



## Jackson's Water Takeover: Control lost, questions raised, and a warning for Black cities nationwide

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

In a move that is sending shockwaves across Mississippi and beyond, legislation restructuring control over Jackson's water system has advanced to the desk of the governor, signaling a major shift in who governs one of the city's most essential resources. For many residents, the implications are deeply troubling, not just for Jackson, but for Black communities across the nation.

At the center of the issue is the newly proposed regional water authority, a governing body that will assume control over Jackson's water infrastructure, once the court-appointed third party manager leaves. Despite the city being majority Black and the primary user of the system, the legislation does not guarantee majority control by Jackson representatives. In fact, Jackson will have only three of the nine seats. This effectively removes direct authority from the people most impacted by decisions regarding water access, pricing, and infrastructure investment.

For many, the political irony is hard to ignore. John Horhn, Jackson's mayor and a veteran of 32 years in the Mississippi State Senate, was expected by some to leverage longstanding relationships within the legislature to protect the city's interests. Yet, those relationships appear to have had little bearing on the outcome. The bill's advancement underscores a harsh political reality, "institutional ties do not always translate into power when structural control is at stake."

One of the most contentious aspects of the new authority is its regional structure. Suburban



cities such as Byram and Ridgeland, both of which rely on Jackson's water system, will have representation on the governing board. However, these cities will not shoulder the same historical or financial burdens that Jackson has endured in maintaining and repairing the aging infrastructure.

This disparity raises serious equity concerns. Jackson residents, who have lived through repeated boil water notices, infrastructure failures, and federal intervention, now face the prospect of diminished control over the very system they have sus-

tained. Meanwhile, neighboring municipalities gain influence without equivalent responsibility.

### Echoes of Flint

The situation in Jackson draws inevitable comparisons to Flint, where a state appointed emergency manager made decisions that led to a devastating water crisis. In both cases, majority Black cities experienced a loss of local control over critical resources, with long-term consequences for public health and trust in government.

While the circumstances differ, Flint's crisis stemmed from

a catastrophic decision to switch water sources, whereas Jackson's challenges are rooted in decades of underinvestment and infrastructure neglect, the underlying theme is strikingly similar—disenfranchisement.

In Flint, residents were sidelined in decisions that directly affected their safety. In Jackson, critics argue, a similar dynamic is emerging, one where governance is removed from local hands under the justification of efficiency and regional cooperation.

*Water*  
Continued on page 3

## City of Jackson, State leaders deliver major investments for neighborhoods, roads, parks, and cultural institutions

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson is set to receive more than 26 million dollars in state-funded projects that will improve streets, parks, neighborhood infrastructure, and key cultural institutions in the capital city and across Hinds County. These investments are part of SB 2189, the 2026 legislative projects bill, and reflect a productive partnership among city leaders, the Jackson legislative delegation, and state leadership.

Within Jackson city limits, nearly 5.7 million dollars will flow directly to City of Jackson projects, including road paving, park upgrades, tree removal in key neighborhoods, and matching funds for major federal transportation improvements. Another 19 million dollars will support nonprofit partners such as LeFleur's Bluff Conservancy, the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, and the Mississippi Museum of Art, strengthening recreation, education, and the arts in the capital city.

Hinds County will see more than 7.2 million dollars in additional support, of which 1.85 million will be invested in Jackson. Sewer and drainage upgrades, neighborhood security cameras, infrastructure improvements, airport projects, and regional wastewater work are part of the targeted investments.

Mayor John Horhn praised



the city's legislative partners and state leaders for their work on the bill.

"Jackson is moving forward because so many people rolled up their sleeves and went to work for our city. Our progress is never the work of one office or one branch of government," Horhn said. "I want to thank our Jackson legislative delegation for fighting for these dollars, and I appreciate the state leadership that helped secure funding for our roads, parks, neighborhoods, and cultural institutions. While we have more work to do on issues like our water authority and long-term infrastructure, these investments are a clear sign that when we stay at the table and keep advocating for Jackson, we can deliver results for our residents."

Horhn also thanked local and regional partners whose collaboration helped make these projects possible:

"I am grateful to the Jackson City Council, Hinds County Board of Supervi-

*Jackson*  
Continued on page 3

## Mainstream Media shows us who they value

*I can't believe what you say, because I see what you do," James Baldwin*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

With America deeply immersed in another vicious season of pro-whiteness, led by non-other than an impulse-driven American President, you would think that our mainstream media would be going the extra mile to highlight the inequities being caused. To believe that would be to completely ignore mainstream media's history of prominently covering the European American (White) majority, providing what amounts to propor-

tionate crumbs of coverage to other racial groups. Collectively, mainstream media makes undeniably clear who is valued in this country and who is not.

The example du jour is the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie, the mother of Today Show host Savannah Guthrie. Nancy Guthrie went missing from her Arizona home January 31, 2026. The wall-to-wall coverage by mainstream media was unceasing. Cable networks created extra shows dedicated to the case. Broadcast stations were giving updates at every airing. Layers of experts in law enforcement, security, and investigation were brought on camera to lend their thoughts, experience, and opinions. Anchors were dispatched to Tucson with the hope of being able to deliver Breaking News. Any update in the case, even when it seems like no real update at all, became news. Several cable



Derrica Wilson and Natalie Wilson, Co-Founders of Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BAMFI.

### COMMENTARY

and broadcast websites even installed a tab at the top of their page dedicated to The Guthrie Case.

Any family that can't find their mother, 84-years-old or not, would be horrified. Any family with any of its members missing would be inconsolable. Surely, this is a tragedy for the Guthrie Family, and good people across this nation remain hopeful for a positive

resolution. This writer, out of respect, held this story for two months but now I am bringing it forward as Savannah Guthrie has returned to her anchor chair at the Today Show.

Can anyone think of a time when broadcast, print, or cable has saturated us with coverage of a missing Black person for two days, two weeks, or over a month - as has been the case with The Guthrie Case? When will their CEO's, shareholders, producers, anchors, publishers

and journalists, value all people equally and provide coverage proportionally? What has to happen before these powerful people change their ways?

The Black People Missing Foundation, a non-profit launched in 2008 by sister's-in-law Derrica Wilson and Natalie Wilson, strives to bring attention and change to the systemic inequity. They met with veteran journalist Kevin Johnson, a white man, and staff member at the National Press Foundation, for a piece titled, "Missing White Women Get Disproportionate Attention While 40% of Those Missing Are People of Color," in early January 2024. An update to the story, on January 29, 2024, used the word "shunned."

Say it again - 40 percent of those missing in the United States are not white. "We are met with silence," says Natalie Wilson describing the common

response from news outlets. The women shared, "a collective desensitization to such cases, based on damaging stereotypes associating minoritized communities to criminal activity and poverty, have kept the plight of Black and other victims of color out of the public eye."

"We have been fighting an uphill battle," Natalie Wilson told journalists at the Crime Coverage Summit hosted by the Radio Television Digital News Association and the National Press Foundation. "It has gotten better, but we are being shunned by the media, too. We want our missing to be household names, too. That's what we are trying to change because these are our mothers, our fathers, our children that are disappearing at an alarming rate and we need to bring

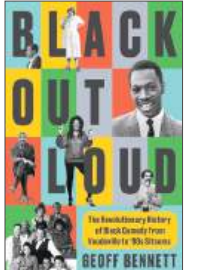
*Media*  
Continued on page 3

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**Inside**  
Michael screening brings star power and Sonic Boom spotlight to Jackson Packed screening highlights Jackson State pride



**Black Out Loud**



## Michael screening brings star power and Sonic Boom spotlight to Jackson Packed screening highlights Jackson State pride

By Edelia "Dr. Jay" Carthan  
Contributing Writer

A special screening of Michael, the upcoming biographical film on pop icon Michael Jackson, brought star power and hometown pride to B&B Theatres Ridgeland Northpark 14, where multiple theaters were filled simultaneously to meet overwhelming demand.

The film, directed by Antoine Fuqua and starring Jaafar Jackson, drew a packed audience, with the movie shown on six to seven screens throughout the venue — a rare move that underscored the anticipation surrounding the release.

Red carpet moment meets community pride

Actor Larenz Tate, who portrays Motown founder Berry Gordy, was on hand to welcome the crowd and celebrate the film's connection to Jackson State University.

Tate shared his excitement about visiting the city and the reception from the community.

"I'm feeling really good about being here in Jackson. I think this is my first time in Jackson — the southern hospitality is second to none. It's been amazing to see all the people here to see the Michael movie. It makes my heart warm," Tate said.

Reflecting on his role in the film, he added:

"I loved being able to play such an iconic role. It's been a fantastic ride, and I'm happy to be a part



Jackson Mayor John Horhn and his wife, Lydia pose on the red carpet during PHOTOS BY "DR. JAY"



Actor Larenz Tate poses on the red carpet during



MS State Sen. Sollie Norwood arrives on the red carpet



Jackson State University interim president Denise Gregory and Greenville Mayor Erick Simmons pose on the red carpet

of it."

The evening also drew prominent local and state leaders, including Jackson Mayor John Horhn, Jackson State University interim president Dr. Denise Gregory, Greenville Mayor Erick Simmons, State Senator Sollie Norwood and Jackson City Council President Brian Grizzell.

Norwood made a memorable entrance dressed in full Michael Jackson-inspired attire, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Horhn, who walked the red carpet, expressed pride in hosting the screening in the capital city.

"Michael Jackson was phenomenal all the time, and to have this screening take place in Jackson, Mississippi, is absolutely fantastic," Horhn said.

Gregory emphasized the importance of the moment for students and the university community.

"I'm so excited to be here to

night. This is an awesome opportunity for our students to come out and see the iconic work of Michael Jackson, and to be part of a celebration where the Sonic Boom of the South is featured in the trailer," Gregory said. "We are also excited to share that Ms. Breiana, vice president of Lionsgate, is here this weekend. This is huge for us, and we are excited."

Sonic Boom shines on the big screen

A major highlight for many in attendance was the appearance of Jackson State's Sonic Boom of the South in the film's trailer. The band's inclusion drew cheers and applause, reinforcing its national reputation for excellence and showmanship.

For students, alumni and faculty, the moment symbolized more than recognition, it was a celebration of the university's cultural impact.

Chair of the Department of



Jackson State University students pose on the red carpet



Jackson State University staff members pose on the red carpet PHOTOS BY DR. JAY

Speech Communication and Theatre and director of MAD-DRAMA, Dr. Mark Henderson, reflected on the film's deeper meaning and generational reach.

"This film is iconic because it introduces new generations to the story of a legend who is like none that came before him and likely none to come after him. It also allows the older generation to reminisce about a time when we were proud to be Black in America because we shared a kinship with the King of Pop. I

am so privileged to have been invited to attend, and even though my vintage Michael Jackson shirt that I ordered specifically for this event was stolen out of my mailbox, I showed up to celebrate an icon that will forever live in my heart and on my playlist," said Henderson.

An experience beyond the film With a red-carpet atmosphere, notable guests and multiple packed theaters, the screening felt more like a premiere than a preview. Attendees described the

event as electric, blending Hollywood storytelling with hometown pride.

Michael is set for nationwide release April 24, with early access screenings beginning April 22. The film chronicles Jackson's rise from his early days with the Jackson 5 to global superstardom, offering a deeper look at both his artistry and personal journey.

For Jackson State and the city of Jackson, the night was not just about a film, it was about being part of the story.

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# Jackson

Continued from page 1

sors, our community partners, nonprofits, and neighborhood leaders whose advocacy and partnership have helped shape these investments and keep Jackson on a path toward growth and opportunity.”

**Highlights of Jackson and Hinds County Project Funding**

26.52 million dollars in total appropriations within Jackson city limits.

5.67 million dollars directed to the City of Jackson, including:

- 200,000 dollars for paving Hanging Moss Road from Northside Drive east to Nakoma Drive.
- 250,000 dollars for upgrades to the Pete Brown Golf Facility through the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 70,000 dollars for tree removal at Leavell Woods and Sykes Park.
- 4,000,000 dollars in matching funds for federal highway and road projects, including Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Medgar Evers Boule-

vard, and McDowell Road.

- 750,000 dollars for road and infrastructure improvements in northwest Jackson.
- 400,000 dollars for projects supporting the Westside Community.
- 19 million dollars for nonprofits in Jackson, including:
  - 13,000,000 dollars for LeFleur’s Bluff Conservancy to advance improvements at LeFleur’s Bluff State Park.
  - 5,000,000 dollars for the Mississippi Children’s Museum to expand and develop new LIFT program exhibits and programming.
  - 350,000 dollars for the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra to acquire and replace instruments for Mississippi high school music programs and cover other costs.
  - 650,000 dollars for the Mississippi Museum of Art to support projects and exhibits.

- 7.2 million dollars for Hinds County and regional projects, including:
  - 500,000 dollars for sewer and drainage improvements in the Presidential Hills neighborhood in Jackson.
  - 100,000 dollars for neighborhood security cameras serving Norwood, Woodlea, Valley North, Northgate, and Lakecover Homeowners Associations in Jackson.
  - 750,000 dollars for repairs and renovations at Parham Bridges Park in the Capitol Complex Improvement District.
  - 500,000 dollars for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority to provide matching funds for critical infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

# Media

Continued from page 1

them home or to provide much-needed answers for their families.” Learn more about the Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. at <https://www.blackandmissinginc.com>.

Jonathan Franklin reports on race at the intersection of culture, identity, and justice for National Public Radio. On December 5, 2022, he wrote, “Thousands of people are reported missing in the United States each year. And while not every missing person case will get widespread media coverage, the fight to locate them — whether alive or dead — is always the main priority. However, when it comes to missing person cases involving people of color, that same media attention quickly dissolves, ultimately feeding into the phenomenon of ‘Missing White Woman Syndrome’ — a phrase coined by the late journalist Gwen Ifill that addresses the media’s fascination with covering attractive, middle class-looking

white women in comparison to missing persons of color.

This so-called media phenomenon never sat right with Kyle Pope, the former editor and publisher of the Columbia Journalism Review (CJR), who in an interview with NPR said, “Something had to be done — Everybody talks about it and says we got to do something about it, and nothing happens. If you go missing and the press devotes a lot of attention to it, you have a better chance of a decent outcome, whereas you don’t if they ignore it.”

In a news release, Columbia Journalism Review, a respected voice of press criticism since 1961, announced a new tool allowing users to openly share the “press value” of missing persons. It’s called, “Are You Press Worthy,” and estimates that younger white women will get increasingly more news coverage than other racial groups like Black, Latino, and Indigenous people. Analyzing the

database allowed researchers to conclude that the implications of this are literally life and death — the amount of media coverage you get immediately after you go missing has a direct result on what happens to your case,” per Pope.

We live in a country where many forms of systemic racism operate to different degrees. Mainstream media is just one area. Others include education, policing, criminal sentencing, healthcare access and quality, and the staggering wealth gap for people of color. Nothing changes if nothing changes.

We remain hopeful Nancy Guthrie will be found safe. We also remain hopeful that mainstream media will begin to use their power equitably. It could have a direct result on the outcome for 40% of America’s missing — the ones who are not white.

# Water

Continued from page 1

**A Broader Implication**

The implications of Jackson’s water takeover extend far beyond Mississippi. Across the United States, many Black majority cities struggle with aging infrastructure, shrinking tax bases, and state-level oversight. The restructuring of Jackson’s water system could set a precedent for how states intervene in municipal governance, particularly in communities of color.

Critics warn that such interventions, even when framed as necessary reforms, risk reinforcing systemic inequities. When decision making authority is transferred away from local populations, it raises fundamental questions about representation, accountability, and democracy.

Perhaps the most painful sentiment expressed by Jackson residents is the feeling of losing their voice. Water is not just a utility, it is a basic hu-

man necessity. To many, the loss of control over this resource feels like a loss of autonomy itself.

Some community members have gone as far as to describe the situation as a form of modern-day oppression, arguing that being stripped of control over essential services echoes historical patterns of disenfranchisement. While such language reflects deep frustration and anger, it also underscores the emotional and cultural weight of what

is unfolding.

As the bill awaits the governor’s signature, Jackson stands at a crossroads. Will the new authority bring the investment and stability the system desperately needs? Or will it deepen divisions and erode trust between residents and those in power?

The stakes are high, not just for water, but for democracy itself. The country is watching.



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# A new 'Chess Tournament' inaugurated at the Medgar Evers Library

By James Hampton III  
Special to The Mississippi Link

The Kenneth I. Stokes Inaugural Chess Tournament took place Saturday, April 4, 2026, at the Medgar Evers Library in Jackson, MS. It started at 11:00 AM. It followed a wreath laying event at Freedom Corner in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was assassinated on the same date in 1968. City Councilman Stokes consistently organizes yearly events to keep the memory of such civil rights leaders alive in Jackson.

The Chess Tournament was held in commemoration of Dr. King and was inaugurated in conjunction with the 100th birthday celebration of civil rights crusader and publisher Charles W. Tisdale, born November 7, 1926. Players of diverse ages gathered in the library meeting room. There were over thirty participants. About



After a little friendly trash talk back and forth between the two, Councilman Stokes and Dr. Sulton shook hands and the game was underway. PHOTO BY JAMES HAMPTON, III

nine long tables were stationed around the room for the games. Two boards, each with a chess clock, were set up at each table. Padded chairs lined the wall for parents, spectators, and support-

ers. The library provided a stocked refreshments table for all attendees. People enjoyed coffee, doughnuts, chips, soda, water, and cupcakes. Experi-

enced chess tournament director, Lizbeth Thrasher with the Mississippi Scholastic Chess Organization, organized play and things went smoothly even with over sixteen games going simultaneously.

The event was a fitting tribute to the civil rights leaders it honored. The racial diversity among the players, spectators, and organizers was visible and so was the camaraderie in the midst of the competition. The matches were exhilarating and the sportsmanship gracious. As lunchtime neared and the tournament continued, attendees were happy to have a reasonably priced food truck parked outside. It was invited just for the day's events which included an Easter Egg Hunt on the library grounds!

Around 1:00PM, the tournament concluded. After four rounds of play, all winning participants in each category: Ele-

mentary School, Middle School, High School, and Adult were awarded medals and/or trophies.

Renowned civil rights attorney and scholar, Dr. Anne Thomas Sulton then addressed the attendees. She encouraged the people to continue to use their public library, citing some of her own educational successes as a result of library use. She has a J.D., a Ph.D, and a pilot's license!

And finally, Sulton and Councilman Kenneth Stokes squared off from one another across a giant chess board in the middle of the room. Both avid chess players, Sulton and Stokes had committed to a highly anticipated exhibition match against one another to conclude the tournament.

Players from the tournament were allowed to function as consultants, advising either team Stokes or team Sulton. After a

little friendly trash talk back and forth between the two, Stokes and Sulton shook hands and the game was underway. A crowd of eager spectators watched every move of an extremely competitive game. And for a while, team Sulton seemed to have a slight edge. But suddenly the tide turned, and the Councilman got the checkmate. The room erupted in applause, and the distinguished contenders met in the middle of the board for a congratulatory hug.

Stokes then addressed the audience. He encouraged the players and thanked the library and the organizers for hosting. He especially thanked publisher emeritus Alice Tisdale whose Jackson Advocate Newspaper sponsored the event. In the wake of the Kenneth Stokes Inaugural Chess Tournament's soaring success, one can only expect it to be the first of many to come.

PHOTOS BY JAMES HAMPTON III



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Tim C. Lee is the CEO & Founder of TCL Financial & Tax Services, and the host of "The TCL Show" that airs every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, MS. This is the show that is about "You, Life, and Money." Got an article idea or a question you would like answered, e-mail Tim at timclee@TCLFinancialTaxServices.com*



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# Do cell phone bans at school help or hurt students?

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

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Thirty-three states have enacted laws requiring school districts to implement cellphone bans in K-12 classrooms. Most such bans prohibit cell phone usage throughout the entire school day.

Last week, a court found social media giants Meta and YouTube complicit in creating social media addiction among young people. Children and young adults spend an average of 5.5 hours a day on their phones, largely fueled by social media.

Panelists on American Community Media's National Briefing Series Friday, April 3, 2026, debated the merits of cell phone bans versus the potential of social media to foster social connection, creative self-expression, and to gain access to supportive communities. The briefing was moderated by Sunita Sohrabji, facilitating questions from nearly seventy media outlets. She began with Dr. Timothy Pressley, Associate Professor of Psychology, Christopher Newport University, in Virginia. He shared that studies on this topic have been done, but far more are needed. "There are different types of bans – some bell-to-bell, some during instructional periods, and others during testing periods, certain classes, and



Dr. Timothy Pressley. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY.

even recess. He shared that he and his colleague Dr. Marshall co-authored a study – a literature review – focused on this topic.

The entire study can be read at <https://paragoninstitute.org/public-health/banning-smart-phones-in-schools/?nab=0>. They focused on the impacts of cell phones on academics, mental health, and engagement in the classroom. On academics there is stronger evidence of gains among lower achieving and disadvantaged students once the bans were in place, yet not always in the first year. The evidence is more mixed on mental health. One study in Australia found a decrease in bullying. A study in Spain found no decrease in anxiety and depression with the bans in place. Under engagement, some studies found fewer classroom disruptions, and some



Dr David T. Marshall. PHOTO: EDCAN NETWORK.

classrooms in New York City found improved classroom interaction. He highlighted that implementation is key, and that there is evidence of separation anxiety by students, and parents concern about the inability to contact their children during emergencies. Some teachers were concerned that cell phones are needed for certain academic activities

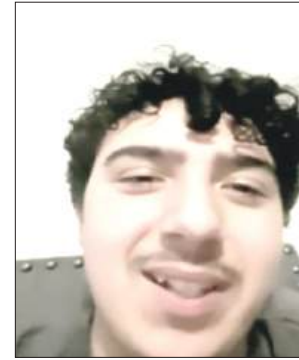
Dr. David Marshall, Associate Professor of Educational Research in the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology at Auburn University. Dr. Marshall began his career as a middle and high school teacher. He stressed that review of the literature indicates that implementation and consistency matters. "What our research shows is that bell-to-bell bans work, but implemen-



Kai Bwor. PHOTO: WWW.THEPLAIDPRESS.COM.

tation matters, and having clear expectations by teachers and administrators is necessary." He shared, "we surveyed teachers and even though some expressed some doubts that the policies would work; overall 84% supported the bans in their schools and 76% said they saw cell phones as a serious distraction in their classrooms."

Nicholas Torres, a recent high school graduate in Houston, Texas, shared, "I am against the phone ban because we need our phones for many reasons. During class they are tools, all assignments are online, we barely use the pencil, in case of emergencies it is essential also. I used my phone for gaming, guys are like that, we have less social interaction." When he was asked if cell phones contribute to or alleviate social isolation, he replied,



Nicholas Torres. PHOTO: NICHOLAS TORRES.

"the phone can be your best friend - group chats, texting with friends in class and out, etc." He had ban in his final year of High School. "My school wasn't that strict. If you get your work done, some teachers don't care. They wouldn't waste their time or effort to get the students to do their work. I already had a school laptop and would listen to music or play games even when I couldn't access my phone." When asked for a final 30-second sound bite, he said, "leave cell in your backpack, spend time with your family, the phone can wait, it's better to wait until the end of class, just use your phone during lunch."

Kai Tamsin Bwor is a senior at Grenada Hills Charter School in southern California. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of her school's student newspaper. "I was addicted to my phone. It

rewards my brain, flushes me with dopamine. Phones provide a sense of social connection. Social media forums are curated to get you to use their apps. They give you content that you like and so a reliance on my phone develops. My parents are strict, they constantly text wanting to know where I am due to violence and kidnapping."

In response to a question about self-esteem and body dysmorphia, she shared, "Apps have shaped how I view my looks and my body. Social media does not create these standards, but it amplifies them and contributes to my own insecurities. Eurocentric frameworks, lean figures, light skin are favored. I'm South Asian." When asked about her support for bans, she indicated, "Authoritarian styles are not desirable. I study AP Psychology, and I believe that the most effective approach is allowing phone use but with clear limits. We must learn to make responsible choices. Encouraging behavior change is the best way. We've all heard the expression; strict parents create sneaky kids."

This entire briefing can be viewed at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/do-cell-phone-bans-at-school-help-or-hurt-students>.

# The Power of Place: How Phillip Howard and the Legacy Places Initiative are fighting to conserve Black History

By Javacia Harris Bowser  
The Birmingham Times

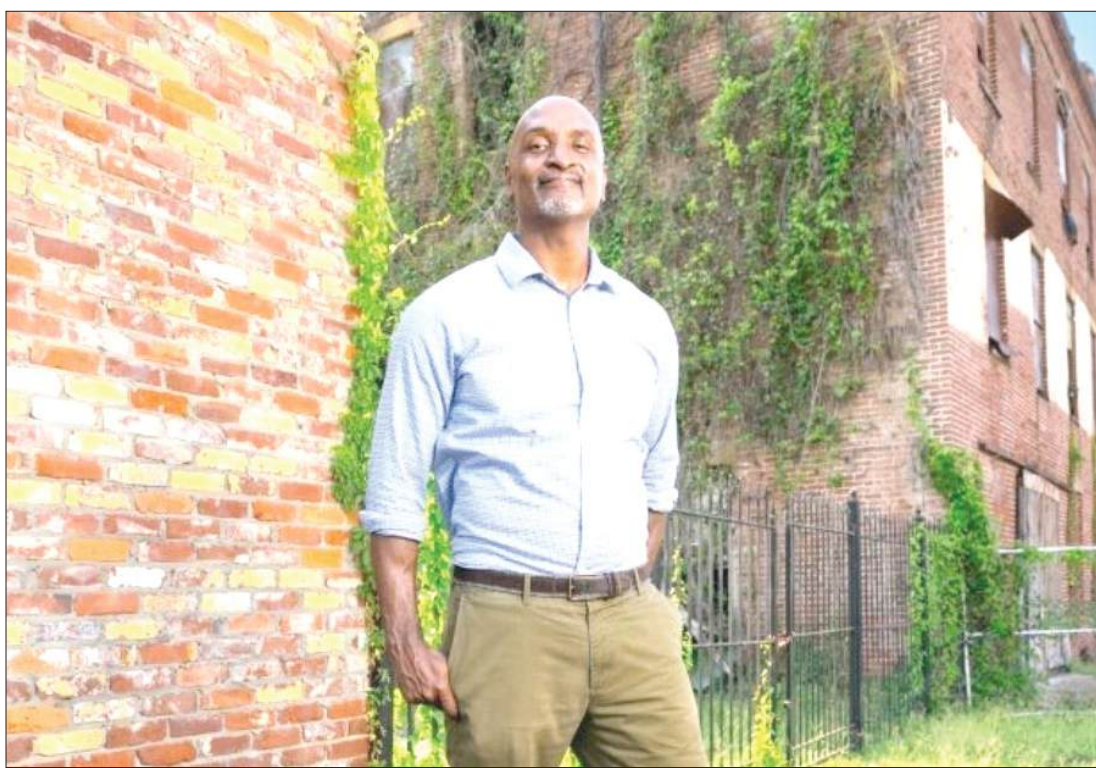
In 2025, the Edistone Hotel in Selma, Alabama, came close to being demolished.

Built in 1855, the hotel tells stories of tragedy and triumph. Before the Civil War, the site was the largest market for enslaved people in Dallas County. After the war, during Reconstruction, it housed the Freedmen's Bureau, a federal agency created by Congress to provide newly freed African Americans with essentials like food, clothing, and shelter. By the 1870s, the hotel's owner made the notable decision to welcome guests of all races and offer equal accommodation to all patrons.

The Edistone Hotel also sits just steps from the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where on March 7, 1965, more than 500 civil rights marchers were violently attacked while en route to Montgomery — a day remembered as Bloody Sunday.

Had it been destroyed, the building's history could have been lost as well. That's why The Conservation Fund stepped in to save the Edistone Hotel from the wrecking ball.

"It's unfathomable that the Edistone Hotel, a place so rich in American history, came so close to being lost forever," Phillip Howard, Director of the Legacy Places Initiative for The Conservation Fund, said in a statement after The Conservation Fund secured the property. "As the site of the Freedman's Bureau after the Civil War, you



Phillip Howard, Director of the Legacy Places Initiative for The Conservation Fund. JAY BRITAIN, PROVIDED

can imagine that the Edistone Hotel was one of the first places a formerly enslaved person in the South would have been treated like a human. By saving the Edistone Hotel, we're not just protecting the physical location. We're protecting the stories and legacies of all those that passed through its doors, or stood at this site, and are ensuring those stories live on as part of our shared American history."

Through the Legacy Places Initiative, The Conservation Fund works with local communities and partners to identify sites across the country tied to African American history that

are at risk of being forgotten, demolished, or developed in ways that ignore their history. The group focuses on sites linked to the civil rights movements of the South, areas along the Underground Railroad, and locations where Black American culture and art were created.

The Conservation Fund, through its Legacy Places Initiative, has worked to protect several other African American heritage sites, including the final home of famous author Zora Neale Hurston, the Freedom Riders National Monument in Anniston, and, more recently, the Ben Moore Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama. Built

in 1945, the Ben Moore Hotel hosted civil rights meetings and served as a safe space for lodging and socializing. On the first floor, the hotel housed Malden Brothers Barber Shop, which serviced many in the neighborhood, including its most famous customer, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"It's always important to conserve history."

With history exhibits and historical markers tied to Black culture being removed in areas across the nation, many now feel a sense of urgency about preserving African American heritage sites. But for Howard and others at The Conversation

Fund, this work has long been a top priority.

"I think it's always important to conserve history and preserve history," Howard told the Birmingham Times. "So, although there are challenges that are more pronounced now, I think for people in the space, it's always been a challenge, and there have always been obstacles. It seems like it's different, but the work has been going on. There have been great organizations leading in this space for years."

Along with securing funding, Howard said that coalition building is one of the hardest parts of his job.

"Historic sites that are on the same block sometimes don't even talk to each other about how they can work together, let alone across counties that share historical narratives and stories," Howard said. "As you can imagine, if everyone's going after the same funding, they're probably not going to be apt to work together."

But Howard believes collaboration is key, especially for rural sites with limited resources.

"We've been really intentional about building partnerships," he said.

Son of the Black Belt Howard, who served in the Marine Corps and worked at the Department of Justice as a Community Outreach Reentry Coordinator, joined The Conservation Fund in 2022.

"It just started with me wanting to understand history and

loving history," Howard said when asked how he became interested in his line of work. His love of history was inspired by the story of Charles Person, the youngest of the original Freedom Riders, and by his father, who was a World War II veteran.

"All of it is challenging, but it's also really fun," Howard said of his work, pointing out that building relationships with people who lived the history he enjoys learning about is a highlight of his job.

And as a native of Eutaw, Alabama, for Howard, this work is personal.

"I am a son of the Black Belt," he said.

But Howard believes that preserving legacy places should be important to everyone, regardless of where they call home.

"People who were a part of this history — looking particularly at the civil rights movement — they are passing," Howard said. "And so, it makes it even more significant. If we're losing the people who can tell us the stories and we lose the places where the stories happened, then anyone can rewrite history."

But Howard and The Conservation Fund are determined to preserve the truth.

Learn more about the Legacy Places Initiative of The Conservation Fund at [conservationfund.org/our-programs/legacy-places-initiative](https://conservationfund.org/our-programs/legacy-places-initiative).

# Is No Kings becoming a movement and will you be a part of it?

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



It is more than an assertion or an assumption that the United States of America is not faring well now. Regardless of your politics, you know America is in trouble. Factions have eroded us into being divided at every level. These are unprecedented times. We have so much negativity happening that it is almost overwhelming. I say this as a 4th quarter guy nearing overtime. I have witnessed a lot over my lifetime however this level of strife is new even to me.

Many of us were a part of the Civil Rights Movement. We

marched, been close to people with hoods over their faces and dogs that wanted to bite us.

We have a history of being marginalized and misunderstood. When it rains on some, it storms on others. Through it all, we have maintained our dignity and our self-respect. We haven't been broken by the pressures of unequal and unjust.

Our history is such that stilted and slanted laws didn't wilt us or destroy us. We didn't give in and we didn't give up. Our lives have been prideful and purposeful in every respect.

Civil Rights marches and protests gave future activists a platform and a model to follow. It is my opinion that many people who didn't understand the Civil Rights Movement now embrace

it.

Today, people see their rights and civil liberties taken from them. Each day there is a new law or executive mandate that eats at the very core of our democracy. Humanity has taken a back seat to tyranny and authoritarianism. Civility and decency have been replaced by rudeness and deceit.

Some kept waiting for a change, thinking it would get better. Well, it didn't and it won't be without us doing something about it.

Thus, the No Kings marches began. They started out with the demonstrated signs that democracy was no longer fundamental to our country's foundation. Organizers saw that our nation was becoming unhinged. The people

had to act to stop this economic and moral pain.

The initial No Kings protest was held on June 14, 2025. Reports show it was held on the current president's 79th birthday with a military parade held in his honor. Another No Kings demonstration was held on March 28th, just weeks ago.

Millions of people across America marched in solidarity decrying this administration's regulations and instant laws that penalize people and families. Many of us have taken part in these protests because we want change in America.

It is only when we stand up against men and women whose procedures and programs hurt Americans that there will be changes made. Over the past sev-

eral months, fear and trepidation have crept into our nation's consciousness. Promises have been deferred and hopes have been diminished. Questions are many but answers are few and vague.

No Kings protests have received financial support from foundations that include the Ford Foundation, NoVo Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation. On the ground and on-site organizers include The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Indivisible.

Researchers at the Government Accountability Institute say \$294,487,641.00 in funding grants from six major donors have supported No Kings marches and protests.

Noteworthy speakers at the

No Kings rallies have included Robert DeNiro, Letitia James, Chelsia Rice, Bruce Springsteen, Cliff Albright and Bernie Sanders. These names represent just a small sampling of people who have spoken out about this current form of government. They all realize the problems our country is facing today.

No Kings marches will continue to be a movement for all who believe the quality of our lives is important. There have been protests at over 3,300 locations and there will be more of them. That is my opinion as we get closer to the midterm elections.

Every day of every week we must be resolute in knowing that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. No Kings reside here.

# The 'Tipped Wage' is a Legacy of Slavery. Chicago is right to end it.

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



The subminimum wage for tipped workers is a legacy of slavery.

After the Civil War, many employers in hospitality and rail service hired newly freed Black workers into jobs where tips often replaced wages. Tips became, for too many workers, the wage itself. That injustice still lives on today in the form of a lower minimum wage for tipped workers.

We should call that system what it is: an old injustice that never ended.

Today, it does not just hurt Black workers. It hurts tipped workers of every race. It leaves millions of people with unstable incomes. Too many workers finish a shift without knowing whether they earned enough to cover rent, groceries, or childcare.

It also leaves workers more vulnerable to harassment. When your livelihood depends on pleasing the customer in front of you, even when that customer is drunk, crude, or predatory, the power imbalance is obvious. No worker should have to put up with humiliation to earn enough to live.

No decent society should accept that as normal.

Yet for decades, the corporate restaurant lobby has fought to pre-

serve exactly that arrangement. Its argument is always the same: pay workers fairly and the industry will suffer. But what it is really defending is a business model built on paying some workers less and making customers close the gap.

Chicago is right to reject that model.

Today, tipped workers in Chicago can still be paid \$12.62 an hour before tips, while the full city minimum wage is \$16.60. The city's 2023 law was designed to close that gap over time, ending the tip credit by July 1, 2028. And when the City Council moved last month to freeze that progress, Mayor Brandon Johnson vetoed the measure and fought to keep the phaseout in place.

He deserves credit for that. Because this fight is bigger than restaurants.

We are living through twin crises of affordability and democracy. The first shows up at the kitchen table. Rent is too high. Groceries are too high. Childcare is too high. Too many families work hard and still cannot get ahead. The second shows up in the growing number of working people who no longer believe democracy can improve their lives.

Those crises are connected.

When government moves quickly to protect loopholes for powerful interests and slowly to raise wages for working people, faith in democ-

racy erodes. People start to believe the system is rigged because too often it is. But when leaders stand up to lobbyists and fight for the people who do the work, democracy starts to feel real again.

That is why this matters. The issue here is dignity. It is whether a woman serving your dinner should have to tolerate harassment to make enough to buy groceries. It is whether a man working a late shift should have to wonder if a weak night in tips means his child goes without. It is whether labor will be respected in this country or merely used.

A tip should be what it was always supposed to be: extra. It should not be an employer's excuse not to pay a real wage.

And the principle should not stop with tipped workers. In a country as rich as ours, the minimum wage should be a living wage, with no carveouts, no loopholes, and no second-class categories of worker.

Chicago has a chance to say something to the nation: work has dignity, and every worker deserves a full wage.

Mayor Johnson is right to keep fighting. Now the city should finish the job.

*Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former National President & CEO of the NAACP.*

# A good healthy marriage can extend your life

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



Many, if not most, have been taught since primary school years that eating healthily, exercising, and abstaining from substance abuse can extend one's life. Further, spiritually many were taught that obedience and honor to your parents also extend one's life. Lastly, more recently scientific and medical research has revealed that adhering to diets like the Mediterranean Diet can extend your life up to 14%. These facts are true. However, did you know that being happily married can help extend your life too?

University of Chicago sociologist Linda Waite stated that a good marriage is both men's and women's best bet for living a long and healthy life. How amazing is that? Marriage, a healthy marriage, provides health benefits for both spouses.

On the other hand, unmarried individuals are less likely to have a healthy and long life. UCLA Professor Robert Coombs found, "Virtually every study of mortality and marital status shows the unmarried of both sexes have higher death rates, whether by accident, disease, or self-inflicted wounds, and this is found in every country that maintains accurate health statistics.

Healthy marriages are associated with various benefits that promote positive stability and general welfare for both spouses.

According to Family facts, marriage is linked to health and economic benefits, and married individuals tend to have:

- better physical health
- psychological well-being
- lower mortality risk
- financially, married men tend to earn more
- married women are less likely to fall into poverty
- Marriage is also linked to greater wealth accumulation

A healthy marriage can certainly help determine how long you live. Robert M. Kaplan and Richard G. Kronick, "Marital status and longevity in the United States population," *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 60 (2006): concludes that many studies have shown that married adults have a greater likelihood of living longer than their unmarried counterparts. According to *Focused on the Family*, married people live longer because they are more likely to enjoy better physical health. "The various ways marriage protects the health of married adults run the gamut, The protective influence of marriage applies not only to more minor illnesses like colds, flu, and migraine headaches but also to serious health issues like cancer, heart disease, and heart attacks – as well as the need for any kind of surgery: Janice K. Kiecolt-Glaser and Ta-

mara L. Newton, "Marriage and Health: His and Hers," *Psychological Bulletin* 127 (2001): 472-503.

Many married couples, especially those who are happy with one another tend to make better decisions as it relates to taking care of their health. According to consistent reports up to 2026 from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), married people are less likely to smoke or drink heavily than people who are single, divorced or widowed. These sorts of lifestyle choices are associated with lower rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory diseases.

Authors, Ross, Mirowsky, and Goldstein, reveals in their research, "The Impact of the Family on Health, The Decade in Review that a healthy marriage is also contributed to helping spouses cope with various illnesses. "Researchers found emotional support from a spouse can help people recover from both minor and major illnesses and even help cope with chronic diseases." "Some studies even suggest that marital relationships actually boost the immune system, making sickness less likely in the first place." "Social Ties and Susceptibility to the Common Cold," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 277 (1997): 1940-44. Married men and women also have less likelihood of developing any form of mental illness.

"A 1991 study of the mental health in America found that married people have significantly lower rates of severe depression and at least half the likelihood of developing any psychiatric disorder then never-married, cohabiting and divorced people" (Robins & Regier 1991).

If a good, healthy marriage can extend your life – I wonder how an unhappy and toxic marriage can impact one's health and lifespan (this is another article for another day). All in all, a healthy marriage is overall rewarding and very beneficial for economic purposes, health purposes, and longevity. Therefore, why not invest in creating a healthy, happy, and loving marriage daily? Invest the following in your marriage: consistently pray together and for each other, spend quality time together, build trust, communicate, forgive, show appreciation, date, compromise, quench your spouse thirst intimately, have fun with each other, and create new memories with one another. Be intentional about loving your spouse and fight for your marriage daily because a good healthy marriage can extend your life.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstaytogether4eva (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email: letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

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## AUCTION FOR CITY OF JACKSON ABANDONED, STOLEN, SEIZED VEHICLES, EVIDENCE, AND RECOVERED PROPERTY

To all interested parties, known and unknown, Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at <https://marketplace.atura.com/auctions/jac-ms/> on April 28 at 10:00 am

A list and description of abandoned/unclaimed vehicles will be posted pursuant to statutory requirements in the following locations:

Hinds County Court House  
Hinds Country Chancery Court Building

Jackson City Hall/City Clerk's Office" (4/3/2026)

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8871904 • 2003/NISSAN/ XTERRA/GREEN • 5N1ED28T43C634608

8871928 • 2006/HARLEY - DAVIDSON/OTHER/BLACK • 1HD4CAM116K427541

8872180 • 2008/BMW/ OTHER/WHITE • WBANW13588CZ84667

8872184 • 2017/CHEVROLET/ SILVERADO/SILVER • 1GCRCREC2HZ178294

8872202 • 2015/ CHEVROLET/SONIC/BLUE • 1G1JC5SH0F4140491

8872225 • 1987/NISSAN/300ZX/ GRAY • JN1HZ14S5HX215762

8872267 • 2012/HONDA/CIVIC/ BLUE • 2HGFG3B87CH521258

8872287 • 2017/CADILLAC/ OTHER/BLACK • 2G61M5S36H9160319

8872288 • 2024/MITSUBISHI/ OUTLANDER SPORT/ORANGE • JA4ARUUAU2RU023332

8872293 • 2010/NISSAN/ ALTIMA/BLACK • 1N4AL2AP5AN510034

8872315 • 2011/HONDA/PILOT/ GOLD • 5FN9YF3H41BB054258

8872337 • 2006/FORD/ EXPLORER/BLUE • 1FMEU64E96UB64976

8872341 • 2004/FORD/F150/ BLACK • 1FTPX14564FA08533

8872361 • 1994/ CHEVROLET/BLAZER/RED • 1GNEK18K4RJ380552

8872362 • 2020/CHEVROLET/ EQUINOX/BLACK • 2GNAXKEV8L6166379

8872370 • 2016/KIA/FORTE/ BLACK • KNAFK4A68G5513246

8872394 • 2007/ PONTIAC/OTHER/BLUE • 1G2AL15F977283454

8872408 • 2007/NISSAN/ MURANO/WHITE • JN8AZ08W47W639934

8872413 • 2005/CHEVROLET/ AVALANCHE/SILVER • 3GNEC12ZX5G129128

8872438 • 1981/CHEVROLET/ OTHER/ORANGE • 1GCC14H7BJ165292

8872445 • 2016/NISSAN/ ALTIMA/GRAY • 1N4AL3AP9GC166735

8872448 • 2014/CHRYSLER/300/ SILVER • 2C3CCAET3EH169739

8872457 • 2006/FORD/FOCUS/ GOLD • 1FAFP34N46W131022

8872476 • 2021/CHEVROLET/ EQUINOX/WHITE • 3GNAXKEV2MS151945

8872508 • 2007/FORD/ EXPEDITION MAX/WHITE • 1FMFK15557LA69561

8879580 • 2018/HONDA/ OTHER/GREEN • JH2SC7711JK100399

8890120 • 2011/CHEVROLET/ TAHOE/WHITE • 1GNSCCE00BR202417

8890134 • 1999/CHEVROLET/ TAHOE/SILVER • 1GNEC13R0XJ361141

WHITE • KNDJN2A25E7010958

8890869 • 2014/ACURA/RDX/ GRAY • 5J8TB3H34EL008858

8890957 • 2009/FORD/TAURUS/ BLACK • 1FAHP25W09G121399

8903039 • -/OTHER-NOT FOUND/OTHER/BLACK • LWGPCML04AK110491

8903054 • 2005/CHEVROLET/ COBALT/BLACK • 1G1AL52F657591114

8903064 • 2019/NISSAN/ ALTIMA/SILVER • 1N4BL4CV3KC148925

8903077 • 2000/NISSAN/ MAXIMA/WHITE • JN1CA31D8YT733908

8903092 • 2003/TOYOTA/ LAND CRUIS/GRAY • JTEHT05J032044290

8907015 • 2014/HYUNDAI/ SANTA FE/WHITE • KM8SRDHF7EU081962

8909643 • 2010/DODGE/ CHARGER/RED • 2B3CA3CV9AH242268

8912310 • 2017/mini-bike/red • LWGPCML08HA041653

8912317 • 2015/mini-bike/red • LWGPCML09FA010117

8912327 • 2017/ MINI-BIKE/WHITE • LWGPCML21HA084488

8912332 • 2020/mini-bike/red • LWGPCGLC5LA121724

8912352 • 2020/mini-bike/red • LWGPCMLC0LA067473

8922884 • 2005/FORD/ FIVE HUNDRED/BLACK • 1FAFP24175G112660

8922899 • 1999/MERCEDES/M CLASS/SILVER • 4JGAB72E2XA087528

8922922 • 2015/CHEVROLET/ SILVERADO/WHITE • 1GC2KUEG0FZ537066

8925847 • 2004/JEEP/ GRAND CHER/BLACK • 1J4GX58S14C143860C160

8932876 • 2013/HYUNDAI/ SONATA/SILVER • 5NPEB4AC3DH698953

8945694 • 2013/CHEVROLET/ MALIBU/WHITE • 1G11F5RR7DF109858

8952685 • 2011/GMC/TERRAIN/ BLACK • 2CTALSEC8B6234153

8956215 • 2004/TOYOTA/ SIENNA/WHITE • 5TDZA23C04S014263

8959810 • 2014/NISSAN/ ALTIMA/SILVER • 1N4AL3AP3EC149443

8972459 • 2003/ TOYOTA/TUNDRA/RED • 5TBRT34103S422816

8975771 • 2002/MERCEDES/C CLASS/WHITE • WDBRF61J52F187668

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NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Jackson will receive unpriced proposals for prequalification until 10:00 AM on April 23, 2026, for furnishing the City of Jackson's requirements for the following:

THREE (3) COMPACT TRACK LOADERS

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

Unpriced proposals shall be submitted through the bid site. Responses will be reviewed and vendors meeting the requirements in the bid package will be invited to participate in the online reverse auction, which will be held on April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Pricing will only be received by approved bidders through the online reverse auction.

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

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

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole by the City of Jackson. This procurement will be subject to the provisions of Section 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

ONE (1) COMPACT EXCAVATOR

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

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

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

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

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in whole by the City of Jackson. This procurement will be subject to the provisions of Section 31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

4/9/2026, 4/16/2026

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT HOLMES COUNTY

Evelyn Johnson Timms

PLAINTIFF

VS.

Eddie Timms

DEFENDANT

24-0031

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, 2026.

Charles Lubell, Chancery Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_ J.C.



4/9/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS City of Jackson Jackson, Mississippi

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

RFP #: 92688-042826 Compliance Assistance for The City's Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System(MS4) Focusing on the illicit discharge and elimination program and the ambient monitoring program

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONSBIDS.COM

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

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

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

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

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

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 March, 2026.



EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

BY: P.N. Atkins

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

4/2/2026, 4/9/2026

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P R E S E R V E D

## Lessons of Sisterhood from The Woman King

### Part 2

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“Do not give away your power.” This is just one of the thought-provoking lines from the 2022 box office hit *The Woman King*. These words were spoken by Izogie, one of the veteran agojie warriors to one of newest warrior trainees, Nawi. From the beginning of her entrance into the training program, Izogie takes the time to answer questions that Nawi asks, and she also teaches her lessons about how to survive life on and off the battlefield. In this instance, Izogie was warning Nawi about how love, especially if it becomes a distraction, can put you in a position where you give away your emotional and mental power. The first time I saw *The Woman King*, I didn’t grasp the depth of that line. I ad-

mit that I was so in awe of the battlefield scenes that I didn’t realize until after I saw the movie the second time the power of the movie’s dialogue. I don’t necessarily want to do a movie review as there are many people who have already provided their thoughts about how *The Woman King* excels as a piece of cinematic art. However, the aunt and scholar in me wants to look at it from the from the auntastic perspective and study how the movie shows the intersections of strength and sisterhood.

For starters, the movie depicted the power and strength of the black woman. This was shown when the agojie return victoriously from battle. The people in Dahomey were instructed not to look at the female warriors as they walked back to the palace as a sign of respect. In another scene, Nanisca (Viola Davis) is called dirty, and battle worn by one

of King Ghezo’s younger and attractive wives. Instead of allowing this difference to become a superficial focus of the movie with Nanisca focusing on her own external appearance, she remains focused on being a strategic military leader. In doing so, the movie emphasizes how the inner strength and strategic intelligence of a woman can be more influential and attractive than her outward beauty.

On a more basic level, *The Woman King* illustrated how the depth of transformation that comes with compassionate mentoring. It wasn’t easy because Nawi was one of the newest recruits and was headstrong. She was constantly being corrected by Nanisca and Izogie for trying to do things on her own and not listening to her older more experienced female mentors. She finally gets the lesson at the end about the importance of sisterhood.

As an aunt, I appreciated how the movie showed the women were intentional about creating a welcoming, safe but challenging community that demanded the best from each woman whether she was a trainee or whether she was a veteran warrior. Izogie reminded Nawi often that she was a part of sisterhood with rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Even though the agojie were single and childless by choice, the movie was a compelling visual demonstration of the importance of being teachable and self-controlled from Titus 2:3-5

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

## The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and America 250 join forces



New Horizon Ministries, Inc. in Service to Neighbors in Need

Food from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints celebrating service through America250 arrived at New Horizon Ministries, Inc. in Jackson. Approximately “40,000” pounds of shelf-stable food will help neighbors facing food insecurity.

The delivery is part of a nationwide effort in which the Church is sending 250 truckloads of food to 250 food banks across all 50 states as the United States prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America250 is a nonpartisan congressional commission inviting Americans to mark this milestone through remembrance, reflection and service.

Rosie Rios, chair of America250 and former U.S. Treasurer, shared at the press conference announcing the food and service initiative with the Church. “This is truly a historic moment for all of us ... a moment of unity, not just independence,” noting the important role that faith communities play in serving those in need.

Locally, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Jackson, MS said the delivery reflects a shared desire to care for neighbors in practical, nonpartisan ways.

“We take seriously the admonition of our Savior Jesus Christ when He taught the two great commandments, to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We seek opportunities to work together with our brothers and sisters from other faith traditions as we reach out to those in need. Together, we can build bridges in the community as we work to make the greater Jackson area a better place.” said President Marc Richardson, regional leader of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Jackson.

New Horizon Ministries, Inc. serves individuals and families throughout the Jackson, MS and surrounding areas, providing food and clothing distributions, as well as disaster relief to those in need. Leaders of the organization expressed

gratitude for the timing of the donation.

“During these times of economic instability across our country, collaborations matter. We are glad to be able to collaborate with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to help bring food and other signs of hope to individuals who are struggling with food insecurity and other financial barriers. Together we can make a difference in the lives of the people in our community, city and state,” said State Representative Ronnie Crudup Jr., District 71, with New Horizon Ministries, Inc.

Each America250 truckload includes a variety of shelf-stable foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, flour, pancake mix and dried milk. Most of the commodities are produced by the Church and funded by voluntary donations from its members.

The community is invited to find additional ways to serve by visiting JustServe.org, a free community service platform that connects volunteers with local nonprofit organizations, including New Horizon Church and others in the area.

Service Project Schedule:

- April 16, 2026 – 9:30 am - Truck Delivery
- April 17, 2026 – 9:00 am – Just-Serve Project – Bagging food
- April 24, 2026 – 9:00 am – Just-Serve Project – Bagging Food
- April 25, 2026 – 9:00 am – Just-Serve Project – Food Distribution to Community

About The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a worldwide faith of over 17 million members. The Church has over 31,000 congregations in more than 188 languages. It also operates several universities; a religious education program for youth and young adults with enrollments of more than 400,000 around the world; FamilySearch, the world’s largest genealogical organization; and a vast humanitarian aid program that provides over \$1 billion annually in worldwide relief. There are 22,189 Church members that attend 49 congregations in Mississippi.*


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# Olive Oil

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

Olive oil is one of the oldest foods in the world, yet many people still do not know much about it. We see bottles of it on store shelves. We hear cooks talk about it on TV. We read that it is “hearthealthy.” But what does that really mean? Why do doctors and nutrition experts say olive oil is good for us? And how can we choose the right kind when there are so many types and prices?

Olive oil comes from olives, which are small fruits that grow on olive trees. These trees grow mostly in warm places like Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey and parts of California. Farmers pick the olives, wash them and crush them to squeeze out the oil. The less the olives are processed, the healthier the oil tends to be.

There are three main types of olive oil:

- **Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO):** This is the highest quality oil. It comes from the first pressing of the olives and is not heated or treated with chemicals. It has the most flavor and the most nutrients.

- **Virgin Olive Oil:** This oil is still natural but may come from later pressings. It has a milder taste.

- **Regular or “Pure” Olive Oil:** This oil is processed and sometimes mixed with other oils. It has a lighter flavor and fewer nutrients.

When you hear health experts talk about the benefits of olive oil, they are usually talking about extra virgin olive oil because it has the most antioxidants and healthy fats.

Olive oil is known for helping the heart, but its benefits go far beyond that. Scientists have studied olive oil for many years and the results are impressive.

1. **It Helps Protect Your Heart**  
Extra virgin olive oil is rich in



monounsaturated fats, which are healthier than the saturated fats found in butter or lard. These fats can help lower “bad” cholesterol (LDL) and raise “good” cholesterol (HDL). This balance helps keep your arteries clear and reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Studies also show that olive oil has anti-inflammatory effects. Inflammation is one of the main causes of heart disease. By reducing inflammation, olive oil helps protect the heart over time.

2. **It Contains Antioxidants**  
Antioxidants are natural chemicals that protect your cells from damage. Extra virgin olive oil is full of them. These antioxidants help fight diseases, slow aging and support your immune system.

One important antioxidant in olive oil is called oleocanthal. It works a little like ibuprofen, helping reduce swelling and pain in the body.

3. **It Supports Brain Health**  
Some research suggests that olive

oil may help protect the brain as we age. People who eat olive oil regularly may have a lower risk of memory problems and diseases like Alzheimer’s. Scientists believe this is because olive oil reduces inflammation and protects brain cells from damage.

4. **It Helps Control Blood Sugar**  
Olive oil may help keep blood sugar levels steady. This is especially helpful for people with diabetes or those trying to prevent it. When used in place of butter or heavy sauces, olive oil can make meals healthier without losing flavor.

5. **It May Help With Weight Control**  
Even though olive oil is a fat, it can still help with weight control when used wisely. Healthy fats help you feel full longer, which can prevent overeating. People who follow the Mediterranean diet which is a diet rich in olive oil, vegetables, fruits and whole grains tend to have healthier body weights.

**How to Choose the Right Olive Oil**  
Walking down the olive oil aisle can feel overwhelming. There are dozens of brands, colors and prices. Here are simple tips to help you choose wisely:

Look for “Extra Virgin” on the Label

This is the healthiest and most natural type. If the label says “light,” “pure,” or “refined,” it means the oil has been processed and may not have the same benefits.

**Check the Bottle Color**  
Olive oil should be stored in dark bottles of green or brown glass. Light can damage the oil and make it spoil faster.

**Look for a Harvest Date**  
Good olive oil brands list the harvest date or “pressed on” date. Fresher oil has better flavor and more nutrients.

**Don’t Be Fooled by Fancy Words**  
Words like “premium,” “classic” or “coldpressed” do not always mean the

oil is high quality. Focus on “extra virgin” and freshness.

**Price Matters, but Not Too Much**  
High quality olive oil can be expensive, but you don’t need the most expensive bottle to get health benefits. A midpriced extra virgin olive oil is usually a good choice for everyday cooking.

**How to Use Olive Oil in Everyday Cooking**  
One of the best things about olive oil is how easy it is to use. You can add it to almost any meal.

**Use It for Sautéing and Roasting**  
Olive oil works well for cooking vegetables, chicken, fish and even eggs. It adds flavor without making food heavy.

**Use It in Salads**  
A simple dressing made from olive oil, lemon juice and a little salt is healthier than bottled dressings, which often contain a lot of preservatives.

**Use It on Bread Instead of Butter**  
Dipping bread in olive oil is a tasty and healthier alternative to spreading butter.

**Use It to Add Flavor**  
Drizzle olive oil over cooked vegetables, pasta or soups. A small amount can make a big difference in taste.

**Use It for Baking**  
Some recipes allow you to replace butter with olive oil. This can make baked goods lighter and healthier.

**How Olive Oil Fits Into a Healthy Lifestyle**

Olive oil is not a magic cure but it is a powerful part of a healthy diet. It works best when combined with:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Whole grains
- Lean proteins like fish and chicken
- Nuts and seeds
- Plenty of water
- Regular physical activity

This style of eating is known as the Mediterranean diet and it is one of the

most studied and recommended diets in the world.

There are many myths about olive oil. Let’s clear up a few:

- “You can’t cook with extra virgin olive oil.”

Not true. You can cook with it at normal temperatures used for sautéing and roasting.

- “Olive oil makes you gain weight.”

Olive oil has calories, but when used in moderation, it can help control weight.

- “All olive oils are the same.”

They are not. Extra virgin olive oil has more nutrients and flavor than processed oils.

- “If the oil is green, it’s better.”

Color does not always show quality. Taste and freshness matter more.

**Bringing Olive Oil Into Your Home**

If you want to start using olive oil more often, begin with small steps:

- Replace butter with olive oil a few times a week.

- Make your own salad dressings.

- Try roasting vegetables with olive oil and herbs.

- Keep a bottle on your counter where you can reach it easily.

Over time, these small changes can add up to better heart health, better digestion, and better flavor in your meals.

Olive oil is more than just a cooking ingredient. It is a simple, natural food that has been used for thousands of years. Today, science confirms what ancient cultures already knew, olive oil is good for the body and good for longterm health.

By choosing extra virgin olive oil and using it in everyday meals, you can take an easy step toward a healthier lifestyle. Whether you drizzle it on a salad, cook with it or dip bread into it, olive oil can help you protect your heart, support your brain and enjoy your food more.

## Prioritize smoke and carbon monoxide alarms during your spring clean

StatePoint

Spring is the perfect time for a home refresh! While dusting the ceiling fan and scrubbing the tub are likely already on your to-do list, the most essential task of all may not be on your radar: cleaning and testing your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. A fresh home is great, but a safe one is even better. Did you know that working smoke alarms in the home doubles your chances of safely escaping a house fire? That’s according to the National Fire Protection Association. This spring, Kidde, a pioneer in early smoke detection for over 100 years, is highlighting the importance of keeping your smoke and CO alarms up to date. Here’s what they want you to know:

- Install devices throughout the house, on every level including the living room, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, basement and garage. It’s also a good idea to keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen, basement, laundry room and garage.

- Smoke and CO devices aren’t just plastic boxes – they’re sophisticated mini-computers. Their sensors and circuits constantly analyze air particles, and like any computer, dust and neglect can inhibit their functionality. Clean your alarms this spring, and regularly after that, to help prevent false alarms. Use compressed air or a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush to clean the vents, and then wipe the device with a dry microfiber cloth.
- Smoke and CO alarms are



Fast, precise smoke detection offers more time to react and get to safety

electronic devices with sensors and circuits that wear out over time. It’s recommended to replace them every 5 to 10 years depending on the model. You can determine whether it’s time to replace or upgrade your alarms by looking at the manufacturing date. Be sure to opt for self-testing devices that help ensure the alarms are operating as expected, like the Kidde Smoke Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered or the Combo Smoke CO Alarm, 10-Year Battery Powered, which last a full decade. Kidde’s Detect line of devices offer revolutionary technology that provides fast, precise smoke detection, giving individuals and families more time to react and get to safety. The line also prioritizes enhanced sensing

technology, which helps to reduce those nuisance alarms that can lead to consumers disabling their devices.

Remember, a self-testing device is not a substitute for a manual push test. No matter what style devices you have in your home, be sure to take time this spring to manually test them, and then monthly after that.

More information about fire and CO safety can be found by visiting <https://www.kidde.com>.

“A happy, healthy home starts with safety. Make sure your fire and carbon monoxide detectors are part of your seasonal refresh routine: clean them, test them, and replace any units that have reached their limit,” says Isis Wu, president of Global Residential Fire & Safety at Kidde.

## Ten doctor-recommended tips for a healthier you

StatePoint

The American Medical Association (AMA) is offering Americans 10 evidence-based tips for staying healthy long-term:

- **Get health screenings:** Schedule preventive visits, tests and screenings so your physician can catch conditions before they become more serious.

- **Manage stress:** Mental health is part of overall health. Techniques such as meditation, deep breathing and yoga can help reduce stress. Ask for help from a mental health professional when you need it.

- **Be physically active:** Start the year off by prioritizing physical activity. Strive for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity each week. If you have a sedentary lifestyle or primarily sit for long stretches at work, build in frequent breaks to stretch and move throughout your day.
- **Follow a healthy diet:** Drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages and eat nutritious, whole foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, low-fat dairy products and lean proteins. Avoid unhealthy ultra-processed foods, especially those with high levels of added sodium, saturated fats and sugar. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juice, is associated with a higher mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open.

- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water or other beverages composed mostly of water,



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

such as milk or herbal tea, to avoid dehydration and to keep your body functioning properly. Even mild dehydration can drain your energy and make you tired. Adult men should get about 15.5 cups of fluids a day and women should get 11.5 cups, according to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

- **Get plenty of good sleep:** To maintain your health and emotional well-being, most adults need 7 to 9 hours of quality sleep. Rest helps boost immunity and improve mental clarity.

- **Update vaccinations:** Vaccinations remain the best defense against flu and other serious respiratory viruses. Since significant flu activity can stretch into May, it’s not too late to get a flu shot. The AMA recommends vaccination as long as the threat of flu remains. Talk with your physician or other health care professional to determine which vaccines are right for you. To cut through vaccine confusion and have open, honest conversations with your physician, first go to the AMA website for evidence-based information. For help finding a flu vaccine in

your area, visit [GetMyFluShot.org](https://www.getmyflushot.org).

- **Drink in moderation:** If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines: up to one drink per day for women and two drinks for men, and only for adults of legal drinking age.

- **Quit tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarettes:** Ask your doctor or health care professional for resources and guidance to help quit smoking, vaping or using other nicotine products. Make your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

- **Follow medication directions:** When taking prescriptions, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover medication. If you’re prescribed antibiotics, complete the full course to prevent antibiotic resistance.

For more health tips and resources visit [ama-assn.org](https://www.ama-assn.org).

“Refocus on the healthy choices you want to make,” said AMA president Dr. Bobby Mukkamala. “Even tiny changes now can snowball into major gains for your long-term health.”

## Lifting as we climb

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Mary Church Terrell Literary Club held its 22nd Annual Literary Luncheon Saturday, April 4, 2026, 12:00 PM at the Westin Hotel in Jackson. For over two decades, this event has supported scholarships for Jackson Public School District seniors and funded meaningful community outreach project throughout the year.

The guest speaker for the occasion was distinguished novelist, short story writer, educator, and social justice advocate, Dr. Sanderia Faye. She is the author of "Mourner's Bench." The theme for the occasion was "Lifting as We Climb."



## Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® hosts A Pretty Girl's Day Out

The Mississippi Link Newswire

For more than 118 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® has been dedicated to helping alleviate problems concerning girls and women. Continuing that legacy, the Rho Lambda Omega Chapter hosted A Pretty Girl's Day Out March 28. The event brought together 111 women for a day of wellness, self-care, and service.

Held at The Ivy Pointe, the event featured a guided candlelight meditation and an intimate fireside chat titled Be at Peace... Not in Pieces. Panelists included Maya Morris, a certified yoga and meditation instructor with Split Rebel Yoga, and Dr. Shalonda Carliese, a licensed clinical social worker with Carlisle Counseling and Consulting Services LLC. The discussion focused on building healthy coping skills, setting boundaries, and maintaining balance in daily life. Attendees were encouraged to prioritize their well-being and explore practices that promote inner peace. The day also included self-care vendors offering products such as candles, body butter, matcha, and waist beads.

While the event was free and open to the public, participants were asked to bring donations of diapers, wipes, or period products. The chapter collected 1,700 diapers, 114 packages of baby wipes, 1,817 pads, 567 tampons, 680 liners, and 1,542 feminine wipers. These contributions will help meet a growing need for basic necessities. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, nearly half of U.S. families with young children experience diaper need, and Brookings Institution data highlights significant disparities in access to period



RLO members Jennie Hall, chapter president, Dawn Magee, and Cecelia Bass present Jayla McElroy with products collected during A Pretty Girl's Day Out.

products. The donations were distributed to the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health's Baby Depot program and The P.U.P.A. Project to women and families across Mississippi.

A Pretty Girl's Day Out is a signature event of the Rho Lambda Omega Chapter, created to promote the well-being of women throughout the Metro Jackson area.



Dr. Jameshya Ballard participates in a guided meditation.



RLO member Jennie Hall displays diapers and wipes collected for the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health's Baby Depot.

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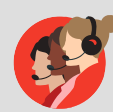
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The event takes place in the parking lot.

**For more information or to register, visit [aarp.org/ms](http://aarp.org/ms)**

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## Educator Kenneth Carter empowers students to build college and career readiness for real-world applications

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



Carter

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) Personal Project was designed by the International Baccalaureate Organization. This institution challenges tenth grade students around the globe to bring years of learning into a structured work of interest that encourages them to be responsible for time management, application of skills across subjects, and reflection on their progress. Through topic exploration, students can create a meaningful product or outcome.

Twenty-two 10th grade students at Jim Hill High School (2185 Coach Fred Harris Street, Jackson, MS 39204) delivered their 10-minute IB MYP Personal Project Presentations before judges Wednesday, April 1, 2026, across morning and afternoon sessions. Judges used evaluative scoring based upon a standardized rubric aligned with IB criteria and presentation skills. During this noncompetitive process, each student engaged in a 5-minute question/answer session following her/his presentation.

Judges were as follows: Dr. Mark G. Henderson; Dr. Janice K. Neal-Vincent; Dr. Linda Smith (former IB MYP Coordinator); Dr. Jessica Johnson; Nicole Dobbins (Assistant Principal); Tamika Harris (Cheer Army Coach and Track and Field); Derrick Truss Jr.; Darius D. Brown; Pamala Moody; and Jessica Lewis. Students were open to the judges' encouragement and constructive criticism. In essence, they expressed that they were grateful for having endured the work for their projects' outcomes.

Kenneth Carter, IB MYP Personal Project Supervisor, Theatre Teacher, and Director of Performing Arts at Jim Hill High School, has taught at the school since July, 2025. He specified that the students (typically in the 10th grade/year 5, their final year of the MYP) independently explore their topics via Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills: in-depth research, self-management, communication, and critical thinking.

Bobby D. Brown is the principal of Jim Hill High School. The experienced administrator is dedicated to his staff and students. His educational leadership spans across several Mississippi districts. The leader previously served as an assistant superintendent in the Pass Christian public school system and held principalships in Natchez-Adams and North Bolivar.

Preparative time for the projects was long-term, spanning

several months. Seven critical things happened during these months. Students (1) identified and refined their project topics; (2) conducted research and gathered sources; (3) developed action plans and timelines; (4) created their final products; (5) participated in multiple supervisor meetings with at least three required checkpoints; (6) drafted and revised their final reports in Modern Language Association (MLA) format; and (7) designed and practiced their presentations.

Because there was a structured timeframe, students had no time for learning fatigue and procrastination. Carter asserted that deadlines were crucial for their success. Presentation slides were submitted in February. Final reports were turned in shortly thereafter. Early in April was a structured presentation day. "This extended timeline allowed students to experience authentic project-based learning, including setbacks, revisions, and growth," voiced Carter.

This academic exercise was not meant for learning only at the high school level. It prepared students additionally for what lies ahead. Building college and career readiness became apparent while strengthening time management, problem-solving, academic writing, and presentation delivery. Students also were empowered to apply their learning to real-world applications: fostering ownership, having leadership roles, having confidence, and intellectual independence.

Bobby D. Brown is the principal of Jim Hill High School. The experienced administrator is dedicated to his staff and students. His educational leadership spans across several Mississippi districts. The leader previously served as an assistant superintendent in the Pass Christian public school system and held principalships in Natchez-Adams and North Bolivar.

## JPS Celebrates the partnerships that power our schools

The JPS Newswire

It was a morning filled with gratitude, reflection, and a shared sense of purpose as Jackson Public Schools honored its community partners during the 2025-2026 Highlight Awards Celebration.

At the heart of the event were the Anniversary Awards, recognizing school adopters and partners who have stood with JPS schools year after year. Some partnerships have lasted decades, a powerful reminder that when a community commits to its children, the impact can span generations.

Jackson Mayor John Hornh shared a moment of reflection, wondering where he might be if not for teachers who cared enough to pour into him. The message stuck because it's the kind of impact you don't always see right away, but it lasts.

"These partnerships are the foundation of our success," said Superintendent Dr. Errick L. Greene. "When we link arms, we multiply our impact. When we move together, we transform communities."

From 5-year milestones to an incredible 45-year partnership, each honoree represents consistency, trust, and a deep belief in the potential of JPS scholars. These are the people and organizations who show up, not just once, but again and again, investing their time, resources, and energy into schools across



the district.

Partners in Education Director Thea Faulkner said it best in her message to supporters: this work is about more than recognition. It is about the collective power of a community choosing to stand together for

its children.

"Each partner plays a vital role," Faulkner shared. "Whether it's mentorship, volunteering, financial support, or simply showing up when it matters most, your impact is both seen and deeply valued."

And that impact is real.

Behind every recognized partnership are students who have gained mentors, teachers who have received support, and schools that have been strengthened by consistent community involvement. For parents, these partnerships represent an extended village, people who are helping create opportunities and support systems for their children every day.

JPS is grateful for its generous sponsors that made this event possible: Rising Event Venues, Jackson Area Federal Credit Union, Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Marion Counseling Services, PLLC., Story Financial Partners, Community Bank, 100 Black Men of Jackson, MS, Elim's Art Concepts and Framing Designs, The Yard Milkshake Bar, and the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation.

Each Highlight Awards also serves as an open invitation for anyone who wants to lend their support. JPS continues to welcome businesses, faith-based organizations, and individuals who want to make a difference. Whether it's volunteering a few hours, supporting classroom needs, or becoming a school partner, every contribution helps move scholars forward. If you would like to partner with JPS, email Partners in Education Director, Thea Faulkner.

Here are the 2025-26 JPS Anniversary Award Winners:

45 Years



Green Elementary School and MINACT, INC.

25 Years



Pecan Park Elementary and National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central MS Chapter

20 Years



Pecan Park Elementary and Koinonia Baptist Church Jackson

Rising Award



Bridging The Gap Outreach Ministries

15 Years



Capital City Alternative School and Jackson MS Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Isable Elementary School and Walmart Vision Center (South Cane's #30 Jackson)



Spann Elementary and Raising



Kirksey Middle School and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha Epsilon Lambda Chapter)

10 Years



Isable Elementary and Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition and JSU Metro.



Blackburn Laboratory Middle and Jackson State University Department of Community Engagement

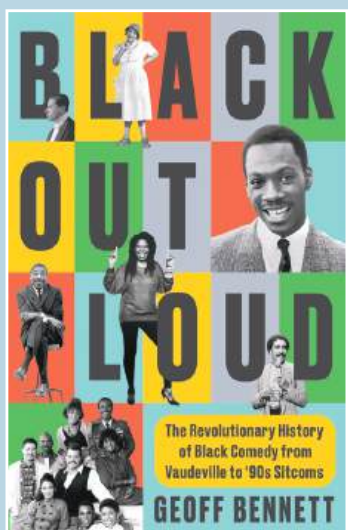
5 years



Clausell Elementary School and Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church



North Jackson Elementary and Aldersgate United Methodist Church



# BOOK REVIEW: BLACK OUT LOUD: THE REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF BLACK COMEDY FROM VAUDEVILLE TO '90S SITCOMS

BY GEOFF BENNETT  
C.2026, HARPER

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Wait. Did you hear that right? Yes, you did – and it was so funny that you just now caught your breath. What the guy on-stage said was so unexpected, so dead-on, so real that you couldn't stop laughing. And as you'll see in the new book "Black Out Loud" by Geoff Bennett, his routine reaches back more than a hundred years.

On April 15, 1990, ten-year-old Geoff Bennett was watching TV in his family living room when his world was shaken. He'd stumbled on the debut of In

Living Color, the irreverent, hilariously funny sketch show that featured mostly Black entertainers.

Entertainers, in other words, who looked like him.

That show was a first for Bennett. But it wasn't the only first, by any means.

In the late 1800s, there was minstrelsy, the cast of which were usually mostly white people with burnt-cork-blackened faces - until African American entertainer Billy Kersands came along and performed song-and-dance comedy acts in blackface. Audiences loved him, and he "became the

first Black entertainer in America to achieve national celebrity."

Hot on Kersands' heels, Bert Williams and George Walker became vaudeville stars in the early 1900s, followed by Stepin Fetchit and his controversial, but very successful, career. Then Hattie McDaniel, who lampooned stereotypes with over-exaggeration in movie roles, became the first Black actor to land an Oscar.

As others made the transition from movies and radio to TV, Rochester (The Jack Benny Show) eased the roles of Black characters into that of friends, rather than domestic workers.

Black comedians began recording their acts on LPs, as they moved from live stage to small screen. Some landed their own TV shows, changed popular sketch programming, and made fun of white America right under white America's noses.

And they made us laugh at ourselves.

"For more than a century," says Bennett, "Black comedians have been witnesses... And when the world was finally ready to hear the real story of America, it knew exactly where to turn – to America's conscience: the Black comedian."

LOL. That was you every Monday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday night, or whenever you caught your favorite comedy show.

Everybody talked about it the next day. Now, read about it.

Yes, you may have a few favorites that aren't inside this book, but author Geoff Bennett's work here is pretty comprehensive: he includes today's hottest Black comedians and some who were once famous but are unremembered today. You'll have a chance to know them and, while you get acquainted or you read about superstars you love now,

Bennett also surprises readers with biographies, little-known facts, and notable accomplishments those stars worked hard for – all in a narrative that's casual, sometimes profane, but very highly enjoyable. Bonus: read some of the stars' comedy bits here, and LOL while you enjoy this excellent book.

"Black Out Loud" is a great collection for anyone who devours pop-culture entertainment or who just loves to laugh. It's one of those books you won't want to let go, so don't miss it. No, you shouldn't hear of that.

**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

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# Voice of Calvary Ministries – “Sowing seeds of hope since 1975”

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Among the many accomplishments of Dr. John M. Perkins, who recently passed, includes being the founder of Voice of Calvary Ministries in 1975. He served as President of the original Board of Directors which included Mrs. Lillian Fletcher, Robert A. Buckley, Jesse Newsome, Joe Paul Buckley, Martin Lott, Mrs. Nellie Standfield, Mitchell C. Hayes, Mrs. Geneva Rubin, and Hulon Ray Holmes. You cannot miss the building, now over 100 years old – 531 W. Capitol Street, the original home of Old Capitol Street Methodist Church, just a few yards from the intersection with Gallatin Street. How many pass by this building each and every day, and how many truly grasp the enormity of services provided in Jackson and far beyond?

A chance meeting between Ms. Yolanda Sandifer and Rashundra Williams, Family Preservationists at Voice of Calvary Ministries and this writer, led to an interview with a Program Coordinator for the Parenthood Initiative Program, Ms. Nekieta Carter and VOCM President and Chief Executive Officer Margaret Johnson. Johnson’s business cards list her as Team Leader above her other titles, and that surely rang true throughout the interview. Johnson has been with the organization for nearly twenty years, with one brief break.

She spoke about the vision of Perkins, that continues today, focused on the “3-R’s: Reconciliation, Relocation, and



VOCM's main building at 531 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS.



Team Leader, President & CEO Margaret Johnson.



Photo of founder Dr. John M. Perkins and original VOCM Board of Directors. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.



Depiction of a motivational theory developed by psychologist Abraham Maslow.

## COMMENTARY

“Redistribution,” serving those in need, and serving the unhoused. “That’s what we do. The Bible speaks about the least of these, and that’s who we are here for. We engage with the homeless population and others with needs.” She spoke about two concepts that crystalized for her why VOCM does what they do – learned helplessness and an external locus of control. “These two mindsets lead to generational poverty, and so we want to mitigate that. We want to change mindsets. I don’t use the word self-sufficiency anymore, a big part of what we do is to help people become more resilient. People can learn for themselves how to navigate different situations. We adopted the framework of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs.”

VOCM’s Mission Statement – Voice of Calvary Ministries serves as a resource in human and community development by

providing holistic programs which build strong individuals, families, and communities enabling them to reach their full potential physically, spiritually, economically, and socially.

The list of programs at VOCM includes a partnership with Delta Property Management, where VOCM works within 44 apartment complexes in 13 counties in Mississippi, serving more than 500 households annually to include connections to healthcare providers and other resources including addiction treatment. They have a HOME-ARP program that provides rental and utility assistance to homeless people and those at-risk of homelessness, serving more than 50 additional no-income/low-income households. The Turning Point program focuses on young adults aging out of foster care to obtain stable housing, life skills training, and job skills training - serving 12-15 young people annually. Parenthood

Initiative focuses on parenting training, job skills training, and other resources to nearly 200 low to moderate-income families annually. The Parenthood Initiative has also assisted over 100 individuals in obtaining training and certification in fields with salaries exceeding \$50,000 per year. There is a Homebuyer Education Program serving more than 70 per year. In partnership with Mississippi Food Network, VOCM’s Food Pantry serves over 700 households annually. The list goes on, and the drum beats on – “Trying to change the narrative. Reaching our full potential in Christ.”

Johnson is masterful at beating the bushes to keep Voice of Calvary Ministries out front and thriving, yet challenges abound. The Trump Administration has cut millions in grant funding that was focused on health equity. A significant Community Health Worker Grant was ended last year by the Mississippi Depart-

ment of Health. And an \$18 million grant from the EPA to repurpose 531 W. Capitol Street as a community resiliency hub was terminated. Funding is being reduced and eliminated, yet the emergency and diverse needs of their constituents and operational expenses continue to rise. Just one recurring example - last month’s Entergy bill, cited by this writer, was \$4,362.19.

Whether you are a philanthropist, business leader, or community member - let’s find a way to rally around this blessed organization. Voice of Calvary Ministries is accredited by CANDID, formerly GuideStar, with their Seal of Transparency. Volunteers are always needed. Make hope for your neighbor become real. Go to www.vocm.org and click on the Gold Donate button. VOCM is a registered charity with Amazon Smile. All donations are fully tax-deductible. Checks can also be mailed to Voice of Calvary Ministries, 531 W Capitol St, Jackson, MS 39203.

# Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Mississippi Hosts Legislative Breakfast: Bringing Washington to You

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

“Bringing Washington to You” was the theme of Greater Jackson Chamber Partnerships Legislative Breakfast held April 1, 2026 at the Jackson Convention Complex at 8:30 AM.

The keynote Speaker was U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, District 2.

Thompson addressed critical local issues, including the closure of eight rural Mississippi hospitals and potential impacts of federal tax policies, urging local investment

to support infrastructure and healthcare and issues with ICE and how they should be held to the same standards as other law enforcement agencies. He also spoke of strengthening regional connectivity, with leaders from the Jackson Municipal Air-

port Authority.

Thompson was introduced by Michael Walker of AT & T MS, Presenting Sponsor. The invocation was given by Lyle Williams, Brunini Law, Breakfast Sponsor. The Venue Sponsor for the event was 16/WAPT.



Thompson

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## The Hinds<sup>2</sup> Early College Academy

A historic moment for HCSD! Hinds County School District and Hinds Community College officially launched the Hinds<sup>2</sup> Early College Academy, creating new opportunities for students at Raymond and Terry High Schools to earn college credit while still in high school.

“This is what it looks like when K-12 and higher

education stop working in silos, but start working together,” said Superintendent Dr. Mitchell Shears.

The partnership was celebrated with a formal signing ceremony and the reveal of the program’s official logo, marking a powerful step forward in expanding access, opportunity, and student success.

