



## Grand Opening of Campaign Headquarters of Scott Colom for U.S. Senate

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The committee for Scott Colom for U.S. Senate held a grand opening at their campaign headquarters Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 811 East River Place in Jackson, MS from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. The event included live music, great discussions, and great food.

Mississippi Democrats nominated District Attorney Colom for U.S. Senate during the March 12th primary election, to challenge incumbent Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith in the November U.S. Senate general election.

Early arrivals sitting around a table in one of the offices spoke openly with The Mississippi Link concerning why they were attending the open house for Colom. Such comments included the following:

Evester Simpson stated she was at the grand opening because of what she and her parents had gone through before black people had the legal right to vote without fear of intimidation. She became involved in the civil rights movement right after high school and traveled with Fannie Lou Hammer and other women that participated in the movement. She said, "I have great respect for Scott and his entire family."

Les Range shared, "I am a long-time family friend and have known Scott since he was a youngster and I am proud of how he has developed and worked during these tough times. It is time for a generational change in MS where we have young people in politics serving us."

Barbara McHenry said, "I



Early arrivals speak with The Mississippi Link (L-R) Evester Simpson, Les Range, Barbara McHenry, Ruth Johnson, Mareta Carter, William McHenry, Henry Beaton, Ollie Lester Beaton, and Marilyn Triplett  
PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAMPTON



Scott Colom and his daughter listens as Pam Johnson introduces Candidate Colom to attendees.



Carolyn Townes, Savina Schoenhofer and Sharon Lobert share with The Link why they are supporting Scott Colom.

am here to support Scott because he will help to lower the health premiums, help restore the Medicaid cuts and help preserve some of the rural hospitals in Mississippi."

Ruth Johnson shared, "I am concerned about health care and in hearing Scott speak, I feel he is going to fight for us and as a senior citizen, this is very important to me."

Mareta Carter shared, "I have followed Scott Colom throughout his campaign and the message he is advocating is in line

with what we need in this state and this country today."

William McHenry stated he was from Starkville, MS and knew the Colom family well. He stated he had a profound respect for all their accomplishments in Mississippi. "I am looking forward to having leadership in Washington, which focuses on Mississippi," he said.

Henry Beaton expressed his reason for being at the grand opening. He said, "I am here today because of a statement by the Greek Philosopher Plato



Katherine Dieterich speaks on feelings toward Trump & MAGA

who said, 'One of the penalties for not participating in politics is that you wind up being governed by your inferiors,' so we must get involved."

Allie Lester Beaton said, "As one with a visual disability, I want to get involved and make sure that the voice of the disabled community is being heard."

Marilyn Triplett chimed in saying, "I am here because when I graduated from high

Colom  
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## Board of Trustees Selects Dr. Denise Jones Gregory as President of Jackson State University



Gregory

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After an eight-month national search, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has selected Dr. Denise Jones Gregory as the 14th president of Jackson State University (JSU). Gregory has served as interim president since May 2025. Prior to serving as interim president, she worked as provost and vice president of academic affairs at JSU.

"The Board of Trustees put a tremendous amount of time and energy into this search process, and we are confident in Dr. Gregory's ability to help write the next chapter in Jackson State University's

long history," said Dr. Steven Cunningham, vice president of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Board Search Committee. "I also want to recognize and thank the members of the Search Advisory Constituency, who spent hours reviewing applications and interviewing candidates. Their commitment to this process was critical and deeply appreciated."

Patrease Edwards, a member of the Search Advisory Constituency and president of the JSU National Alumni Association, echoed Cunningham's sentiment.

Gregory  
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## American Community Media's National News Briefing ...

# "From Oil Shock to Checkout Lines: U.S.-Iran War drives global spike in consumer costs"

By Ayesha K. Mustafa  
Contributing Writer

The American Community Media briefing Friday, April 17, 2026, continued in giving insight on the US/Iran War.

The speakers of the one-hour briefing clarified the premise that this war has triggered a major economic shock affecting Americans – oil prices surging, consumer goods disruptions, and higher costs for fuel, transportation, food and everyday

goods.

The invited presenters were Dr. William Orman Beeman, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota – a specialist on the Middle East; Dr. Anil Deolalikar, Professor of Economics at UC Riverside and founding dean of School of Public Policy at UCR; and Dr. Ryan Nunn – Director of Research for the Budget Lab at Yale.

Questions presented from the attending press organizations ranged from the Secretary of Defense (War) Hegseth's invoking Biblical terminology with war, as well as President Trump's "explicitly warning of 'a whole civilization will die'" in relation to the Iranian's not yielding to U.S./Israeli terms.

Dr. Beeman overwhelmingly led the discussion. As it was



Professor William O. Beeman on Consumer Costs related to USA-Iran war.

noted that Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez "has led the opposition to the war in Europe and attempts to prevent further escalation of the conflict," to this reference, Mr. Beeman responded: "Unfortunately, Spain's opposition to [the war] is not likely

to deter the U.S.; Spain denied its military support for the attack but has little leverage over the war; it has been more symbolic."

Also addressed was a question about the Iran people themselves, "who rebelled against the



government, against the principles of the revolution (1974) ... under the current repressive (Iranian) regime" – still left to be determined as the call from President Trump to end Iranian civilization sent a chill down the backs of all Iranians.

Further questioned was the ability of "U.S. policymakers to make decisions without a deep understanding of Iran's intention and worldview." And were the U.S. military actions in Iran economically justified for the U.S., given "the nuclear threat was not proved by any government body."

Not only its impact of the U.S., but in the region, the impact of the war thus far has brought on humanitarian crisis from Iran's strike on area countries' desalination plants – the source of 99 percent of drinking water in Kuwait and Qatar.

Further noted is the potential for the "War on Iran" to "tip the global economy into a recession."

Another aspect of current at-

Iran  
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## Scott Colom's Headquarters Grand Opening

PHOTOS BY RYAN SAYLES



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MISSISSIPPI



## Colom

Continued from page 1

school my parents were unable to vote in Mississippi, and I do not want to see that day returned.”

Carolyn Townes, a retired social worker stated in reference to Colom: “I believe this man has the credentials, experience, the knowledge, and absolutely the inspiration to help us!”

Savina Schoenhofer, a retired nurse stated, “We have to have a change in the Senate, we have to have somebody that represents the whole of Mississippi and not just the privileged few, and we have to have somebody that can gain the respect not only of our citizens but the other lawmakers that they work with. These are the reasons I believe that Scott Colom is the right person.”

Sharon Lobert, also a retired nurse stated, “Our current senator, Cindy Hyde Smith is a disgrace; she does not stand up for Mississippians and to have a background in Mississippi, I am sure you can talk to those in rural areas and find out she has done nothing! When we try to visit her in her office she literally runs from us. Her office now



has a sign that says by appointment only.” Lobert ended by saying: “I believe Mr. Colom is truly someone who is going to reach out to the people of Mississippi, engage the people, find out what their concerns are and respond to the questions and concerns we have which our current senator does not do.”

Katherine Dieterich stated she grew up on the coast but moved to NY in 1977 but for the last eight years have spent the cold weather months in Mississippi back at her roots. She started, I am getting involved because I just personally think that Trump & MAGA are existential threats to our country and therefore the world as we have

seen played out. She went on to say “I think in Mississippi, to be more specifically, we have a MAGA caused log jam on getting things that the people of Mississippi need rather than the special interest groups. This is why I am here, and I am delighted to learn more about Scott Colom.

Once the event got underway, Pam Johnson introduced Colom. She said, “I have known Scott since he was a student at Millsaps.” She at the time stated she worked at the Trial Lawyer’s Office. She noted that she got to know him as a very enthusiastic young man that wanted to serve people.

Colom, in his remarks stated Pam Johnson

represented the values of the campaign and thanked her for the introduction and for what she had done for the campaign. He shared two significant points regarding what his team was doing was just the opposite of what “Cindy High Prices” had done. He stated in speaking of the incumbent, “The only thing she has done is given us high prices and that is why I refer to her as such. We are doing the opposite by showing up all over the state listening to voters, finding out what matters to them and learning about their lives and their stories. Real leadership is rooted in listening, showing up and letting people know you care.”

Colom told The Mississippi Link: “Mississippians are feeling the pressure of rising costs, and they are not seeing the leadership they deserve from Cindy Hyde-Smith. We are opening this office in Jackson because we are building a grassroots campaign that is focused on showing up, listening, and delivering for people across the state.”

## Gregory

Continued from page 1

“This has been a long and involved process, and we’ve worked closely with the Board of Trustees through the reviewing and interviewing of candidates to reach this point,” Edwards said. “Today we begin a new and exciting part of the story of Jackson State, and we are prepared to support Dr. Gregory as she takes on this role.”

Gregory graduated magna cum laude in 1994 from Jackson State

University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in chemistry. She earned her doctorate in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Gregory completed additional training through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She is a graduate of the New Presidents Academy through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and completed the Willa B. Player Executive

Leaders Program and the HBCU Executive Leadership Institute Program, both through Clark Atlanta University.

Gregory was one of 79 applicants for the position. She was selected following first round interviews of eight candidates, second round interviews of three candidates, and detailed background and references checks conducted by AGB Search consultants.

## Iran

Continued from page 1

attacks by the Trump Administration on other countries raised the issue of the U.S., “now an exporter of oil,” as Trump has proclaimed, why would the U.S.A. need to “exploit/export Venezuela’s oil”? Also noted that Trump had proclaimed the successes of the U.S. in exporting oil and having sufficient oil reserves for its own use.

Along with economic implications from the “US-Israeli War on Iran,” questions raised are about the U.S.A. national elections in play – how will the war impact voters, when local polls show that “most Americans do not support the war”? During Trump’s presidential campaigns, one of his strong platform topics was to keep the U.S.A. out of “forever war” abroad.

In summation, Prof Beeman said, “The U.S. actions in Iran are absolutely detrimental to the economy of the U.S., is costing billion dollars a day and does not make the world safer – since the U.S. is insisting that Iran stop doing something that it is not doing – developing nuclear weapons.”

Turning to the question of the apparent spat between Trump and Pope Leo, Beeman noted that the Pope was “pushing back against what he surely sees as blasphemous use of Christian symbolism in the service of war, destruction and violent action.”

He added that the Pope replied that he “is not afraid of Trump or

Hegseth” regarding any attacks against him. Also, that there is the disapproval by Christians, especially Catholics when “fake biblical quotes” are used to justify war.

From the attending journalists, it is surmised in conclusion that Americans are concerned about American issues that impact American families.

However, a question that no one ever seems to be ready to tackle is: Why is North Korea allowed to have nuclear advanced weapons, and no nation ever makes any demands on North Korea to turn over their weapons are “bombed back into the Dark Ages”?

Still no answer!

Revisiting the concern that this war premise did not start in March 2026 but going back to the USA-CIA led “coup of a duly elected President of Iran” in 1953. To this premise, Beeman responded, “The 1953 coup that re-installed the Shah of Iran (deposing its president) is the most important event in the Iranian view of the U.S.-Iranian relations.

“It stands as a monument to the U.S. neocolonialism and is emblematic of U.S. interference in Iranian affairs. It forms a symbolic framework for everything that has proceeded from that period down to the present,” Beeman said.

A unique assessment of the 1953 coup led by the US upon Iran against its President Mohammad Mosaddegh has recently been published by Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy of “A Beautiful Struggle” and published in the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint (and reprinted in other specialty media).

Love relates, “Mosaddegh’s policy of nationalizing the oil wealth of the country was disruptive to Western oil companies that wanted unfettered access to Iran’s oil reserves. After the overthrow of Mosaddegh, the United States installed the Shah of Iran to lead the country, which was a brutal, autocratic regime that lasted for a couple of decades.

“The 1979 revolution in Iran that resulted in the overthrow of the Shah and the taking of American hostages is often narrated as an act of anti-American aggression instead of a response to the U.S. imposition of a brutal regime on the people of Iran.

“In other words, the 1979 Iranian revolution and the anti-American sentiments expressed over the years by Iranian leadership are a response to U.S. imperialist aggression toward the sovereignty of the Iranian people and the larger Muslim world.”

Something to think about as the U.S.-Israeli War on Iran plays out on the world scene.

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## Choose to Grow Market Day

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Juanita Sims Doty Foundation held its Choose to Grow Market Day Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex. This event showcased the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of middle school students that displayed handmade crafts and innovative products for shoppers to purchase while at the same time supported talented youths who were able to keep the profits from their sales.

First Lady of the City of Jackson, Lydia Gail Horhn who served as the program's Honorary Champion stated in a recent press release "Programs like Choose to Grow help equip young people with confidence, practical skills and the vision to see what is possible for their future."

The Choose to Grow Project Director Karla McCullough stated "This is an opportunity to show these students that we honor their hard work and that we believe in them. We are a part of their village, so let's celebrate all of their effort."

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



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## Mississippi Senate alumni of JSU pledges to support Dr. Denise Jones Gregory

Mississippi Link Newswire

We the Mississippi Senate alumni of Jackson State University, pledge our support to Dr. Denise Jones Gregory, the school's 14th president, and we appreciate the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees for making what we consider the best choice in support of our alma mater ever.

### COMMENTARY

Senators Sollie B. Norwood, Hillman T. Frazier, Derrick T. Simmons, and Joseph C. Thomas Sr. are alumni members of Mississippi's greatest HBCU, and we are thrilled beyond belief to see our institution finally placed under the leadership of someone we consider one of the boldest visionary leaders Mississippi has to offer.

Dr. Jones Gregory places our school on the fast track to continue producing some of Mississippi's greatest leaders and world class graduates.

"We look forward to being there for our school and working with the leadership in every way possible to ensure that all needed resources are available to help Dr. Jones Gregory become the greatest president Jackson State University could have at this trying time in America and in our state," said Senator Norwood.



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## Building Bridges of Support: How AAPI Equity Alliance is strengthening California's Anti-Hate Network

By Edward Henderson  
California Black Media

When Aurelle Garner stepped out of her car one summer evening and saw a group of youths marching down her street, her stomach dropped.

What had begun as slurs hurled at her and her transgender children at a local park had escalated to violent pounding on their front door. Garner said that, before that incident, local law enforcement had repeatedly minimized her reports of harassment.

It was not until she contacted the Legal Department at The LGBTQ Center Long Beach that her family finally found help.

"I don't know where we'd be if it weren't for their help," Garner, who lives in Southern California, said. "They didn't just give legal advice. They helped us navigate a system that had otherwise dismissed us."

That support exists because The LGBTQ Center Long Beach does not work in isolation.

The Center partners with the AAPI Equity Alliance under California's Stop the Hate program, a statewide coalition aimed at preventing hate and supporting survivors.

As the Los Angeles County Regional Lead, AAPI Equity Alliance works with the Center and dozens of other community-based organizations to connect people to legal aid, mental health services, and support. The programs also work in tandem with CA vs Hate, the state's anti-hate hotline and virtual reporting system that connects people across California with organizations like the LGBTQ Center Long Beach — that provide support services.

Garner's experience illustrates the kind of harm that often falls outside the narrow



Patricia Roque (far right) pictured with her family at a Stop Asian Hate rally after her father's assault (far left). COURTESY OF AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE

legal definition of a hate crime but still leaves families traumatized and unsafe. It also shows how AAPI Equity Alliance's leadership in the Stop the Hate ecosystem translates state funding and policy into real, on-the-ground support.

In May 2022, Patricia Roque said she and her parents were attacked after a late-night stop at a fast-food drive-thru in Southern California. After hitting their car, the other driver pulled alongside them and mocked them using a racist Asian accent. Then, he threatened to kill them. The situation escalated when the man returned while the family was waiting for police and assaulted Roque's father, fracturing his rib and choking her mother before bystanders intervened.

"The police arrived long after it was over," Roque told California Black Media (CBM). "By then, the damage was already done."

The following day, Roque's family was connected to the Filipino Migrant Center (FMC), a community-based organization that has received Stop the Hate funding and works within the

broader AAPI Equity Alliance network. FMC provided immediate support — helping the family navigate legal options, organizing emergency financial assistance to cover medical bills and missed work, and offering emotional and community care while the criminal case unfolded.

"But the process is long and complicated. When you need help right away, that delay is a huge barrier. FMC was there immediately," Roque said.

The criminal case did not result in the accountability the family hoped for. But Roque said the support she received transformed her relationship to her community and to advocacy.

"Before this, I wasn't involved in organizing at all," she said. "Through this process, I realized my voice mattered. FMC helped turn something traumatic into a way to support others and push for change."

Stories like Garner's and Roque's are part of a much larger reckoning that began at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the

country experienced a surge in harassment, discrimination, and violence fueled by racist rhetoric.

In response, AAPI Equity Alliance partnered with San Francisco's Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University to launch Stop AAPI Hate in March 2020. Since then, the project has collected more than 9,000 reports nationwide documenting incidents ranging from verbal harassment and workplace discrimination to physical assault and child bullying.

"People tend to think about hate only when it turns violent," said Kiran Bhalla of AAPI Equity Alliance. "But there are everyday acts of discrimination that people endure constantly. Without some kind of recourse, that harm just keeps going."

The data helped spur unprecedented action in California. In 2021, the State Legislature passed the \$165.5 million Asian Pacific Islander Equity Budget, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Of that total, \$110 million was dedicated to victim services, education, and outreach. In Au-



Patricia Roque COURTESY OF AAPI EQUITY ALLIANCE

gust 2023, California invested an additional \$40 million to expand California's Stop the Hate program to serve a broader range of communities affected by hate and discrimination.

Today, the program supports roughly 100 nonprofit organizations statewide. As Los Angeles County Regional Lead, AAPI Equity Alliance coordinates grantees, facilitates cross-community collaboration, and helps ensure services reach those most impacted.

A recently released survey estimated that approximately 3.1 million Californians directly experienced hate, with Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, Black or African Americans, and other communities of color, including Asian Americans, among those most likely to experience hate. Black Californians, however, remain the most targeted group when it comes to reported hate crimes.

Nearly 48 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander adults in California reported experiencing a hate incident in 2024, according to Stop AAPI Hate research. Most incidents were not criminal, leaving

survivors with little recourse through the legal system.

That gap is precisely where AAPI Equity Alliance and its partners focus their work. The Stop the Hate framework prioritizes non-carceral responses, recognizing that policing alone often fails survivors and can further harm Black, brown, and immigrant communities.

Instead, the work centers on data and research, policy advocacy, community care, and public education. Through school-based programs, legal advocacy, emergency assistance, and survivor-centered services, the network aims to interrupt cycles of harm before they escalate.

For survivors like Garner and Roque, that support has made the difference between enduring trauma in silence and finding a path toward healing and collective power.

"When people experience hate, there's often a profound sense of isolation," Bhalla said. "This work helps people get back to school, back to work, back to their lives. It reminds them they're not alone."

## Men caught competing in the women's category of a prestigious South African marathon

By Mogomotsi Magome  
Associated Press

Two male runners who were discovered fraudulently competing on behalf of female colleagues in a top South African marathon have been disqualified and could face two-year bans from the event, along with the two women.

The two women runners swapped their bibs with the two men, who both finished within the top 10 in the women's half-marathon at the Two Oceans Marathon in Cape Town last Sunday, initially denying those slots to two female runners.

But the cheating was discovered by a marathon board member, and the men were disqualified from their 7th and 10th place finishes. Two women were belatedly recognized instead.

Larissa Parekh was accused



A colorful collection of shoes crosses the starting. AP PHOTO/MARY SCHWALM, FILE

of having Luke Jacobs run on her behalf, and Tegan Garvey was accused of having Nic Bradfield run on her behalf, marathon board member Stuart Mann said. All four runners

face disciplinary action that could include two-year bans from the event, Mann said.

The annual Two Oceans race is one of South Africa's iconic marathons and includes a

56-kilometer (34.7-mile) ultra-marathon and a 21.1-kilometer (13.1-mile) half-marathon. The event attracts over 16,000 participants and finishing among the top 10 is a significant

achievement for most runners. Race board member calls swapping bibs unethical

Mann said exchanging bibs has become more common, and can be risky, "Not only is it considered unethical, but it also poses health and medical risks in case of an emergency, as wrong medication may be administered to a wrong person," Mann said.

Various motivations are at play, Mann explained. Some runners give their bib to a stand-in if they have a last-minute injury or some other unexpected reason why they can't run in a race they have registered for. Others do so to deceptively earn faster times than they otherwise could achieve, to qualify for future races, he said.

Online photos led to the discovery

Mann was tipped off to one of

the swaps after Jacobs posted pictures of himself at the race on social media and people noticed that his bib displayed the name "Larissa."

Jacobs said in a written apology: "I made an error in judgment and did not consider the consequences. I should not have taken part."

Parekh did not provide any clear explanation of how Jacobs ended up with her bib, Mann said. But Garvey admitted she gave hers to Bradfield, saying in a written statement that she had suffered a hip problem before the race.

"The day before, my hip gave in completely, leaving me unable to even walk. I felt bad as to give up my race entry, so my friend ran in my place," Garvey said.

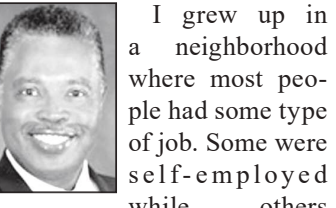
Mann said both women have apologized.

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# Are you retired yet? You can still make a difference in today's world

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



I grew up in a neighborhood where most people had some type of job. Some were self-employed while others worked for a company or corporation. All proudly provided for their families. There were also folks in my Winston-Salem NC community who had worked for many years and were now retired. To be honest, the word "retired" wasn't in my vocabulary as a young boy. I would ask my parents about a particular person, and they would simply say he/she was retired.

They went on to explain to me the meaning of the word, thus my understanding of it. When we would walk home from school or played in the street, we would see them sitting on the porch. We always spoke and were kind as we would sometimes run errands for them. There were occasions when they would tell us about their working lives. I found those moments of self-disclosure quite interesting. In a profound way, they were role models for us, and we didn't know it at the time. Their work experiences were varied and from listening to them fulfilling as well. Over time, my friends and I realized that we were getting advice and counseling free of

charge. Sometimes our street baseball games ended early because we were listening to them. Mind you, these retired people were in their right minds and speaking clearly. There was no hesitation in their speech or in their opinions. I was admittedly mesmerized by them. It made me wonder what they were doing at this point in their lives. Was sitting on the stoop and watching television all they did? I didn't know that we ever found out. You know the old expression, "that's grown folks' business". Now, if you are retired, you have joined the ranks of the porch sitters and the television watchers. We can watch the cars go by and wave at every-

body. In a way, nothing gets by us. As I was considering retirement some years back, I realized that I needed a post-work plan. My plan was interwoven with financial stability, emotional well-being, physical well-being and something else to do. Retirement is nothing you can do suddenly. It is a process that is filled with apprehension, excitement and a lot of ifs. It is a period of our life that we have earned through hard work and dedication. Therefore, it requires some reflective discernment. There was a song at least for me that was humorously guiding me along the road to retirement. Do you remember the hit song entitled, The Gambler by country crooner Kenny Rog-

ers? I remember the lyrics, "you got to know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em. Know when to walk away and know when to run". If you are nearing closing one chapter and opening another chapter, then listen to that song. It will make you smile. I think one of the most important components of a retirement plan is to have something else to do. Making sure that you are engaged in something that will bring you satisfaction is important. Equally important is that it is on your terms and conditions. Otherwise, it will be a form of work, just disguised. Our experiences are needed during these times. In some ways, we are unofficial griots.

We advise and do our best to help those coming after us. That is our calling. According to reports, there are 54.1 million retired workers receiving Social Security benefits. Some say that 63 years of age is the best age to retire. Of course, that depends upon your retirement plan and timetable. Those professionals who study retirement trends say that it can be a wonderful time in our life. Less stress and responsibility immediately come to mind. Fred Rogers, professionally known as Mr. Rogers said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Enjoy retirement and have fun.

## This Earth Day, Humanity is failing our "First Commandment"

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



Look at the world around you. The sun rises on time. The seasons turn. A seed becomes a tree. A child grows into a person who can think and love and choose. Some people see all this and see an accident. Others see a plan. There is an old idea that helps explain the second view. If you find a watch on the ground, you know someone made it. The gears, the hands, the careful design — a watch does not build itself. If the world is even more complex than a watch, doesn't it follow that someone, or something, made the world too? I believe it does. And if there is a maker, we have a job. Take care of what we were given. That job is older than any law. In the Bible, before the Ten Commandments, God places people in a garden and tells them to take care of it. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim teachings all share this story. The first rule is simple. Protect the garden. That is truly our first commandment. We are not doing a good job. This Earth Day, the proof is everywhere. Scientists now say the pace of species loss today is faster than anything Earth has seen in the 66 million years since the dinosaurs disappeared. They call this the sixth mass extinction. The first five were caused by forces no one could control — giant volcanoes,

sudden ice ages, the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs. This one is different. This one is caused by us. Monarch butterflies are disappearing. Right whales are almost gone. Forests are being cut down. Rivers are choking on pollution. Animals our children should grow up knowing are vanishing now. Earth Day should make us ask a bigger question than whether we recycle. It should ask how we get the energy we need without destroying the world we live in. The story of human power starts with fire. When our ancestors learned to make it, everything changed. Fire kept us warm, cooked our food, gave us light at night, and let us travel into colder lands. Fire made us who we are. But it also started a pattern. Every time humans found a new source of power, we paid for it by taking something from the natural world. History shows where this leads. Ireland was once covered in forests. So was Iceland. So were the hills of Greece, the cedars of Lebanon, and many islands in the Mediterranean. One by one, the trees came down — for ships, for fuel, for farms, for factories. Islands tell this story most clearly because their edges are easy to see. You can run out of trees on an island in a way you cannot run out of sky. What islands did to themselves over centuries, we are now doing to the planet. The fuels changed. The pattern stayed the same. First wood. Then whale oil. Then coal. Then oil and gas. Each one helped people live better. Each one also caused harm.

Forests were cleared. Whales were nearly hunted to death. Mountains were blown apart. Oil leaked into our land and water. These fuels are called finite. That means they run out. And the damage often does not heal. A forest can grow back in a lifetime. A dead whale cannot come back. A species that has gone extinct is gone forever. But the same world that gave us these fuels also gave us better ones. The sun. The wind. The tides. The waves. These are called infinite, because they never run out. They are not perfect. Nothing humans build is. But there is a huge difference between energy that can be made cleaner over time and energy that destroys what we can never get back. So, return to the watchmaker. I believe there is one. And if you believe there is a watchmaker too, ask yourself this: wouldn't our watchmaker want us to move from the finite to the infinite as quickly as we can? Surely the maker did not put the sun in the sky, the wind on the plains, and the tides in the sea just for decoration. They were put there for us to find and use, when we were ready. The fuels we burn were a beginning. The clean ones are what we were meant to grow into. To move from one to the other, as fast as we can, is not just smart. It is doing what we were asked to do. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

## We are still fighting the same war

By Dr. Edelia J. Carthan  
Carthan Enterprises



There is a pattern unfolding in America, and we need the courage to name it. This is not random. This is what systemic pressure looks like when it explodes. "The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman," said Malcolm X. Decades later, that statement still rings true—not as history, but as present reality. What we are witnessing today is not simply a series of isolated tragedies. It is the convergence of policy decisions, economic instability, untreated trauma, and long-standing systems of inequality. To understand this moment, we must confront an uncomfortable truth: every time Black Americans have made measurable progress, that progress has been met with resistance. After the Civil War, during Reconstruction, Black Americans began to build. They were elected to public office, established schools, owned land, and laid the groundwork for political and economic power. It was also during this time that formerly enslaved people were promised "40 acres and a mule"—a promise that was never fulfilled. That broken commitment denied generations the opportunity to build wealth and stability at a critical moment in American history. The progress of Reconstruction was systematically dismantled. In its place came Jim Crow laws—a legalized system of segregation, voter suppression, and racial terror that reversed much of the progress that had been made. Still, Black communities persisted. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a thriving Black business district known as Black Wall Street stood as a symbol of economic independence and resilience. That progress, too, was met with destruction. The Tulsa Race Massacre remains one of the clearest examples of how Black success has been violently undermined. The pattern continued into the modern era. The Civil Rights Movement brought critical legislative victories, expanding access to voting and public accommodations. Yet in the decades that followed, policies such as the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 contributed to mass incarceration, disproportionately impacting Black communities and destabilizing families. Today, many Americans are raising concerns about proposals like Project 2025, which critics argue could reshape federal governance in ways that weaken civil rights protections and equity initiatives. Whether viewed through policy, economics, or lived experience, the pattern remains consistent. At the same time, we are confront-

ing deeply troubling violence within our own communities, including cases where women and children are harmed by those closest to them. This violence must be condemned without hesitation. It is wrong, it is devastating, and it cannot be excused. However, addressing the violence requires more than condemnation—it requires context. Behavioral research has long shown that environments marked by overcrowding, limited resources, and sustained stress can produce harmful outcomes. When communities are placed under continuous economic and social strain, the consequences are not abstract—they manifest in real and often tragic ways. This does not remove individual accountability. But it does remind us that conditions matter. Beneath the surface are layers of unaddressed trauma, economic pressure, emotional instability, and fractured definitions of identity and responsibility. These are not new challenges, but they are increasingly visible in a society that has yet to fully reckon with its past. Black women, in particular, remain disproportionately affected. Despite being a smaller percentage of the population, they represent a significantly higher proportion of victims in cases of intimate partner violence. This reality underscores a broader issue of protection, equity, and societal value. We must be willing to say plainly: Black women deserve safety, respect, and sustained support. The larger issue, however, extends beyond any single statistic or event. It is rooted in a historical cycle—progress, backlash, control, and repetition. In many ways, America is still grappling with unresolved conflicts from its past. The legacy of the Civil War, the persistence of white supremacy, and the absence of full accountability have created conditions that continue to produce inequality. These issues have never been fully addressed. Never been fully repaired. Never been fully healed. And so, the cycle continues. Breaking that cycle will require more than acknowledgment. It will require intentional investment in communities, access to mental health resources, early intervention, and policies that support—not undermine—equity and opportunity. It will also require honesty. America cannot solve what it refuses to confront. About the Author Dr. Edelia J. Carthan is President of Carthan Enterprises, a grant writer, educator, and community advocate based in Jackson, Mississippi. She works at the intersection of policy, education, and community empowerment.

## The Mississippi Link™

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**Graphics.....Marcus Johnson**

**Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson**

Member:

### LEGAL

**ORDINANCE GRANTING BRAD TISDALE D/B/A TISDALE PROPERTIES, LLC A REZONING FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 NEIGHBORHOOD (MIXED USE) DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR A DIVERSITY OF RESIDENTIAL USES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE BELHAVEN HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 1027 QUINN ST (PARCEL 18-125), 1020 MONROE ST. (PARCEL 18-126), PARCEL 18-127 ON QUINN ST., PARCEL 18-128 ON MONROE ST & 1002 MONROE ST. (PARCEL 18-130), CASE NO. 4317.**

WHEREAS, Brad Tisdale d/b/a Tisdale Properties, LLC has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at 1027 Quinn St (Parcel 18-125), 1020 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-126), Parcel 18-127 on Quinn St., Parcel 18-128 on Monroe St & 1002 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-130), in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the properties from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community; 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, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on January 8, 2026 and January 22, 2026 that a hearing had been held by the Jackson City Planning Board on January 28, 2026, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described properties from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community; 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 properties 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 18-125**

Lot 16 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the 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/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7179 at Page 9287.

**Parcel 18-126**

Lot 17 of Block 73 Belhaven Hgts, a Subdivision according to the 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/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41 thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described in Instrument recorded in Book 7179 at Page 9289.

**Parcel 18-127**

LOT 18, BLOCK 73, BELHAVEN HEIGHTS, a subdivision according to the 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 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

**Parcel 18-128**

LOT 19, BLOCK 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, a subdivision according to the 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/Cabinet 1 at Page/Slide/Slot 41, thereof, reference to which is made in aid of and as a part of this description.

And being the same property described as "Parcel 2" in Instrument recorded in Book 7116 at Page 3078.

**Parcel 18-130**

Lot 21, Block 73, Belhaven Heights, Part 1, 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 Plat Book 1 at Page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the properties located at 1027 Quinn St (Parcel 18-125), 1020 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-126), Parcel 18-127 on Quinn St., Parcel 18-128 on Monroe St & 1002 Monroe St. (Parcel 18-130) from R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for a diversity of residential uses that are compatible to the character of the Belhaven Heights Historic District and community. 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, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris

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. 1069-1071".

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

*Angela Harris*  
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/23/2026

### LEGAL

#### CITY OF JACKSON

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.  
Department of Public Works

4/16/2026, 4/23/2026

### LEGAL

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

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

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

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

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

Lorenzo Anderson, P.E.  
Department of Public Works

4/16/2026, 4/23/2026

### LEGAL

#### IN THE CHANCERY COURT HOLMES COUNTY

**Evelyn Johnson Timms**  
**PLAINTIFF**  
VS.  
**Eddie Timms**  
**DEFENDANT**

26-0031

**SUMMONS**  
**(By PUBLICATIONS)**

**The State of MISSISSIPPI**  
**TO: Eddie Timms**

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

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

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

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

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

*Charles Smith* Chancery Clerk

By *J.C.*



4/9/2026, 4/16/2026, 4/23/2026

### LEGAL

#### Cooperative Energy

Is currently identifying vendors for the following services during an emergency:

- Lodging Facilities
- Catering Services
- Laundry Services
- Debris Services
- Transmission Line Construction

Please contact akeene@cooperativeenergy.com by no later than May 14, 2026, if you wish to be considered as a potential vendor.

4/23/2026

### 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~~ <sup>March</sup> May, 2026.

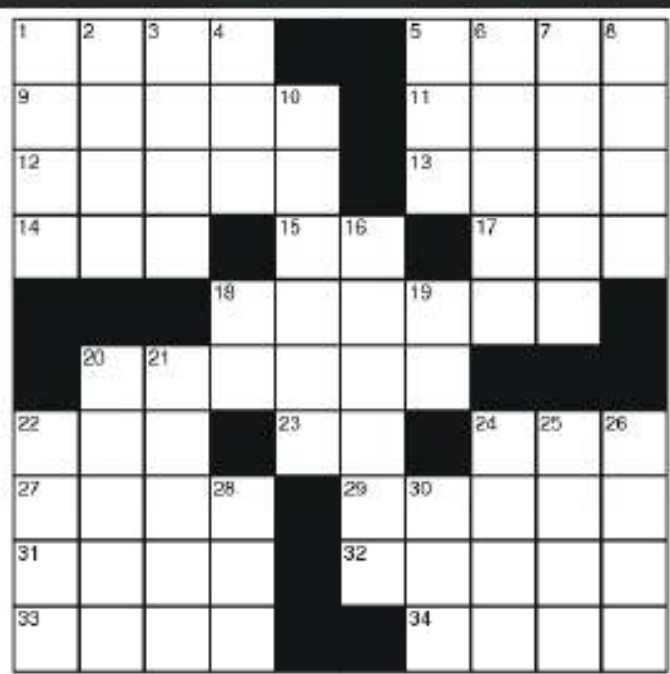


EDDIE JEAN CARR,  
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI  
EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

*B.V. P.N at Kina*

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

### Crossword Puzzle

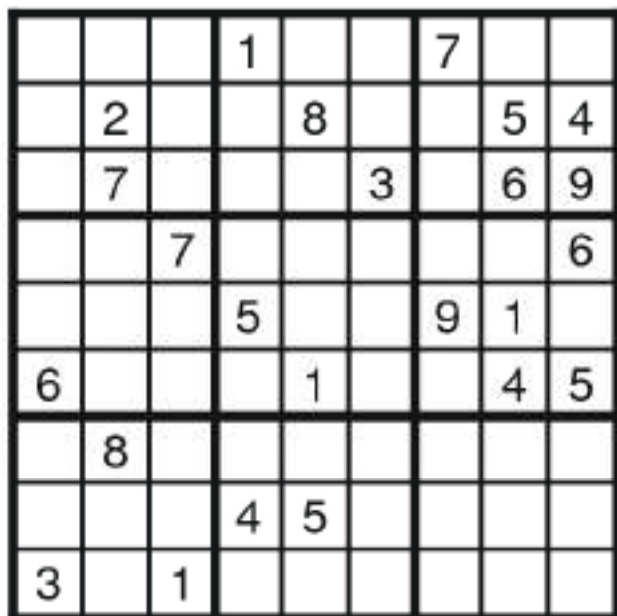


- ACROSS**
- 1. Advice
  - 5. Rescue me!
  - 9. Elite intellectuals' society
  - 11. Thin
  - 12. Wine
  - 13. \_\_\_ skin cap
  - 14. Often pestically
  - 15. Large (abbr.)
  - 17. Farm credit administration (abbr.)
  - 18. Discuss again
  - 20. Cowboy shoes
  - 22. Pale
  - 23. Letter afterward
  - 24. Hiccup
  - 27. Self-esteem
  - 29. Cut of beef
  - 31. European monetary unit
  - 32. From that time
  - 33. Not as much
  - 34. Activity
- DOWN**
- 1. Coarseness
  - 2. Shallow men
  - 3. Tiny insect
  - 4. Eastern Standard Time
  - 5. Mixed basic
  - 6. Horses first
  - 7. Cain's eldest son
  - 8. Asian starting
  - 10. Napping
  - 16. Hunting beings
  - 18. Road (abbr.)
  - 19. Like
  - 20. Knows
  - 21. Bad smells
  - 22. Spin
  - 24. Solitary
  - 25. Ancient Indian
  - 26. Kind
  - 28. Distress call
  - 30. Laundry detergent brand

© Feature Exchange

### Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.



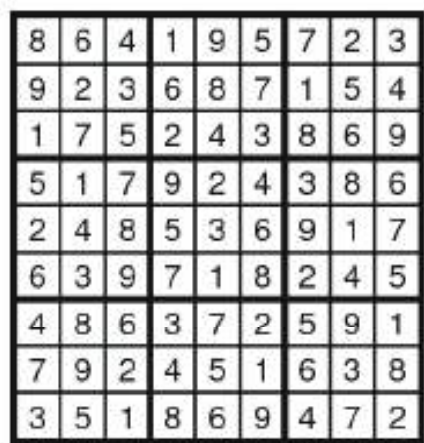
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P R E S E R V E D

## Lessons from The Woman King: Scars and Limps: But Still Walking

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Last week I wrote about one of my favorite movies The Woman King. This week, I'd like to continue a discussion of the 2022 movie by exploring one of the most impactful lines from the movie. "Scars are the mark of a warrior." This line comes after one of the physically and emotionally grueling training sessions where the agojie female trainees are forced to endure fighting through a difficult thorny obstacle course. After showing they can survive the brutal training, the young women receive medical care and encouragement from the more experienced warriors.

By this point in the movie, I had eaten most of my popcorn and had settled into my seat to enjoy the action-packed movie. But the line about scars made me sit up in my seat. I thought about how

we sometimes want to hide the scars of the battles we've survived. As a clumsy child, I had a lot of scars from falling off things like chairs, bicycles, and even motorcycles. Back then the wounds hurt (especially falling off that motorcycle) but now that I'm decades removed from those experiences, I can look at the scars left behind and be thankful to God about what I survived.

I'll be honest: when I was going through my own physical, emotional, and spiritual battles, I wasn't thinking about the scars that would prove I'd survived; I was just trying to make it through. One of the most powerful scenes in The Woman King comes as we see the agojie trainees struggle to the end of the obstacle course even as they are bleeding and limping. Even if they wanted to quit, there was something in them that made them try even harder to finish, despite their wounds.

Seeing their determination

made me think about the inner strength these women had to rely on. It also made me think about the inner strength that we don't realize we have. This part of the movie reminded me of the story from the Old Testament of Jacob wrestling with an angel/God. Genesis 32:22-31 describes how Jacob responded to the challenge. Instead of running away, Jacob fought valiantly even though he didn't know who he was fighting. Verses 24-25 describes "So Jacob was left alone. Then a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not defeat Jacob, he struck the socket of his hip, so the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated while he wrestled with him." Despite this wound, Jacob insisted on continuing to fight until he received his blessing. After he received the blessing and a new name from the man, he realized that he'd been wrestling with God in verse 30. Yet, as a result of this fight,

Jacob was left with a permanent limp.

The apprentices in The Woman King went from being treated like trainees to being respected as warriors after going through the thorny obstacle course. Similarly, when we experience negative circumstances, we should focus on the scars that remain that remind us of what we have overcome. We may be limping, but we are still walking into our God-ordained destiny. And like Jacob and the agojie got new names (Israel and warriors respectively), we get new names once we survive our battles: we are now called overcomers.

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

## From the streets to seminary, Morning Star Baptist Church Pastor traded happiness for joy



Pastor Rodney Goss speaks to his congregation during Sunday Service at Morning Star Baptist Church Sunday Feb. 8, 2026. PHOTO BY MOLLY MCELWAIN/TULSA FLYER

By Kimberly Marsh  
Oklahoma Eagle

On Easter morning in 1970, 4-year-old Rodney Goss sat on the stoop of his Trenton, New Jersey home waiting for a father he never knew. Goss was outside for hours, dressed in his thick-heeled platform shoes and green plaid jacket.

When his mom told him to go inside, she uttered a phrase he hasn't forgotten: "He ain't comin'."

"That was the greatest disappointment of my life, and that was the beginning of my journey for happiness," he said.

That journey has taken him to the streets, jail, seminary and, for the past 10 years, the pulpit.

The 59-year-old serves as pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church in north Tulsa. Even though he's older now, he says he's still in the pursuit of happiness.

"I got seashells and pockets of gratification, but that happiness is so fleeting," Goss told The Eagle. "It wasn't until I found the joy of God that I realized that I don't have to be happy every day."

It took time for him to get there. Growing up in his neighborhood, Goss remembers being different.

He said the other boys on his block idolized flashy drug dealers and new cars, but he was more interested in books and school.

In the fourth grade, he and his mom moved to the suburbs where life was completely different. Goss walked along picket fences in Lawrence Township, where he met white people for the first time and enjoyed Little League baseball.

"I knew what dreaming looked like," he said. "I knew what getting good grades looked like. I knew what talking about college was like and having friends that didn't look like me."

But it was short-lived as he even-

tually returned to his old stomping grounds. He got mixed up with drugs and crime but, knowing more about life's possibilities, he turned himself in on Thanksgiving 1988.

Goss said the judge told him "because of the sincerity of your heart" he would only sentence him to six months in jail. "Everybody else was getting 25 years," he said. "I did 47 days."

During that short period, he found God on the inside and began using his words on the outside to help others dream bigger.

That moment affects his ministry even to this day. Part of his time as a pastor is focused on helping kids expand their horizons beyond their day-to-day circumstances.

"That's what changed my life, just being able to see life more than what that street or what that block was," Goss said.

Now he's on a mission to connect faith with real life and equip his congregation with the spiritual resources they need to serve the community.

"You come to church to worship. You leave church to serve," he said. "My job is to inform you so that you can make educated decisions and know what direction to walk in on your own."

Through it all, he says, the most important lesson he's learned is the difference between happiness and joy.

"Happiness is a personal journey. Happiness always comes with a condition. But joy is my contentment with the world as is," Goss said. "I'm joyful when I love God for who he is and just loving him for who he is in spite of what he does. That's the joy that the world didn't give and the world can't take away."

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# How poor hearing increases your risk of falling

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

When most people think about hearing loss, they imagine someone turning up the TV or asking others to repeat themselves. But hearing does much more than help us follow conversations. Scientists are learning that poor hearing can also raise your chances of falling, especially as you get older. Falls can lead to broken bones, hospital visits and long recovery times. Understanding why hearing matters for balance can help people stay safe and independent.

Your ears do more than hear. Inside your inner ear, two important systems sit side by side. One is the cochlea, which helps you hear. The other is the vestibular system, which helps your balance. These two systems even share the same nerve that sends signals to your brain. Because they are so closely connected, problems with hearing can affect balance too.

Doctors say that about 15–20% of American adults have balance problems. The number rises to 35% for people over age 40. Many of these issues are linked to changes in the inner ear.

Large studies around the world have found a strong link between hearing loss and falling. One major review of more than 5 million people found that people with hearing loss had a 51% higher chance of falling compared to those with normal hearing.

Another study found that even a 25decibel hearing loss, which is the difference between normal hearing



and mild hearing loss can triple the risk of falling. These numbers show that hearing loss is not just a small problem. It is a real safety concern.

Why Hearing Loss Leads to More Falls

#### 1. Your Brain Has to Work Harder

When your hearing is poor, your brain must use extra energy to understand speech and sounds. That means it has less energy left for balance, walking and noticing obstacles. Scientists call this “cognitive load” and it

can make you less steady on your feet.

#### 2. You Lose Important Sound Clues

Sounds help you understand what is happening around you. For example, you might hear:

- Someone walking behind you
- A dog running across the floor
- A car approaching
- A chair scraping nearby

When hearing is weak, these clues disappear. Without them, it's harder to judge distance, movement and danger. This can make you misstep or

lose balance.

#### 3. Hearing and Balance Share the Same Space

Because the hearing and balance systems are neighbors in the inner ear, damage to one can affect the other. Conditions like Ménière's disease, acoustic neuromas and aging can harm both systems at once.

#### 4. Poor Hearing Reduces Spatial Awareness

Spatial awareness means knowing where your body is in space. Hearing helps with this by giving your brain information about echoes, footsteps and movement. When hearing fades, your brain gets fewer signals, making it harder to stay upright.

#### 5. Aging Affects Both Hearing and Balance

As people age, both hearing and balance naturally decline. This double change makes falls more likely. Research shows that every 10decibel drop in hearing increases fall risk by 1.4 times.

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths in older adults. Even when injuries are not severe, falls can cause fear. People may stop walking as much, which leads to weaker muscles and even more falls.

#### How to Lower Your Risk

The good news is that there are many ways to reduce fall risk, even if you have hearing loss.

#### 1. Get Your Hearing Checked

Audiologists can test your hearing and your balance. Early treatment can make a big difference.

#### 2. Use Hearing Aids if Needed

Studies show that people who use hearing aids may have fewer falls because they can hear better and stay more aware of their surroundings. Some hearing aids even include fall-alert technology that can notify a family member if you fall.

#### 3. Keep Your Home Safe

Simple changes can prevent accidents:

- Remove loose rugs
- Add nightlights
- Install grab bars in bathrooms
- Keep floors clear

#### 4. Stay Active

Exercises that build strength and balance. Walking and tai chi can help keep you steady.

#### 5. Get Regular Vision Checks

Your eyes work with your ears and feet to keep you balanced. Good vision helps you avoid hazards.

#### 6. Review Your Medications

Some medicines cause dizziness. A doctor can help you find safer options. Experts say that the safest approach is to treat hearing loss and balance problems together. Audiologists, eye doctors, physical therapists and primary care doctors can work as a team to help prevent falls.

Protecting your hearing is not just about communication. It's also about staying safe, active and independent.

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](mailto:tipstobefit@gmail.com)

# Overcoming the guilt of a medical diagnosis: My Kidney Disease journey

By Sharon Rouse  
Kindness For Kidneys, Inc.



One day I woke up and noticed my legs were swollen. I thought my symptoms could have been related to a previous lupus diagnosis or recent high-risk pregnancy. I was urged to see a doctor. And the results - a nurse told me that my kidneys were failing. I was floored! I was 31 years old with a whole life ahead of me.

Failing kidneys were a surprise to me. After a biopsy, I was diagnosed with focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a disease that causes scarring in the parts of the kidney that filter blood. The doctors could not explain why I had FSGS.

After being hospitalized for a few days, I had to figure things out along with my family. How could I continue living my life after discovering some-

## COMMENTARY

thing so serious? What adjustments, medications, dialysis, or even transplant would I have to endure? Twenty years ago, there was not a lot of information available. I was scared and frustrated, but research helped me understand the disease, its effects, and that I was not alone.

I began working with my doctors to manage the disease, but my kidneys continued to decline. I had a personalized medical treatment plan that was only doing so much to slow the progression, and a few years later, I was told I needed dialysis. Dialysis took a toll on me. I was tired both physically and emotionally.

The next step in my kidney journey was a transplant. My sister was my donor. The transplant was successful, but I still didn't know why all of this had happened to me. And then I learned about the APOL1

gene and the increased risk of kidney disease due to certain genetic changes.

After an at-home genetic test, I found out I had two copies of the APOL1 variant inherited from my parents, a variation connected to increased risk for kidney disease. APOL1-mediated kidney disease (AMKD) caused my FSGS.

I now had answers.

The diagnosis liberated me from the uncertainty of having done something in my youth that could have caused all of this, and it alerted me to the seriousness of the disease and its effects. We are all born with the APOL1 gene, but those of us with ancestors from Western or central Africa, who may identify as Black, African American, Afro-Caribbean, Hispanic or Latino/Latina, may have mutated variations of the APOL1 gene, with the presence of two high-risk genes G1 or G2.

April 28 is APOL1-Mediat-

ed Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day, an annual campaign to educate the public, healthcare providers, and patients about a genetic form of rapidly progressive kidney disease impacting people of West and Central African ancestry. I have hope because steps are being made to address a clear diagnosis and the impact of the disease in our communities.

Learning that you may be predisposed to having AMKD can provide some relief from the guilt of a diagnosis. Everyone should have a unique medical approach that best aligns with their healthcare needs. The only way to know if you are at risk for developing AMKD or if your kidney disease is the result of APOL1 variants is through genetic testing. Genetic testing, which is a personal decision, may be recommended if you have kidney disease of unknown cause and you are Black, African American, Afro Caribbean or Latino of certain

African ancestry. There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to healthcare. Talking to your doctor about your options is a starting point.

Over the years, I have become an advocate and supporter of kidney disease research and awareness. I am deeply involved with the community through the organizations I have created and the ones I support. I feel proud to be a voice fighting for change. Organizations such as the American Kidney Fund, which focus on prevention, treatment, and post-transplant care, are great resources and allies.

I hope that my story helps those who are struggling to understand their diagnosis and how to navigate the difficult times of dealing with kidney disease.

You can also learn more about AMKD at [KidneyFund.org/APOL1Aware](http://KidneyFund.org/APOL1Aware).

Sharon Rouse is a mom, wife, sister and the Founder/

Executive Director of Kindness for Kidneys International, Inc. She has dedicated her life to influencing the world as a kidney disease, dialysis, and transplant survivor.

(APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) is a genetic condition associated with variants (mutations) in the APOL1 gene. Everyone has two copies of this gene (one from each parent), but having mutations in both copies is linked to an increased risk of rapidly progressing kidney disease. People with ancestors from Western or central who inherited certain variants (also known as mutations) of the APOL1 gene have an increased risk of developing AMKD. It is estimated that 13% of (or 1 in 8) Black Americans have two APOL1 genetic variants that are associated with AMKD, and roughly 1 in 5 of those with two APOL1 genetic variants will develop kidney disease.)

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## Behind the Big House 2026 Honors the Enslaved while vocalizing “We the People” in strides to push the nation closer to a more perfect union

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

The complicated history of race in the United States imposes its mark upon the roots of slavery. Slavery, however, is a matter that cannot be ignored, despite strategies to uphold it dear to many. It cannot be ignored, despite tactics to speak highly of slaveholders and disrespectful of the enslaved people. It cannot be ignored, despite strategies to mute voices that speak against it. It cannot be ignored, for the truth of ancestry holds falsehood in contempt.

A project called Behind the Big House addresses slavery and race in America. For public awareness, Dr. Jodi Barnes, founder, Behind the Big House, Arkansas, explains: “For me, Behind the Big House is as much about social justice as it is about teaching history. By building programs like this, we have the potential to show white communities how to be allies, how to listen, and how to do what is needed to bring about change and provide tools to empower African American communities to remember and tell their own histories.”

Since 2012, thousands of people have been educated in North MS and AR about Behind the Big House which was created by Jenifer Eggleston and Chelius Carter who saw a gap in the Annual Pilgrimage programming which excluded lived experiences of the enslaved (approximately 70 percent of the Holly Springs populace) while interpreting the antebellum era. They aimed to close the gap with a realistic portrayal of the lives of the enslaved. This project falls into the realm of few historic site tours that both interpret slavery and provide insight into lived experiences of the enslaved. For that matter, sev-



Eboni Joi brings to life the hardships of slavery  
PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

eral private homeowners opened slave homes on their properties over a decade ago for public awareness at these specific sites.

Sightseers spent last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday learning about Behind the Big House 2026 at Craft Home (1851) & Quarters (1847) located at 184 S. Memphis St. in Holly Springs, MS. Professional interpreters shared the stories of enslaved people in 19th century Mississippi to busloads of K-12 students and tourists that totaled more than 600. Much curiosity and discussion occurred regarding the resilience and perseverance of the Black community which reigned supreme as a result of this particular project.

Professor of anthropology and southern studies at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), Dr. Jodi Skipper published her

book, Behind the Big House, in 2022. An interpreter of the above historical sites, she has been partnering with Behind the Big House program founders since 2012. She became a Whiting Foundation Public Engagement Fellow in 2017 to help extend the reach of the program to a wider group. While the personal histories of the previously mentioned sites had been preserved, there was a need to bring to light the personal lives (those of the enslaved) Behind the Big House.

Behind the Big House 2026 is currently organized by Dr. Sally Godard and her husband Ron Olisar (owners of the S. Memphis St. property) and a team of local volunteers and University of Mississippi faculty members. The mission is “to honor and promote the history, culture, and



Storyteller Jordan Wimby explains to a mother and daughter that enslaved people in Mississippi had a varied diet. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

legacy of enslaved people and their descendants in Northern MS.” Adhering to this mission is the overarching message: “A failure to humanize enslaved people in the past reflects a failure to humanize their descendants in the present.”

Behind the Big House 2026 humanized the enslaved with role portrayals by a number of participants. Joseph McGill Jr. interpreted the history of the living quarters. Dale DeBerry and Wayne Jones portrayed the brickmakers. Jordan Wimby was the culinarily historian. Tammy Gibson was the laundress. Rolanda Jeffries Lester interpreted in the children’s room by emphasizing enlightenment to the community regarding the children’s role during slavery. They were required to empty the chamber

fire pots (toilets) in the middle of the night, to watch the wood fire to make sure it did not go out, and to sleep inside the halls on the floor.

Student volunteer Kiffany Dugger voiced, “Behind the Big House is a life-changing experience. The tour helped me to bridge the past with the present and future. Behind the Big House authentically depicts a history that should be preserved and not forgotten.”

According to Dr. Skipper, this project “has the ability to fill in the gaps in what people thought they knew, just by showing them differently. It has the potential to supplement K-12 and higher education initiatives, be an on-site learning laboratory, and be a national model for what slavery interpretations in local com-



Dr. Jodi Skipper  
PHOTO – MEDIA COURTESY

munities can look like.” Thus, such openness would appear to acknowledge bridging the gap between Big House residents and locked out residents in the slave quarters.

Behind the Big House 2026 lends itself to inspiring youth and challenging adults. According to Skipper, youth can be galvanized by the enslaved people and the technical skills required to do their labor. They can even be inspired to do family research, as well as historically preserve the structures that can help us tell these stories. On the other hand, adults can be challenged by the program’s storytelling as opposed to what they learned in school or from their families. Also, there is another challenge: what urban slavery looks like in that pop culture media tends to focus on large, rural populations.

Sponsors of Behind the Big House 2026 are: Rosa Foundation; Mississippi Humanities Council; America 250 Mississippi; North Mississippi Roots & Wings; Mississippi Hills; and the University of Mississippi. For more information, email sallygodard@earthlink.net. She can be reached via phone at 503-857-7660.

## We Must Vote

Mississippi Link Newswire

In a powerful show of community leadership, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with We Must Vote, hosted a high-impact voter registration drive at Ridgeland High School, successfully registering 62 students ahead of the November election.

Led by Brothers Walter Young, J.P. Price, and Carson Foster, members of the Beta Alpha Graduate Chapter and Upsilon Epsilon Undergradu-

ate Chapter came together to educate, engage, and empower young voters. With support from We Must Vote leaders, students gained not only knowledge of their rights but a clear path to make their voices heard.

Exceeding their goal of 50 registrations, this effort reflects a shared commitment to building informed citizens and strengthening communities while also ensuring the next generation is ready to lead at the ballot box.





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## From Screen to Storytime: Tatyana Ali sparks a love of reading to JPS Scholars



JPS Newswire

Tatyana Ali, best known for her role on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, visited elementary scholars at Spann and Shirley recently and delivered a special reading of her children's book, *Aszi and the Octopus*, inspired by her son's love for octopuses.

Ali brought story time to life, engaging scholars in a meaningful, interactive experience that sparked imagination and curiosity.

"The book is called *Aszi and the Octopus*, and I hope it inspires the children who hear it to dive deep into their own imagi-

nation and dreams," said Ali. "That's a very magical place. When children feel comfortable sharing their ideas, it becomes a powerful entry point for reading and learning, including numeracy. From there, their foundation is set, and they're off to the races."

Each scholar received a copy of the book to take home, extending the joy of reading beyond the classroom. Special thanks to Scholastic and the Mississippi Book Festival for sponsoring these visits that serve as a powerful celebration of literacy, representation, and diversity in literature.



## From Alcorn to the Idol stage: Alumnus Daniel Stallworth competes on American Idol

*Alcorn State University News*

Daniel Stallworth spent four years on the campus of Alcorn State University learning how to survive, strive and thrive.

Today, the 2021 music graduate is doing all three on one of the most watched stages in American television.

Stallworth, a native of Moss Point, Miss., earned a Bachelor of Arts in music from Alcorn State in May 2021 and is currently competing on Season 24 of ABC's "American Idol."

When he is not before the judges, he teaches Pre-K through fifth-grade music in the Humble Independent School District in Houston, Texas.

"I believe this is a divine purpose for my life," Stallworth said. "People always told me to audition, but it wasn't a place I saw myself in reality. I stepped out on faith."

Stallworth's path from Alcorn's campus to prime-time television runs through Mississippi.

After graduating, he began his teaching career in the Claiborne County School District, serving elementary students for four years before relocating to Houston.

The decision to audition for "American Idol" came during the current school year, a leap of faith rooted in a conviction he has carried since childhood.

"I realized at an early age that singing was more than something I loved," he said. "I knew God had given me a gift to share with people, and I'm living my purpose."

Stallworth chose Alcorn State not for its rankings or its rankings alone, but for something harder to quantify.

"Alcorn is a family-oriented institution, and I felt the love during my first visit," he said.

He credits several members of the faculty and staff for shaping the musician and educator he has become, naming Dr. Re-



Daniel Stallworth, a 2021 Alcorn State University graduate and elementary music teacher, performs on the "American Idol" stage. Stallworth, a Moss Point, Miss., native, is competing in Season 9 of the ABC competition series. PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN IDOL/ABC



Daniel Stallworth, a 2021 Alcorn State University graduate, shares a moment with "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest during Season 9 of the ABC competition series. PHOTO OF AMERICAN IDOL/ABC

nardo Murray, Tony Gordon and Linda McDonald among those who pushed him toward his potential.

"They pushed me to be the best I could possibly be," Stallworth said.

Among his most cherished memories was serving as musician and director of the ASU Gospel Choir (GC) and the trips the ensemble made together.

"[I had] so much fun with my GC family," he said. "Those

memories are never forgotten."

The "American Idol" experience, Stallworth said, has been nothing short of remarkable. The pressure has been real but so has the affirmation.

"I believe I do well under pressure," he said. "The feedback from the judges made me feel like my work is not in vain."

Stallworth carries a message for current Alcorn students and anyone watching from back home in Mississippi — believe

in yourself, operate in your gifts and never quit.

"If you don't believe in yourself, you shouldn't expect anyone else to believe in you," he said. "Everyone has a gift and a purpose. Believe that you can do it, believe that you will do well, and always put your best foot forward."

How to Vote for Daniel Stallworth

"American Idol" airs live Mondays at 8 p.m. ET/7 p.m. CT on ABC and Disney+, with next-day streaming available on Hulu. Fans can cast up to 10 votes per voting method during each elimination round. Three ways to vote:

Online: Visit [americanidol.com/vote](http://americanidol.com/vote) and search for Daniel Stallworth.

Text: Text the number 4 to 21523.

Social Media: Find the official American Idol pinned voting post on TikTok, Facebook or Instagram and comment "Daniel" under the post.

Alcorn State supporters are also encouraged to share the university's social media posts celebrating Stallworth's journey. Follow along and cheer him on!

## Family recognizes Jeremiah Walker for outstanding ACT Achievement

By April Love  
Guest Writer

The family of Jeremiah Walker proudly recognizes his outstanding academic achievement in earning a 32 composite score on the ACT.

Jeremiah is an Honor Roll senior at Murrah APAC High

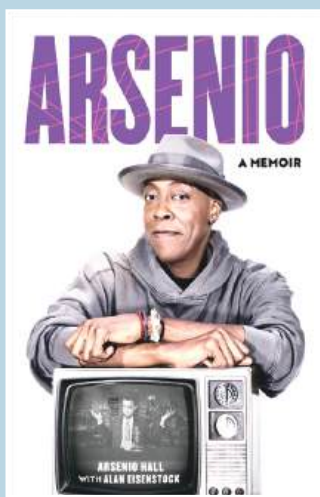
School, where he meets the academic standards required of APAC students, including advanced coursework and core academic requirements. He is also a member of the football team, the National Art Honor Society, and the Jackson Alumni Kappa League.

In the fall, Jeremiah plans to attend Clark Atlanta University, where he will major in Supply Chain Management.

Walker's family proudly celebrates this accomplishment and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors.



Walker



## BOOK REVIEW:

# ARSENIO

BY ARSENIO HALL WITH ALAN EISENSTOCK  
C.2026, BLACK PRIVILEGE PUBLISHING / ATRIA  
\$30.00 • 324 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

So what do you think?

No doubt, you have an opinion on the subject at hand. You have something to say, a POV, a side you'll take or a stand to make. You have thoughts, info to gather, intel to share. Talk-talk-talk, maybe it's a calling. Maybe, as in the new memoir, "Arsenio" by Arsenio Hall with Alan Eisenstock, it's livin' the dream.

Back when he was small, everyone assumed that little Arsenio Hall would grow up to be a preacher like his Daddy. Sun-

day mornings, Hall says, were spent listening to his father, learning the power of words spoken properly. Being a preacher seemed like a good calling, until Hall's parents split and his world changed.

While he was temporarily living with his grandmother, a cousin brought home a book on magic and Hall was hooked. He became obsessed, practicing easy sleight-of-hand tricks until they were second-nature and sneaking out of the house to spend after-school afternoons in a magic shop. By the time he

was a teenager, he was performing for spending money and had appeared on local Cleveland television.

But magic wasn't everything. The feeling that he got when he made people laugh – the idea that he could get paid for being funny – Hall needed more of that. He started adding humor to his magic shows until he realized that being a comedian was an actual job, and magic faded into his background.

Back when he was in grade school, Hall used to sneak out of his bedroom at night to watch

The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. In his basement, he practiced doing interviews just like Carson. He didn't want to be like Carson, he wanted to be Carson.

And so Hall moved to Chicago and started snagging gigs at comedy shows. He met up-and-coming comics and established funny-men who gave him advice, sympathy, and contacts, which helped him move up in the system, make money, and land movie roles.

Then Paramount came calling but Hall didn't get another

movie offer.



He got his own talk show...

Like so many Hollywood biographies, "Arsenio" is loaded – positively loaded – with name-dropping. Normally: ugh. But the thing here is, you won't mind. Author Arsenio Hall (with Alan Eisenstock) tells this story in such an appealing, wide-eyed way that you'll be too busy enjoying to care about dropped names.

Another thing: what you saw on TV and what you see in movies are pretty much what you can expect in Hall's book. It's authentic; readers will find stories

that are thorny and squirmy, but also a bit star-struck. He's not afraid to tell readers about being someone's fan. He's also willing to tell the truth about his career, his personal life, and the end of his talk show, and he plain-talks about the increasingly bad sides of the entertainment industry, so buckle up.

This is a book for Hollywood-watchers, fans of Arsenio Hall, of course, but also for anyone who loves comedy, hip-hop, or entertainment in general. Read "Arsenio." It's a book you'll tell everyone about.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## GARY ROAD ELEMENTARY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE AND CAREER WEEK FOR SECOND GRADERS

Gary Road Elementary School recently concluded an exciting and educational College and Career Week, designed to inspire its second-grade students to begin thinking about their futures at an early age.

The week-long celebration culminated with students proudly representing their favorite colleges and universities, showcasing school spirit while learning

the value of higher education. A highlight of the event included special guest appearances from student-athletes and a coach from Jackson State University, who shared words of encouragement and insight into the importance of education, discipline, and perseverance.

Through engaging activities and meaningful interactions, students were exposed to various career paths and the

significance of setting goals for academic success.

School officials expressed their gratitude to all participants, volunteers, and guest speakers who contributed to making the week a memorable and impactful experience. The event not only broadened students' horizons but also planted seeds of ambition and possibility for their future endeavors.



## Hinds County School District to Host Golden and Silver Class Celebration

Hinds County School District alumni of the classes of 1976 and 2001 are invited to participate in the upcoming Golden and Silver Class Celebration, honoring milestone graduating classes. The event will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Raymond High School Performing Arts Center.

Alumni who wish to participate must complete a registration form and

select a participation package, which includes commemorative graduation items. Registration is available by scanning the QR code included with this announcement. The deadline to register and submit payment is Thursday, April 30, 2026.

For additional information, alumni are encouraged to review details provided through the registration form.





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Cardozo Middle School

3180 McDowell Road Extension

Jackson, MS 39204



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stay as long as you would like!

