occurs on four (4) or more days in any calendar month for two (2) consecutive months; or

(ii) Distribution open to the general public occurs for sixteen (16) or more total hours in any calendar month for two (2) consecutive months.

(C) The term does not include:

(i) Restaurants, grocery stores, or other retail food sales;

(ii) Meals served as an incidental accessory to a worship service, fellowship event, or private event not open to the general public; or

(iii) Short-term emergency/disaster feeding conducted at the request of, or in coordination with, the City or emergency management.

1.8 New Charitable Food Distribution Building.

Any new principal building or new accessory building proposed to be constructed, erected, placed, or moved onto a lot, where the intended principal use of that new structure is a Charitable Food Distribution Facility.

1.9 Food Distribution Expansion.

Any physical enlargement or construction activity that increases the intensity of an existing Charitable Food Distribution Facility, including expansion of indoor service area, addition of new fixed distribution windows/lanes, or other site/building changes that materially increase throughout, traffic, queuing, or on-site service capacity.

1.10 Zoning Approval.

"Zoning approval" means the specific zoning action required for a proposal (including, as applicable, Use Permit, Special Exception, rezoning, variance, or other zoning relief) is granted following the procedures of the Zoning Ordinance, including required public notice and hearing(s) and City Council action where required.

Section 2: TEMPORARY MORATORIUM.

2.1 Moratorium Imposed.

During the term of this Ordinance, the City shall not accept, deny, process, approve, or issue any permit, license, approval, or authorization—including but not limited to zoning approvals, special exceptions, variances, use permits, building permits, certificates of occupancy, or business licenses—within the Moratorium Area that would result in:

(A) The establishment of any new Covered Unboxed Lodging Use; or

(B) The Expansion of any existing Covered Unboxed Lodging Use; or

(C) The construction, erection, placement, or approval of any New Charitable Food

Distribution Building, or any Food Distribution Expansion, except as provided in Section 2.4.

2.2 No Closure / No Service Cut-Off.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted to require closure of any lawful, existing facility or to prohibit ongoing lawful outreach, case management, meal services, health services, or other non-residential supportive services that do not create new or expanded overnight residential capacity.

2.3 No Re-Labeling to Avoid Review.

An application shall be deemed subject to this moratorium if, based on the record before the City (including application materials, operating plans, funding descriptions, and public representations), the proposal meets the definition of a Covered Unboxed Lodging Use and/or a New Charitable Food Distribution Building / Food Distribution Expansion, regardless of the label used by the applicant.

2.4 Zoning Approval Required for New Food Distribution Buildings.

Notwithstanding Section 2.1(c), the City may allow a New Charitable Food Distribution Building or Food Distribution Expansion within Ward 5 only if the proposal receives Zoning Approval as defined in Section 1.10 and is processed in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance procedures for the applicable zoning action(s).

2.5 Zoning Review of Building Permit Applications.

Nothing in this Ordinance alters the Zoning Ordinance requirement that all applications for building permits shall be reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and approved or disapproved as to zoning requirements.

Section 3: LIMITED EXCEPTIONS.

The moratorium in Section 2 does not apply to:

3.1 Vested / Previously Accepted Applications.

Any project for which a complete application was submitted and accepted as complete before the effective date of this Ordinance, or for which the City has already issued the primary discretionary approval (e.g., use permit, special exception), and the applicant is proceeding in good faith.

3.2 Life-Safety and Maintenance.

Repairs, maintenance, or code-required improvements that do not increase overnight capacity and do not constitute an Expansion, and that do not constitute a New Charitable Food Distribution Building or Food Distribution Expansion.

3.3 Emergency Activation.

Temporary emergency sheltering or emergency feeding is activated by the City as part of a declared emergency, limited to the emergency period.

3.4 Relocation Without Net Increase (optional).

Relocation of an existing facility within Ward 5 without Expansion, provided all zoning, building, and fire requirements are met.

3.5 Use of Existing Food Distribution Centers / Existing Buildings.

This Ordinance does not prohibit churches or nonprofits from partnering with, donating to, volunteering with, or otherwise coordinating distribution through existing, lawful food distribution centers

(for example, established community kitchens/food pantries), nor does it prohibit a lawful charitable distribution program operating inside an existing building where no new building is constructed, and no expansion requiring permits occurs.

3.6 Temporary/Occasional Events.

Occasional food drives or limited-duration distributions that are incidental to a permitted principal use and do not require new construction, enlargement, or a change in occupancy classification under applicable codes.

Section 4: ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

4.1 Administration.

The Department of Planning and Development, Zoning Administrator, and Code Enforcement shall administer and implement this Ordinance and may issue administrative guidance consistent with it.

4.2 Processing of Applications.

Any application subject to the moratorium shall be returned or held in abeyance with written notice citing this Ordinance.

Section 5: REQUIRED STUDY AND REPORT.

5.1 Report Required.

Within 120 days of the effective date, the Department of Planning and Development (or other designated department), in coordination with the Zoning Administrator, Police Department, Fire Department, Parks Department, Public Works/Sanitation, and the City Attorney, shall provide the City Council a written report that includes:

(A) Inventory & Map: A verified list and map of facilities and programs providing overnight lodging and/or supportive services to unboxed residents citywide and within Ward 5, including facility type and approved/estimated overnight capacity where available (including verification of community claims regarding the number and clustering of sites near key neighborhood assets).

(B) Parks & Public Space Impacts: Documented conditions and calls-for-service trends relating to public spaces within Ward 5 (including parks), including sanitation workload, dumping/trash complaints, fire incidents, and related impacts.

(C) Infrastructure & Services Analysis: Impacts on emergency response, code enforcement workload, sanitation, traffic/parking, and surrounding infrastructure.

(D) Compliance Review: Summary of zoning classification and approvals, building/fire code status, certificate of occupancy status, and other applicable operational requirements for facilities reviewed.

(E) Equitable Siting Framework: Recommended citywide standards and procedures for equitable distribution of services and supportive housing options across all wards, including dispersion considerations, mitigation measures, and neighborhood engagement requirements.

(F) Proposed Actions: Any recommended zoning text amendments, operational standards, inter-departmental procedures, or enforcement protocols to clarify definitions, capacity thresholds, and compliance checkpoints.

(G) Food Distribution Siting & Coordination Review: A verified inventory and map of Charitable Food Distribution Facilities and similar regular distribution programs citywide and within Ward 5, including location, frequency, and any site features affecting traffic, sanitation, and neighborhood conditions.

(H) Citywide Coordination Recommendation: A recommended framework to improve coordination among churches, nonprofits, and providers—including strategies that prioritize collaboration with existing distribution centers (such as established community kitchens/food pantries) to reduce duplicative siting impacts while maintaining food access for residents in need.

5.2 Coordination with Nonprofits and Neighborhoods

The City shall invite input from nonprofit providers, service coordinators, and neighborhood stakeholders, including Ward 5 residents, to support continuity of services and develop a coordinated, citywide approach.

Section 6: TERM; SUNSET.

6.1 Term.

This moratorium shall begin on the effective date and shall expire automatically 180 days thereafter, unless extended by subsequent Council action.

6.2 Extension.

Any extension should be time-limited and supported by written findings and an updated status report.

Section 7: NON-DISCRIMINATION ; SEVERABILITY.

7.1 Non-Discrimination.

This Ordinance shall be administered in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law.

7.2 Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 8: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and as otherwise required for publication and effectiveness under applicable law and City procedures.

Vice President Hartley moved adoption; Council Member Stokes seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Parkinson and Stokes.

Nays – None.
Abstention – Clay.
Absent – None.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT HOLMES COUNTY

Evelyn Johnson Timms
 PLAINTIFF
 VS.
Eddie Timms 26-0031
 DEFENDANT

SUMMONS
 (By PUBLICATIONS)

The State of MISSISSIPPI

TO: Eddie Timms

You have been made a Defendant by another seeking a divorce. Defendants other than you in this action is None.

You are required to mail, or hand deliver a written response to the Complaint filed against you in this action to Evelyn Johnson Timms, whose address is 7069 Hwy 14 Goodman, MS 39079.

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE _____ DAY OF _____ WHICH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SERVING OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR RESPONSE IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THIS COMPLAINT.

You must also file original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and seal of Court, this 20 day of ~~April~~ Mar, 2026

Charles Lubell Chancery Clerk

By _____ #c



4/9/2026, 4/16/2026

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
 Jackson, Mississippi 39204
 601-3552670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)
www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY
 9 a.m. Sunday School
 10 a.m. Worship Service

WEDNESDAY
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study

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



Pastor
 Chauncy L. Jordan



New Horizon Church
 INTERNATIONAL
 A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
 1750 Iis 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.

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.

MCDADDE'S MARKET
 Northside Drive

MCDADDE'S MARKET #2
 653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA
 Jackson Medical Mall

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

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

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

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>INSURANCE</p> <p>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</p> <p>AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-852-2087</p> <p>VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-833-641-4206</p>	<p>SERVICES</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>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</p>	<p>MEDICAL SUPPLIES</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>SERVICES</p> <p>END YOUR TAX WORRIES TODAY. Let us make your tax problem our priority. Scared, stuck with high tax amounts? Our A+ tax professionals can help. Call for a FREE consultation. Call Priority Tax now 1- 877-433-7430</p>
<p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>REAL ESTATE</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>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</p>

Poor Oral Health

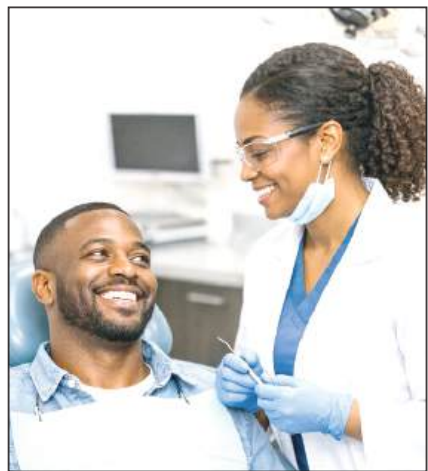
By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

When most people think about health, they picture their heart, lungs or maybe their blood pressure. Oral health rarely makes the list. Yet the mouth is one of the most important gateways to the rest of the body, and what happens there doesn't stay there. Poor oral health can quietly fuel inflammation, worsen chronic diseases and even increase the risk of life-threatening conditions. Understanding this connection is essential for families, older adults and communities working to stay healthy and strong.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), oral health is fundamental to everyday life. Good oral health allows us to eat, speak, smile and show emotion. But when oral health breaks down, the consequences can ripple far beyond the teeth and gums. And the Mayo Clinic notes that the mouth is filled with bacteria that can enter the bloodstream and affect organs throughout the body when oral disease is present. That means brushing and flossing aren't just cosmetic habits, they're part of wholebody wellness.

The mouth is home to hundreds of species of bacteria. Most are harmless, but when plaque builds up and gum disease develops, harmful bacteria multiply. These bacteria can enter the bloodstream through inflamed or bleeding gums, triggering inflammation in other parts of the body.

Medical experts describe this as the "oralsystemic connection," meaning the health of the mouth is directly linked to the health of the rest of the body. Research summarized by the American



Academy for Oral Systemic Health shows that poor oral health is associated with a wide range of systemic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory infections and even Alzheimer's disease.

This connection is especially important for older adults, people with chronic conditions and communities with limited access to dental care.

Heart Disease and Stroke: A Dangerous Link

One of the strongest and most widely studied connections is between gum disease and cardiovascular disease. Gum disease, also called periodontal disease, is a chronic infection of the tissues that support the teeth. When untreated, it causes inflammation that can spread throughout the body.

The Cleveland Clinic explains that this inflammation may contribute to the buildup of plaque in your arteries, increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke. Bacteria from the mouth have even been found in the fatty deposits of

people with heart disease.

While brushing your teeth won't replace heart medication or lifestyle changes, maintaining good oral hygiene can reduce one more risk factor and for many people, that matters.

Diabetes and Oral Health: A TwoWay Street

Diabetes and gum disease have a powerful, interconnected relationship. People with diabetes are more likely to develop gum disease. Gum disease can make it harder to control blood sugar.

Inflammation from gum disease can increase insulin resistance, making diabetes management more difficult. At the same time, high blood sugar feeds harmful bacteria in the mouth, worsening gum disease. This creates a cycle that can be hard to break without addressing both conditions.

For communities with high rates of diabetes, including many Black and older adult populations, understanding this connection is critical for prevention and longterm health.

Respiratory Problems: When Oral Bacteria Travel

The mouth is also connected to the respiratory system. According to the Mayo Clinic, bacteria from infected gums can be inhaled into the lungs, potentially contributing to pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses. This is especially dangerous for older adults, people with weakened immune systems and individuals living in longterm care facilities.

Good oral hygiene has been shown to reduce the risk of respiratory infections in these settings, making it a simple but powerful tool for protecting vulnerable populations.

Pregnancy Complications: Protecting Mothers and Babies

Pregnant women with untreated gum disease face a higher risk of premature birth and lowbirthweight babies. Inflammation and bacteria from the mouth may affect the placenta or trigger early labor.

Because many women skip dental visits during pregnancy, often due to fear, cost or misinformation, raising awareness is essential. Dental care is safe during pregnancy and treating gum disease can protect both mother and child.

Cognitive Health: Emerging Research on Alzheimer's Disease

Scientists are studying the connection between gum disease and cognitive decline. Some research suggests that bacteria associated with periodontal disease may contribute to inflammation in the brain, potentially increasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

While this research is ongoing, it highlights how oral health may play a role in longterm brain health, which an area of growing concerns as the population ages.

Oral Health and Cancer Risk

Poor oral health has been linked to certain cancers, including oral cancer and possibly cancers of the digestive tract. Chronic inflammation and harmful bacteria may contribute to these risks. Tobacco and alcohol use, which are already major cancer risk factors, also worsen oral health, creating a dangerous combination.

Quality of Life: Pain, Nutrition and Social WellBeing

Beyond medical complications, poor oral health affects daily life. Tooth pain, missing teeth and infections can make

it difficult to chew healthy foods, leading to poor nutrition. People may avoid fruits, vegetables and lean proteins because they are hard to chew, turning instead to soft, processed foods that worsen chronic disease.

Oral health problems can also affect speech, confidence and social interactions. For older adults, poor oral health is a major cause of reduced quality of life.

Why Oral Health Disparities Matter

Oral health is not just a personal issue, it's a public health issue. The CDC reports that cavities and gum disease are extremely common, affecting more than half of adolescents and nearly all adults at some point in their lives. But access to dental care is not equal.

Communities of color, lowincome families and older adults face higher rates of oral disease due to limited access to affordable dental care, lack of insurance and fewer dental providers in their neighborhoods.

These disparities contribute to broader health inequities. When oral health suffers, chronic diseases worsen, medical costs rise and quality of life declines.

What We Can Do: Steps Toward Better Oral and Overall Health

Improving oral health doesn't require expensive treatments. Small, consistent habits can make a big difference:

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Floss daily
- Limit sugary foods and drinks
- Drink water throughout the day
- Avoid tobacco products
- Visit a dentist regularly for cleanings and checkups

Choppin' It Up Barbershop Series offers free health screenings



Mississippi Link Newswire

The Choppin' It Up Barbershop Series is back, and metro area men are encouraged to come out, get informed and take charge of their health. The upcoming edition of the series will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 25, 2026, at "The Shop" Barbershop and Hair Salon, located at 5344 N. State St. in Jackson.

Attendees will receive free blood pressure screenings, health education materials, free food, and access to critical health discussions.

Hosted by the Black Men's Health Equity Council in partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the event is designed to meet men where they are and promote preventive care in trusted community spaces.

The health disparities significantly affect Black men and lead to poor outcomes. Contributing factors include socio-economic circumstances, cultural biases, and restricted access to healthcare services. The Choppin' It Up series is designed to raise awareness about chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, kidney disease and prostate cancer.

For more information, contact Warren Jones, MPH, at 323-204-5564.

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

Black Women's Health Disparities highlight gaps in research and care

By Dr. Ayanna Quamina
Minnesota Spokesman Recorder

Black women's health disparities remain a critical issue as limited research funding continues to impact care, treatment and understanding of common conditions affecting Black women.

Women's health research has historically been underfunded, and the numbers tell a sobering story. In 2023, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invested less than 8% of its total grant funding in women's health, about \$3.4 billion out of a \$43.7 billion budget. While that may sound substantial, it represents only a small share of the resources devoted to understanding half the population. Research specifically focused on Black women's health is even more limited.

Estimates suggest that only about 2% of U.S. health research is dedicated to studying the health needs of Black women. Organizations such as the Black Women's Health Imperative are working to change that. With support from a \$1.2 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the organization has launched initiatives to address these disparities, including the largest menopause and perimenopause survey ever conducted specifically for Black women.

Still, the overall level of research focused on Black women's health remains deeply inadequate. This means there is limited information about how conditions uniquely affect Black women, how symptoms present differently in our bodies, and what treatments may be most supportive for our population.

As the only Black naturopathic doctor actively practicing in the state of Minnesota, I am particularly aware of these gaps, I see them reflected in my patients' experiences every day.

Learning how your body works is one of the most powerful first steps toward protecting your health. Because large institutions have yet to fully prioritize research in this area, I'm sharing insight from the clinical side. Below are three of the most common conditions I see among my Black women patients, along with a brief look at both conventional and naturopathic approaches.

Fibroids



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

What it is:

Also known as leiomyomas, fibroids are common benign growths made of uterine muscle and connective tissue. They affect many women during their reproductive years, but occur significantly more often in Black women.

Although fibroids are noncancerous, they can cause problems depending on their size, number, and location. Some women live their entire lives without realizing they have fibroids, while others experience severe symptoms. These may include:

- Heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding
- Bleeding between cycles
- Severe menstrual cramping
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Constipation
- Frequent urination or difficulty emptying the bladder
- Abdominal fullness or distention (many women say they look several months pregnant)

Conventional approach:

Depending on severity, conventional medicine offers several treatment options, including:

- Hormonal medications such as leuprolide to suppress estrogen
- Surgical removal of fibroids (myomectomy)

Procedures such as uterine artery embolization or MRI-guided therapies

Dr. Q's approach:

In naturopathic medicine, the focus is on addressing underlying causes. In my clinical experience, fibroids often correlate with chronic stress and hormone imbalance.

One of my preferred diagnostic tools is a salivary cortisol and hormone panel, which helps us understand how a patient's stress hormones and reproductive hormones interact. From there, we create a personalized protocol that may include:

• Stress management strategies

• Nutrition and eating habit adjustments

• Sleep optimization

• Targeted supplementation, such as phytoestrogens or adrenal adaptogens

While naturopathic medicine does not surgically remove fibroids, I have seen cases where fibroids shrank significantly, sometimes to the point that they were no longer visible on imaging.

Perimenopause and Menopause

What it is:

Globally, an estimated 1.2 billion women are currently transitioning through menopause, the largest number in human history. In recent years, perimenopause and menopause have received increased attention as more women share their personal and clinical experiences.

Perimenopause and menopause are not diseases or signs that the body is failing. They are natural biological transitions as the body moves from one hormonal phase of life to another. However, because estrogen is one of the body's most biologically active hormones, the transition can feel overwhelming for many women.

Common symptoms include:

- Hot flashes
- Mood changes
- Sleep disruption
- Brain fog
- Irregular menstrual cycles

Fortunately, once hormones stabilize, many of these symptoms improve.

Conventional approach:

Conventional medicine uses several tools to manage symptoms. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), once widely feared, is now being used more thoughtfully with improved safety protocols. Some physicians also prescribe antidepressants to help manage mood-related symptoms.

Dr. Q's approach:

My approach to menopause is highly individualized. Some patients use HRT in collaboration with their medical providers. Others prefer botanical options such as black cohosh, chaste tree berry, or passionflower to help support symptom management.

Equally important are lifestyle foundations, particularly stress management and healthy sleep patterns

during this transition.

PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome)

What it is:

Polycystic ovarian syndrome, or PCOS, is a complex hormonal condition that affects an estimated 10% to 23% of women worldwide. It is not defined by a single symptom but by a cluster of related issues that may include:

- Irregular menstrual cycles
- Ovarian cysts
- Acne
- Excess facial hair
- Fertility challenges

Many women with PCOS also experience complications such as insulin resistance, weight gain, hypertension, and elevated cholesterol.

Conventional approach:

Conventional treatment often focuses on managing symptoms and may include:

- Birth control pills to regulate menstrual cycles
- Medications to improve insulin sensitivity
- Surgery if ovarian cysts cause complications

Dr. Q's approach:

Although the precise cause of PCOS is still being studied, research shows that insulin regulation, hormonal imbalance, and stress all play important roles. My approach focuses on restoring balance in these areas. This may include:

- Stabilizing eating habits to support blood sugar balance
- Supporting insulin regulation with nutrients such as inositol

Using phytoestrogenic botanicals to help modulate hormone activity

While the research world continues to catch up, one thing remains clear: knowledge is power. Understanding how your body functions, how it responds to stress, and how it signals imbalance can transform the way you approach your health.

Until research truly reflects the needs of all women, sharing knowledge within our communities and clinics will remain one of our most powerful tools.

Learn more about Dr. Ayanna Quamina and her practice at <http://www.drayannaq.com>. Email her directly at info@drayannaq.com.

Marker Dedication of Presiding Elder Elder Barbara Precious Boyd

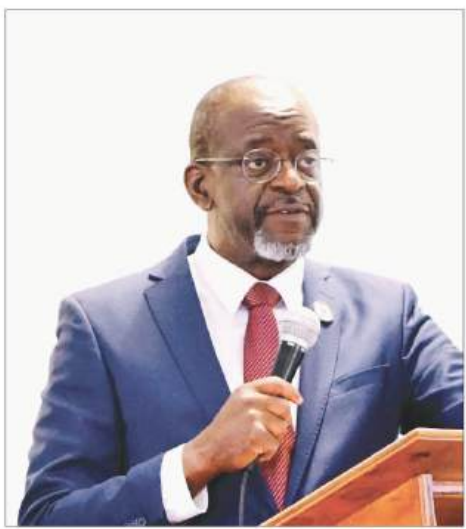
PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The late Presiding Elder Barbara Precious Boyd was a respected leader in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, known for her mentorship and guidance to young ministers. Her influence was rooted in a deep commitment

to spiritual formation, encouraging young ministers to develop both their theological knowledge and practical ministry skills. She was described in obituary accounts as a guiding figure whose leadership helped shape the early ministry of those she mentored www.articobits.com.

The Marker Dedication of Elder Boyd was held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Greater Allen Temple AME Church, 1650 Topp Street at 11:00 A.M. After a brief service the Unveiling and Dedication was held outside. It was led by Bishop Erika D. Crawford, who also brought the message.





Nissan believes in the power of education.



nissan-canton.com

Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

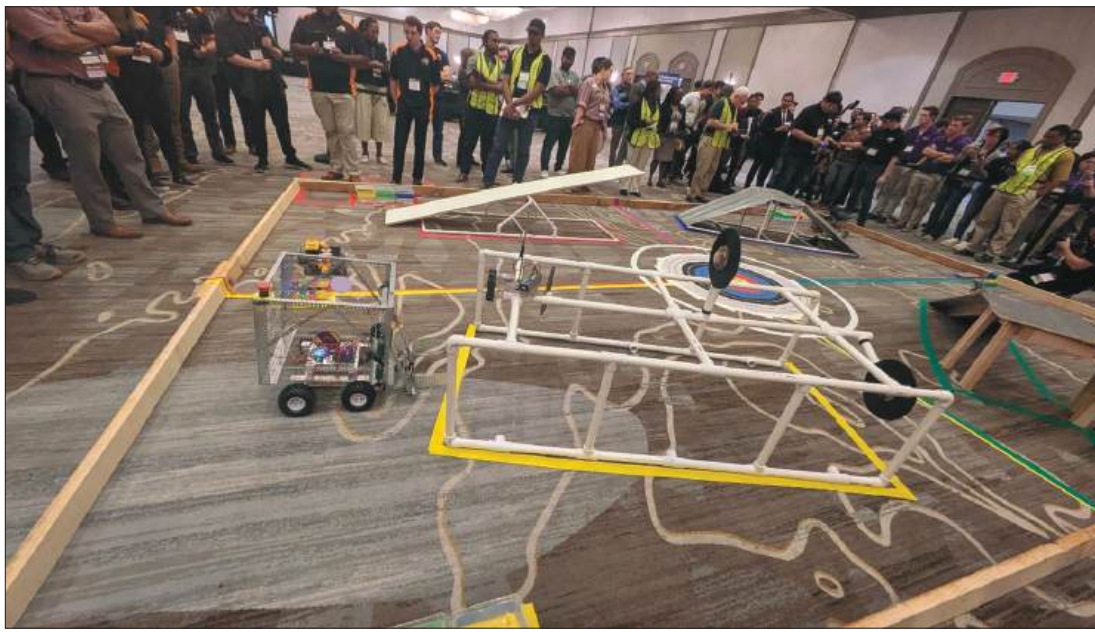
Nissan donates \$225,000 to Mississippi HBCUs to strengthen STEM Education - Marks 12th Consecutive Year of Support for Local Students

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Demonstrating its continued commitment to Mississippi's future workforce, Nissan has donated \$225,000 to support STEM education at state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The contribution extends the company's 12-year tradition of investing in Mississippi HBCUs.

This year's contribution will help expand hands-on learning opportunities, enhance laboratory and classroom technology, and provide scholarships for students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The initiative is part of Nissan's broader effort to build a more diverse and inclusive talent pipeline in high-demand technical fields.

"Nissan is proud to continue our partnership with Mississippi's HBCUs and to support the students who will shape the future of innovation," said Ali Tonn, Senior Manager, Philanthropy, Nissan Americas. "For more than a decade, we've in-



vested in STEM education because we believe in the power of opportunity and the importance of preparing students for the careers of tomorrow."

Since launching its Mississippi HBCU partnership, Nissan has contributed nearly \$4 million to this program - strengthen academics, student development, and community

engagement across the state.

Representatives from each institution expressed appreciation for Nissan's ongoing commitment, noting that the company's support has played a meaningful role in expanding access to high-quality STEM education and empowering students to pursue competitive career paths.

About Nissan

For more information about our products, services and commitment to sustainable mobility, visit nissanusa.com. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn and see all our latest videos on YouTube.



Alcorn State mass communications department honors students, welcomes industry leaders at annual Media Day

Alcorn University News

The Department of Mass Communications at Alcorn State University brought together Mississippi's broadcast media community and honored its most promising students during the department's annual Media Day, held March 24, 2026, in the Clinton Bristow Dining Hall — Gold Room.

The event, which the department has hosted annually since the early 2000s, has combined with Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Day every year since 2018, featured a Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society Induction Ceremony, a panel discussion with representatives from several of the state's leading broadcast news and radio outlets, and a Media Day Awards Luncheon.

Maxine Greenleaf, vice president of marketing and communication at Alcorn State University, delivered the keynote address.

Drawing from nearly two decades of experience in higher education, Greenleaf has led communications and marketing teams at all three of Mississippi's public four-year HBCUs — Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and Mississippi Valley State University.



Alcorn State mass communications students celebrate with trophies and certificates at the 2026 Media Day Awards Luncheon in Lorman, Miss.

"I am convinced many of my experiences would not have happened anywhere else but an HBCU," Greenleaf told the audience. "I have been in rooms I could only dream of thanks to these institutions."

Greenleaf began her address with a media law lesson rooted in a high-profile defamation case. She reminded students that not verifying information before publication carries legal and professional consequences.

She then pivoted to a candid personal testimony, one that traced a non-linear path from Tougaloo College to television reporting to the executive ranks of HBCU higher education, to underscore a theme she returned to throughout her remarks.

"Your path will not always be a straight line," she said. "You will have bumps in the road along your journey. You will have to pivot and adapt. How will you

respond when challenges arise?" Citing recent federal labor data, Greenleaf noted that the share of unemployed Americans who are new workforce entrants reached a 37-year high in 2025, making the question of professional differentiation more pressing than ever for graduating seniors.

"I completed three unpaid internships before I landed a paid internship," Greenleaf said. "I took on other assignments to fine-tune my skills so I could enhance my resume. How will you set yourself apart from the competition?"

Greenleaf closed her remarks by urging students to lean on their communities and embrace the expanded landscape available to today's graduates.

"It took a village to help me get to where I am," she said. "No one travels this road alone. Never be afraid to ask for help."



Maxine Greenleaf, Alcorn State University vice president of marketing and communication, speaks at the 2026 Mass Communications Media Day.

The media panel drew professionals from across the Mississippi broadcast landscape, offering students direct access to working journalists, radio executives and media directors.

Toni W. Terrett, Esq., assistant professor in the Department of Mass Communications, credited the event's longevity to the consistent generosity of industry partners.

"We are so thankful for the members of MAB and other media professionals taking time out of their busy schedules to share their insight with our students," Terrett said. "Media Day provides a unique learning and networking opportunity. Over the years, many students have left the event with job and internship offers. It is an invaluable experience."

The Lambda Pi Eta Induction Ceremony, held from 9 to 10 a.m., welcomed one new mem-

ber into the national communication studies honor society. Layken Meadows, a graduating senior from Amory, Miss., was inducted into Lambda Pi Eta. The MAB panel discussion followed from 10 to 11:30 a.m., with the awards luncheon concluding the program from noon to 1 p.m.

The Media Day Awards Luncheon recognized 13 students for their contributions to the department's student media outlets. Award recipients and their honors are as follows —

Kenaysia Stanton, junior, Pascagoula, Miss. — Best Student Radio Show, Entertainment Editor

Parys Ward-Wheeler, sophomore, Atlanta, Ga. — Advice Column Editor, Best Overall Student Interviewer

Michael Williams II, junior, Harbor City, Calif. — Most Improved Radio Show

Asia Windham, sophomore, Collins, Miss. — Staff Writer, Best Diverse Radio Show

Quashondra Addison, graduating senior, McComb, Miss. — Staff Writer

A'Zariannne Johnson, graduating senior, Minden, La. — Lifestyle Editor

Lillian Cogdell, sophomore, Sumter, South Carolina — Poetry Editor

India Stenson, junior, Talla-

hassee, Fla. — Sports Editor

D'Anthony Lilly, sophomore, Brookhaven, Miss. — Staff Writer

Landon Badon, sophomore, Hattiesburg, Miss. — Staff Writer

Alanna Johnson, freshman — Word on the Street Editor

Naleah Fullilove, sophomore, Aurora, Colo. — Entertainment Editor

Demetrian Duvall, sophomore, Akron, Ohio — Staff Writer

Jamyiyah Cotten, senior, Jackson, Miss. — Human Interest Editor

Johnathan Stewart, senior, Virginia Beach, Va. — Editorial Editor

Greenleaf, a native of Itta Bena, Miss., began her career in communications as a weekend anchor and reporter at WXVT, a CBS affiliate in Greenville, Miss.

She holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Mississippi Valley State University and a master's degree in journalism and mass communication with a concentration in public relations from Kent State University.

Join the next generation of media professionals. Learn more about Mass Communication at Alcorn State University at www.alcorn.edu.



BOOK REVIEW: BOOKS FOR POETRY MONTH BY VARIOUS AUTHORS C.2026, VARIOUS PUBLISHERS \$18.99 - \$29.99 • VARIOUS PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

In life, there are times when you want some rhymes.

Short ones or long, alone by yourself or attached to a song, rhymes you read quietly or read out-loud, savored alone or enjoyed with a crowd. It's Poetry Month and you're on the look, so why not seek out one of these books?

Who are you and where did you come from? "Stages" by Tramaine Suubi (Amistad, \$19.99) gives you things to think about, including your in-

ner life and what's going on outside it. Read it, and be educated.

Place matters a lot, and "Shade is a Place" by MaKshya Tolbert (Penguin Poets, \$20) is a book that considers Charlottesville, Virginia, in various ways. It invites readers to visit the "Black sense" of the city, to seek out natural parts of it, and to study the small, quiet places within. This book is perfect for vacation or if you're thinking about travel.

If you are a new parent – or you're about to be – look for

"They Bloom Because of You" by Jessica Urlichs (Putnam, \$19.00), a book about the ever-evolving process of becoming a mother: the love, the despair, the strengths and sadness, and watching as a newborn becomes a toddler becomes a big-kid. This is a book you'll reach for many times over the years.

On that note, "This is Not a Small Voice" by Sonia Sanchez (Beacon Press, \$18.99) is a book that tackles a wide variety of topics: love and community, as well as activism and family. Readers will absolutely note

the urgent power in these poems, and they might make you want to get out and do something.



If the Sanchez book is right up your alley, then you'll also want "We (The People of the United States)" by Joshua Bennett (Penguin Poets, \$20), one long book-length poem that touches upon many aspects of American life over the last century or so. Black culture, scientific innovation, popular music, creativity, whatever made America good – and bad – is in this book. The semiquincenten-

ennial is coming soon, so read it now.

And finally, if you want to know more about poets, then look for "No More Worlds to Conquer: The Black Poet in Washington D.C." by Brian Gilmore (Georgetown University Press, \$29.95). In this book, you'll read about a thriving literary community that Gilmore says is often overlooked but that's just as vibrant as any other in America. Filled with interviews, it's deeply researched, and nicely comprehensive, making it a book

you'll absolutely want to have next to your poetry collection. Tackle it in between reading poetry; you won't be sorry.

If these books are good but they're not enough, if you want other poems and rhyming stuff, if you've got some rhymes but you need more, then head to your library or local bookstore. The staffs there are good, they'll put books in your hands, they'll put rhymes in your head and they'll make you a fan. Or find these books, above, for their timing then sit down and read, and happy rhyming.

ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

Services of the Clerk:

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


VOTER INFORMATION
Verify/Update your Registration Today

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

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

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

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



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!

Houston Native Natalie Greene, Deaf Basketball Standout at Gallaudet, Named United East Rookie of the Year

By N.L. Preston
Bayou Beat News



When the United East Conference released its postseason honors this year, one name quickly stood out among the league's rising stars: Natalie Greene.

The Houston native and first-year forward for Gallaudet University has been named the 2025–26 United East Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year, capping a breakout freshman season that has drawn attention far beyond the Bison campus in Washington, D.C.

Standing 6-foot-2, Greene quickly emerged as one of the most impactful newcomers in the conference, averaging 17 points and 9.4 rebounds per game and earning All-Conference Second Team honors.

Earlier in the season, Greene also captured United East Offensive Player of the Week after scoring a career-high 25 points against Randolph College — a performance that confirmed what teammates and coaches had already begun to see: the arrival of a special talent.

But Greene's influence on the court goes beyond scoring and rebounds. "Natalie Greene's recognition as United East Rookie of the Year transcends mere statistics," said Gallaudet head coach Stephanie Stevens. "Although she missed the first nine conference games in January due to an



injury, she showed remarkable leadership from the sidelines as she recovered. We consistently witness real growth in Natalie, and her passion for the game is evident in her eyes."

Greene, who has single-sided deafness, chose Gallaudet not only for its basketball program but also for its role as the nation's premier university for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. New to the Deaf community, she has embraced learning American Sign Language while building connections with teammates and classmates.

A proud graduate of Willowridge High School in Houston, Texas, Greene built a reputa-

tion as one of the region's most dynamic student-athletes. She served as student body president, was crowned homecoming queen, and captained the Lady Eagles' varsity basketball team while earning district MVP honors for her dominance in the paint.

Those who coached her early say her success today is the result of a relentless work ethic.

"Natalie earning United East Rookie of the Year is a testament to her discipline, resilience, and love for the game," said Willowridge assistant coach Joe Randolph. "I've watched her grow since middle school, and seeing her reach

this level is incredibly special. This is only the beginning for her."

The student-athlete's achievements off the court have been just as impressive.

In May 2025, Greene graduated from Willowridge with a 4.3 GPA while simultaneously completing an Associate of Arts degree in Computer Programming with honors from Houston Community College through an early-college program.

Today at Gallaudet, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with a minor in Black Deaf Studies, maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Her mother says Natalie's journey has been full of unexpected turns.

"The first surprise was when doctors told me Natalie may experience some level of deafness when she was just one day old," Nakia Cooper said. "I thought that would limit her, but she showed me otherwise. The second was when Natalie—who had been a ballerina from age 5—told me she wanted to play basketball. She was a teen then and I didn't think that was possible because she had never dribbled a ball, but wow, was I wrong again. She became a force."

At just 19 years old, Greene is

on track to earn her bachelor's degree in Spring 2027 — while still retaining two years of NCAA eligibility as she pursues graduate studies.

For now, she remains focused on continuing to grow as both a student and athlete while contributing to the success of the Bison program.

Still, her freshman breakout season has already made one thing clear:

From Houston to Washington, Natalie Greene is a name that college basketball fans are beginning to remember—and a player many believe is only just getting started.

Tougaloo College Men's Basketball Team honored at the Mississippi State Capitol

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Tougaloo College Men's Basketball Team was honored at the Mississippi State Capitol March 31, 2026, with an official proclamation celebrating their outstanding 2026 season as HBCU Athletic Conference Western Division Champions, Tournament Runners-Up, and NAIA National Tournament qualifiers. Head Coach, Eric Strothers, Associate Head Coach, Thomas Billups, and Assistant Coach, John Neal were pleased to have Mississippi House of Representatives, Otis Anthony, District 31, Stephanie Foster, District 63, and Justis Gibbs, Hinds County, District 72 join them at the capitol.



HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL BANDS TOUR HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Raymond High School and Terry High School students and band members took tours of the Hinds CC Utica Campus after they performed for the Early College Academy announcement celebration.

Community members and elected officials also explored the new home of the Early College Academy, inside the recently renovated former Hinds AHS High School.

