



Community Conversation in Gloster with Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus



L-R: (Front Row) Moderator Rita Brent. Senator Justin Pope (D-24), Rep. Cheikh Taylor (D-38), Rep. Daryl Porter, Jr. (D-98), Rep. Zakiya Summers (D-68), Rep. Kabir Karriem (D-41), Rep. John G. Faulkner (D-5), Rep. Justin Crosby (D-22), Rep. Rickey Thompson (D-16), and Senator Reginald Jackson (D-11). (Standing) Naya Black, Project Organizer with Dogwood Alliance. Krystal Nicole Martin, Owner of KMar-tin Group and Founder of Greater Greener Gloster.

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Gloster Mississippi is a town in Amite County, whose population has declined from 960 in 2010 to 897 in 2020, is 71 percent African American, and has a total land area of 1.82 square miles, per Census data. Like many small Mississippi towns, Gloster has seen better days. Residents travel to McComb or Jackson for specialty healthcare. Schools closed and children now attend the Amite County School District in Liberty, Mississippi. There are numerous businesses still on Main Street in Gloster, yet closed and vacant spaces far outnumber them.

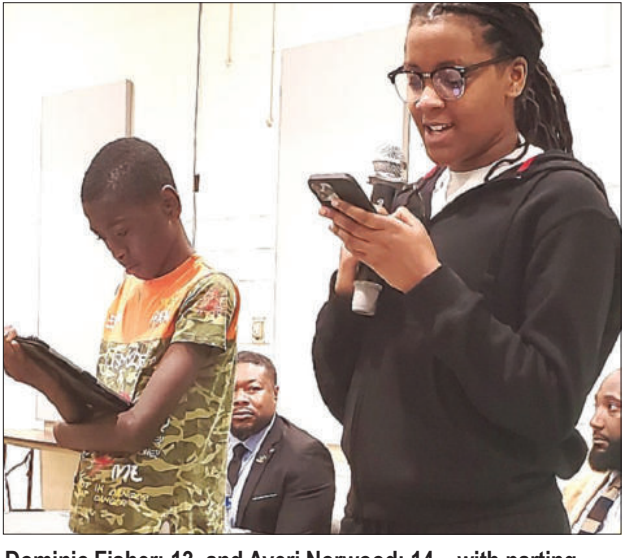
Wednesday, March 25, 2026, the Greater Greener Gloster Project hosted a forum featuring nine of the fifty-eight members of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus. An opportunity for a Community Conversation between residents and legislators, which drew well over 100



Gloster Mayor Wayne Jerry Norwood.

COMMENTARY

people. The legislators took a quick tour of the DRAX Amite Biomass Plant and adjacent area by car just prior to the start of the forum. These dedicated legislators were from districts all over Mississippi yet wanted to



Dominic Fisher; 13, and Averi Norwood; 14 – with parting messages for the audience. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

see Gloster with their own eyes. Gloster's mayor was introduced and offered a kind welcome to the visiting legislators.

While the core focus of the gathering was the negative environmental impacts caused by the round-the-clock operation of the DRAX Biomass facility,

some questions from the audience went to economic development, education, voting, and crime. Representative Cheikh Taylor, who currently serves as Chairman of the Mississippi Democratic Party summed it up

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Jackson's concerned citizens meet with Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes to discuss Brinkley Middle School closing

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

As part of a consolidation plan for the 2023-2024 academic school year, the Jackson Public Schools Board decided to close Brinkley Middle School. On April 18, 2023, the JPS Board of Trustees approved the decision. As a result, Brinkley merged with Lanier High School, designated to serve grades 7-12.

Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes met with concerned Jackson citizens at the Grove Park Community Center (4126 Parkway Ave., Jackson, MS

39213) regarding the closing of Brinkley Middle School Tuesday evening, March 17, 2026. Some in attendance expressed that once the facility becomes vacant, problems are bound to occur. Hence, some problems could be offset with creative ideas and events in place.

Judge Tametrice E. Hodges recalled that school merging occurred when she was a student. She attended Jackson's Walton Elementary School (3200 Bailey Avenue Extension) and Rowan Middle School (136 E. Ash St). Rowan officially closed in 2017. Students were consolidated into Brinkley Middle School. As of last academic year, the school has been marred by vandalism and arson, giving rise to local concerns. The JPS Board of Trustees denied approval of the Midtown Public Charter School's proposal to lease it.

Some attendants concerned that organization within the community is crucial, but organization involves exercising as-



Judge Pieter Teeuwissin identified with attendants and voiced concerns regarding school consolidation. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

sertiveness without becoming emotional. Community members should have a willingness to speak openly among themselves by identifying the problem. Then they should pose a solution.

Much discussion centered

around the need to establish facilities for youth to engage in meaningful activities. Such activities would keep them in Jackson and keep them positively focused. Some concurred

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Women who carried the water and the fight honoring the intervenor plaintiffs in the Jackson water crisis



By Edelia "Dr. Jay" Carthan
Contributing Writer

In the face of one of the nation's most urgent water emergencies, a group of women stepped forward when systems failed and leadership faltered. During the height of the Jackson water crisis, community advocates and legal intervenors became the backbone of a movement demanding safe, reliable drinking water as a fundamental human right.

Among them, Danyelle Holmes and Rukia Lumumba stood alongside Brooke Floyd and Makani Themba, helping to lead a sustained push for accountability, transparency, and long-term solutions. Working with the Mississippi Poor People's Campaign and the People's Advocacy Institute, these women helped elevate the voices of residents who had long been unheard.

Their work as intervenor plaintiffs was not simply legal, it was deeply rooted in community trust. They organized, educated, and mobilized residents while pressing for systemic change in how water infrastructure is governed and maintained.

Danyelle Holmes stated Monday, March 30... "At 11:23 this morning, the Mississippi House voted 78 to 40 to take control of Jackson's water away from its people. No rate study. No feasibility study. No community input. Nothing. Just a vote. Just like that."

Holmes went on to say, "Let me be clear about what water means in this city. Water is not just life. Water is health. Water is economic dignity. Water is political power. And when you strip a majority-Black city of control over its own water without a single study to justify it, you are not solving a crisis. You are transferring power from the people to the market. From residents to contractors. From democ-

racy to profit.

Detroit lost control of its water, and 141,000 Black households were cut off. Flint trusted the process and got lead in its pipes. Chester, Pennsylvania had a water authority generating \$51 million a year and went bankrupt anyway because not one dollar went back to the people. That is the blueprint they just voted to bring to Jackson. Forty representatives said no. Their names are on that roll call and so is their courage. The other seventy-eight, their names are on there too. And the people of Jackson will not forget.

The Prophet Amos said let justice roll down like waters. Not trickle. Not seep. Roll. That is our standard. That is our demand. And we will not stop until Jackson's water is governed by Jackson's people. "Water is life. Water is power. Water is a human right. And today they took ours. We intend to take it back," said Holmes.

Holmes' remarks underscored the urgency and historical weight of the moment, framing the decision as part of a broader pattern of disinvestment and loss of local control in Black communities.

"For Jackson residents, water as a human right means much more than turning on the faucet, it means being able to trust that what comes out is safe, affordable, and consistent. It means not having to choose between paying a water bill and buying groceries and not living in fear that the system will fail again," said Rukia Lumumba of the People's Advocacy Institute.

Lumumba framed the crisis not just as an infrastructure issue, but as a matter of dignity, equity, and justice, one that continues to shape the daily lives of Jackson residents.

Together, these leaders

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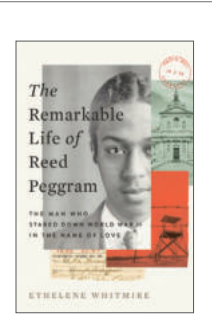
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AMR Central Mississippi graduates ten newly trained emergency medical technicians from 17th in-house “earn while you learn” course

The Mississippi Link Newswire

AMR Central Mississippi graduated ten candidates for certification as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) from the operation’s latest in-house paid course. After passing a mandatory national exam, each will become an EMT in the Hinds County EMS system. Eight will work fulltime at AMR with starting base pay of \$41,200 per year plus overtime. The other graduates will work fulltime at the Jackson Fire Department. The JFD personnel are eligible for part-time EMT positions with AMR.

The group is the seventeenth since 2019 to complete AMR’s EMT course at its Jackson facility. Calling the program “Earn While You Learn,” AMR hires strong applicants and pays them to take the ten to twelve week course. The program enables job seekers to launch a career on AMR’s ambulances and reduces the region’s pressing shortage of EMS caregivers in Hinds County.

Including the March 30 class, approximately 175 metro area residents have graduated from AMR’s in-house paid EMT



Colandra Rucker (far left), Clinical Education Specialist and Haley Sledge (far right), Critical Case Paramedic with graduating class PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



Ryan Wilson, Operations Manager, speaking to the graduates from the podium.

courses.

AMR’s EMT instructor Malcolm Robinson said 44 percent of the EMTs staffing AMR Central Mississippi ambulances are graduates of in-house courses. He said, “These graduates, like those from our sixteen previous courses, will augment our current team of EMTs and paramedics. They will enlarge the AMR workforce that protects every Hinds County resident, commuter, visitor and transient from medical and trauma emergencies”

The ceremony included re-

marks from local AMR leaders and area officials.

AMR will start its eighteenth Earn While You Learn course in April and nineteenth course in August. To inquire about admission, contact Malcolm Robinson at 601-919-7860 or Malcolm.robinson@gmr.net.

Serving 15 Mississippi counties, AMR companies are among the state’s busiest ambulance services.

About American Medical Response (AMR)

American Medical Response,

Inc., America’s leading provider of emergency medical services, provides mobile healthcare in 40 states and the District of Columbia. More than 28,000 AMR paramedics, EMTs, RNs and other professionals work together to care for more than 4.8 million patients nationwide each year in critical, emergency and non-emergency situations. For more information about AMR, visit www.amr.net or on Facebook and LinkedIn.

AMR is part of Global Medical Response, the largest air

and ground emergency medical service provider in the United States. With 34,000 team members, the organization reaches more than 61 percent of the U.S. population, providing emergency medical care to 5.5 million patients annually and performing a critical intervention every 91 seconds. For over two decades, GMR’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has partnered with FEMA, DHS, HHS, state agencies, and private partners to deliver rapid, life-saving services during large-

scale disasters, acts of terrorism, and public health emergencies, deploying over 80 times across all 10 FEMA regions. Its family of solutions includes ambulance EMS provider American Medical Response (AMR), as well as multiple air EMS organizations including Air Evac Lifeteam, REACH Air Medical Services, Guardian Flight, Med-Trans Corporation, and AirMed International. For additional information, visit GMR at www.globalmedicalresponse.com, or on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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It’s good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Water

Continued from page 1

challenged harmful policies and pushed for a public water system grounded in accountability and the basic rights of the people. Their advocacy continues to shape the ongoing conversation

about infrastructure, equity, and the role of community leadership in crisis response.

As we reflect during Women’s History Month, their efforts

serve as a reminder: real change is often carried forward not by institutions, but by individuals willing to stand in the gap and fight.

Gloster

Continued from page 1

after the meeting. “This is an opportunity to hold corporations accountable and work with local leadership to prepare for the future. Having partners is needed. Without great partners and influence from local leaders and the community, the problems here will be exacerbated.” The Chairman’s comments reminded this writer of Congressman Thompson’s comments – when he came to a community forum on the impacts of DRAX’s pollution in Gloster August 23, 2023 – “...this country belongs to all of us...there is a difference between right and wrong...community-focused results require people to come together and develop a plan.”

Coming together, finding partners, and developing a plan is a special challenge in Gloster. This was highlighted during the forum and afterwards. Gloster’s Mayor Norwood stands with DRAX. During the forum he rose to push back on comments regarding community engagement saying, “These people don’t come to meetings.” A remarkable thing to say about his own constituents – the same people that pay his salary. Representative Zakiya Summers responded as the master communicator that she is, sharing her own experience that true leadership requires reaching out to constituents as she has done in District 68, not always expecting them to come to you. Her very presence at the event, over two hours from her own district, proved her point further, and was well received by the audience.

After the forum, someone with the mayor said that transparency,

honesty, and truth were needed, and this writer asked the mayor why he doesn’t respond to messages left for him. His response was that he doesn’t respond to phone calls from people he doesn’t know and that most of the time the media doesn’t tell the truth about things. When I asked if he was aware that some residents are convinced that he is in the pocket of Drax, he sternly told me to tell them they need to say it to his face so that he can sue them. Beyond Mayor Norwood, other elected officials are also pro-Drax. Ward 1 Alderwoman Betty Green was quite vocal, stating, “I was not even invited to this meeting. I was born and raised here. Other businesses, I’m not naming names, have been worse, much worse, horrible. The people writing grants (Greater Greener Gloster Project and their partners) are only doing it for personal gain. I don’t want people to be ill, but these health conditions that people have are post-Covid illnesses in people that have smoked their entire lives. I trust the decisions coming from MDEQ.”

Elected officials firmly advocating for a company that in over ten years of operation, has only created a walking path in town and gives away turkeys during the holidays. They claim to be boosting job growth, but only 15 percent of the workforce lives in Gloster, per one survey. Mississippi taxpayers provided grants and tax relief totaling \$4.3 million to recruit Drax to Gloster.

It’s also hard to hear Gloster elected officials double-down on the

decision-making of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. MDEQ has fined Drax Amite nearly \$3 million for violations including exceeding hazardous emission levels, monitoring shortcomings, recordkeeping violations, etc. Drax responded by asking MDEQ to modify their permit to increase the hazardous air pollutant levels. In April 2025, MDEQ denied the request, but by October 2025, MDEQ’s all-white board unanimously approved the application to raise the pollution levels.

How can elected officials claim to be serving their constituents when nearly 80percent of residents of Gloster are being represented by Ben Crump or Singleton Schreiber in lawsuits against Drax Amite.

This issue is not going away. In addition to representatives from Dogwood Alliance and Southern Echo, Jacqueline Marsaw, a Field Representative from Congressman Thompson’s Natchez Office was present, as was Katherine T. Eglund, a member of the NAACP National Executive Board and Chairwoman of the Board’s Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.

Representative Justin Crosby, a Democrat from Aberdeen, Mississippi, reminded the audience of an inescapable truth, “We’ve got to work together. If it was any other community, they (Drax) couldn’t even be here.”

Brinkley

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Jackson citizens came with questions and comments regarding Brinkley Middle School’s closing. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT



Judge Tametrice Hodges makes compelling appeal to the audience

that the school board has funds for a baseball center or a softball center. They claimed that if facilities such as these were established, then the children would come back.

Attorney ReJohnna Brown Mitchell – President, Hinds County Federation of Democratic Women – shared, “Give Brinkley the

historical designation as one of the oldest African American high schools in Jackson. Propose to the Jackson Public School System to have a Career Development Center for different programs that aren’t operable in the school system. Also, with the historic designation, get the Mississippi History and Archives to develop and

restore the building.”

“We don’t need to forget. JPS doesn’t need to lose control. Mr. Brinkley was a man of great character. JPS can make it whatever they like, and there needs to be a legal injunction to step in, in my opinion, the madness of getting rid of Brinkley,” stated Larry “Big” White.

Stokes issued a caveat to the citizens. “Do not turn Grove Park out of the hands of the city. You have lost 30 percent of your sales tax. See this man (referencing Pieter Teeuwissin, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Jackson, who was sitting beside him). He’s got money. You have to talk to him about saving Brinkley.” Teeuwissin acknowledged that he was open for discussion and he welcomed the citizens.

Stokes concluded that the community should have input into the decision-making of Brinkley Middle School and the well-being of the students. He expressed that a museum or a recreation center should be considered. “We’re trying to make sure that Sam Brinkley will never be forgotten whether we have a museum or recreation center that will not fall into the hands of those who will destroy the good name.”

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Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience

Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues experience was held Friday, March 27 at Thalia Mara Hall, to a sold-out audience. Freeman delivered via video a powerful narration that blended music and storytelling to trace the deep roots of the blues

in Mississippi. The evening featured appearances by famed national journalist of NBC News, Lester Holt, who joined in on the final song. Earlier in the day, Holt interviewed Freeman for an upcoming documentary.

Hometown blues legend Vasti Jackson, made a very welcomed appearance and through song highlighted his love for the City of Jackson and Jackson State University. Recognizing his cultural impact, Mayor John Horhn presented Freeman

with a key to the city. The event not only marked the symphony's first sold-out crowd but also reinforced Mississippi's legacy as the birthplace of the blues, with Freeman masterfully narrating its history with authenticity and authority.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



“Farming Freedom” to screen during Juke Joint Festival in Clarksdale; marks first Mississippi Delta showing

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The documentary Farming Freedom will be screened in the Mississippi Delta for the first time on Thursday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Cultural Arts Center, during the annual Juke Joint Festival in Clarksdale.

The screening is especially significant as it brings the film to the Delta region where its story is rooted. Farming Freedom explores the generational struggle for Black land ownership and economic independence through the lens of a Bolivar County farm family. The documentary highlights both the historical barriers faced by Black farmers and the resilience required to maintain land and legacy in Mississippi.

Through her own family's story, filmmaker Kayla Turner Thomas, a native of the Mississippi Delta, shares these deeply personal experiences that reflect broader themes of land, identity, and freedom in America. The April 9 screening marks a homecoming moment for both the filmmaker and the film.

“There's no more meaningful place to screen Farming Freedom than the Mississippi Delta,” said Thomas. “As someone raised and shaped by the Delta in Bolivar County just down



Kayla (Turner) Thomas 2X Emmy Nominee

the highway from Clarksdale, this screening is a chance to reflect on this unsung history with my own community.”

“It's important for festival goers to experience the history and culture of the Delta from the perspectives of the Black residents of the Delta,” said Chandra Williams, executive director of the Crossroads Cultural Arts Center. “Experiences such as this provide an insight which goes beyond the usual tourist experience. This screening will [illuminate] a self-sufficiency that comes from an intimate relationship with the land.”

The Juke Joint Festival, known for celebrating the rich blues heritage and cultural traditions of Clarksdale and the Mississippi Delta, provides a fitting backdrop for the film's first Delta screening. The addition of Farming Freedom expands the festival's cultural offerings by engaging audiences in conversations about history, land ownership, and generational legacy.

In addition to the Clarksdale screening, Farming Freedom will continue its national tour with upcoming screenings this fall:

October 2, 2026 — South Carolina Black Farmers Coalition Annual Conference in Columbia, SC

October 2026 — Pace University in Pleasantville, NY (exact date to be announced)

The documentary has been featured in screenings across multiple states and continues to spark dialogue about land retention, agricultural heritage, and the long-term impact of systemic barriers on Black farmers in the United States.

To bring Farming Freedom to your community, organize a Q&A with the director, or watch the trailer, visit the licensing page on the Collective Eye Films website. For more information about the film, visit filmfreeway.com/FarmingFreedom. This documentary

was made possible in part by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this announcement do not necessarily represent those of the Mississippi Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition to grant funding, Farming Freedom was made possible by photos provided courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Farming Freedom was also supported by SR1's Agriculture and Food Science Department, dedicated to eliminating disparities in health, education, and technology through research and partnerships. SR1's Agriculture and Food Science Department offers free research-based practices to assist farmers, scientists, and consumers with farm-to-table applications and provides resources that target food equity and security for communities that have historically faced discrimination.

About Collective Eye Films

Collective Eye Films is a Portland, Oregon-based educational documentary distribution company dedicated to supporting filmmakers who tell

compelling, socially relevant stories. The company partners with producers around the world to bring impactful films to educational institutions, community organizations, and public audiences. Collective Eye Films specializes in distributing documentaries that inspire dialogue and foster greater understanding of social, environmental, and cultural issues.

About Kayla Turner Thomas

Kayla Turner Thomas, a two-time Emmy nominee, has worked in local television for nearly 15 years. Raised on family land in the Mississippi Delta, Thomas is a graduate of Bolivar County public schools and studied filmmaking and journalism at Pace University in Westchester, New York. Her career in Louisiana and Mississippi markets has included roles as a showrunner, executive producer, media sales manager and marketer, as well as producing promotional materials, commercial advertising, sponsored segments and special-interest programming.

Farming Freedom is Thomas's first documentary and was developed from an interview with her grandfather, Henry Harris. Thomas is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter.

Is Tax Day (April 15th) the actual tax filing deadline?

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



For decades, Tax Day is the day which federal individual income tax returns are due to the Internal Revenue Service. The day is April 15th of each year. The only exception is if April 15th falls on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday), or a legal holiday. In that case, the filing due date is delayed to the next business day.

If a taxpayer is not ready to file by Tax Day, they do have two options. The two options depend on if a taxpayer's federal individual income tax return will result in a balance due or a refund.

For taxpayers that will owe a balance to the IRS, they have the option to file Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

Completing and filing this form will give taxpayers a six month extension to file their federal individual income tax return until October 15th. The only exception is if October 15th falls on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday), or a legal holiday. In that case, the filing due date is delayed to the next business day.

Keep in mind, filing an extension gives taxpayers more time to file their federal individual income tax return, not more time to pay any tax liability due.

In saying that, upon submitting Form 4868, taxpayers are encouraged to pay the “expected” tax liability due to avoid any interest and penalties.

Even if an extension is filed, a taxpayer will still owe interest and penalties on any unpaid balance once they do file the federal individual income tax return by the October 15th filing due date.

Interest accrues on any unpaid taxes due from the due date of the federal individual income tax return, not including any extensions, until the date the balance is paid in full. The interest rate is determined quarterly and is the federal short-term rate plus three percent. In addition, the interest compounds daily.

Taxpayers will also face a late payment penalty on any unpaid taxes due from the due date of the federal individual income tax return. The late payment penalty is one half of one percent of any tax not paid by the due date. This penalty is charged for each month, or part of a month that the tax is unpaid. The maximum penalty that will be charged is 25 percent.

If a taxpayer files their federal individual income tax return after the due date of April 15th, or

October 15th if an extension was filed, and owes a balance to the IRS, they will also face a late filing penalty.

A late filing penalty is charged if your federal individual income tax return is filed after the due date, including extensions. The late filing penalty is 5 percent of the amount due for each month, or part of a month a federal individual income tax return is late. The maximum penalty that will be charged is 25 percent. If the federal individual income tax return is more than 60 days late, the minimum penalty is \$525, or the balance of the tax due, whichever is smaller.

If you owe the IRS and cannot pay your balance at once, you do have the option to set up a payment plan, which the IRS refers to as an Installment Agreement.

On another note, if a taxpayer is due a refund on their federal individual income tax return, the rules are totally different.

For taxpayers due a refund by the IRS, the Tax Day, April 15th filing due date does not apply to them. These taxpayers actually have up to three years from the original due date to file their federal individual income tax return to claim their refund.

So if a taxpayer is due a refund and is not ready to file by April 15th, there is no need to file Form 4868 for an extension. Again, they have up to three years from the original due date to file and claim their refund.

For example, taxpayers who have not filed their federal individual income tax return for Tax Year 2022, which was due April 15, 2023, have until April 15, 2026 to file and claim their refund. In addition, the IRS will also pay taxpayers interest on any refund owed to them past the original due date.

If you notice, I repeatedly use the terminology, “federal individual income tax return.”

If you are filing business tax returns (Corporations or Partnerships), those entities have different filing due dates and interest and penalty amounts.

Also, while the vast majority of states do adhere to a lot of the federal (IRS) guidelines and laws, you want to always contact your particular state's agency for which you file to get exact details for your situation.

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



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Birmingham Protesters rally in Railroad Park, Five Points South for 'No Kings' Event

By Hannah Bazinaw
ABC 33/40

Not one, but two “No Kings” protests took place in the Magic City Saturday, March 28. A sea of people showed up with signs and spirit to protest the Trump administration at Railroad Park and Five Points.

It wasn't just Birmingham that got in on the action. “No Kings” protests erupted across America, popping up in multiple major cities.

The name says it all; they're called “No Kings” because people feel like President Donald Trump acts with impunitive authority that some think is more fitting of a monarchy.

“America was founded to be a republic for the citizens. Donald Trump thinks he's a freaking king, and we don't like kings,” said protestor Drew Snowberger.

Common protest topics included Immigration and Customs



Protestors gathered Saturday for the No Kings protest at Railroad Park. SUBMITTED BY JAYE JASPER

Enforcement (ICE) presence, immigration, Trump's

relationship to Jeffrey Epstein, Palestine and the war with Iran,

which is now moving into its second month.

“Why are we in this war?” asked Snowberger. “All that, over oil. And he wants to kiss Netanyahu's—I won't say the word—and I don't understand that. This is not our war. It's Israel's war, and we shouldn't be there at all.”

One protest took place in the afternoon at Railroad Park and was organized by Indivisible. The other was a group effort of multiple local organizations in Five Points and was themed around taking action against fascism. During the protest, they said that they destroyed fascist propaganda, as well as chanting slogans such as, “No Camps, No ICE, No Third Reich, No Kings!” The Five Points protest was organized by a local chapter of 50501 Movement, Food Not Bombs Birmingham, and a coalition that included the Democratic Socialists of America Birmingham, Party for Socialism and

Liberation Birmingham, Young Palestinians Birmingham, Birmingham SMOG, Jewish Voices for Peace, Mary's House Catholic Worker, Migra Watch, Black Lives Matter and UAB Young Democratic Socialists of America. It took place in the evening at Five Points.

The protest featured speakers and local organizations there to show their support, including Food Not Bombs Birmingham and the Democratic Socialists of America Birmingham chapter.

A popular screenshot of Trump thanking protestors has been making rounds. However, there's no confirmation that this is a real post from his Truth Social account.

“I don't think he's a good guy,” said protestor Jayla Clemmons. “I don't even do politics, but I know he's a bad person. He does not deserve to be president.”

Steep rise in scams targeting Immigrants – How to avoid and how to recover

In partnership with American Community Media – National Briefing Series

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Scams targeting immigrants in the U.S. are growing dramatically. American Community Media's (ACoM) National Briefing March 27, 2026, featured two veteran lawyers who helped lead the Federal Trade Commission's consumer protection division, and who now work in private practice in Washington DC fighting consumer fraud. They discussed scams they are seeing; what people can do to protect themselves and their assets, and what steps are for some victims of fraud to recover.

Pilar Marrero, ACoM's associate editor, served as moderator for the briefing, with over sixty media outlets participating. She began asking Monica Vaca, Former Deputy Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, to share with the audience what she is seeing and what immigrants can do to protect themselves. “What we are seeing is that scammers are extracting thousands and even tens of thousands of dollars and people are experiencing the heights of emotional distress. We know that immigrants are particularly susceptible to scams and to fraudsters who tell them that they can help relieve that tension. Some have family members in detention facilities, having been detained by ICE. It can happen very suddenly, it involves a threat to the family, to the integrity of the family. It frequently involves an inability or difficulty in getting information and in communicating with the family and with lawyers. When this happens, family members are looking very quickly for some legal help, something to help their family reunite.”

Vaca continues, “It works because the scammers are using payment methods that are hard to reverse and allow the scammer to stay hidden. A person's ability to recover funds really depends on what payment method you're using. And you might need to act very quickly to try to get your money back. But the bad guys know this, and they're going to try this dragging you along. Some of the payment methods you are familiar with, others you are not.”



L-R: Attorney Monica Vaca. PHOTO: LINKEDIN



Attorney Kati Daffan. PHOTO: LINKEDIN.

sumer and Civil Rights Attorney, and Former Federal Trade Commission Attorney, to drill down how the scams play out, with some real-world examples. “We're talking about a time in a family's life where someone has been picked up by ICE and has disappeared. Of course, the family is going to be absolutely beside themselves trying to get help and find that person and make sure that person is safe. They are going to try to get them out of detention, and this is where scammers have seen an opportunity and have jumped in to offer supposed help to these family members. Scammers can show up if you are doing an online search for an attorney or in other ways. A commonality among all scammers is that they will promise they can assure they will be able to get your family member out of detention and help you with your legal trouble. This is not something that is just easy to spot. These scammers are very sophisticated...some of their advertising is very realistic. Documents, props, and other methods to convince people that they are truly lawyers and they're truly going to help your family.”

Daffan continued, “we've heard of a scammer presenting a bar license that looks like a real attorney bar license, and when you look up the lawyer, there really is a lawyer with that name practicing in California. We've heard about scammers having an entirely fake law firm and having fake immigration hearings. We have heard of Zoom calls where it looks like an immigration judge is hearing a case and ruling that

someone can go out on bond. We've heard about totally fake orders to release someone on bond. It can all be very convincing to a family in distress who has already paid money, and in some instances, there are even fake receipts provided after the families pay.”

Veteran journalist Araceli Martinez

Ortega, from La Opinion, asked how can immigrants prepare themselves from the very start to avoid falling into the hands of scammers...how can one avoid not only the scams themselves, but also these unscrupulous lawyers? “One thing is do not use social media to find a lawyer and be very careful using the internet to find a lawyer. It's very important to avoid

working with someone who holds themselves out as someone with a special status that could help you with your legal issue. In the US it's very easy to become a notary public. People must verify they are speaking with a real attorney. Contact a reputable community-based organization to get referrals to real immigration lawyers. If you use a bank transfer, contact the bank right away, same thing with Western Union, and ask them to reverse the payment. Also ensure other family member names are on accounts.”

Daffan continued, “if you're willing, file a report with the authorities. If you are not comfortable filing reports directly with a government agency, there is another way, you can get advocate or someone you trust to file a report on your behalf, using their contact information.”

The panelists provided these three links to assist families with connecting to safe service providers: Immigration Advocates Network - <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory>. American Immigration Lawyers Association - <https://www.ailalawyer.com>, and Catholic Legal Immigration Network - <https://www.cliniclegal.org/find-legal-help/affiliates/directory>.

The entire briefing, along with more questions and answers, can be viewed at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/steep-rise-in-scams-targeting-immigrants-how-to-avoid-and-how-to-recover>.

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Thinking about name image and likeness agreements, college degrees and 'March Madness'

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



March Madness made me reflect upon how things have changed in college sports. If you are a part of today's generation, you know about name, image and likeness agreements. You know athletes in college can become millionaires while playing a sport.

While if you have been here for a bit, you can remember when athletes in college weren't making money or endorsing products. In fact, student-athletes were at the low end of the financial spectrum.

They were receiving purely

athletic scholarships. However, there were some who were receiving money "under the table". We have read some of the stories.

Coaches were paid to coach players who were on athletic scholarships. That was the scene on college campuses across America.

Back then, coaches would come to your house and make a pitch to you and your parents about the school along with the athletic programs. I know this to be factual because of my personal experience of having coaches come to my house to recruit me. I say that humbly as those were defining moments in my life.

Now, let us fast forward to the era of name, image and like-

ness. Obviously, NIL agreements are now at the forefront of colleges recruiting student-athletes. That is probably one of the first concerns raised by potential recruits.

This has created a real problem for coaches. Now, many schools have hired general managers for their sports programs. They are specifically hired to coordinate all NIL activities. That includes raising money, too.

In my opinion, it is a daunting task given the athletic landscape in America these days. NILs are the tools athletes use to get what they want. They are in control and coaches know that, too.

So, when a coach is recruiting a player, they need to have some NIL money to put into the equa-

tion. If you are coming only with a traditional scholarship, you are toast and burnt, too.

Millions of dollars are now part of athletic budgets which include of course NIL resources. Would-be athletes sign these agreements with different terms and conditions. The players also have agents and spokespeople as well.

Colleges that have sizable NIL monies are winning more games than they lose. When you can, look at teams for example, in March Madness and how they fared.

What is happening with NIL agreements does beg the question of legislation and enforcement. So far, that is not happening. At some point the NCAA or a congressional committee will

have to step up and do something. We will see.

In the meantime, do student-athletes value the scholarship or are NIL agreements the main priority? I am on the outside looking in, yet I do hope they are being encouraged to graduate from college.

Is that an idealistic view? I hope not. Having a college degree is still important. Reports show student-athletes at the Division I level have a 90% graduation rate. It further shows that 39% of them receive graduate degrees during their playing time in sports.

For example, in the year 2024, 3,568 student-athletes had already received their college degrees and were in graduate programs. These numbers suggest

that they are taking full advantage of the academic component and the NIL agreements, too. That is good news.

The Name, Image and Likeness model will continue to draw comments about its present state and what will happen in the future.

Bryan Seeley, CEO of the College Sports Commission said, "I think it's fair to say that the NIL market in college sports is not a normal organic market. It's a market in which schools are manufacturing NIL for their student-athletes." Allegiance to one school isn't much of a factor these days. That is my opinion. Pride in being at the same school was important for those in the old school like me. Now, it's a new day with a new story.

Could 2028 be the year the people finally pick the president?

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



This year, America marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

That should make us proud. It should also make us honest.

When my son was 11, we walked the Lexington battlefield in Massachusetts. As we crossed that ground, I told him our family descends from the youngest person to carry a musket there that day. He was just a boy. He stood in a different unit from his father. Father and son, both there. Father and son, both fighting for freedom. Father and son, both fighting for the right of a people to govern themselves.

Then I looked at my son and said: He was only two years older than you are now.

That moment has stayed with me. So has another truth. Our roots in the Revolution run through both Massachusetts and Virginia. We also descend from Richard Bland of Virginia, who argued for the rights of the colonies before independence was declared.

So this year, as we mark 250 years since the Declaration, we should ask a simple question: Have we finished what those brave men, women and children started?

Not yet. We elect our mayors by popular vote. We elect our governors by popular vote. But we still do not count every vote equally when we choose our president.

Try explaining that to a child. It is awkward.

Because democracy rests on a simple idea: the person with the most votes should win. One person, one vote.

Today, that is not how presidential politics works in practice. A few swing states get most of the attention. The rest of the country is pushed aside. Millions of Americans in red states and blue states alike are told, in effect, that their votes matter less in the one race that belongs to all of us.

That is not fairness. That is neglect.

There is another way. It is called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. It does not end the Electoral College. It uses it the way the Constitution allows. The Constitution gives state legislatures the power to decide how their electoral votes are awarded. Under this plan, states agree to give their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. No constitutional amendment is needed.

Virginia is now close to joining. The bill has passed both houses of the General Assembly. If Gov. Abigail Spanberger signs it, Virginia would become the 19th jurisdiction in the compact, joining states such as Vermont, Delaware, Maine and Illinois. Virginia is not some side note in this story. It is one of the places where the American idea of self-government first took root. If Virginia joins now, it will not be breaking with the founding. It will be honor-

ing it.

That is not a radical idea. It is an American one. And it should not belong to one party.

This is not about helping Republicans. It is not about helping Democrats. It is about trusting the people.

That idea is not left-wing or right-wing. It is not urban or rural. It is not Black or white.

It is patriotic.

Of course, there are still obstacles. More states would need to join. Lawmakers would need to act. Courts may weigh in. None of this is certain.

But history does not move only when success is guaranteed. It moves when people decide that something is right.

And what better time than now?

What better way to honor America's 250th birthday than by taking one more step toward becoming the democracy we have always said we are?

The people who stood at Lexington did not risk their lives so future generations could accept minority rule. They did not fight so Americans would shrug when the person with the most votes loses.

They fought for freedom.

They fought for self-government.

They fought for the right of the people to decide their own future.

It is time to finish what they started.

Let the people decide.

Let the majority rule.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president of the NAACP.

What day will it be?

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



Today, married couples have so many obligations that consume their time like school, jobs, careers, businesses, church, children, family, hobbies, etc. Therefore, making it

arduous to spend time with each other. Additionally, there are other factors contributing to limiting the time couples spend with each other like social media, cell phones, games, and so much more. Because of so much competing for your spouse's time, it is imperative that couples become intentional about spending quality time with each other. One of the most important investments that a married couple can make is to choose at least one day out of the week to spend some quality time with each other. What day will it be?

Yes, a day just for you and your boo. This means just the two of you: no children, no co-worker, no boss, no friend, no family member, no in-laws, no pets, no work, no homework, no bills, and NO PHONE- only you and your soul mate. Further, inform your family, friends, and others of your designated day, so that they will know not to disturb you unless it is an absolute emergency and even then, it must be a major emergency. And for those (you know who they are) who claim emergencies when they're not; please gently share a contact person they can reach out to instead of you two.

Yes, I understand that many are super busy but make every effort to spend some quality time with your spouse. It doesn't have to be a whole day, just a couple or a few hours daily will suffice. If you love your spouse and you really want a healthy, happy and loving marriage then make boo time a priority. Why should you choose a day to spend quality time with one another? The following are reasons that you should spend quality time with your spouse:

- Can be a positive lifetime investment in your marriage
- Reinforcement to your spouse and others of how you value your marriage
- Promotes love and bonding
- Builds trust
- Create new memories
- Learn more about each other
- Improve communication
- Warrant affection and attention
- Improve intimacy
- Helps relieve stress
- Grow as one and away from isolation
- Promotes friendship/companionship
- Promotes adventure and fun
- Life is short

Don't let life get so busy that you fail

to spend quality time with your spouse. I know some have concluded oh, he will be alright, she'll be okay. Unfortunately, statements like this have helped contribute to many separations and divorces. No, he or she will not be okay. Some spouses try to fulfill the neglect of boo time by spending time with their children, inviting or forcing their children to tag along, spending time with family, some travel alone, some socialize with friends, some shops, some join clubs, and organizations, etc. but it's not the same. Neither of the above substitutes can replace quality time with your spouse; it may come close but it's not the same without the person you took vows with.

There's nothing like the anticipation of leading up to your designated day for boo time... it helps make the week go by a little easier. As our schedules often change, my husband and I have previously chosen Friday, Tuesday, and even Sunday following our pastoral commitments as our designated boo day. In other words, we are flexible and realize that it doesn't matter what day we spend quality time with each other as long as we do it! Let me tell you...I be counting down. We are intentional about spending quality time together. For instance, we sometimes date and go to the movies, movie binge in our family den, try new restaurants, frequent favorite restaurants (especially with live music), go fishing, shopping, sit/walk at the Renaissance Mall, ride our bicycles on the Reservoir, etc. However, our more intimate time sometimes involves a spontaneous ride on the Mississippi Highways dancing at home, sitting on the couch laying my head on my husband's shoulder, going to the reservoir observing the water and nature, sitting on our porch together, etc.

In conclusion, many go out of their way to make plans for everything else why not plan to spend quality time with each other? When you do choose a day(s) to spend time together it should be a time that you and your spouse are intentional about making eye contact, showing affection, giving each other positive attention, and eliminating all distractions. What day will it be? I hope it is soon!

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

The Mississippi Link™

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LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS City of Jackson Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

RFP #: 92688-042826 Compliance Assistance for The City's Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System(MS4)

Focusing on the illicit discharge and elimination program and the ambient monitoring program

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMSBIDS.COM

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

Electronic bids may be submitted in lieu of sealed bids by the deadline listed above at the following site: www.jacksonmsbids.com.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases, where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

MO
Monica Oliver, Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1028/1025

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

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 within a C-3 (General) Commercial District for the property located at 4140 Bullard St. (Parcel 308-106), 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

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

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.

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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 10:00 AM on April 23, 2026, for furnishing the City of Jackson's requirements for the following:

THREE (3) COMPACT TRACK LOADERS

Copies of the Bid Package are available for free download at www.jacksonmsbids.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 April 28, 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 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

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.

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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

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 ____ day of March, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR,
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

4/2/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF WOODS STREET (FROM COHEA STREET TO PEAR ORCHARD STREET) TO DR. RODERICK DEMOND LITTLE DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI ESTABLISHING THE RENAMING OF WOODS STREET (FROM COHEA STREET TO PEAR ORCHARD STREET) TO DR. RODERICK DEMOND LITTLE DRIVE. (STOKES)

4/2/2026

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING WILLIAM LAKE A REZONING FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT & R-5 (MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 NEIGHBORHOOD (MIXED USE) DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR A RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT PARCELS 20-49 & 20-48 ON BOYD ST. AND PARCELS 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 ON N. JEFFERSON ST. CASE NO. 4316.

WHEREAS, William Lake has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at Parcels 20-49 & 20-48 on Boyd St. and Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St, in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a residential subdivision; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on November 25, 2025 and December 11, 2025 that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on December 17, 2025 all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Cases for the December 17, 2025 the Jackson City Planning Board Hearing were postponed until the January 28, 2026 Planning Board Hearing due to the lack of a quorum; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended the approval of the rezoning of properties located at Parcels 20-49 & 20-48 on Boyd St. and Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St, in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented; to allow for a residential subdivision; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2026 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

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

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

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

Parcel 20-38

Lot Five (5) of Ewing Subdivision of 5-Acre Lot 8, North Jackson, as shown by map or plat of said subdivision on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of said County, at Jackson, Mississippi in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to same being in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-41

Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot No. Eight (8), a North Jackson, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book A, at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-42

Lot 9 of Ewing Subdivision of Five (5) Acre Lot Eight (8), North Jackson, Mississippi according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book "A" at Page 233, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-48

East 1/2 of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 20-49

West 1/2 of Lot 15 of Ewing Subdivision of 5 Acre Lot No. 8 North Jackson together with all right, title, and interest in mutual driveway, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, in Surveyor's Record Book A at Page 233, reference to which map or plat is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description, less and except a strip of land 5 feet in width off the north side of the west 1/2 of Lot 15.

949 N. Jefferson St. (Parcel 20-37)

LOT 4 EWING SUBN OF LOT 8 NJ

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the properties located at Parcels 20-49 & 20-48 on Boyd St. and Parcels 20-38, 20-41 & 20-42 on N. Jefferson St from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District & R-5 (Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a residential subdivision. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said properties, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Council Member Brown-Thomas seconded. Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Foote, G1tzell, Hartley and Parkinson.

Nays-None.
Abstention - Clay.
Absent - Stokes.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting February 23, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1067-1069".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 27th day of March 2026.

4/2/2026

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

BY: P N Stokes

4/2/2026

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P R E S E R V E D

Blessing of Resurrection and Restoration

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



In 2007, playwright, director and actor Tyler Perry released the eagerly anticipated, *Why Did I Get Married?* to both positive critical reviews and great box-office success. Despite what a few critics dismissively labeled an “African-American” buppie movie, *Why Did I Get Married?* expanded the cinematic road that Perry traveled in his 2005 hit “*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*.” Perry’s movie showed the importance of resurrection and the process of restoration.

I also liked it because it touched on one of the blessings that I’ve written about previously: restoration. This film illustrated the blessings of restoration where we embrace God’s grace and are no longer held hostage by the mistakes of our past and

resurrection where we accept that sometimes in order for God to bring to life the seeds of destiny some things must die. Why Did I Get Married showed that in order for something to be resurrected, it must die first much like the truth in the scripture John 12:24 that says, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” What died for some of the couples was the fantasy of what the relationship was and what grows is a shocking realization of what the relationship is.

One of the movie’s strengths is the fast-paced and well written dialogue of the couples during their annual retreat in the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains. The snow capped mountains provide a perfect backdrop image for the seemingly impassable mountains of deceit, anger and self-centeredness that plague the couple’s mar-

riages. And then it happens: the truth comes out about the secrets in each marriage... and the immature hopes of their marriages die. However, Perry shows that once that truth is exposed, the seeds of a new beginning can be planted and the hopefulness of restoration can take place. The couples in the movie had marital trouble but it was their overcoming those troubles that gave them the foundation for their future marital success.

Sometimes things die because we neglect them. In other cases, God allows them to die so he can resurrect them. Whatever the case, God has the final say so on what lives or dies...and what gets restored. The restoration process can be difficult because we must choose to submit to change. Resurrection also makes us see that God might not wipe the slate clean. Instead, he often chooses to use those things that we think disqualify us

to be the thing that propels us into our future.

Part of the blessings of resurrection and restoration is that they appear to come in negative and unwanted packages initially. Similarly, we may have to let go of a dream or change our attitude about something or someone. As we continue a focus on resurrection during this Easter season, we are reminded of its importance to our growth as Christians. Once we let those old things die, we then have the great opportunity to see God use that negative thing be the foundation for us to give and live again.

Happy Resurrection...celebrate Him because He lives!
Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of “*Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends*” and “*Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers*.” Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda

Liberation Theology of the Passover Seder

An Op-Ed for Passover and Easter in America

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.,
Spill the Honey Chairman and President and CEO NNPA
Rabbi Dr. Judy Schinder
Spill the Honey Executive Director and Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies at Queens University

On behalf of Spill the Honey, we are pleased to offer our collective experience and perspectives on the historical and contemporary context and significance of the Seder at Passover from both the Jewish American and Black American religious traditions.

As Jews gather around the Seder table and Christians move toward the sacred culmination of Easter, the convergence of these seasons calls forth one of the most enduring theological truths in human history: God is a God of liberation. The Passover Seder is not merely ritual remembrance; it is a living, breathing reenactment of divine deliverance. And within Black America, this same story has been reinterpreted, re-sung, and re-lived as a testimony of survival and struggle against oppression.

At the heart of Passover is the Exodus narrative—the story of a people enslaved, crying out, and being delivered by the hand of God. Jewish tradition insists that this is not distant history.

An essential teaching of the Haggadah (the Jewish text that guides the Passover rituals) affirms, “In every generation, one must see oneself as if one personally left Egypt.” This command transforms memory into moral responsibility. The Seder becomes an ethical summons: freedom is not complete until all are free.

Modern Jewish scholarship underscores this theological imperative. Rabbi and theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel famously declared, “In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.” Though brief, this insight resonates profoundly with the Passover mandate. The liberation from Egypt is not simply a national origin story; it is a perpetual call to confront injustice wherever it exists. As contemporary Jewish reflections note, Passover is “the season of our freedom,” a celebration of both physical and spiritual redemption.

The Seder itself dramatizes this theology. The bitter herbs remind participants of suffering; the unleavened bread symbolizes both affliction and liberation; the four cups of wine celebrate stages of redemption. Each element reinforces a central claim: God acts in history on behalf of the oppressed. The Exodus is not just a miracle—it is a moral revelation.

This same revelation has profoundly shaped Black religious consciousness in America. For enslaved Africans and their descendants, the story of Moses confronting Pharaoh became a coded language of hope. Spirituals like “Go Down, Moses” were not simply songs—they were theological declarations. The God of the Hebrews was also the God of the enslaved in America.

No scholar articulated this more forcefully than Dr. James H. Cone at Union Theological Seminary, whose groundbreaking work *A Black Theology of Liberation* re-centered Christian theology around the experience of the oppressed. Cone wrote, “The God of the oppressed takes sides with the black community,” insisting that divine neutrality in the face of injustice is a theological impossibility. The famed theologian, Dr. Frederick Herzog at Duke University School of Divinity, joined Dr. Cone in unpacking the Judeo-Christian Tradition grounded inclusively in the global theology of liberation.

For Cone, the Exodus was not

a distant Biblical episode but the foundational paradigm for understanding God’s activity in the modern world. Black theology, he argued, arises from the recognition that “God is a God of justice” who actively delivers those suffering under systems of domination. The parallels between ancient Egypt and the history of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism in the United States are not incidental—they are theological.

Within Black churches, the Passover motif has long been embedded in preaching, prayer, and protest. Theologian and visionary leader, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., frequently invoked the Exodus in his speeches, framing the Civil Rights Movement as a journey from bondage to freedom. In his final speech, King declared, “I’ve been to the mountaintop... I’ve seen the Promised Land,” echoing Moses’ vision and linking the Biblical narrative to the struggle for racial justice in America.

The convergence of Passover and Easter deepens this theological resonance. For Christians, Easter celebrates resurrection—the triumph of life over death. Yet this victory cannot be understood apart from the Passover context in which Jesus lived and died. The Last Supper itself was a Passover meal, grounding the Christian story in the Jewish narrative of liberation.

Thus, both traditions proclaim a God who liberates in Judaism, through the Exodus; in Christianity, through the cross and resurrection. And in Black theology, these narratives are fused into a living testimony that God continues to act in history.

But the relevance of Passover today extends beyond religious observance. In a world marked by growing antisemitism, racial injustice, economic inequality, and political oppression, the question posed by the Seder remains urgent: What does it mean to be free? The Hebrew word for Egypt, *Mitzrayim*, connotes “narrowness” or “constraint,” suggesting that liberation is not only external but internal—a breaking free from all that diminishes human dignity.

For Black America, this question is both historical and contemporary. The legacy of slavery has given way to new forms of systemic inequality, from mass incarceration to economic disparity. The Exodus story challenges both Jews and Christians to see these realities not as inevitable, but as conditions that demand transformation.

For Jewish America, the historic fear of unsafety is no longer a dormant remnant of intergenerational trauma. The recent burning of a synagogue in Mississippi, the explosive-laden terrorist truck crashing into Temple Israel in Michigan, and the violent assaults aimed at Jews in cities across our country have become an agonizing reality.

Jewish and Black traditions alike insist that memory must lead to action. The Seder begins with the invitation, “Let all who are hungry come and eat,” signaling that liberation is incomplete if it is not shared. This ethic of solidarity aligns with the core insight of liberation theology: faith is not merely belief—it is praxis.

In this sacred season, as matzah is broken and Easter hymns are sung, America stands at a crossroads. Will these rituals remain symbolic, or will they inspire a renewed commitment to freedom, equality, justice, and safety? Today to help answer that question and others, we in *Spill the Honey* offer a series of film documentaries that celebrate the longstanding solidarity between Blacks and Jews in America at <http://www.SpilltheHoney.com>

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Multiple Myeloma

By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

Multiple myeloma is a serious but often misunderstood disease. It affects thousands of people every year, including many in Black communities, where the risk is nearly twice as high as in white populations. Even though it is a rare type of cancer, treatments today are far more advanced than they were even a decade ago. With early detection, good medical care and strong community awareness, people living with multiple myeloma can manage the disease and maintain a good quality of life.

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that starts in plasma cells, a type of white blood cell found in the bone marrow. Plasma cells help your body fight infections by making antibodies, special proteins that attack germs. But in multiple myeloma, these plasma cells become abnormal and begin to grow out of control.

Instead of making helpful antibodies, the cancerous cells produce proteins that don't work properly. These abnormal proteins can build up in the blood, bones and organs, causing serious health problems. As the cancer cells multiply, they crowd out healthy blood cells in the bone marrow, which can lead to anemia, infections and bleeding problems.

Multiple myeloma is considered a "blood cancer," but it affects the whole body. It can weaken bones, damage kidneys and interfere with the immune system. While there is no cure yet, treatments can slow the disease, reduce symptoms and help people live longer, healthier lives.

Multiple myeloma can affect anyone, but some groups face higher risks. Age is a major factor, most people di-



agnosed are over 60. Men are slightly more likely to develop it than women. And importantly, Black Americans have the highest rates of multiple myeloma in the world and they are often diagnosed at older ages.

Scientists still don't fully understand why some people develop the disease and others don't. But they do know that family history, certain genetic changes and conditions like MGUS (monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance) can increase risk.

Because Black communities face higher rates and often experience delays in diagnosis, awareness is especially important. Knowing the signs and speaking up early can make a lifechanging difference.

Multiple myeloma can be tricky because symptoms often appear slowly. Some people don't notice anything at first. Others may mistake early signs for normal aging or everyday aches and pains.

Here are the most common symp-

toms, based on leading medical centers:

- Bone pain, especially in the back, ribs or hips
- Weak or brittle bones, which may break easily
- Extreme tiredness caused by anemia
- Frequent infections because the immune system is weakened
- Nausea, thirst or confusion linked to high calcium levels
- Numbness or weakness in the legs
- Kidney problems, sometimes discovered through routine blood tests

These symptoms don't always mean someone has multiple myeloma. But if they last, worsen or don't match your usual health patterns, it's important to get checked.

Diagnosing multiple myeloma usually involves several steps. Doctors may order:

- Blood tests to look for abnormal proteins
- Urine tests to check for protein buildup

- Bone marrow biopsy to examine plasma cells directly
- Imaging tests, such as Xrays, CT scans or MRIs, to look for bone damage

These tests help doctors understand how advanced the disease is and what treatment plan will work best.

Sometimes, people are diagnosed with a related condition called "smoldering myeloma," which means the cancer is present but not yet causing symptoms. In those cases, doctors may recommend close monitoring instead of immediate treatment.

While multiple myeloma cannot be cured, it can be treated effectively. Many people live for years with the disease, especially when it is caught early.

Common treatments include:

1. Targeted Therapy

These medicines attack cancer cells directly by focusing on the proteins or pathways that help them grow.

2. Immunotherapy

This treatment helps the immune system recognize and destroy cancer cells.

3. Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy drugs kill fastgrowing cells, including cancer cells.

4. Steroids

Steroids can slow the growth of myeloma cells and reduce inflammation.

5. Stem Cell Transplant

For some patients, doctors may recommend a transplant using the patient's own stem cells. This allows for higher-dose treatment to kill cancer cells, followed by a "reset" of the bone marrow.

6. Radiation Therapy

Radiation can help relieve bone pain or treat a specific area where the cancer is causing damage.

Treatment plans are personalized. What works for one person may not be right for another. Doctors consider age, overall health, symptoms and how ag-

gressive the cancer is before choosing a plan.

Managing multiple myeloma is a longterm process. People may go through periods of treatment, followed by times when the disease is stable. Regular checkups are essential to monitor blood counts, kidney function and bone health.

Lifestyle choices also play a role. Staying active, eating well, avoiding smoking and managing stress can support overall health. Because the disease weakens the immune system, staying up to date on vaccines and avoiding infections is especially important.

Support from family, friends and community organizations can make a huge difference. Many people find strength in connecting with others who are living with the disease.

Community education through barbershops, senior centers, health fairs and local newspapers can help save lives. When we share knowledge, we protect each other.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

Catch "Tips to be Fit" on "Good Day Good Health" everyday

If you've missed an article of "Tips to be Fit" just search "Vince Faust" "Tips to be Fit"

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Spring cleaning your kitchen? Here's how to keep bugs out

StatePoint

With warmer weather here, spring cleaning and hosting season are in full swing. While you prep your home for guests, you may also be seeing an uptick of insect activity.

Unfortunately, insects tend to gather in the same areas of the home where household members and guests do – anywhere there is food. So, rather than let bugs disrupt your spring gatherings, act right away. Doing so is important, as insects reproduce rapidly. In fact, it only takes one week for two fruit flies to multiply to 500 fruit flies!

By using these tips to banish bugs from your kitchen this spring, you can enjoy the feeling you get when your space is truly clean and guest-ready:

Do a deep clean: In addition to regular kitchen upkeep, be sure to do a deep clean in spring and every time you host. This is a great way to finally tackle those corners, crevices and seldom-addressed surfaces in the fridge, oven and pantry, where pest-attracting food residue and grease can build up.

Catch what you can't clean: A fly trap for indoors is a necessary addition to your kitchen spring cleaning and hosting routine. Zevo catches what you can't clean – working continuously to trap those pesky flies and gnats that linger around sinks, trash cans, and countertops even after you've scrubbed. Simply plug in a Zevo Flying Insect Trap near high-traffic areas, such as near party spreads, fruit bowls or garbage, and doors that are opened throughout the day. Its blue and UV light attract and catch fruit flies, gnats, house flies and other flying insects 24/7 and its sleek, discreet design will look good in your kitchen.

"Plugging in a Zevo Insect Trap is an easy way to achieve that level of cleanliness you're looking for, so you have more time for what matters – enjoying the spring season with friends and family," says Rob Reinerman, Vice President of Procter & Gamble Ventures, parent company of Zevo, a line of worry-free pest solutions.

Fix leaks: If you have a leak under your kitchen sink, you may unwittingly be creating an inviting habitat for bugs, which are drawn to water sources. Fix the leak so you invite only human guests to your kitchen and home this spring. Doing so will have the added benefit of preventing water damage and mold.

Seal food tightly: Take a quick look at your pantry to assess your food storage containers. Transfer all items like flour and sugar out of paper packaging and into tightly-sealed jars. Not only will this help keep bugs at bay, but your essential ingredients will stay fresher for improved hosting.

For more information about pest control in the kitchen and other areas of your home, visit zevoinsect.com.

Maintaining a tidy kitchen is just the first step in banishing bugs. Simple additional measures that require very little effort can help you truly keep the spaces where you prep, host, and enjoy your food clean, fresh and insect-free.

The way we sleep affects our body and our health

By Vince Faust MA
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

Most of us do not think very much about how we sleep. We think about how long we sleep or how tired we feel in the morning, but we rarely stop to ask an important question: Does my sleeping position matter?

The truth is yes. Our sleeping position can affect our body in many ways. It can change how well we breathe, how our back feels, how our heart works and even how rested we feel the next day. Scientists and doctors have studied this, and while there is no single "perfect" position for everyone, each position has its own benefits and problems. Understanding these can help us make better choices for our health.

Why Sleep Position Matters

Sleep is one of the most important things we do for our health. During sleep, the body repairs muscles, restores energy and supports brain function. Good sleep helps our heart, our immune system and even our mood. But the way we lie in bed can change how well our body does these jobs.

Doctors say that sleep position can affect:

- Breathing and snoring
- Spinal alignment (how straight our back and neck stay)
- Heartburn and acid reflux
- Blood flow
- Comfort and pain levels

Most people move around during the night, so we rarely stay in one position for hours. But the position we start in and return to most often can still make a big difference.

Side Sleeping: The Most Common Position

More than 60% of adults sleep on their side, making it the most popular position. Many experts say side sleeping has several health benefits.

Benefits of Side Sleeping

- Helps with breathing
- Side-sleeping keeps the airway open. This can reduce snoring and help people with sleep apnea breathe better.

- Reduces acid reflux
- Sleeping on the left side can help prevent stomach acid from moving up into the throat, which reduces heartburn.

• Good for pregnancy

Doctors recommend that pregnant women sleep on their left side because it improves blood flow to the baby and reduces swelling in the legs.

Drawbacks of Side Sleeping

- Can cause shoulder or hip pain
- Lying on one side puts pressure on those joints. People with arthritis or injuries may find this uncomfortable.

• May cause numbness

Sleeping on an arm can make it "fall asleep," causing tingling or numbness.

• Spine may not stay straight

Without the right pillow, the neck can bend too far, leading to morning stiffness.

How to Improve Side Sleeping

- Use a pillow that keeps your neck level with your spine.
- Place a small pillow between your knees to reduce pressure on your hips.
- Switch sides during the night to avoid soreness.

Back Sleeping: Good for the Spine, Not Always for Breathing

Back sleeping is the second most common position. Many people find it comfortable because it allows the body to rest evenly.

Benefits of Back Sleeping

- Keeps the spine aligned
- Doctors say back sleeping can reduce pressure on the neck, back and hips because the body stays in a neutral position.

• Reduces joint pressure

Since the weight is spread out, joints do not get squeezed as much.

Drawbacks of Back Sleeping

- Can worsen snoring and sleep apnea

When we lie on our back, the tongue and soft tissues fall backward, blocking the airway. This makes snoring louder and sleep apnea more severe.

• Can make breathing harder for some people

People with heart failure, lung problems or extra weight around

the chest may feel short of breath when lying flat.

• Can worsen acid reflux

Lying flat makes it easier for stomach acid to move upward.

How to Improve Back Sleeping

- Use a small pillow under your knees to support the lower back.
- Raise the head of the bed slightly to reduce reflux.

If you snore or have sleep apnea, doctors recommend avoiding back sleeping altogether.

Stomach Sleeping: The Least Healthy Position

Stomach sleeping is the least common position and most experts say it has more risks than benefits.

Problems with Stomach Sleeping

- Strains the neck
- To breathe, you must turn your head to one side. This twists the neck and can cause pain.

• Pushes the spine out of alignment

The back curves unnaturally, which can lead to lower back pain.

• Makes breathing harder

Lying on the stomach presses the chest into the mattress, making it harder for the lungs to expand.

Why Some People Still Prefer It

Some people find stomach sleeping helps reduce snoring because it keeps the airway open. But the strain it puts on the neck and back usually outweighs this benefit.

How to Improve Stomach Sleeping

- If you cannot sleep any other way:
- Use a very thin pillow or no pillow at all.
- Place a pillow under your hips to reduce pressure on the spine.

The American Heart Association says sleep position can affect heart and brain health in certain situations.

What We Know

- People with heart failure often avoid sleeping on their left side because it can make breathing feel harder.
- Sleeping on the left side may help people with acid reflux, which sometimes feels like heart pain.
- Sleep apnea, which is worse when lying on the back, is linked

to high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat and stroke risk.

Doctors say that if you have heart or breathing problems, you should pay attention to how your body feels in different positions. If you cannot breathe well lying flat or if you must sleep in a recliner, it may be a sign to talk to a doctor.

Sleep Position and the Brain

Scientists are studying how sleep position affects the brain's ability to clear waste. Some early research suggests side sleeping may help the brain remove toxins more effectively but experts say more research is needed.

There is no single "best" position for everyone. The right position depends on your body, your health and what feels comfortable.

Here are some simple guidelines:

- If you snore or have sleep apnea:

Side sleeping is usually best.

- If you have acid reflux:

Leftside sleeping helps reduce symptoms.

- If you have back pain:

Back sleeping with support under the knees may help.

- If you are pregnant:

Leftside sleeping is recommended.

- If you wake up with neck pain:

Avoid stomach sleeping.

Tips for Better Sleep in Any Position

- Use a supportive pillow that fits your sleeping style.
- Choose a mattress that keeps your spine aligned.
- Try placing pillows under your knees, between your legs or under your hips depending on your position.
- If you want to change your sleep position, do it slowly. Your body may need time to adjust.
- If you feel tired during the day even after a full night's sleep, talk to a doctor. It may be a sign of a sleep disorder.

Sleep is essential for good health, and the way we sleep can make a big difference.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

Mckenzie Cummings and Chloe Fairman assist at State Capitol

Mississippi Link Newswire

McKenzie Cummings of Jackson and Chloe Fairman served as pages for the Mississippi State Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff.

McKenzie is the daughter of Angelique Lee and attends St. Joseph Catholic School. When asked about the week, McKenzie said, "I enjoyed this week of paging because it is my last year doing it. I've been paging ever since my freshman year and it's great to see how far I've come."

Chloe is the daughter of Theresa and Kenneth Briggs and attends Murrah High School. When asked about the week, Chloe said, "I like everything that I am learning about politics and how everything works. I also like all the new people I have met while being here!"



McKenzie is pictured with Lieutenant Governor C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr., who sponsored her visit and Kamesha B. Mumford



Chloe is pictured with Lieutenant Governor C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr., who sponsored her visit and Senator Kamesha B. Mumford.

City of Jackson responds to passage of Water Authority Legislation

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mayor John Horhn and the City of Jackson expressed disappointment following the Mississippi Legislature's passage of legislation creating a Jackson Water Authority, noting that the final bill does not give Jackson a majority-appointed governing board over assets the City owns and for which it continues to bear substantial financial risk. The City appreciates the work that went into reaching this point, but believes governance and responsibility should be aligned.

The final legislation still leaves important questions un-

answered about accountability, debt service, and long-term management of the system. The City remains concerned that if the Authority and the Mayor or City Council do not agree, the bill does not clearly establish how major decisions will be made or who will bear responsibility if the Authority cannot generate enough revenue to meet its obligations.

The legislation does include provisions for independent rate studies every two years, a bill dispute process, and a structure for future rate action, but serious concerns remain about whether those provisions fully

address the ongoing issues of rising rates, low collection of past-due bills, and the Authority's ability to sustain operations without creating new burdens for Jackson residents.

The City also remains concerned that municipal customers such as Byram and Ridgeland would have representation on the board while not carrying the same responsibility for the debt and financial risks tied to the system. That imbalance is a central reason the City had urged a board structure that gave Jackson a majority role in appointing members.

While others have celebrat-

ed the defeat of a Jackson-controlled water authority, the City's focus remains on finding real answers for governance, service, collections, and debt responsibility.

"Jackson should not be asked to carry the greatest risk without having the authority to govern the assets it owns," Horhn said. "We will continue working with our city leaders, state and federal officials, and other partners toward a solution that is fair, workable, and centered on accountability. Jackson should be able to govern its own resources."



Mayor John Horhn PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

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Jackson State University alumnus Tramell Tillman among star-studded cast for Marvel's Spider-Man: Brand New Day



Tramell Tillman is a 2008 graduate of Jackson State University and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science. Tillman will appear in the upcoming film Spider-Man: Brand New Day. PHOTO SPECIAL TO JSU

By Kelli Sharpe
JSU Newswire

Jackson State University (JSU) is pleased to announce that alumnus Tramell Tillman has been cast in the upcoming film *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*. Tillman's character is a new addition to the Marvel franchise in the latest installment of the *Spider-Man* film series.

Tillman will appear in the highly anticipated blockbuster, which opens in theaters on July 31, 2026. Watch the official movie trailer here. The role follows his recent Primetime Emmy Award win for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his performance as Seth Milchick in the Apple TV+ television series *Severance*, marking a major milestone in his career.

"Tramell Tillman reflects the excellence we cultivate at Jackson State," said JSU Interim President Denise Jones Gregory. "We are incredibly proud to see one of our own step into a role of this scale, continuing to bring his work to a global audience. From his time with *MADDDRAMA* to this moment on the big screen, his journey demonstrates what is possible when talent is paired with the training he received here and the opportunity to grow as an artist."

A 2008 graduate of Jackson State University, Tillman graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science and was a member of the university's *MADDDRAMA* Performance Troupe, which provides hands-on training in student performance and production.

"Tramell's time with *MADDDRAMA* showcased his talent, discipline and commitment to ensemble storytelling," said Mark Henderson, Ph.D., founding director of *MADDDRAMA* and chair of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre. "His achievements inspire current students and validate our program's ability to prepare artists for the highest levels of performance."

Tillman's role in the Marvel franchise and his Emmy win have inspired students like Callie Calicut to keep pursuing her goal of becoming a full-time actress in the television and film industry. Calicut will attend the New York Film Academy Los Angeles campus next fall after graduating in May 2026 with a bachelor's in multimedia journalism.

"This motivates me because it reminds me that I'm exactly where I need to be and in proximity to the people who I need to be in proximity to. It also showed me that you can pursue your dreams regardless of your major or what you study," said Calicut, who was awarded Best Supporting Actress from the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre.

An honor student at JSU, Tillman was also involved in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Student Government Association and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Tillman's extensive career in stage and screen includes the film *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning* and television series *Godfather of Harlem* alongside Forrest Whitaker and the Amazon drama *Hunters* starring Al Pacino. In the fall of 2019, he made his Broadway debut at the Lincoln Center in the play *The Great Society*.

MVSU graduate publishes inspirational book highlighting faith, resilience and global physicians' journeys

By Donell Maxie
Communications Director

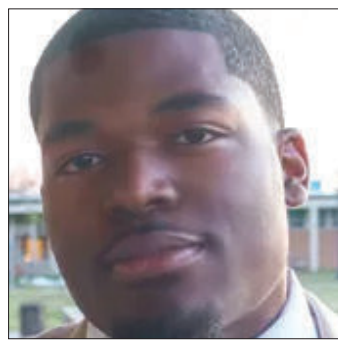
A recent Mississippi Valley State University graduate is turning personal adversity into purpose through a new book that highlights resilience, faith and the human side of medicine.

Christian Barksdale, who completed his degree in December 2025, is the author of *Hearts in White Coats*, a collection of stories from more than 45 physicians across over 25 countries and a wide range of medical specialties. The book explores the personal journeys, challenges and perseverance behind the profession, offering readers a deeper understanding of the path to success.

"This book is really for anyone who has ever experienced self-doubt, anyone who has ever questioned if they are good enough," Barksdale said. "I want people to understand that doubt does not disqualify you. In many cases, it means you are growing."

The inspiration for the book emerged during a difficult season in the summer of 2025, when Barksdale found himself battling discouragement, uncertainty and self-doubt. What began as a personal struggle soon became the foundation for a global project rooted in purpose and faith.

"One day, I was sitting outside reading my Bible and praying for



Barksdale

answers," Barksdale said. "That moment changed everything. It reminded me that what I went through was not just for me—it was something I could use to help others."

Barksdale later reflected on 2 Corinthians 1:3–4, a passage that emphasizes how God provides comfort in times of trouble so that it can be shared with others. That scripture became a guiding principle for the book's mission.

"That really put everything into perspective," he said. "The comfort I received is now something I can use to encourage others who are going through similar struggles."

Motivated by that calling, Barksdale began reaching out to physicians around the world—many through LinkedIn—inviting them to share their personal stories. Despite early challenges and unanswered messages, he remained persistent, eventually building a network of contributors eager to be part of the proj-

ect.

"I wanted to show that success is rarely linear," Barksdale said. "People see the white coat and the title, but they don't always see the setbacks, the doubt or the moments where things didn't go as planned."

One story that deeply impacted him was that of Dr. Audrey Durrant, who survived a near-fatal accident, spent weeks in a coma and went on to complete her medical training while overcoming significant barriers.

"Her story reminded me that setbacks do not define your future," Barksdale said. "It showed me what resilience really looks like."

Barksdale credits Mississippi Valley State University with playing a pivotal role in shaping his mindset, discipline and vision. During his time at MVSU, he served in leadership roles and gained experiences that expanded both his confidence and perspective.

"Without MVSU, this book would not exist," he said. "The university helped develop me into the person I am today."

He also highlighted the impact of mentors such as Dr. Victor Bii, who strengthened his passion for science through research opportunities, and Dr. Antonio Brownlow, who helped shape his leadership and professional development.

"Those experiences pushed me to grow, stay disciplined and think beyond myself," Barksdale said.

Through opportunities such as participating in an international innovation conference, Barksdale said he gained a broader understanding of collaboration and global perspectives—an influence that directly shaped the book's worldwide reach.

Beyond storytelling, Barksdale emphasized the importance of representation in medicine, particularly for students from underserved communities like the Mississippi Delta.

"Sometimes seeing someone who looks like you is the first step in believing that you can become it too," he said. "Representation turns something that feels distant into something that feels possible."

Now available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle formats, *Hearts in White Coats* is designed to inspire students, aspiring healthcare professionals and anyone navigating personal challenges.

"I want people to feel seen, understood and encouraged," Barksdale said. "You are not behind, you are not alone, and you are not incapable. If you stay consistent and keep believing, you can achieve what you set your mind to."

Alcorn State University honors academic excellence at 87th Honors Convocation

ASU Newswire

Alcorn State University hosted its 87th Honors Convocation on March 26.

A total of 459 President's Scholars and 1,033 Dean's Scholars were recognized across the spring and fall 2025 semesters.

Students who earned a 4.0 grade point average within a single semester received the President's Scholar distinction, while those who earned a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA received the Dean's Scholar distinction.

The convocation was hosted by the Myrlie Evers-Williams Honors Program, named for the civil rights activist and former NAACP board chair who attended Alcorn, where she met the late Medgar Evers.

Evers-Williams was appointed Alcorn scholar-in-residence in 2013. The interdisciplinary liberal arts program recruits intellectually curious and socially conscious scholars for a lifetime of justice advocacy and servant leadership.

Dr. Wandra Arrington, director of the Myrlie Evers-Williams Honors Program, presided over the convocation.

"This event motivates others to



continue their academic pursuits," Arrington said. "Keep working hard to achieve great things." The days that you don't feel like doing what you need to do, get up and do them anyway. Always keep your word so that you have it even if you don't have anything else."

Judge Deborah McDonald of the Mississippi Court of Appeals delivered the keynote address. McDonald represents District 2, Position 1.

"My advice to all students is to persevere and don't let anything stop you," McDonald said. "No one is perfect and no one should expect to be perfect. The days that you don't feel like doing what you need to do, get up and

do them anyway. Always keep your word so that you have it even if you don't have anything else."

The Fayette, Mississippi, native was elected in 2018, and has served since 2019. Her current term continues through 2027.

McDonald earned a Bachelor of Arts in social science education graduating summa cum laude from Alcorn State University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law. During her time at Ole Miss Law, she served on the Moot Court Board.

She began her career as staff attorney, managing attorney and executive director over nine years with Southwest Mississippi Legal Services in McComb, Miss. In this role, she provided services to underserved communities across the region.

In 1991, McDonald entered private practice, where she served as lead counsel in landmark cases that expanded Black legislative representation in Mississippi.

McDonald served as municipal judge for the city of Jefferson for 23 years, attorney for Fayette County Hospital & Nursing Home for 24 years, city attorney

for Port Gibson for nearly seven years and board attorney for Hazlehurst School District for three years.

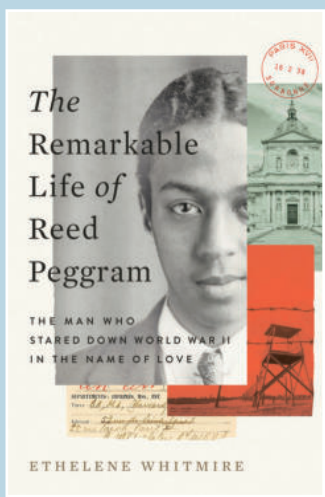
Her bar admissions include all Mississippi state and federal courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

She received the Mississippi Association for Justice Women's Caucus Lifetime Service Award in June 2025, recognizing 37 years of service in the legal field.

McDonald is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association and the Magnolia Bar Association and previously served on the board of the Mississippi Association for Justice. She is the mother of one son, Tahrir McClellan, and a member of East Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lorman, Miss.

Dr. Sandra Barnes, associate provost for undergraduate education and student success, also reflected on the occasion.

"Pursuing excellence is not just about grades; it's a way of life," Barnes said. "Students should continue to pursue excellence no matter what they do, no matter where they are."



BOOK REVIEW: THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF REED PEGGRAM: THE MAN WHO STARED DOWN WORLD WAR II IN THE NAME OF LOVE BY ETHELENE WHITMIRE • C.2026, VIKING \$30.00 • 308 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You couldn't escape it. When you fell in love, that was it: you were there for good. Leaving your amour's side was unthinkable, turning away was impossible. You'd do anything for that person you loved — even, as in the new biography, "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram" by Ethelene Whitmire, you'd escape toward danger.

On August 28, 1938, Reed Peggram boarded a ship from Hoboken, New Jersey, hoping to "become a proper gentle-

man" and fulfill his dreams. A prolific writer and Harvard scholar of comparative literature, he'd recently been awarded the Rosenwald Fellowship, which put him in the company of literary stars like Du Bois, Hurston, and Hughes.

Both Peggram's mother and grandmother were then domestic workers, and they had big expectations for him. Reed himself was eager to study abroad, for professional and personal reasons; he was "determined to become a French professor and an accomplished linguist" and "He also hoped to

find love."

What better place to do it than in Paris?

Outgoing and confident, Peggram made friends easily and had no trouble moving "through the world of his white male peers." Where he faltered was in his lack of funds. He relied on the kindness of his many friends — one of whom introduced Peggram to a "man who would become so pivotal in his life," a Danish man named Arne.

Peggram and Arne had a lot in common, and they began to enmesh their lives and dreams

of living in the United States. But there were complications: homosexuality was largely forbidden, World War II was in its early stages, and it quickly became apparent that it was dangerous to stay in Europe.

And yet, Peggram loved Arne. He refused to leave without him and so, while most visiting Black Americans fled the war in Europe, "Reed was trying to stay."

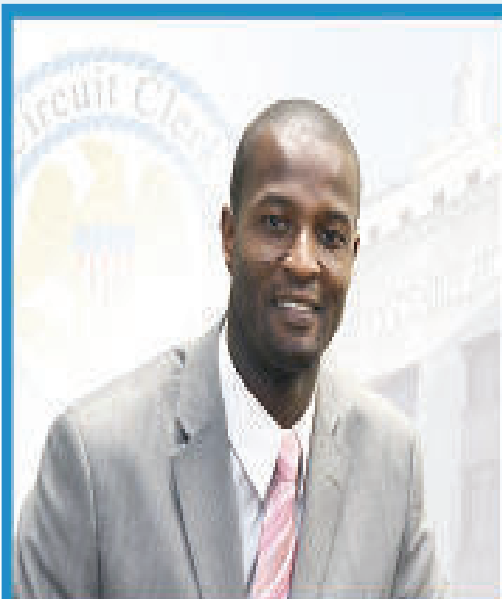
There's so much more to the story inside "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram," so much to know about Reed himself. Problem is, it's a long haul

to get to the good stuff.

In her introduction, author Ethelene Whitmire explains how she came to this tale and yes, it needs telling but probably not with the staggering number of inconsequential details here. Peggram moved homes a lot, and many people were involved in keeping him in Europe. That alone can be overwhelming; add the fact that costs and other monetary issues are mentioned in what seems like nearly every page, and you may wonder if you'll ever find the reason for the books' subtitle.

It's there, nearly halfway through the book, which is when the tale takes a tender, urgent turn - albeit one with determination, rashness, and a dash of faux nonchalance. Also, if you're expecting an unhappily-ever-after because, after all, it's a World War II tale, don't assume anything...

Reading this book will take a certain amount of patience, so skip it if you don't have that fortitude. If you're okay with minuscule details and want a heart-pounder, though, "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram" might be a good escape.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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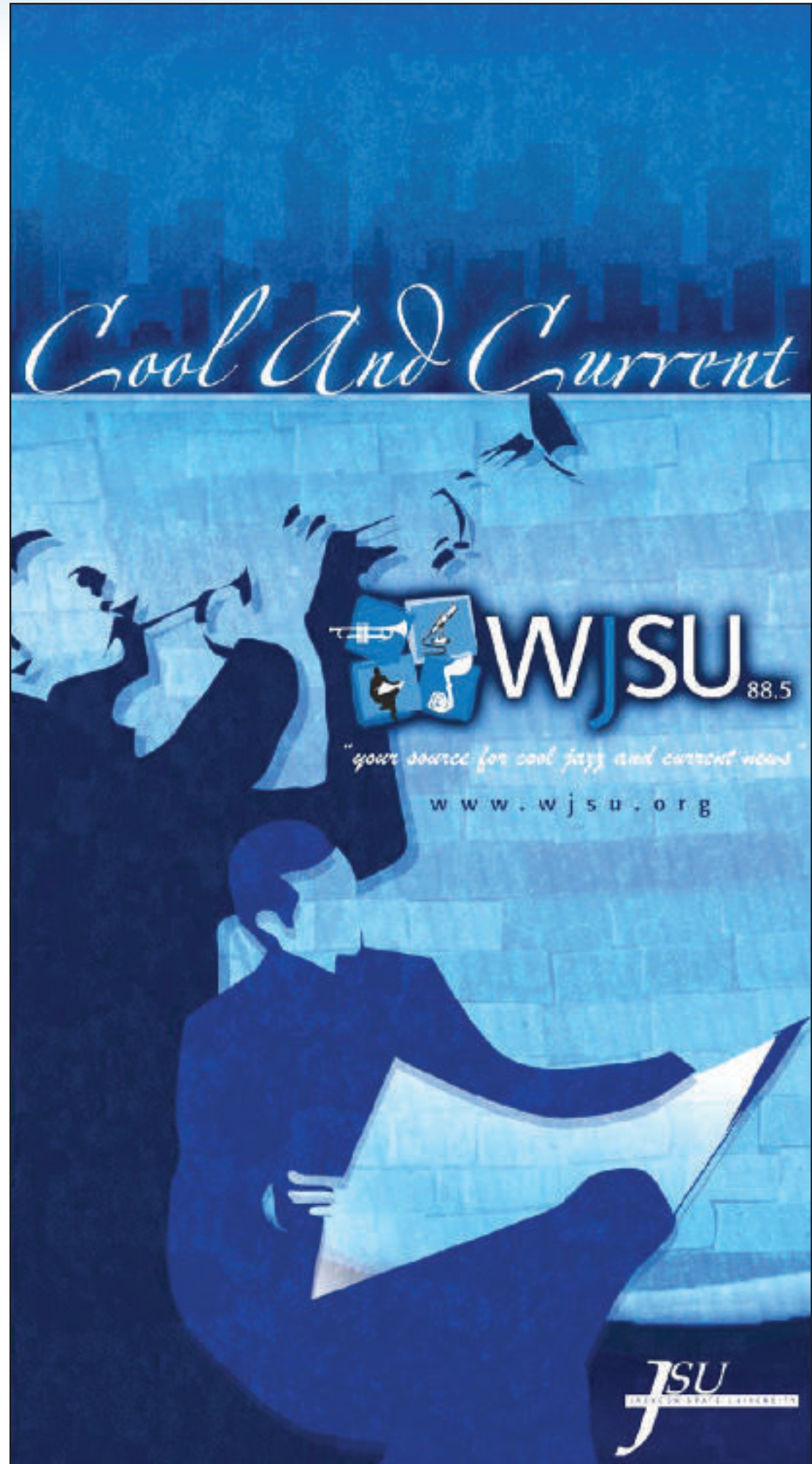
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We were sent here to protect people not target them

By Senator Rod Hickman
Senate District 32



I did not come to the Mississippi Legislature to be a spectator to harm, dressed up as policy. I came to solve problems, to make our communities safer, and to ensure that the laws we pass actually serve the people of this state. That is why I write today with deep disappointment following the passage of Senate Bill 2322.

Taken as a whole, this bill does not address a pressing public safety need. It does not fix a broken system. Provisions that invalidate certain out of state driver's licenses may sound strong on paper, but they do little to improve safety on our roads. A person's ability to drive responsibly is not determined by the origin of their li-

COMMENTARY

cense, and this legislation risks creating confusion for law enforcement and the courts without producing any measurable benefit. We should be focused on policies that reduce accidents, promote accountability, and make our roadways safer not measures that complicate enforcement while offering no clear gain.

But the most troubling aspect of this legislation is the "sex at birth" provision. This language now requires that Mississippi driver's licenses reflect only a person's sex as determined at birth, allowing for almost no exceptions. It is a rigid mandate that ignores reality, ignores evidence, and ignores the human impact of what it requires the state to do.

There has been no showing that allowing individuals to

have identification that reflects who they are creates any safety risk. This provision does not prevent fraud. It does not assist law enforcement in any meaningful way. It does not make a single Mississippian safer. What it does instead is require the state to issue identification that may directly conflict with a person's lived identity and, in some cases, with other legal documents they possess. That kind of inconsistency does not create clarity. It creates confusion and invites unnecessary conflict in everyday interactions.

More than that, it is degrading. It places people in situations where simply presenting identification can expose them to scrutiny, embarrassment, or worse. When a person presents as one sex and their identification reflects another, it immediately calls their identity

into question in settings where no such question should exist whether that is during a traffic stop, at a workplace, in a place of business, or in any routine encounter that requires identification. That moment of mismatch is not just inconvenient. It can be harmful. It forces individuals to explain themselves in ways that are deeply personal and often unwelcome, and it increases the risk of confrontation in situations that should be routine.

We cannot ignore the reality that this provision targets a vulnerable group of people - individuals - who already face disproportionate levels of discrimination, misunderstanding, and, in many cases, outright hostility. Rather than offering protection, this law adds to that burden. Rather than making their lives safer, it makes them more exposed.

That is not the role of government, and it is not the purpose of good legislation.

We were sent here to protect Mississippians. All Mississippians. And when we pass laws that do not protect, but instead isolate and place people in harm's way, we have to be honest about what we are doing. This is not about safety. It is not about efficiency. It is a policy choice, one that carries real consequences for real people.

I say this plainly and without hesitation we can do better than this. There are real challenges facing our state, strengthening our schools, expanding economic opportunity, improving healthcare access, and ensuring safe and thriving communities. Those are the issues that deserve our attention and our energy. Those are the areas where legislation can make a meaningful difference in peo-

ple's lives.

Scripture teaches us in Micah 6:8 that we are called to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly. That is not just a personal calling it is a standard for how we govern. Laws rooted in justice protect rather than target. Laws grounded in mercy recognize the dignity of every person. Laws shaped by humility reflect a careful use of power not an overreach of it.

Senate Bill 2322, particularly this provision, falls short of that standard.

Mississippi deserves better. And the people of this state deserve to know that their government is working to protect them not to make their lives harder, more uncertain, or more vulnerable. That is the responsibility we carry, and it is one I intend to continue taking seriously.

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

Career and Technical Multimedia Team

Congratulations to Ms. Atarji and our Raymond High School students! We are #RangerProud!

Please congratulate our Hinds County Career and Technical Multimedia team for their wins at the Mississippi TSA State competition! Oh we feel so good! Way to go team! We love our students and we are so proud of each and every single one of them!

Raymond High School showed out!

1st Place - Digital Video Production - Makayla Bowden, Tristyn Carter, Gabriel Taylor, Angel Maberry, Pansy Snyder, Samaiya Wilson

1st Place - Music Production - Pansy Snyder

1st Place - Stem Mass Media - Deontray Johnson, Morgan Wade, Charlie Garner, Leonard Bell, Amari Evans

1st Place - Webmaster - Amari Evans, Charlie Garner, Morgan Wade

2nd Place - Digital Video Production - Caiden Willis, Kaden Griffing, Edmundo Rios, Kailyn Quinn, Joseph Bacon, Kamari Gaskin

2nd Place - Photographic Technology - Gabriel Taylor

3rd Place - Promotional Design - Tristyn Carter



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Nissan launches Eco School with Mississippi Children's Museum ahead of Earth Hour

Education initiative features sustainability-focused lessons led by Nissan Canton employees

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Nissan Sustainability team launched an educational program, Tuesday, March 24, 2026 called Nissan Eco School. It was held at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson, Mississippi. The pilot program was inspired by a global Nissan initiative called "Waku Waku," meaning "joy," which has brought educational programming focused on sustainability to students in Japan since 2008.

Nissan Eco School is an after-school event for second and third grade students from the Jackson Public Schools district, supported by three employees from Nissan's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant,



Participants of Eco School event held at the Mississippi Children's Museum Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2026

each of whom leads a hands-on module from the Eco School curriculum. The approximately 90-minute program includes lessons on water, recycling and

energy conservation, including a take-home workbook.

"Nissan Eco School brings Nissan's successful 'Waku Waku Eco School' green edu-

cational programming to the North American market, and we're excited to expand Eco School to other locations across the region," said Parul Bajaj,

senior manager of Sustainability, Nissan North America. "As proud members of the Mississippi community, our Canton team is honored to bring Nissan's commitment to environmental responsibility to life for local students through fun, practical lessons about conservation and recycling."

The pilot was timed to provide green-focused lessons to students ahead of Earth Hour which was Saturday, March 28, with the purpose of inspiring participants to take part in the annual grassroots environmental movement. Students at the Nissan Eco School were encouraged to build a blanket fort, shut off the lights and read by flashlight from 8:30 - 9:30

p.m. for this year's Earth Hour celebration.

"Nissan has been a longstanding and valued partner of the Mississippi Children's Museum, helping bring science, technology, engineering, and math to life for children across our state," said Susan Garrard, President/CEO of the Mississippi Children's Museum. "The Nissan Eco School program is another powerful example of that commitment—connecting hands-on learning with real-world skills and helping prepare Mississippi's future workforce. Our team is excited to host this impactful program and welcome the participating students."

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY

