



## A Life of Impact

# The enduring legacy of Rosetta Miller-Perry

By Jackie Hampton, *Publisher*  
and Wiley Henry, *Journalist*

After receiving more than five hundred local, state, and national honors for her extraordinary contributions to publishing, journalism, civil rights, education, and for her support of economic empowerment within Nashville's African American business community, Mrs. Rosetta (Irvin) Miller-Perry sought only to help others succeed in life.

Miller-Perry was smart, relentless, unyielding, persistent, and unwavering in her pursuit of excellence while reaching the pinnacle of success. She was the preeminent newspaper publisher, entrepreneur, business owner, advocate, and a warrior for justice. On Friday, June 26, she rested from her labor. She was ninety-one.

Though hearts are heavy, Miller-Perry's legacy endures. What she was able to accomplish in her lifetime is etched into the annals of history.

Born in Coraopolis, Penn., July 7, 1934, to her parents Anderson Irvin and Mary Hall Irvin, Miller-Perry understood that her life would be dedicated to something greater than herself. The Spirit moved her to reach for the brass ring in life and to help aspirants along the way.

Her journey began in the classroom at McKinley Elementary School, Coraopolis Junior High School, and Coraopolis Senior High School, where she graduated in 1952. She would later matriculate at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Herzl Community College in Chicago.

In 1955, Miller-Perry enlisted in the United States Navy. But she did not stop there. She went on to work for a man named Adam Bush in the Pentagon and for the Adjutant General's Office in Germany.

In 1956, she graduated from the University of Memphis with a B.S. degree in chemistry and from the John A. Gumpton School of Mortuary Science in 1957 with her D.M.S. In 1958, she attended Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College for nurses training while working at Southern Funeral Home.

While Miller-Perry was pursuing a thorough education, the Civil Rights Movement was teetering on the edge of uncertainty. The Klan was on a war path across the south and hell-bent on maintaining the status quo.

Taking a stand for justice, Miller-Perry was now an active participant in the fury that divided the nation. She worked in the trenches alongside giants like Z. Alexander Looby, Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, Curley McGruder, and countless others who risked everything in their pursuit of justice.

Miller-Perry moved to Memphis and worked closely with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., serving first as a clerk typist for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in 1960. She was a field representative and a trusted observer monitoring Civil Rights activities during the Memphis Sanitation Strike in 1968.

While the struggle for freedom was ongoing, Miller-Perry remained vigilant. The fight in her never waned. In 1975, she took a job as director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the Nashville area and challenged an unjust system that discriminated against African Americans and other marginalized communities.

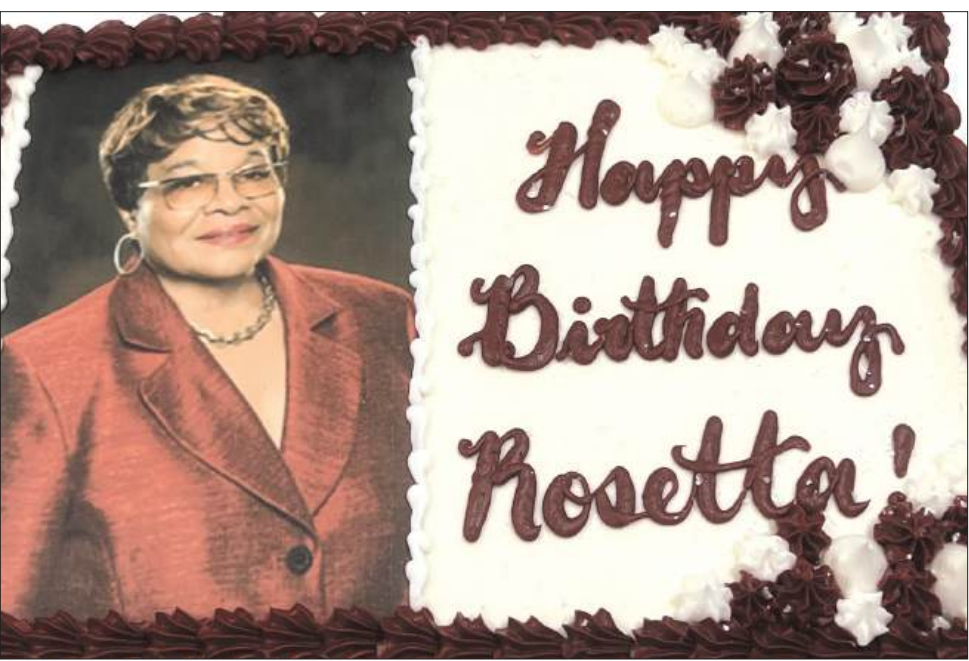
She never winced or bowed in the face of aggression or cowered when fighting for justice seemed an impossible feat. What she had was an abundance of courage to fight and confront injustices whenever they were reared.

After retiring from government service, the entrepreneurial spirit in Miller-Perry tugged at her and she answered the call. In 1990, using her own money, she, and her husband, who was recognized as the first black gastroenterologist in Nashville, founded Perry & Perry Associates, and launched *Contempora*, a Tennessee-focused African American magazine. In 1991, *The Tennessee Tribune*, a weekly newspaper, was born.

There was a void in the African American community in terms of positive media and Miller-Perry poured all her resources into this new-found venture to ensure that African Americans had a voice that was not silenced or neglected by mainstream media.

She refused to allow others to define the narrative. For

*Rosetta Miller-Perry*  
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## Expert testimony places race at the center of airport takeover trial



The Thad Cochran United States Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, where the federal trial challenging Mississippi's 2016 airport takeover law, Senate Bill 2162, is being heard before U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves. PHOTO: DR. JAY

By Dr. Edelia J. Carthan  
*Contributing Writer*

The first week of testimony in the federal trial challenging Mississippi's 2016 airport takeover law, Senate Bill 2162, centered on one question: Why does the state want to take control of the board governing Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport?

Over five days, attorneys presented testimony from elected officials, former state officials, airport administrators and an expert witness in political science. Internal

memos, audits and legislative records were also introduced as evidence.

At the heart of the case is Senate Bill 2162, which seeks to change the composition of the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (JMAA) board. While the law has not gone into effect, the City of Jackson still appoints a majority of the commissioners. The legislation seeks to expand the board to nine members, reducing Jackson's appointments to two while giving the remaining

*Airport*

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Inside



Ice Cream Queen



## Investors meet at City Hall to discuss ‘Youth Crime Prevention’ in Jackson



RaShall Brackney, Chief of Police



James Woods, Jr. - Young Detention Center Director



Councilman Stokes pledges to save Jackson's children



Summer Enrichment Program youth reacting to their leader's comments. PHOTOS BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

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

A gathering of like minds flocked to Jackson's City Hall to address youth crime prevention Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Present were leaders, parents, youth, and other Jackson residents. City councilman Kenneth Stokes (Ward 3) was the driving force behind the meeting.

Stokes maintained that keeping youth occupied in a positive way is a step in the right direction for curtailing crime. Their parents should be held accountable for their actions. Also, there should be more summer jobs accessible to the youth. "There's money out there, but I don't think it's really reaching the needy. I say it's reaching the greedy," Stokes said.

"I grew up in a four-room house where my father had a

sixth-grade education. I was in public school. We were poor, but I had people who believed in me. We [adults] have to believe in you so that you can believe in yourselves. I'm here to lift you. You are smart. You're black. You're our most valuable assets," claimed RaShall Brackney, Jackson's Chief of Police.

James Woods, Jr., Executive Director of Henley-Young-Pat-

ton Juvenile Justice Center, asserted that suicide has claimed the lives of many youth, but parents "are the first line of defense." The youth see them everyday and know their behavior. For this reason, parents must know that they themselves are in control.

Woods added that young people must understand that their actions have consequences. He told the youth, "By the time you

get to our center, it's too late." He then charged the community to "tackle the problem with our youth now."

Dr. Kevin Levine – Jackson State University Criminology Professor/JPD Officer – voiced to adults that they must stop telling their children, "The police are going to get you." Building meaningful relations are essential. Thus, adults need not be proponents of negative

thoughts. Afterwards, he turned to the youth and asserted that they must recognize present opportunities while thinking about what they wanted to do.

Anthony Davis of Davis Therapeutic Services, LLC spoke about transparency. Realistic expectations would enable the youth to focus on accountability and making life changes. In the process, they could come to appreciate such adaptations.

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MISSISSIPPI



# Airport

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appointments to state officials and surrounding jurisdictions.

Jackson Mayor John Horhn testified about the city's ownership of the airport and the impact the legislation has had on local control.

Earlier in the week, jurors heard testimony from former performance auditor Samantha J. Atkinson, who was assigned to research the airport before SB 2162 was introduced. Her testimony included discussions of audits, financial reports and internal memoranda prepared during the state's review of airport operations.

Several internal communications were introduced into evidence, including emails and text messages exchanged by state officials as discussions about the legislation moved forward.

Former Governor Phil Bryant's Chief of Staff Joey Songy later testified about the development of SB 2162. During cross-examination, Songy acknowledged that he did not recall meeting with Jackson city officials, members of the City Council, Black legislators or other Jackson stakeholders before the legislation was passed.

Another major topic during the week was Southwest Airlines' departure from Jackson.

An internal memo prepared by Bobby Morgan stated that Southwest's decision to leave Jackson was not caused by the management of the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority. Instead, the memo cited national economic conditions, including the aftermath of the September

11 terrorist attacks, multiple recessions, rising fuel costs and changes in Southwest's business model that required higher passenger volume.

Airport Chief Executive Officer Rosa M. Beckett testified that airport revenues are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration and must be reinvested into airport operations. She also explained that federal grants typically require state and local matching funds and testified that the airport did not receive state funding approved by the Legislature in 2024 after the appropriation was vetoed.

Last week concluded with testimony from Dr. Byron D. Orey, professor of political science at Jackson State University, who testified as an expert in race, politics, voting rights, political behavior and legislative behavior.

Using decades of research, Orey placed SB 2162 within the broader history of Mississippi politics, discussing Reconstruction, the Mississippi Plan of 1875, the 1890 Mississippi Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and legislative redistricting.

He explained the concepts of vote dilution, "cracking" and "packing," describing how those practices can affect minority voting strength and political representation. He testified that reducing Jackson's authority to appoint members to the airport board also reduced the political influence of the city's voters.

In one of the week's most significant moments, Orey testified, "The

primary reason for the passage of SB 2162 was to remove the power of Blacks to appoint members to the airport board."

He also testified that "The state treated Jackson differently than it treated other municipalities," pointing to legislative actions involving Jackson compared with cities such as Tupelo and Meridian.

Outside the courtroom, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, who attended portions of the trial, shared his reaction with The Mississippi Link.

"Obviously, it's about taking Jackson's largest economic asset, and they didn't even give the city the courtesy of talking to its leaders. They came up with a rationale that is being disproved by the witnesses the Airport Authority has presented.... They tried to starve the airport to death by refusing to provide state funding, and despite that, they're still doing a good job."

As the trial enters its second week, additional witnesses are expected to testify before U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves as the court continues to examine the motivations behind Senate Bill 2162 and whether the law violated the constitutional rights asserted by the plaintiffs.

Watch my interview with Congressman Bennie Thompson here <https://youtube.com/shorts/PZlnm-wlXIY?is=EdhKl-3sizv9yCcs>

# Rosetta Miller-Perry

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more than thirty-five years, Miller-Perry was able to build a media empire without shrinking from her vision and provided the vehicle for others to tell their stories. She also gave young journalists opportunities to work under her tutelage when the doors at white newspapers were seldom open for upstarts.

As a member of The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the largest and most influential and respected Black-own media resource in America, Miller-Perry served several terms as a member of the Board of Directors for the association and the NNPA Fund.

NNPA President/CEO Dr. Ben Chavis stated, "The living legacy of Rosetta Miller Perry is vital to the future sustainability and progress of the Black Press of America. As Queen Mother of the Black Press, Rosetta Perry exemplified the genius and conscious commitment of the Black Press to freedom, justice, and equality by NNPA. We pledge to keep Rosetta's memory alive as we approach the 200th Anniversary of the Black Press in 2027."

For her work in media and community service, Miller-Perry received the NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award on January 25, 2019, at the Hilton Orlando Hotel during the NNPA Mid-Winter training conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. It was at this festive gathering that she earned the distinguished title of "Queen Mother of the Black Press." Bobby Henry, a former chair of NNPA, recalls roasting her during this event. He said, "I teased her about being a mortician and how she could do away with people who did not treat her right and nobody would ever know. She smiled and gave me a look that said it

was possible. She had a good sense of humor but with all her business savvy, was a loving, private woman. Ms. Perry had the genuine sweetness of your favorite aunt with the wisdom and sage of your gangster uncle. She was just a well-rounded person full of love and wisdom."

Never one to rest on her laurels, the "Queen Mother" established the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce in 1998 and created that

same year the Anthony J. Cebrun Journalism Center in partnership with Dell Computers to prepare young people for careers in journalism.

Miller-Perry also founded the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Les Gemmes, Incorporated Nashville Chapter, the National Council of Negro Women, and the landmark building of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated meeting facility and countless initiatives dedicated to service and em-

powerment.

Even in her later years, Miller-Perry continued to climb the proverbial ladder of success. She was still making headway in journalism and business until an illness slowed her stride. Despite her health challenges and eventual transition, Miller-Perry lives on through her family, friends, business associates, and those she helped to succeed in their respective careers. Her enduring legacy lives on.

NNPA Chairman and Publisher of the San Diego Voice, Dr. John Warren said, "I consider the passing of Rosetta-Miller Perry one of the great losses of our time and our century. In every respect, she was the virtuous woman that is mentioned in the book of Proverbs. She was a woman who lived a life of service to the community, to government, the military, to business and to the people around her. She reminds me of the poet Samuel Longfellow, who said: Lives of great 'women' remind us we can make our lives sublime, and, departing leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time." Dr. Warren closed by saying, "As we approach July 7th, which would have been her 92nd birthday we mourn her, we cherish her, we love her, we remember her as she will forever be with all of us."

Jackie Hampton is Publisher of The Mississippi Link newspaper in Jackson, MS and serves as Vice President of The National Newspaper Publishers Association. Wiley Henry is a journalist, visual artist and photographer having worked as deputy editor and senior writer of The Memphis Tri-State Defender newspaper in Memphis, TN.



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## JIM HILL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976: Celebrating an Extraordinary Journey

By Beverly Willis Stewart  
Class of 1976

1976! A year filled with parades, firework shows and festivities as the 200th year birthday of these United States was celebrated.

1976 was the year that the Apple Inc. computer was launched, Microsoft was founded, NASA Viking 1 Space Mission saw images of the moon and the movie, Rocky premiered.

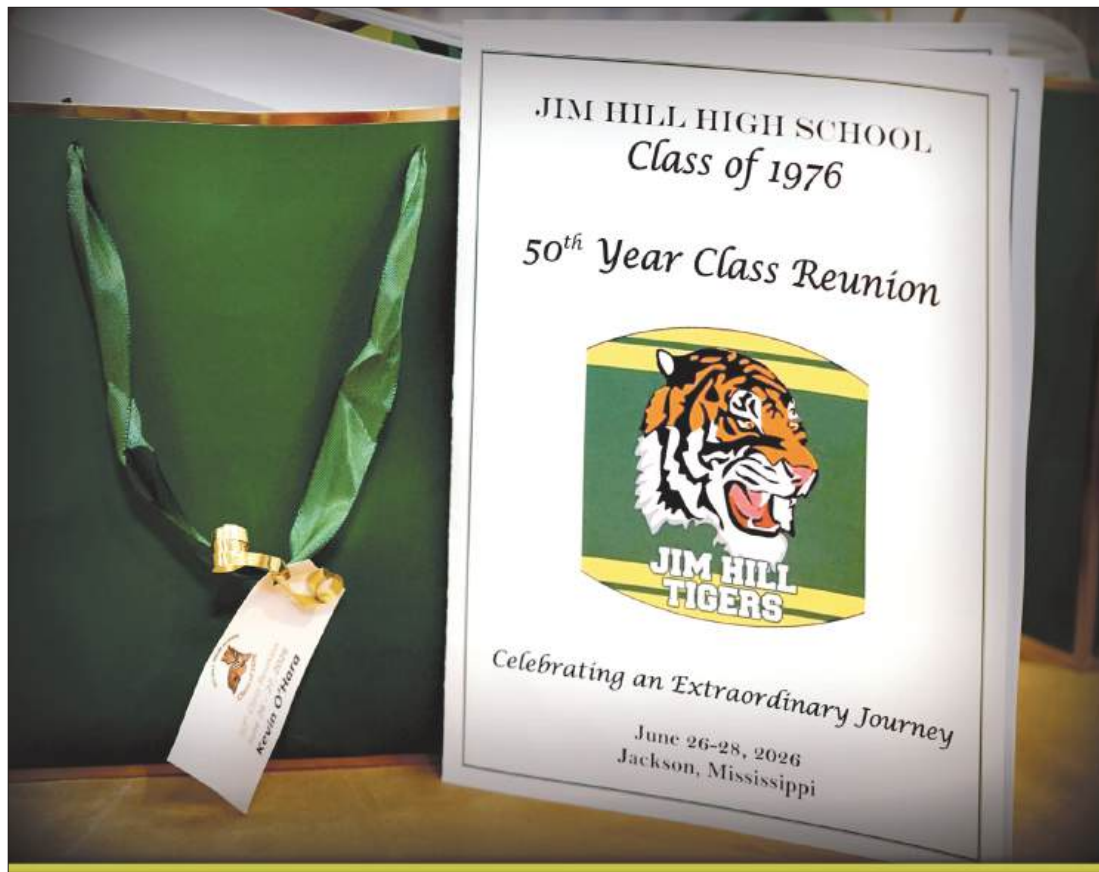
1976 was the year Natalie Cole became the first black woman to receive a Grammy Award for Best New Artist and Jimmy Carter was elected the 39th President of the United States.

1976, we enjoyed a Big Mac, fries, and a medium drink for \$1.50 plus tax, while listening to Earth, Wind & Fire, David Bowie, Chaka Khan, Bruce Springsteen, the Commodores, and "FIRE" by the Ohio Players.

1976 was a year filled with excitement as the country's political climate changed, technology blossomed, and history began to make a change all around the world.

1976, right here in Jackson MS, Washington Addition, 2185 Fortune Street, at the Jim Hill High School history was being made daily as the upcoming graduating class began to make that step into the future. We were told time after time "Aim for the Stars" and that we did.

Uncertain of the actual number of graduating class members, the 1976 class yearbook shows 161 seniors, but one thing is for certain, the Class of 1976 was a group of innovators. We were the first class of students to face integration that found us all together at Jim Hill. We adopted and were determined to forge ahead looking for those stars we were told about. With the guidance of a group of very wise teachers, we were persuaded to join organizations like the Student Council, Football Team, Basketball Team, Thespians Society, Cheerleaders, Debate



Club, Tigerettes, Track Team, DECA Club, Choir, Band, Prep Squad, Yearbook staff and last but not least join in as Kaleidoscope was presented each year. We grew not only as students but as future leaders under their guidance. We had only just begun!

The Class of 1976 became trailblazers, bridge builders, and leaders with many visions for the future. Members of the class have ventured into all segments of the work force from teachers to social workers, from ministers to church leaders, from medical professionals to funeral directors, from insurance sales to car sales, from professional chefs to grill masters, from musicians to law enforcement officials, and from accountants to administrators. If it is out there to grasp onto, we have grabbed it. All while aiming for the stars and success.

We have paused to reflect on 50 years of unity as a class, devotion to our fellow man and the commitment we made as we walked across that stage Thurs-

day, June 3, 1976. It was said years ago by classmate, Jay Johnson that the Class of 1976 has a "unique form of greatness" and that we do.

On June 26-28, 2026, the Bicentennial Class of Jim Hill High School celebrated our "Golden Reunion" by reacquainting ourselves with classmates and lifetime friends. We came together to celebrate our resilience and growth with big smiles, because we knew we had powerful stories to share. We were the class of change, but we did not let the events of the time change us. We were determined to have influence and make a difference in the world. We prepared ourselves and we moved forward. We often encourage each other while looking back at the lessons we had learned. Though an inspiring journey has led us this far, we are not finished yet. We still have a job to influence a "Tiger", and we are doing it.

The Class of 1976 has become increasingly involved in Jim Hill activities. Class members have enjoyed and participated in

Homecoming activities with that forever "Tiger" school spirit. Classmates Valerie Anderson, Freddie Davis and Jay Johnson served as mock interviewers during the 2026 Career Day, which was a means of helping students prepare for their future employment opportunities. We have rekindled memories of the yearly class competition skits called Kaleidoscope and class member; Beverly Willis Stewart celebrated with the cast during the 2026 Royal Stage Drama Society Finale in May.

During Senior Class Day 2026, an academic scholarship and two financial need scholarships were presented to graduating seniors to assist in their future educational goals. Two scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each, generously sponsored by Mr. Freddie Davis, were presented to Je'Quenton Washington and Emaleigh Wilson. A \$500 scholarship was presented to Christopher Dishmon.

The Class of 1976 Scholarship Program was the vision of Freddie Davis, owner of Wes-

thaven Funeral Home for over thirty years. Davis has served in the funeral business for 60 plus years and it is through it that he acknowledges how the blessing of serving others has taught him that the greatest legacy we can leave behind is not measured by what we accumulate, but by the lives we touch and the opportunities we create for those who come after us. He stated that his mother always emphasized the importance of education and entrepreneurship, therefore it is forever installed in his heart to give back and invest in the next generations. It is through the generosity of Davis and fellow classmates that we, the Class of 1976, want to uplift the student body, support their dreams, and inspire not only graduating seniors but others to pay it forward for a Tiger.

Davis reflected by saying that "fifty years is more than a reunion, it is a celebration of God's faithfulness, enduring friendships, shared memories and a legacy of service". He reminded us of Proverbs 19:17 which tells us "whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done" and of Acts 20:35 that reminds us "it is more blessed to give than to receive". Davis keeps those scriptures close to his heart as he shares "they are not just simply words on a page - they are calls to action".

During the Bicentennial Class Reunion Banquet an award of \$1000.00 was gifted to the Jim Hill Royal Stage Society under the direction of Kenneth Carter to keep the spirit of drama alive at Jim Hill through productions like Kaleidoscope. After a loving tribute to the class by student actors 2026 graduating cast member, Annette Singleton was awarded a \$500 scholarship to pursue her dreams in theatrical drama.

The 50th Golden Class Reunion Banquet highlighted the weekend as Golden Certificates were presented to class mem-

bers along with a green and gold cord representing the strength and powerful story of being a Tiger. The reunion address was presented by Paula Hughes Boyd, M.S.W., who after years of study and dedication recently received her degree to walk into so many new opportunities that lay ahead.

It was a privilege to reminiscence on faculty and teachers that were under the leadership of Principal Emmitt Hayes. It was also more than an honor to have teachers: Beryl Vanlierop (Spanish), Mary McCartney (English) and Jerry Keahey (General Science/Chemistry) and Jacqueline Bland (English) grace us with their presence during the reunion. Gerald Anderson (Math) and Johnnie Phillips (English) were also acknowledged during our banquet.

We could not close the reunion weekend without giving praise to God. Class members came together for a powerful church service at Mount Nebo Baptist Church, at the invitation of Deacon Freddie Davis. During the Youth Day Service, another investment was made to strengthen our future leaders by means of a \$1000 donation to the Youth Department of Mount Nebo.

The reunion weekend concluded with a class picnic filled with tasty food, laughter and more refreshing school and life stories.

Dr. Peggy Seaton Johnson reminded us that "some said it couldn't and wouldn't be done meaningfully, but we, the class of 1976, defied the odds".

As I look back over this 50th Class Reunion, all I can think of are the words of our school song....

Hill High, we love you, tis true.

Ideals outstanding embodied in you.

Principles high and examples so grand

Hill High, for you we take our stand.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON, JIM HILL CLASS OF 1976



# Stop sending money to Mississippi

*Turn off the federal spigot until Mississippi stops its backward ways*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

Despite the annual proclamations by Governor Reeves, Mississippi is a welfare state. The federal government sends funding to all states annually – part of Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. The funds are ‘conditioned’ to be spent on healthcare, childcare, nutrition, job training, infrastructure, and Title 1 education for low-income children. Mississippi receives far more than its taxpayers send to Washington. In 2025, over 45 percent of the state’s budget of \$28 billion came from the federal government. The federal government expects healthcare to be a top priority of the states, yet Mississippi does not prioritize healthcare and never has. Why is our federal government subsidizing a state that is so backward, so resistant to change, and so grossly mismanaged? They continue to throw money at backwardness. How does that make any sense? Shut it down.

Even as the government of Mississippi brags about spending billions on economic development – promising new jobs and higher paying jobs - Mississippi has the lowest gross domestic product per capita in the country. West Virginia and Arkansas are the second and third lowest, per Business Insider.

The Mississippi government clings to its bygone days even as the state is dead-last in so many metrics. Defenders claim to be honoring heritage. Only in Mis-



Mississippi Governors Mansion.



Mississippi State Capitol.



Carroll Gartin Justice Building. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

## COMMENTARY

Mississippi can you find Confederate Heritage Month and the state calendar listing Confederate Memorial Day – the last Monday in April – a paid day off for state employees in the name of the Confederacy. How can the legacy of Civil War being fought to preserve slavery be honored in any way? How can Jim Crow, Black Codes, and the Constitution of 1890 – disenfranchising African Americans – ever be honored? There’s only one way - if you are backward.

Today the Supreme Court of Mississippi is still housed in a building named for Carroll Gartin – a staunch white supremacist. Today Jennifer Burrage Branning is a Supreme Court Justice – her grandfather owned the farm where the bodies of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were found in 1964.

Today Mississippi has one of the highest maternal mortality

rates in the nation – and rife with racial disparities. Pregnancy-related deaths of Black women are 2 to 4.5 times higher than for white women. Today in Mississippi infants die at nearly double the national average – and Black infants are more than twice as likely to die before their 1st Birthday as white infants – worst in the nation per CDC data. Today Mississippi is the poorest state in the country, and has been at the bottom since tracking began in the 1960’s.

Today in Mississippi over 99 percent of the \$5.5 billion in expenditures for contracting services by state agencies goes to white people. This behavior is state-sponsored discrimination, and there is not one major news outlet in the state covering it – 20 percent of the entire budget not being covered. Backward and complicit. Turn off the spigot in Washington and see if Mississippi can do better.

Today in Mississippi we have a governor who claimed just af-

ter the US Supreme Court Louisiana v. Callais decision – gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – that the state’s only African American representative in Congress would be eliminated via redistricting. Reeves posted on Facebook that 2nd District Congressman Bennie Thompson’s “reign of terror on MS-2 is over. It is not a matter of “IF...” Just a matter of “WHEN!” Can you get more ignorant? The Congressman has done more for Mississippi than Reeves is capable of imagining. Mississippi’s three other Representatives and both Senators, all of them white people, voted against the American Rescue Plan Act that brought over \$2 billion dollars to Mississippi. That’s just one example. There is a long list of things Congressman Thompson has done to lift all of Mississippi, not just District 2.

Today in Mississippi there has been little self-correction following getting caught diverting \$100 million in federal welfare

funds while Governor Bryant and Lieutenant Governor Reeves were in office. In March 2025, the feds demanded that Mississippi repay the money – money intended to support the poorest families in Mississippi siphoned off to the rich and powerful. The federal government understands far more about correction than Mississippi ever will.

Today in Mississippi the racial wealth gap continues to grow. Nationwide, white families hold six times more wealth than African American and Hispanic families. In Mississippi, the inequality raises up to seventeen times more, per data from the Federal Reserve and the Brookings Institute. Bob Dylan sang the truth in 1962, “How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man...the answer is blowin’ in the wind...”

Today in Mississippi the junior US Senator is the segregation-academy graduate Cindy Hyde Smith – the first female in that role, nominated by none

other than Governor Phil Bryant. At a campaign stop in Tupelo in 2018, while in a runoff against African American Mike Espy, she heaped her Mississippi-brand of praise on a local cattle rancher, saying, “If he invited me to a public hanging, I’d be on the front row.” She later referred to her statement as “an exaggerated expression of regard,” per NBC News. Five days later, Mississippi voters gave her another six years in office. Backward is as backward does.

The government of Mississippi is devoid of equitable leadership. They do not govern to serve all Mississippians. Is there any evidence that they will see the light and change their ways? We do know from the changing of the state flag that they do change when they feel enough heat. So, Mr. President and members of Congress, turn the spigot off. Stop subsidizing Mississippi’s backwardness. You can’t possibly believe in justice, while funding injustice.

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# Are Our votes safe? Voting Rights, Voter ID, and the 2026 Election

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

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

As the 2026 election season unfolds, voting rights and election access are once again at the center of national debate. New legal challenges, proposed voter ID requirements, and changes in election administration are reshaping the voting landscape across the country, raising questions about who can vote, how ballots are cast, and whether every eligible vote will be counted. Civil rights advocates warn that many of these changes could have a disproportionate impact on minority, low-income, elderly, rural, and first-time voters, making access to reliable information more important than ever.

On Friday, June 26, 2026, American Community Media hosted a conversation on the changing landscape of voting rights, election access, and the challenges facing American democracy as we approach a crucial mid-term election scheduled for later this year. The panel of three experts and over 60 media outlets joined the call moderated by Pilar Marrero. After introducing the panelists, she turned to Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel at Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) for an overview of the topic. "I'm pleased to join you in advance of what may be of the most important election we have faced to date in this country, because what is at stake obviously it is further control of the House and Senate as well as



Thomas A Saenz. PHOTO: WWW.MALDEF.ORG.



DaHae Kim. PHOTO: HTTPS://VOTERIDERS.ORG



Annelise Pierce. PHOTO: WWW.SHASTASCOUT.ORG.

critical elections at state and local level.

Traditionally midterm elections like this have had lower turnout than presidential elections in the other years. This is something that needs to change this year. We need to see heightened involvement, particularly because of what I'm about to discuss, which are the efforts undertaken by many to disenfranchise voters of color in this country. What we see in the legal landscape are two different kinds of voting issues. One has received more attention because of the recent Supreme Court Louisiana v Callais decision, which changed the test applied to Voting Rights Act challenges to districting processes. This relates solely to creation of congressional districts, legislative districts, school board, city council districts and the like. However, this does not affect individual voters' ability to

cast ballots. Majority-minority districts are at stake, and some states have chosen very late in the game to redistrict - to eliminate a number of majority Black Congressional seats. This means that absent some huge wave of increased voting by voters of color that some of our long-standing Black members of Congress may lose their seats in November."

He continued, "This issue is very important but it does not affect individual voters in a way that would lead them not to be able to cast a ballot for example, they can still cast a ballot though they may now be in a district where it is very difficult for their candidate of choice to win. Because that's the effect of eliminating black majority districts for the black community, it means it is much more difficult to elect a candidate of choice of the community in these newly drawn districts."

Attorney Saenz also made clear that the President of the United States has no authority to regulate elections. Congress has authority over Federal elections. This is why Trump is pushing so hard to get congress to pass the SAVE Act. He also cautioned about what is sure to be misinformation and disinformation at the polls and about polling locations, and how important it is for voters to communicate with their Registrar of Voters or County Clerks in advance to ensure they are properly registered and know what is needed to cast a ballot. He forecasted, based on Trump's previous behavior in Georgia and other places that there may be election administrators who may be complicit in attempting to turn a vote count in a particular direction.

In responding to a question, Attorney Saenz stated, "there is not a shred of evidence to support anything more than a hand-

ful of non-citizens who voted nationwide in 2016 or 2020 or 2024."

Marrero turned to DaHae Kim, Policy and Advocacy Manager for Vote Riders, a large national voter education organization, and asked her to share what the research shows about what identification requirements proposals for documentary proof of citizenship and who is most affected by these policies? "Millions of voters at risk of being silenced by voter ID laws and Documentary Proof of Citizenship laws which are two separate types of laws aimed at barring potentially millions of the US Citizens from voting. In recent years we have seen an explosion of Voter ID laws come forward. Thirty-eight states require some form of ID to cast a ballot...Now new and stricter voter ID laws are causing widespread barriers for eligible voters, many of whom

have been successfully voting for years. This creates confusion and some voters will stay at home rather than face shame or get turned away or intimidated for potentially not having the correct form of ID. Our research shows that nearly 21 million US Citizens do not have a current, non-expired driver's license and another 29 million have an unexpired license but have changed address. Citizens of color were almost four times more likely to be without an unexpired license or state ID than white US Citizens." She added that NH, AZ, and WY have the strictest laws due to requiring documentary proof of citizenship.

The final panelist, Annelise Pierce, is the founder and Managing Editor of the Shasta Scout. She described Shasta County in a far northern California county that is predominantly white, highly religious, and a place where discussions of leaving the state are not infrequent. "There are 116,000 voters in Shasta County. They eliminated the contract with Dominion Voting, preferring hand-count ballots for fear of machines that could produce a faulty result. The state immediately sued, and now the machines are back in place but there is considerable mistrust."

To view the entire briefing, please go to American Community Media online at <https://americancommunitymedia.org/media-briefings/are-our-votes-safe-voting-rights-voter-id-and-the-2026-election>.

## In Memoriam

# Minister Louis Farrakhan's wife, Khadijah Farrakhan, dies

By Erick Johnson  
Black Press USA Wire

Mother Khadijah Farrakhan, the wife of Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan, has died, the Nation of Islam announced Saturday, June 27. She was 90.

Khadijah and her husband lived in Chicago's Kenwood neighborhood, less than a mile from Operation Rainbow PUSH's national headquarters founded by the late Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Together, Khadijah and her husband for decades led the Nation of Islam at the Mosque Maryam in

Chicago's South Shore neighborhood.

In a statement, the Nation of Islam said, "The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan with deep sadness yet with profound gratitude to Allah informs you that his beloved wife of 72 years, the First Lady of the Nation of Islam, Mother Khadijah has returned to Allah (may Allah be pleased).

"We thank Allah for the precious life of a loving wife, mother, a faithful devoted follower of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Mother Khadijah will forever be cherished and remembered. May

Allah give His unequalled comfort to the family as we mourn this tremendous loss and lift the family in our prayers and thoughts.

"Allah, there is no God but He, He gives life and to Him is our eventual return. Funeral (Janazah) services will be sent as soon as it's available."

Khadijah was born in 1935. She and Louis Khadijah Farrakhan married in 1953. They have 9 children. Their eldest son, Louis Farrakhan Jr., died at 60 in 2018. Another son, Joshua Farrakhan, died in 2023. He was 64.

Khadijah converted to Islam in

1955. As Farrakhan rose to become the leader of the Nation of Islam, Khadijah was by his side, serving as a stabilizing force for their family.

According to The Grio, at the 1997 Million Woman March in Philadelphia, Khadijah took the stage after her husband organized the 1995 Million Man March in Washington D.C.

"A nation can rise no higher than its women," Khadijah said. "We focus on women but cannot lose sight that we must rise as a family — men, women and children."



Khadijah Farrakhan

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## Our Country is on a roller coaster ride of economic uncertainty and veiled discrimination

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



Going to the fair as a child was a special outing. Of course, our parents took us because we didn't have any money. The games and rides weren't free.

One of my favorites was tossing a nickel onto some plates and getting them. Sometimes if I was lucky, I'd come home with a few plates, cups and bowls. I am not sure what my mom did with them.

Another game was what I'd call playing the ducks. You would pay the operator a fee and you would be able to pick these plastic ducks out of the

water. On the bottom of the duck would be a number which corresponded with a prize. We kids would compare prizes and laugh about them, too.

One of the most exciting rides at the fair in Winston-Salem NC was the roller coaster. The lines to get on it were always long. Everybody wanted to feel the twists and turns. It would change course in a moment's notice. The ride always came with its share of surprises. You never knew what direction it was going and how you would feel afterwards.

I liken my roller coaster rides to what is happening in American politics today. There are ups and downs, detours and roadblocks. One day you are up and the next day you are down.

Consistency is a word we

don't hear a lot in our political framework anymore. We want it but instead we get instability and inconsistency. For example, is the war in Iran really over? Until recently, it was fraught with threats, intimidation and flawed decision-making. That is my opinion.

Men and women of color in the military are being denied promotions, retiring early or simply fired. Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesperson, has another view. He said, "The department will never consider the color of a service member's skin or their gender as a factor in promotions." The record shows that the Navy did not comment.

Some many years ago, the prolific Black poet James Baldwin made a profound state-

ment that is appropriate today. He said, "I can't believe what you say because I see what you do."

Consumers are going to grocery stores and seeing prices that have increased dramatically over the past few years. The administration seems to have a nonchalant attitude about it. According to NBC News, ground beef prices are up 21% from January 2025.

With these prices escalating, Americans are having to pick and choose what to buy. Budgets are tight so spending isn't what it once was. Buying a little more has become a thing of the past.

July 4th will be coming soon. Will it be different this year? Most Americans believe that it will be. There won't be

as many hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. We will have cookies instead of cake for dessert.

Taking trips by air has become more expensive. Reports say, "Flight prices are surging due to a spike in jet fuel costs and strong travel demands." We still want to visit our family and friends, but can we afford it?

While gas prices have increased in recent months, traveling by car seems to be what many families are doing these days. According to the American Automobile Association, 72.2 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home for the upcoming Independence Day holiday weekend. This includes an all-time high of over 61 million travel-

ers hitting the road despite rising gas and hotel prices.

As atmospheric temperatures get hotter, our understanding of world events has cooled off. Relationships we have with other countries have become more strained and contentious. Laws we almost took for granted are now being rewritten to fit a certain group or organization. Some might say that we are becoming consistently inconsistent.

Where does this leave the greatest country in the world? It renders us confused, baffled and dismayed. Many of our elected officials are left without a clear path to lead. Instead of leading, they are being led. Will that change? That is the question of the day.

## It is time to redraw the revolution, again

*America turns 250 this week. We should be proud. We should also be honest.*

By Ben Jealous  
People For the American Way



Every year, we remember Paul Revere's ride. As we should.

We should also reckon with Paul Revere's picture.

His engraving of the Boston Massacre helped light the fire for revolution. It showed British soldiers firing into a crowd. Men fell dead in the street.

Yet the first man killed that night is hidden in plain sight.

His name was Crispus Attucks. He was a sailor of African and Native ancestry. John Adams later described the crowd as sailors, Irishmen, "negroes and mulattoes." But Revere's image did not show Attucks as who he was. It turned a multi-racial, working-class crowd into a whiter and better-dressed one.

That was bad art. It was a lie with a long life.

It taught generations to picture the Revolution as a fight led and suffered by wealthy white men with portraits, property, and papers.

That was never the truth.

Prince Estabrook was enslaved in Lexington. On April 19, 1775, he stood with his neighbors as British troops arrived. He was shot before Congress declared independence. Before Jefferson wrote that all men are created equal.

Salem Poor bought his freedom and fought at Bunker Hill. Fourteen officers petitioned to honor his courage. Peter Salem fought there too. James Armistead, enslaved in Virginia, spied for Lafayette. His work helped trap Cornwallis at Yorktown.

The First Rhode Island Regiment, filled with Black, Native, and formerly enslaved men, held the line near Newport.

Women were there, too. Elizabeth Freeman, known as Mum Bett, heard the Revolution's

words and used them in court. She sued for her freedom and won. Deborah Sampson was poor and indentured as a child. She dressed as a man and served in the Continental Army. Margaret Corbin took over a cannon after her husband was killed.

That story is personal in my family. My adopted grandmother, Dr. Margaret Barnes, was an osteopath with Revolutionary roots. As a girl in the 1910s and 1920s, her father dressed her as a soldier to march in New England Fourth of July parades.

When people objected, he told them not to worry. In 1776, some fathers knew their daughters had gone off to fight dressed the same way.

He was right. History made room for daughters in uniform. Memory pushed them back out.

I still have the bow she used to teach me archery. In our family, women did not just remember courage. They passed it down.

Poor white men carried the war, too. Joseph Plumb Martin was a teenage soldier. He froze, starved, marched, and later wrote the Revolution from below. Ebenezer Mackintosh was a Boston shoemaker and street organizer. Before gentlemen took seats in Congress, men like him made resistance impossible to ignore.

The Revolution was not made by one class. It was sailors, servants, farmers, shoemakers, soldiers, spies, mothers, fugitives, and the enslaved.

On my father's side, nine of my ancestors fought the British in Massachusetts. One was a sixteen-year-old fifer at Lexington. They knew Black patriots were there from the first morning.

On my mother's side, we descend from Richard Bland, Jefferson's cousin and mentor. Jefferson wrote that all men are created equal. But the same racist hand that scrubbed Attucks

from the picture shrank "all men" to white men.

Frederick Douglass scraped that veneer away. In 1852, he asked what the Fourth meant to the slave. In 1869, he called for a "composite nation" — one people made of all peoples. Douglass was not inventing a new America. He was restoring the Revolution to itself.

Who we picture fighting for freedom shapes who we believe deserves it.

Paint Black patriots, women patriots, and poor white patriots out of 1776, and you shrink the nation's image of itself.

Today's whitewashing should alarm us.

In 2025, under Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, the Pentagon's anti-DEI purge swept through military websites. Pages on Jackie Robinson, the Tuskegee Airmen, and Native code talkers were removed, then some were restored after public outcry. The system even flagged the Enola Gay bomber because it contained the word "gay."

That was not strength. It was cowardice with a search function. My grandfather's first cousin, Howard Lee Baugh, was a Tuskegee Airman. He flew more than 130 combat missions against the Nazis. There is a word for men like him: hero.

This Fourth of July, let's remember Revere's ride. But let's redraw Revere's picture. Put Attucks back in the center. Put Estabrook on Lexington Green. Put Salem Poor at Bunker Hill. Put Mum Bett in the courthouse. Put Joseph Plumb Martin barefoot in the snow. Put my adopted grandmother in the parade, dressed as the soldier memory tried to deny.

Then look again. That is America. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

## Democrats Should Welcome Democratic Socialists

By Kevin Harris  
Democratic Strategist



The Democratic Party prides itself on being a big tent. But when it comes to Democratic Socialists, Democrats are missing the forest for the trees.

At a time when the party's brand is battered, democracy itself is under strain, and economic inequality continues to widen, the need to embrace democratic socialists is a hard truth for many Democrats to accept. But that's exactly what needs to happen if Democrats want to rebuild their brand, reconnect with working class voters and ultimately defeat Trump and MAGA Republicans at the ballot box.

This doesn't mean every Democrat must become a democratic socialist or agree with every far-left policy. It simply means Democrats recognizing they have more in common than disagreement with democratic socialist. Both believe in democratic institutions, civil liberties, racial equality, workers' rights, environmental stewardship, and an economy that works for ordinary people rather than only the wealthy.

They may disagree about the size of government, the pace of reform, or the best policy mechanisms to achieve these goals but those differences pale in comparison to the differences that exist between Democrats and MAGA. And increasingly, key demographics of voters that Democrats need to win are showing a willingness to embrace democratic socialist candidates.

Democrats are foolish to deny this reality.

Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York City marked the largest electoral breakthrough in the history of the Demo-

cratic Socialists of America. Mamdani's victory showed a democratic socialist could build a broad and diverse winning coalition in America's largest city. Mamdani's impact extended into New York's recent congressional primaries where three of his endorsed candidates defeated establishment backed Democrats. Among those defeated is the current Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who lost his re-election bid to a democratic socialist.

In Seattle, Katie Wilson won the mayoralty after campaigning on affordability and public investment. In Washington, D.C., Janeese Lewis George recently won the Democratic mayoral primary and is expected to become the city's next mayor. All succeeded in part by appealing to voters frustrated by rising costs and dissatisfied with politics as usual.

Democrats should see these victories as an opportunity rather than a threat. Historically, successful political movements have been coalitions rather than ideological purity tests. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal coalition united labor organizers, urban liberals, rural voters, and reformers with differing visions of government's role. The civil rights movement brought together activists with a wide range of political philosophies. Progress was achieved not because everyone agreed on every issue, but because they agreed on enough.

And when it comes to the most loyal base of the Democratic Party, Democrats must also remember that some of the most notable figures in Black history such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, A. Phillip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and the founders of the Black Panther Party were either socialist or inspired by socialism.

Mamdani and Lewis George in particular performed well with Black voters who were more than comfortable supporting the socialist candidate over establishment Democrats.

Still some Democrats worry an association with democratic socialism could alienate moderate voters. That concern deserves consideration. But recent elections suggest that excluding democratic socialists may carry risks of its own. Many younger voters, renters,

Democrats should also confront the uncomfortable reality that the appeal of democratic socialists is rooted in the party's own failures to build and maintain its bond with working class voters.

Many working class voters who once formed the backbone of democratic coalitions have drifted away. Working class voters express frustration that Democrats don't deliver real solutions on big issues like healthcare and wages.

The Democratic Party's biggest challenge is not democratic socialism. The Democrat's real challenge is that too many Americans no longer see them as a vehicle for meaningful change in their daily lives.

Candidates such as Mamdani, Wilson, and Lewis George haven't succeeded because voters suddenly embraced socialism. Democratic socialists are succeeding because of the void Democrats created in the first place.

Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections, served in the Obama Administration, cabinet member for two big city mayors and Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4336**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Morgan Stokes have filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from R-5 (Multi-Family) Residential District to C-1 (Restricted) Commercial District to allow for the continued operation of a Professional Office on property located at 720 N. President St. (Parcel: 36-27), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel of land being Lot 7 and part of Lot of Institute Survey as recorded in Plat Book I, at Page 34, in the office of the Chancery Clerk at Jackson, Binds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point on the East line of North President Street, said point being 193.4 feet North from the North line of George Street and also being designated as the southwest corner of Lot 7, Institute Survey; run thence northerly 96.5 feet to a point on the East line of North President Street; thence turn right through 89 degrees 40 minutes and run easterly 160 feet to a point on the East line of Lot 6, Institute Survey; thence run southerly along the East line of Lots 6 and 7 of said Institute Survey a distance of 98.5 feet to the southeast corner of Lot 7, Institute Survey; thence westerly along the South line of Lot 7 a distance of 160 feet to the point of beginning.

That certain parcel of land in the "Institute Survey" of Five Acre Lot, Five, North, and the North half of the North three-quarters of Ten Acre Lot Ten, North Jackson, filed for record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi, First Judicial District and particularly described as: beginning at a point on the line between Lots Six and Fourteen, which point is 19 feet North of the southeast corner of said Lot Six; run thence North along the Eastern boundary line of said Lot Six 61 feet to the Northeast corner thereof; thence West along the northern boundary line of said Lot Six 160 feet to the Northwest corner. of said Lot Six; thence South 63.5 feet along the East line of President Street to a point 16.5 feet North of the Southwest corner of said Lot Six of said Institute Survey; thence Easterly in a straight line 160 feet to the point of beginning; together with all the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto belonging.

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

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL tsmith@city.jackson.ms.us TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JULY 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of June 2026.

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

7/2/2026, 7/16/2026

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4338**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Ishley's Payroll Management Services, LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting an Use Permit to allow for an extended stay hotel within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 5075 I-55 North (Parcel 507-354) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land lying and being situate in Section 13, T6N, R1E, Jackson, Mississippi, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi:

Commence at the Westerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 55(as was laid out and improved July, 1982) with the North line of the aforesaid Section 13, T6N, R1E, and run thence Southerly along said Westerly right of way line of Interstate Highway S5 (1982) for a distance of 300 feet; turn thence right through a deflection angle 80 degrees 25 minutes and run Westerly for a distance of 13 feet to a point on the present Westerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 55 and the Point of Beginning of the parcel of land herein described; from said Point of Beginning, turn thence left through a deflection angle of 80 degrees 25 minutes and run Southerly along said present Westerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 55 for a distance of 352.7 feet to the Point of Curvature of a 1.0038 degree curve to the right having a central angle of 2 degrees 45 minutes and a radius of 5,679.58 feet; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 00 degrees 59 minutes 52 seconds and run Southerly along said present Westerly right of way line of Interstate Highway SS for a chord distance of 200.20 feet; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 89 degrees 00 minutes 08 seconds and run Westerly for a distance of 364.62 feet; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 80 degrees 28 minutes and run Northerly for a distance of 483.84 feet; turn thence right through a deflection angle of 89 degrees 57 minutes ad run Easterly for a distance of 454.60 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 211,486.32 square feet or 4.8551 acres, more or less.

And being the same land as described in Trustee's Deed recorded in Book 7159 at Page 2452

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

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL mailto:tsmith@city.jackson.ms.us TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JULY 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of June 2026.

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

7/2/2026, 7/16/2026

**LEGAL**

**I. ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

220-8-4 located at 1525 ELLIS AVE 2026.

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

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054 or 601-960-2747. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Send an email to ceraffit@jacksonms.gov or saraves@jacksonms.gov Electronic proposals MUST be submitted at www.jacksonmsbids.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, contact PH Bidding Group at admin@phbidding.com or call 662-407-0193.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

By: Samantha Graves, Manager Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

7/2/2026, 7/9/2026

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A REZONING**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4337**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that DMG Real Estate Holdings SBC, LLC have filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Rezoning from I-1 (Light) Industrial District to CMU-1 (Community) Mixed-Use District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the conversion of the recreational center to multi-family units on property located at 800 E. River Pl. (Parcels 1008-2, 1008-43 & 1032-1), in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Parcel 1032-1

That certain part of Lot 3, of Section 2, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi, described as follows:

Commencing at the center of said Section 2, run East for a distance of 1116.99 feet, more or less, to the point of intersection of said line with the East right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 55, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, which point of intersection is on the North line of said Lot 3 and the Point of Beginning of the parcel of land hereby described; thence run South 31 degrees 05 minutes East along said right-of-way line for a distance of 271.9 feet to a point; thence run South 08 degrees 11 minutes West along said right-of-way line for a distance of 119.71 feet to a point (which point is the Point of Beginning of that certain boundary line established and described in the Boundary Line Agreement, dated July 23, 1976, and recorded in Book 2386 at Page 611 of the records in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, between Capitol Broadcasting Company and Robert N. Stockett); thence leaving said right-of-way line run South 80 degrees 36 minutes East along said boundary line for a distance of 600 feet, more or less, to a point on the line between Hinds and Rankin Counties, Mississippi (being the center line of the Old River Bed of the Pearl River); thence meander Northwesterly along the line between Hinds and Rankin Counties (following the center line of the Old River Bed of the Pearl River) for a distance of 600 feet, more or less, to the point of intersection of the North line of said Lot 3 as extended with the line between Hinds and Rankin Counties; and thence run West along the North line of Lot 3 for a distance of 437.64 feet, more or less, to the Point of Beginning of the parcel of land hereby described.

LESS AND EXCEPT: Property conveyed to the City of Jackson, MS, dated March 8, 2011, in Book 7116 at Page 7527.

LESS AND EXCEPT: Property conveyed to Treehouse, Inc, in Book 2816 at Page 7009.

Parcel 1008-43

Lot 12, East River Place, according to a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi,

Parcel 1008-2

Commencing at the concrete monument marking the South right-of-way line of East Fortification Street, as extended, in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and the East right-of-way line of U.S. Interstate Highway No. 55 ("I-55"), run thence Southerly along said I-55 right-of-way line for a distance of 1149.6 feet to the Point of Beginning of the property herein described and conveyed; thence turn to the left through an angle of 90 degrees, and run South 70 degrees 46 minutes East for a distance of 600.0 feet, more or less, to the centerline of the Old Channel of the Pearl River; thence turn to the right and run along the centerline of said channel for a distance of 360.0 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of the property of Grantors (being the Southeast corner of the property herein described); thence turn to the right and run due West for a distance of 572.3 feet, more or less, to a point on the East right-of-way line of the High Street interchange to I-55; thence turn to the right and run North 28 degrees 57 minutes West along said right-of-way line for a distance of 122.7 feet to a point; and thence continue to run along said right-of-way around a curve to the right, having a radius of 616.2 feet for a distance of 407.01 feet, more or less, to the Point of Beginning, being situated in the NE ¼ of Section 2, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi, and containing 5.45 acres, more or less.

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

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL tsmith@city.jackson.ms.us TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JULY 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of June 2026.

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

7/2/2026, 7/16/2026

**LEGAL**

**I. ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Scaled bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM, local time (CT), Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcel(s):  
1. 615-35 located at 2605 Belvedere Dr.  
2. 615-35-1 located at 2625 Belvedere Dr.  
3. 615-35-2 located at 2655 Belvedere Dr.

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

by: Samantha Graves, Manager Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

7/2/2026, 7/9/2026

**LEGAL**

**SECTION 901**

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**CITY OF JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**MONUMENT STREET  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
STP-7262-00(007)LPA / 109279-701000**

The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of bridge located on We Monument Street, no later than 10 A.M., Local Prevailing Time, **July 28, 2026** in the Municipal Clerk Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

**1) Removal/Replacement of the Monument Street Bridge in its entirety plus related approach work.**

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be **50** working days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

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

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

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON MONUMENT STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. STP-7262-00(007)LPA/109279-701000". Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal. Bids shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City Clerk Office, City Hall – 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **July 16, 2026 at 10 am**, in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:  
1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor; Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.  
2. CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications maybe procured through the following:

1. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CIVILTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852 Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.
2. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through PH Bidding at [www.jacksonmsbid.com](http://www.jacksonmsbid.com), upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.jacksonmsbid.com](http://www.jacksonmsbid.com). For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call PH Bidding at 662-407-0195

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Work to be performed shall be in accordance with the "Mississippi Road and Bridge Construction, 2017", together with all amendments and/or special provisions and/or addenda to the standards duly approved and adopted, unless otherwise noted in these specifications.

**The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities.**

*Henry Chia*  
Henry Chia  
Engineering Manager  
Department of Public Works

6/25/2026, 7/2/2026

**LEGAL**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT**

**ZONING CASE NO. 4339**

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Terranee Brent has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to allow for a community recreational center that offers skating, arcade games, fitness training and community engagement events for the property located at 540 Raymond Rd-Ste. B (Parcel 217-9). in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A certain parcel of land situated in the East 1/2 of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of that certain ten acre tract conveyed by Henry and Anne Moore to W.E. Johnson by Warranty Deed recorded in Deed Book 227 at Page 126 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi; run thence Easterly along the South line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 4.0 feet to the Point of Beginning of the parcel of land herein described; from said Point of Beginning, turn thence left through a deflection angle of 88 degrees 21 minutes 49 seconds and run Northerly 4.0 feet East of and parallel to the West line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 458.20 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 38 minutes 11 seconds and run Easterly for a distance of 481.43 feet to a point on the East line of said ten acre tract; said point also being on the West line of Glenwood Subdivision, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi; turn thence left through an interior angle of 88 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds and run Southerly along the East line of said ten acre tract and West line of Glenwood Subdivision for a distance of 183.19 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 34 minutes 50 seconds and run Westerly for a distance of 175.0 feet; turn thence left through an interior angle of 268 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds and run Southerly for a distance of 275.0 feet to the South line of said ten acre tract; turn thence left through an interior angle of 91 degrees 34 minutes 50 seconds and run Westerly along the South line of said ten acre tract for a distance of 306.88 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 172,498.08 square feet or 3.96 acres, more or less.

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

DUE TO THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, APPLICANTS AND THE GENRAL PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. PLEASE EMAIL tsmith@city.jackson.ms.us TO REGISTER FOR THE TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO INFORMATION PRIOR TO JULY 15, 2026.

WITNESS my signature this 25TH day of June 2026.

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

7/2/2026, 7/16/2026

**LEGAL**

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING W OAKLEY STREET FROM N MILL STREET TO N FARISH STREET TO DORCUS RUTH CURRY THIGPEN DRIVE.**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorcus "Ruth" Curry Thigpen was born May 4, 1956. She began choir directing at a very young age at Oakley Street Church, pastored by her Father, D.R. Curry, Sr. Oakley Street Church later became Liberal Trinity Church of God In Christ, where her brother, D.R. Curry, Jr., would become leader of the church following the death of their father. Under the leadership of her brother, the D.R. Curry Memorial Choir was founded; and

WHEREAS, in 1982 the D.R. Curry Memorial Choir recorded Lift Jesus Up with Malaco Records. It was this album that elevated Dorcus Thigpen's gifts of directing, singing, and songwriting to a national platform. She led and co-wrote "Put Your Trust in Jesus."; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 David R Curry and Frank D. Williams founded the Grammy-nominated Mississippi Mass Choir, where again Dorcus Thigpen's talents made her the obvious choice as director. She has spent more than three decades serving in this capacity, which earned her 2 Grammy nominations and countless trips all over the world to include Japan, Germany, Spain, and South Africa. Since its founding, the Mississippi Mass Choir has grown to more than 200 members, released 10 albums; and

WHEREAS, Dorcus Thigpen also has a unique gift with children. That gift led her to assist with forming the Mississippi Children's Choir. She directed and wrote songs for this choir for several years while mentoring children into some of the greatest singers and songwriters in the country; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thigpen remains faithful to the call over her life to honor the Most High through song. She shares her love for music and performing with her 5 sons and 10 grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Jackson City Council hereby honorary renames W Oakley Street from N Mill Street to N Farish Street in honor of Dorcus Ruth Curry Thigpen Drive.

Council Member Parkinson moved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded.

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

ATTEST:  
Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting May 19, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7D, Pg. 252".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 29th day of June 2026.

Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

7/2/2026

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**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St  
**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

2030 N Siwell Rd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

4331 Highway 80W

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

304 Briarwood Dr

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

2855 McDowell Rd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

104 Terry Rd

**J & A FUEL STORES**

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257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

**TRAILER PARK GROCERY**

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**BYRAM**

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

125 Swinging Bridge Dr.

**HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE**

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

**VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE**

5777 Terry Road

**CITY HALL**

Terry Road

**CLINTON**

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

**TERRY**

**SERVICE STATION**

at Exit 78

**CITY HALL**

West Cunningham Avenue

**RAYMOND**

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**WELCOME CENTER**

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P R E S E R V E D

## Who you calling Auntie?

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



In this week's column, I revisit one I wrote a few years ago where I discuss what some consider the use of the controversial name: auntie. Oprah. Ava. Gayle. These are some of the most influential African American women in media and entertainment who have one thing in common: They don't want to be called auntie. According to a June 2019 post on OprahDaily.com, Oprah explained, "I cringe being called

Auntie or Mama by anybody other than my nieces or godchildren. Except if I'm in Africa, where it's the custom for everybody to refer to anyone older as 'Sister,' or 'Auntie,' depending on the age difference. Others like Tracy Ellis Ross embrace being called an aunt as it reflects her commitment and connection to her family.

In past separate social media posts, Oprah's best friend television host Gayle King and award-winning director Ava DuVernay shared that to them auntie is what you say to old people. Having been an aunt since I was in my early 20's, I've never thought be-

ing called auntie made me feel old. To be honest, I've always considered it an honorable title of respect.

The controversy around being called auntie, aunt or TT reminds me of the iconic "Hey Auntie" line from the 2018 blockbuster Black Panther. Killmonger, played by Michael B. Jordan says this when he greets his incredibly surprised Auntie Ramonda played by Angela Basset. I laughed like so many others in the movie theater when I heard it because it reminded me of what I hear from my own nieces and nephews. It is a greeting of honor, respect, and intimacy that

invokes the importance of the aunt in the family. And the fact that he boldly called her that the first time he met her face to face was intended to be shocking but ironic. It was as if by calling her auntie, he was also reminding them of his undeniable connection to the family.

In looking at what others have said about not wanting to be called auntie, I discovered a few reasons why. The most common reason mentioned was that it made them feel old. Others stated that it made it seem like a family relationship was being forced on them whether they wanted it or

not. To them, it seemed intrusive and made assumptions about the desire to be closely connected. Lastly, some stated that it made them feel unattractive and no longer valued. A few even mentioned Aunt Jemima and the stereotypical mammy who is past her prime sexually and romantically.

To me, being called auntie implies connection, respect, and admiration. The bible talks about how an older woman should behave in Titus 2:3 "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good." And as an Auntie, I

enjoy sharing "good wisdom" that I've gained over the years with my nieces and nephews.


Being an aunt is a privilege and a blessing that I'll share more about in the next few weeks in a series of columns leading up to the celebration of National Aunt and Uncle Day, July 26th. It's what inspired me to launch a podcast a few years ago called "The Chocolate Auntie" podcast which is one of the most rewarding things I've done. I'm able to share my journey as an aunt as well as the stories of other aunts and some encouraging auntie affirmations.

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS:**

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JACKSON REVIVAL CENTER

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2PM

**ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**  
SPEAKER  
**REV. DR. AVA HARVEY, SR.**  
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# Why extreme heat hits 'City Dwellers' harder

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

In recent years, heat waves have become more common across the United States. Summers feel hotter, heat lasts longer and nighttime temperatures don't cool down the way they used to. While extreme heat affects everyone, people who live in cities face even greater risks. From tall buildings to crowded streets, city environments trap heat in ways that make hot days even more dangerous.

Scientists call this the urban heat island effect, and it's one of the biggest climate-related challenges facing city residents today. Understanding why cities get so hot and how it affects the people who live there can help communities prepare for a future with more extreme heat.

One of the main reasons cities get hotter than rural areas are the materials they are built from. Concrete, asphalt, brick and metal absorb heat from the sun during the day. Instead of cooling off at night, these surfaces release heat slowly, keeping temperatures high even after sunset.

This means that on a day when a rural area might reach 90 degrees, a city could feel like 100 degrees or more. At night, the difference can be even greater. Some cities stay 10 to 20 degrees hotter than nearby suburbs or countryside.

When heat builds up day after day, it creates dangerous conditions for people who live, work or travel in the city.

In many cities, tall buildings line the streets like walls. While these buildings are impressive, they also block natural breezes that would normally help cool the air. Without wind, hot air becomes trapped between buildings, creating what some people call "urban canyons."

These canyons can feel like standing inside a hot tunnel. The lack of airflow makes it harder for sweat to evaporate, which is how the body cools itself. As a result, people in cities may feel hotter and more uncomfortable than people in open areas.

Cities are crowded. Millions of people live close together, and human activity creates heat. Cars, buses, trains,



air conditioners and factories all release heat into the air. Even electronics like computers and appliances add to the temperature.

Air conditioners are especially tricky. They cool the inside of buildings but push hot air outside. During a heat wave, thousands of air conditioners running at once can raise outdoor temperatures even more.

This extra heat makes cities warmer than they would be naturally.

Trees, parks and plants help cool the air by providing shade and releasing moisture. But many cities don't have enough green space. Instead, they have large areas of pavement, parking lots, and rooftops that absorb heat.

Neighborhoods with fewer trees can be 15 degrees hotter than neighborhoods with lots of shade. This difference can be lifethreatening during a heat wave.

People who live in areas with limited green space often face the highest heat risks.

Heat is one of the deadliest weather events in the United States. It causes more deaths each year than hurricanes, floods or tornadoes. City dwellers are especially vulnerable because they are exposed to higher temperatures for longer periods of time.

Extreme heat can cause:

- Heat exhaustion

- Heatstroke
- Dehydration
- Breathing problems
- Worsening of heart conditions
- Dizziness and fainting

Heatstroke is the most dangerous. It happens when the body can no longer cool itself. Without quick treatment, heatstroke can be fatal.

Older adults, young children, pregnant people and those with chronic illnesses are at the highest risk. But anyone can get sick from extreme heat, even healthy adults.

One of the biggest problems in cities is that temperatures stay high at night. Normally, cooler nights give the body a chance to rest and recover. But in cities, heat trapped in buildings and pavement keeps temperatures warm long after sunset.

When nights stay hot:

- People sleep poorly
- The body stays stressed
- Health problems get worse
- The risk of heat-related illness increases

For people without air conditioning, nighttime heat can be extremely dangerous.

Many city residents rely on buses, trains and subways. During heat waves, these systems can become uncomfortable or even unsafe.

Crowded buses and trains trap body

heat. Subway platforms can feel like ovens because they are underground with limited airflow. Delays or breakdowns can leave passengers stuck in hot conditions for long periods.

People who walk or bike to work also face risks, especially when sidewalks and streets radiate heat.

Extreme heat does not affect all city residents equally. Low-income neighborhoods often have:

- Fewer trees
- Older buildings with poor insulation
- Limited access to air conditioning
- More pavement and fewer parks
- Higher pollution levels

Many residents in these areas cannot afford high electric bills, so they avoid using air conditioning even when temperatures are dangerous. Some may not have air conditioning at all.

This creates a serious public health challenge. Heat waves hit these communities hardest, leading to higher rates of illness and death.

Cities often have higher levels of air pollution from traffic and industry. Extreme heat can make pollution worse by increasing smog and trapping dirty air close to the ground.

Breathing polluted air during a heat wave can cause:

- Asthma attacks
- Chest pain
- Coughing
- Trouble breathing
- Worsening of lung and heart conditions

Children, seniors and people with respiratory illnesses are especially vulnerable.

Extreme heat doesn't just affect health—it affects daily routines. City workers who spend time outdoors, such as construction workers, delivery drivers and street vendors, face higher risks. Even indoor workers can struggle if buildings are not well-cooled.

Heat can also cause:

- Power outages
- Transit delays
- School closures
- Higher grocery prices
- Increased water use

When heat waves last for days or

weeks, the impact on city life becomes even more severe.

Many cities are taking steps to protect residents from extreme heat. These solutions include:

- Planting more trees
- Creating shaded bus stops
- Building "cool roofs" that reflect sunlight
- Opening cooling centers during heat waves
- Expanding parks and green spaces
- Improving public transportation ventilation
- Providing assistance for energy bills

Some cities are also using heat-mapping programs to identify the hottest neighborhoods so they can target help where it's needed most.

While cities work on long-term solutions, individuals can take steps to stay safe:

- Drink plenty of water
- Wear light clothing
- Avoid outdoor activity during the hottest hours
- Use fans or air conditioning when possible
- Check on neighbors, especially seniors
- Visit cooling centers or public libraries during heat waves

Staying informed and prepared can save lives.

Climate scientists warn that extreme heat will continue to increase in the coming decades. Cities must adapt to protect their residents. Understanding why heat affects city dwellers more is the first step toward building safer, cooler and healthier communities.

Extreme heat is not just a summer inconvenience, it's a serious threat. But with planning, awareness and community support, cities can help people stay safe in a warming world.

Before starting any health or fitness program consult your physician.

I want to hear what you think about this article.

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

## Ty Pennington encourages people to take a deeper look at their lung health

StatePoint

Some respiratory symptoms are easy to dismiss, especially when they come and go over time. But recurring symptoms can be a sign that it's time to ask more questions and take a deeper look at what's going on beneath the surface.

Bronchiectasis (BE) is a serious and chronic lung disease that can get worse over time, and people living with BE may experience recurring respiratory symptoms such as chronic cough, excess mucus, and repeated lung infections. Because these symptoms can overlap with other respiratory conditions, like COPD or asthma, some people may live with BE for years before receiving a diagnosis.

July 1 marks World Bronchiectasis Day, a global observance dedicated to raising awareness of the disease and supporting people living with bronchiectasis, as well as caregivers, clinicians, researchers and advocates.

Helping shine a light on the disease is Emmy Award-winning TV host, designer and carpenter Ty Pennington, whose mother has lived with bronchiectasis for nearly two decades. Her journey living with unresolved respiratory symptoms for more than 40 years, along with the extended time it took to receive a BE diagnosis, inspired Pennington to team up with Insmed on the Suspect Bronchiectasis (Suspect BE) initiative to raise awareness about the disease.



Ty Pennington

An estimated 500,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with BE, yet experts believe many more may be living with the condition without knowing it. World Bronchiectasis Day serves as an important reminder that persistent respiratory symptoms deserve attention and may warrant further discussion with a pulmonologist.

As part of the initiative, Pennington draws on his home improvement expertise to highlight an important parallel: whether in a home or the lungs, taking a deeper look means exploring beyond the surface.

"In my world of home renovation, if something isn't working, you don't just paint over the problem — you look deeper to understand what's really going on. Lung health isn't that dif-

ferent," Pennington said. "My mom is one of the most resilient people I know, and her experience taught our family the importance of asking questions and continuing to search for answers. If recurring respiratory symptoms keep coming back or don't seem to improve, it may be worth talking with a pulmonologist and learning whether bronchiectasis could be part of the picture."

To learn more about bronchiectasis and the Suspect BE initiative, visit [SuspectBE.com](https://SuspectBE.com).

If you or someone you love is experiencing recurring respiratory symptoms, it may be worth asking a pulmonologist whether additional testing, like a CT scan, is the right next step to rule out or confirm bronchiectasis.

## New research shows how root canal treatment helps protect your whole body



StatePoint

Root canal treatment is not only a tooth-saving procedure that preserves smiles and improves dental health, new research suggests that it can have far-reaching medical benefits that impact the entire body.

While it's long been known that some untreated dental infections can be associated with an increased risk of heart disease and diabetes, the positive impacts of treatment have not been as well studied. In order to understand how a successful root canal treatment can benefit heart and metabolic health, a team of researchers at King's College London tracked changes in the blood chemistry of patients who had undergone the procedure due to the common

dental infection, apical periodontitis. What they discovered was improved glucose metabolism, a key factor in preventing diabetes, better lipid profiles, which are linked to heart health, and reduced inflammation.

The reason that root canal treatment is so effective is that during the procedure, the endodontist removes inflamed or infected pulp, carefully cleans and shapes the inside of the root canal, then fills and seals the space. By doing so, they are stopping the spread of infection and preventing harmful bacteria from entering the bloodstream.

"When you experience symptoms of swelling or pain indicating an infection, it's important to act immediately

by making an appointment with an endodontist to save your tooth and protect your body," says Dr. W. Craig Noblett, president of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE).

More information about dental symptoms and the benefits of root canal treatment can be found by visiting <https://www.aae.org/patients/>, the patient education site of the AAE.

"We now have a deeper understanding than ever before of how intrinsically linked oral health care and overall health truly are. This understanding serves to reinforce the importance of a whole-body approach to care that helps protect smiles and prevent systemic complications," says Dr. Noblett.

# Local agencies support unhoused women and families

Mississippi Link Newswire

On June 26, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health (IAMH), in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Rho Lambda Omega Chapter, distributed pillows, pillowcases, diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products and mental health resources to support unhoused women and families in the Jackson metro area through the Hearts for Pretty Dreams Pillow Drive.

While food and clothing are often the focus of donation drives, this initiative recognizes another essential need—quality sleep. For women experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, restful sleep can be difficult to achieve. Crowded shelters, uncertainty and limited access to basic comforts often contribute to poor sleep, increased stress and declining physical and mental health. A clean, comfortable pillow can provide



Institute staff joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Lambda Omega chapter members to donate pillows and pillow cases to several Metro area shelters in support of unhoused individual

more than a place to rest—it can offer a sense of peace, dignity and hope.

Rest is essential to good

health. A pillow may seem like a small gift, but for someone facing homelessness, it represents comfort and the opportunity to

get a better night's sleep. IAMH believes everyone deserves a place to lay their head and experience the healing that comes

with rest. Research continues to show that quality sleep supports immune function, mental health, emotional resilience and overall well-being. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one-third of U.S. adults do not get enough sleep, and insufficient sleep is linked to an increased risk of anxiety, depression, heart disease, obesity and other chronic health conditions. Studies have also found that adults who average six hours of sleep or less per night are about 2.5 times more likely to experience frequent mental distress than those who get adequate sleep. In addition, research shows that sleep deprivation can weaken the immune system by disrupting the body's normal immune response, making it more difficult to fight infections and recover from illness.

By providing new pillows, pillowcases and other items, IAMH

and AKA hope to improve both comfort and health for women experiencing difficult circumstances. Both organizations understand that personal care, emotional wellness and access to support services are all important components of overall health. For more information about the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and its programs, visit [minority-institute.org](http://minority-institute.org).

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

# A film on Black land ownership earns Best Documentary nomination for Upcoming JXN Film Festival

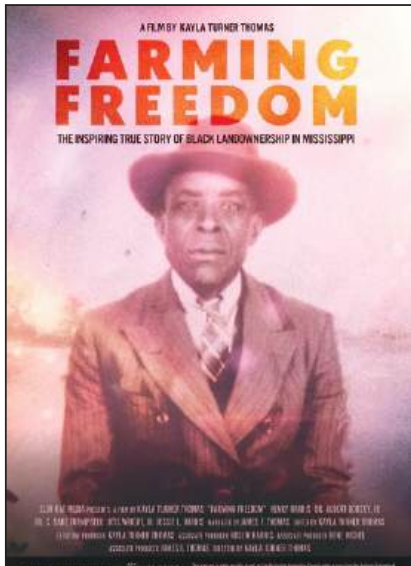
Mississippi Link Newswire

Farming freedom, the documentary exploring the history of Black land ownership, has been officially selected for the 2026 JXN Film Festival and nominated for Best Documentary Feature.

The festival will take place July 26–30 in Jackson, Mississippi, bringing together filmmakers and audiences from across the region to celebrate independent cinema. Screening dates and ticket information for Farming Freedom will be announced by the festival at [jxn-filmfestival.com](http://jxn-filmfestival.com).

The selection comes as the documentary continues to gain momentum in educational and community settings. Farming Freedom is now available in more than 70 libraries across more than 20 states and in Montreal, Canada, expanding access to students, educators, researchers, and community organizations studying African American history, agriculture, land ownership, and public policy.

The film has also received critical recognition. University of Colorado Boulder's Abbey



Kayla Turner Thomas, filmmaker

Lewis described Farming Freedom as a “tightly-focused portrait of Black landownership” and the publication designated the documentary as “Highly Recommended” for academic, public, and high school libraries.

Directed by filmmaker Kayla Turner Thomas, Farming Freedom follows her family's history in the Mississippi Delta while examining the policies, discrimination, and economic forces that contributed to the

loss of more than 90 percent of Black-owned farmland in the United States. The documentary also highlights the power of land ownership and its significance for formerly enslaved people, as well as opportunities today.

“To have Farming Freedom recognized by the JXN Film Festival while also seeing it reach libraries and classrooms across the country is incredibly rewarding,” said Thomas. “I created this film to preserve

a history that is too often overlooked, and I hope it encourages meaningful conversations about land, family, and opportunity for generations to come.”

Since its release, Farming Freedom has screened at universities, museums, conferences, libraries, and community organizations, fostering conversations about agricultural heritage, economic justice, and the importance of preserving family land.

The documentary will con-

tinue its national screening tour this fall with scheduled appearances at the South Carolina Black Farmers Coalition Annual Conference in Columbia, South Carolina, on October 2, 2026, and at Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, in October.

Communities, colleges, libraries, museums, faith-based organizations, and civic groups interested in hosting a screening of Farming Freedom can learn more about educational and community licensing through Collective Eye Films' licensing page. Organizations can also arrange community discussions and Q&A sessions with filmmaker Kayla Turner Thomas.

Farming Freedom was made possible in part by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Mississippi Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support was provided

through photographs courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and by SRI's Agriculture and Food Science Department.

About Collective Eye Films  
Collective Eye Films is a Portland, Oregon-based educational documentary distribution company that partners with filmmakers to bring socially relevant documentaries to schools, universities, libraries, museums, and community organizations around the world.

About Kayla Turner Thomas  
Kayla Turner Thomas is a two-time Emmy Award nominee with nearly 15 years of experience in local television. Raised on family land in the Mississippi Delta, she studied filmmaking and journalism at Pace University in Pleasantville, New York. Farming Freedom, inspired by an interview with her grandfather, Henry Harris, is her first feature documentary and explores the enduring relationship between land, family, and freedom. Thomas is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter

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## Alcorn State set to waive graduate application fees throughout July

ASU Newswire

Alcorn State University is waiving the application fee for its graduate programs throughout July. The move strips away one of the most common reasons students put off applying — the cost at the front door.

The waiver applies across the university's graduate programs and runs through July 31. It is part of the "Always Advancing. Always Alcorn." campaign, an effort to grow graduate enrollment ahead of the fall term.

"By waiving the fee, we are sending a clear message," said Dr. Edmund Buckner, associate provost for research, innovation and graduate education. "We want students to explore graduate education without hesitation."

The timing is deliberate. The waiver gives graduate students the room to finish admission requirements, talk with program coordinators, weigh financial aid and prepare to enroll. Apply now, and the semester starts with a plan instead of a scramble.

Buckner said the fee can be the



deciding factor for the very students Alcorn most wants to reach — recent graduates, working adults, first-generation students and people balancing jobs, families and tuition.

"For students who have been

waiting for the 'right time,' this is that moment," he said.

The waiver covers graduate programs across the university, including the STEM-designated Master of Business Administration, the Doctor of Nursing

Practice, the Master of Arts in Teaching, the Master of Science in Nursing, the Educational Specialist, and master's degrees in biology, agriculture, biotechnology, applied science, computer science and liberal arts.

Buckner framed the waiver as part of Alcorn's longer mission. Graduate study at a historically Black university, he said, pairs academic rigor with belonging. Students are known by name. They work closely with faculty.

Many go on to serve as teachers, nurses, counselors, researchers and public servants across Mississippi and the region.

"Alcorn State University was built to open doors, and we are still doing that work today," Buckner said.

Growth at the graduate level matters to the institution, too. It strengthens the academic profile, expands research, supports the regional workforce and helps the university build new partnerships. For a small HBCU, Buckner said, it is also tied to long-term sustainability.

Advisement takes place Aug. 13-14. Classes begin Aug. 17, the same day late registration opens and a \$50 late fee takes effect. Apply in July, and there is time to be admitted, advised and registered before that window closes.

Prospective students may contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 601.877.4708 or Julia Odom at jodom@alcorn.edu. The fee is waived for graduate applications submitted in July.

## NCF launches national campaign to strengthen HBCU infrastructures

The Mississippi Link Newswire

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is asking the public for help to pass historic multi-million dollar legislation that would undergird infrastructure projects at HBCUs across the nation. The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act, which already has significant support from bi-partisan members of Congress, could receive a boost to passage as members of the general public get involved.

If passed, the Act will "establish the largest federal grant program for historically Black college and university infrastructure in American history," according to the UNCF.

"This isn't just an organization lobbying the Congress and the administration. This is a campaign, and we need everyone to be involved," says UNCF Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs Lodriguez Murray, in a Trice Edney News Wire interview.

Murray is leading the campaign. "We need them to go to our website, UNCF.org/IGNITE. Go there. Click, 'write your representative' and in less than 15 seconds they'll be able to send a letter to their House of Representative member, their congresswoman or congresswoman. And then they'll be able to send two letters, one to each of their two U.S. senators. And they'll be



able to send a letter to the White House in support of this bill. And this is not just for HBCU students and graduates. It's for everyone who feels a stake of ownership in historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)."

According to a UNCF news release, "IGNITE stands for Institutional Grants for New Infrastructure, Technology, and Education for HBCU Excellence. If enacted, the legislation would create a competitive federal grant program through the U.S. Department of Education to fund campus modernization, deferred maintenance, broadband expansion, campus safety upgrades and the development of AI and workforce innovation hubs at HBCUs. The bill would also authorize repayment of nearly \$300 million in outstanding HBCU

capital financing loans, providing immediate debt relief to institutions across the country."

Introduced in both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support, the bill is led by Rep. French Hill (R-Ariz.), Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.), Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.), co-chairs of the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus.

Himself a first-generation HBCU graduate — from Morehouse College in Atlanta — Murray is passionate about this campaign, which could bring millions of dollars to universities which have struggled to get a fair share of funding while giving much to America.

"For more than 180 years, HBCUs have educated generations of students and built the foundation of Black America's profes-

sional class, often with far fewer resources than their peer institutions," says the UNCF news release. "Today, HBCUs educate nearly 300,000 students annually, generate \$16.5 billion in annual economic impact, support more than 136,000 jobs nationwide and produce approximately 17% of all bachelor's degrees earned by African Americans. Nearly 70% of HBCU students are Pell Grant eligible. Despite this record, approximately 84% of HBCUs remain underfunded, with a collective infrastructure deficit exceeding \$13 billion."

According to UNCF President/CEO Dr. Michael L. Lomax, in a statement, "The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act has the potential to be a transformative investment in HBCUs and the students who depend on them...For generations, HBCUs have nurtured extraordinary talent, yet they have long struggled with unequal access to funding and modern infrastructure. This legislation could reverse those adverse circumstances by providing targeted resources that strengthen both research excellence and campus infrastructure, ensuring HBCUs have the tools to lead in a rapidly changing world."

Murray is no stranger to Congress, having started on Capitol Hill with the now late Rep. Charlie W. Norwood, Jr. (R-Ga.). And

he has a track record of successfully raising money for HBCUs.

"I represented HBCUs for a dozen years before coming to UNCF. And I've had the opportunity to be probably the first UNCF scholarship recipient to become an executive of this organization at the senior vice president level," he said.

In 2019, Murray's advocacy had a major hand in the passage of The FUTURE Act (Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education), which "permanently secures \$255 million in annual mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)," according to the website of Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.), also a sponsor of that bi-partisan bill.

Murray's passion for HBCUs is deeply personal. As he shakes hands on Capitol Hill, he not only represents UNCF, but, like many HBCU graduates, he proudly hails from a

family that sent him forth as its first college graduate. He was raised, in part, by his grandfather who was unable to read and would ask him to read street signs for him.

"I thought he was just, you know, proud of his grandson." He went from that upbringing to becoming the first in his generation

to graduate high school and then on to Morehouse, "my college of choice."

A part of the HBCU community, he not only learned the financial difficulties faced by the students, but also the hardships of the colleges themselves.

"A 2018 Government Accountability Office report documented extensive capital project needs across HBCU campuses and significant structural barriers to accessing financing for modernization," the UNCF reports. "This year, Congress is drafting the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills—a critical window to advance federal investment in HBCUs. UNCF has submitted formal appropriations requests across multiple subcommittees including Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Commerce, Justice, Science, Defense, Interior and Housing and Urban Development."

Murray concludes, "HBCUs have been doing extraordinary work for over 180 years with whatever they had. The IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act is the moment we match their proven strength with the investment they have always deserved. We are calling on the entire HBCU community—students, alumni, educators, parents, elected officials and partners—to make their voices heard. Congress needs to



# BOOK REVIEW: ICE CREAM QUEEN: FLAVORS FROM BLACK AMERICA'S PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE BY LOKELANI ALABANZA C.2026, W.W. NORTON \$29.99 • 264 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

Your tongue can barely stay behind your teeth.

Is it Rocky Road that's tempting you, or chocolate chip cookie dough? Maybe something with caramel on top, or just plain vanilla, dressed up in a rainbow of sprinkles. Have you ever had a bad ice cream cone on a hot summer's day? Probably not – so dip into the new book "Ice Cream Queen" by Lokelani Alabanza, and have a taste.

For nearly three centuries, says Alabanza, "African Ameri-

can hands have been touching sugar." Planting it, harvesting it, processing it, every step was loaded with possible danger, loss of limb, and loss of life.

Sugar is the first ingredient for ice cream, which was first made some 1500 years ago but which didn't arrive in this country until around 1744. Thirty years after that, America's first ice cream parlor was opened in New York City, and it was a hit. Take note, though, and stress the word "parlor." An ice cream shop was a totally unacceptable place for unchaperoned ladies. A parlor was

completely fine.

Writing about memories of her grandma's stash of ice cream, Alabanza recalls enjoying it after a good Southern meal cooked by the Tennessean woman. In her career-journey, Alabanza learned about other Black cooks and Black cookbooks,

"And then I found Sarah Estell."

From roughly 1840, until the Civil War, Estell, a Black woman, owned and ran an ice cream "saloon" in Nashville, serving ice cream she made. Known locally as the "Ice Cream Queen,"

Estell seemed to disappear after 1865.

Like her "North Star," Estell, Alabanza makes unusual kinds of ice cream.

In this book, you'll find a glossary of terms, lists of equipment needed, and directions for different bases to get you started. There are recipes for basic flavors, Parmesan, cream cheese & pepper jelly, burnt almond, and marshmallow. You can have blueberry ice cream, cranberry-cherry vodka, summer corn, and more. But why stop there?

Says Alabanza, "I have yet to


come across one person who doesn't like ice cream. Not one."

So what's your preference? A waffle cone, a regular cone, or in a bowl? Sprinkles or not and okay, now you want some ice cream but first, check out "Ice Cream Queen."

The thing you'll notice about this book is that it's so happy. From the "birth of ice cream," to tales of notable people in frozen-concoction history, to recipes for kids and kids-at-heart, this is one of those books that cooks will love but it's not just for them. Author Lokelani Alabanza sat-

isfies everyone, from historians to foodies, with step-by-step, easy-to-try instructions, so you can create tasty foundations for whatever flavor you might want to try. There's even some encouragement for a little experimentation of your own. Glossy photos will make your mouth water while you're smiling big.

Summertime can be a scorcher, and you know what cools you off best? Yep, so find this book, invest in a few tools, and be the hit of the neighborhood. For that, a book like "Ice Cream Queen" can't be licked.

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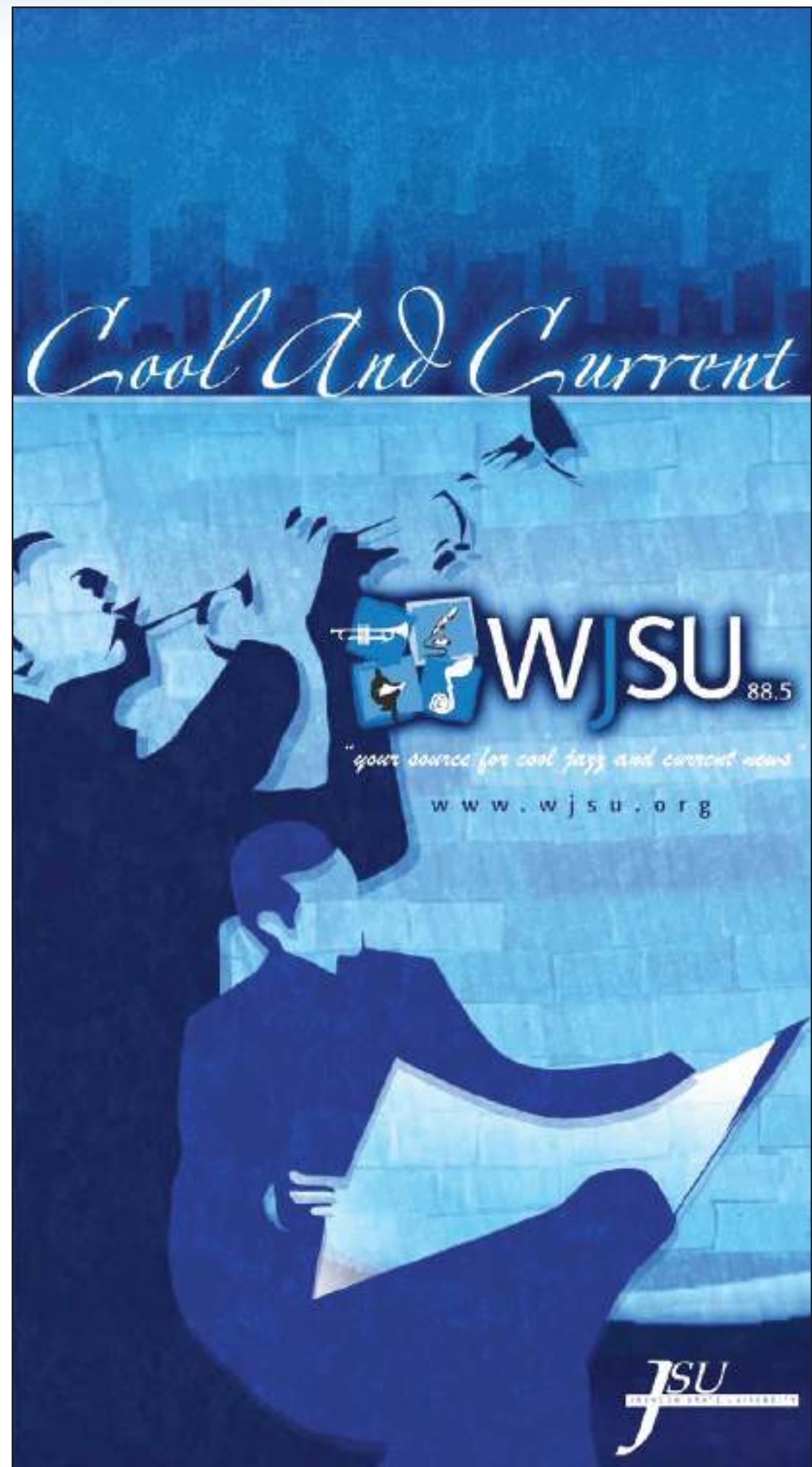
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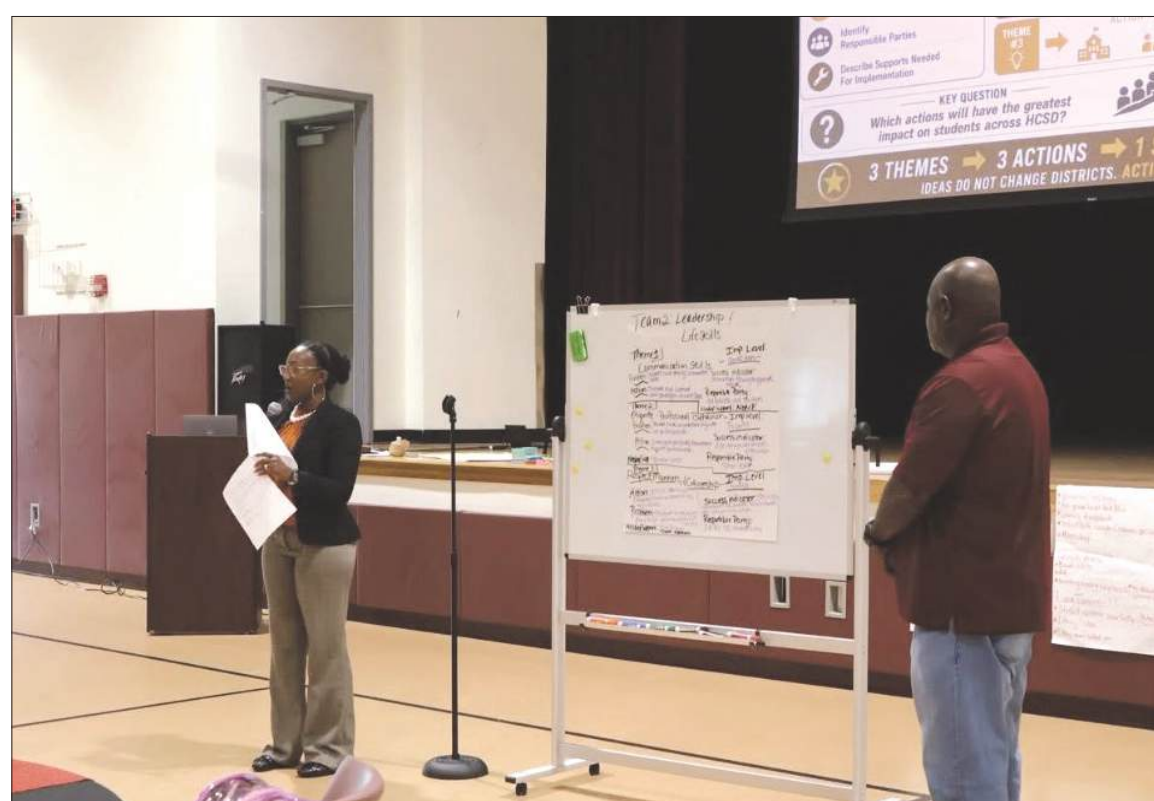
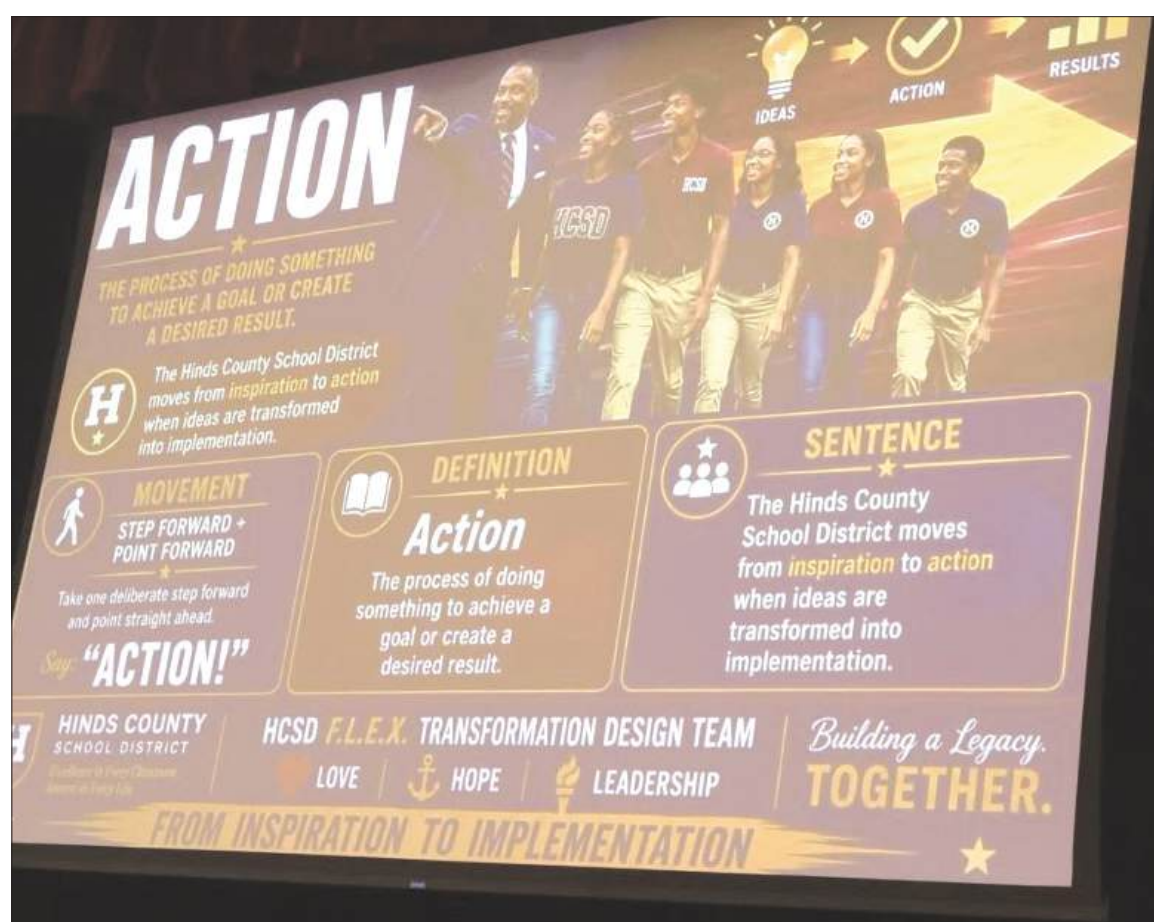
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# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## What happens when great ideas meet intentional action? Transformation begins!

Day 2 of the HCSD F.L.E.X. Transformation Design Team Planning Experience focused on moving from inspiration to implementation. Educators and leaders from across the district worked together to turn ideas into actionable strategies that will strengthen our schools and support student success.

The collaboration was powerful, the conversations were purposeful, and the work was meaningful. Ideas do not change districts... Actions do!



# Sixteen emergency medical technicians graduated from AMR's "Earn While You Learn" In-House Course

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

American Medical Response, Central Mississippi graduated sixteen Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) for certification Friday, June 26, 2026, at 10:00 am. The graduation was held at the Jackson facility, 600 Melvin Bender Drive. The program started with a procession of students and presentation of colors.

After passing a mandatory national exam, each graduate will become an EMT in the Hinds County emergency medical services system.

Six of the graduates will work fulltime at AMR with a starting pay of \$41,200 per year plus overtime a career ladder to more advance training. Of the other ten graduates, five will work fulltime at the Jackson Fire Department and five at the

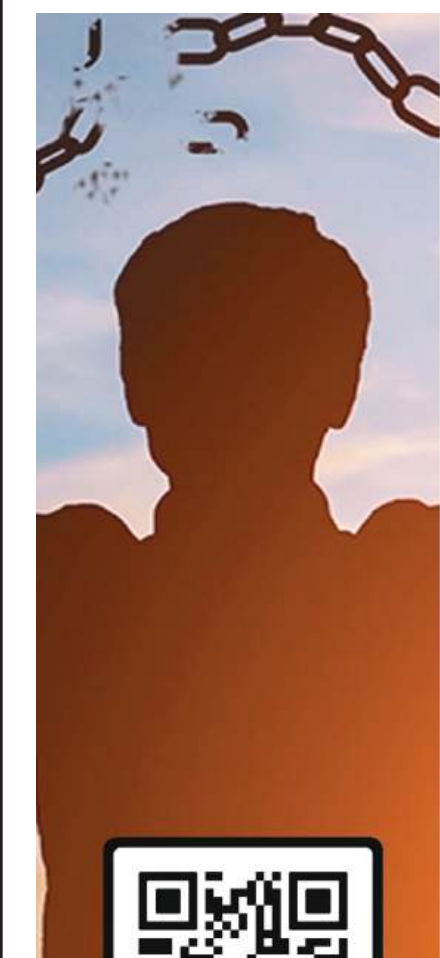
Clinton Fire Department.

AMR began teaching the full EMT course in 2019 at its facility. To increase its workforce of fulltime EMT's, AMR hires strong applicants and pays them to take the ten-to-twelve-week course. In return, the paid students commit to work at AMR as EMT's for a year.

Including this class, nearly 300 metro area residents have graduated from AMR's in house EMT courses. EMT instructor Malcolm Robinson said, "These graduates, like those from our seventeen previous paid courses, will bolster the current workforce of EMT's with AMR and area fire-rescue departments. They will enlarge the team protecting every Hinds County resident, commuter, visitor and transient from sudden severe illness and major injury."



Malcolm Robinson, instructor (left) along with proud graduates PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY



## Have a Criminal Record? We Can Help.

If you've been impacted by the criminal justice system or have questions about clearing your record, join us to learn about the record-clearing process and available legal resources.

Through The Restoration Lab, in partnership with LegalEase, you'll gain the knowledge, tools, and support to restore opportunities, advocate for your community, and become more civically engaged.

Get informed. Get empowered. Take the next step toward restoration.

#SecondChances #JusticeImpacted #TheRestorationLab



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**We must vote**

# Advocacy Day

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF LEARNING, ADVOCACY, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT OUR STATE CAPITOL. PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, HEAR FROM LEADERS ABOUT KEY COMMITTEES, AND GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD.

**MS STATE CAPITOL**  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 | 8:30AM - 2:00PM

**SIGN UP NOW TO JOIN US!!!**



REGISTER