

Always on the cover

A reflection on the exceptional and enduring value of The Black Press

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer, The Mississippi Link

Seeing America’s real racial truth – laid bare under the current president – is both jarring and informative. America has never truly or fully stopped viewing and treating some Americans differently than others, based on the color of their skin.

Today we watch a large segment of America’s white majority, estimated by The Census Bureau at 56.3%, cling to the Red, White, and Blue like it’s theirs alone. They use words like heritage, patriot, post-racial, and merit to support their beliefs and behaviors.

They are always endeavoring throughout our history to elevate themselves while diminishing the relevance, voice, and culture of those who truly built America – but do not look like them.

Enter The Black Press – Soldiers without Swords: A collective of media professionals dedicated to the voices of those often diminished in mainstream media. They provide an independent voice to lift Black perspectives, issues, and people. They are platforms where Black culture, in all its dimensions, are always heard loud and clear always on the Cover Page.

Most all African American publishers are organized under the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which currently has over 200 members. Daily readership is estimated to be over 22 million. These community newspapers deliver critical news, information, and commentary relevant to the readers, whether in-print or online.



The March on Washington for Civil Rights (Jobs and Freedom), August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Photo: Associated Press.

Nationwide, over 40% of all newspapers have closed since 2005, predominantly due to ever increasing costs of production and printing, per the Associated Press. The Black Press, in particular, has been harmed substantially by the Anti-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies of the Trump administration.

In fear of backlash, major corporations have scaled back or eliminated their diversity marketing. Amazon, Meta, Google, Disney, Paramount, Pepsi, Warner Bros., Target, and Discovery are just a few of those corporations, per Forbes.

Yet the persistence of The Black Press remains, despite the print newspaper industry decline. Online readership has consistently grown, and many platforms have been successful in transitioning their products to newsletters, Podcasts, and digital versions.

As we look forward to The Black Press celebrating its

200th anniversary next year, it’s important to look back on where and what The Black Press has come from. In 2009, when The Black Press had been in existence for 182 years, Howard University Journalism Professor, Dr. Clint C. Wilson, II, shared its history like this:

“In 1827, a group of prominent free African American citizens from states along the Eastern seaboard met in the New York City home of Boston Crummell to discuss means to communicate their views on the various social, political, and economic issues that commonly confronted them and their respective communities.

“Although Black citizens utilized the church and social and fraternal organizations as a means of collective expression and dialogue, the usual channels of public media — particularly newspapers — were denied to them.

“Exacerbating the problem was the fact that elements of

the established press routinely denigrated African Americans in print, even to the extent of ‘questioning both the integrity and morality of the entire race.’”

Dr. Wilson continued, “Over the years, the list of contributors to the Black Press who have lent their talents as publishers, editors, journalists, columnists, and cartoonists has included the greatest names in American history.

“Among them are Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Langston Hughes, Romare Bearden, James Weldon Johnson, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Daisy Bates.... In 1941, under the urging of John Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender, a meeting of leading Black publishers from across the nation was held in Chicago.

“Sengstacke said the meeting was designed for ‘harmonizing

The Black Press
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Tony Parker’s Two Books on Law, Lynching, Freedom and Faith Tell One Complete Story in Two Different Perspectives



Former Florida State Trooper Tony Parker became a victim of the system when he was wrongfully accused of drug dealing. He spent 18 years in prison for a 27.5-year sentence. Now he shares his story.

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

A former Florida State Trooper and a former prisoner, Tony Parker has lived on both sides of the criminal justice system. Not in bitterness, he opened up during an interview about his beliefs.

Parker believes that America is strongest when we are willing to acknowledge where the system succeeds, where it falls short, and how we can work together to ensure that justice is administered fairly for everyone. He poses honest conversations about fairness, accountability, transparency, and equal justice under the law.

Parker’s memoir, “Lynched by the Law: Putting Good Men Behind Bars,” was co-authored with Patty Jo Sawuel. For decades, Parker has been

fighting for justice while recounting his wrongful arrest and conviction. Little did he know that he would be accused of a crime that he did not commit when he returned to Quincy, Florida, his hometown.

Tried by a “Kangaroo Court” under the federal judicial system, he was falsely branded a drug dealer and sentenced to 27-½ years in prison. He served 18 years and summarized that Quincy was a town “locked in the past” by systemic racism, despite the Civil Rights Movement’s advancement in other places.

Given these factors, the intersection of law, race, and community was much needed in a town like Quincy. Meant for people desiring a bet-

Books
Continued on page 3

Nolan Wells remembered for his gentle spirit as Rev. Al Sharpton demands truth about his death

By Jake Offenhartz and Stephen Smith
Associated Press

Family members and supporters of Nolan Xavier Wells filled a Mississippi church Monday to mourn and celebrate the 18-year-old, as the Rev. Al Sharpton pleaded for new evidence addressing the “many unanswered questions” around the teenager’s July 4 disappearance.

The funeral opened with tearful remarks from Wells’ parents, who described their son as a warm and gentle

presence, a role model to his younger siblings and a gifted athlete with NFL ambitions.

“He had a way of making people feel seen, welcomed and valued,” said his mother, Christine Wonsley. “He could lift your confidence with just a few words and make you feel like you belong.”

In a fiery eulogy, Sharpton then promised a \$100,000 reward for any new information about the circumstances around Wells’ death, which came following a boat trip with friends to Horn Island, off the Gulf Coast.

Half of the sum will be covered by the actor and producer Tyler Perry, who also paid for the funeral, Sharpton noted.

“Somebody knows something,” Sharpton continued, drawing applause from the crowd that included the director Spike Lee, former NFL player Terrell Owens and many

prominent Black clergy.

“Let every stone be rolled back and every veil be torn asunder and let truth pop out of the ground like a flower,” he continued.

Wells, who was Black, had traveled to Horn Island — a popular Fourth of July destination — with a group of friends from high school, all of whom are white. He did not return with them to the mainland that evening, officials said. His body was found two days later off the island’s coast.

Jackson County Sheriff John Ledbetter said initial interviews suggested Wells chose to stay on the island and that his friends believed he would get a ride with someone else. The friends were cooperating with investigators, according to the sheriff.

But the still-unknown cir-

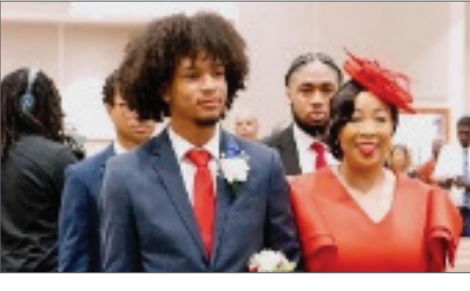
Wells
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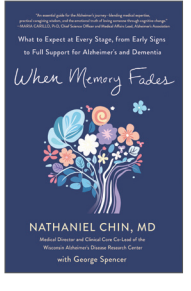
Christine Wonsley, mother of Nolan Xavier Wells, reacts as she speaks during a news conference at National Action Network headquarters, Friday, July 10, 2026, in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

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College Hill celebrates their pastor through faith, love, and hope



When Memory Fades



Holy Temple celebrates Pastor Hall’s 20th Pastoral Anniversary in a special way

By Gail H.M. Brown, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Holy Temple Missionary Baptist Church praised God and celebrated the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Audrey Lynne Hall with a weekend of appreciation, worship, fellowship and thanksgiving July 18-19.

The church also honored Pastor Hall’s 25 years in ministry. The theme, “For Such a Time as This,” reflected Esther 4:14 and highlighted Hall’s faithfulness and spiritual leadership. It was also the scripture and title she used when she preached her first sermon in 2001.

The celebration began Saturday, July 18, with an Appreciation Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clinton. Elder Gale Robinson of Jackson Revival Center served as speaker. This special gathering allowed members, family, friends and supporters to celebrate Hall’s years of preaching, teaching, counseling, serving and shepherding.

The celebration continued Sunday, July 19, with the Anniversary Service at Holy Temple M.B. Church in Jackson, 5077 Cabaniss Circle. Rev. Dr. Ava Harvey, Sr., senior pastor of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Brandon, Miss., served as anniversary speaker. Using Galatians 6:9, he encouraged her not to give up during challenging seasons. Pastor Calvin Stancil of Mt. Vision Missionary Baptist Church also offered encouragement.

During the banquet, members and supporters reflected



Honoree Pastor Audrey Lynne Hall is escorted into the anniversary service by her nephew, Willie Cole who she helped to nurture. PHOTO BY AMBER PURVIS

on Hall’s journey, via a video, which also included well-wishes from former members who now live out of state. The video highlighted her as a pastor, preacher, trailblazer, encourager and servant leader. Attendees were entertained by a choreographed liturgical dance performed by AaMia McGee, a talented teen of the church’s Christ Raising Up New Kingdom Kids (CRUNKK) Ministry. Several uplifting tributes were done. One the captured the hearts of Hall and the attended came from Trustee Chairman Willie Woodard.

Social media comments and personal reflections described the celebration weekend as meaningful, beautiful and spir-

it-filled, with many noting the love shown to Hall and the unity demonstrated by Holy Temple.

“The Holy Temple family is truly grateful and deeply appreciative of everyone who supported our efforts to honor our pastor,” said Planning Committee Chairperson Deaconess Cheryl Brown. “The overwhelming support from members, friends, well-wishers, and the wider community made this celebration meaningful and memorable.”

Former member Mona Jackson Bates traveled from Baton Rouge to present Hall with a handmade gift of sentimental family value. She was moved to tears.

“No matter who I serve under,

Pastor Hall will always be my Pastor,” Bates said.

Pastor Hall described the celebration as “simply overwhelming.”

“My heart is full, my spirit is humbled, and I am deeply grateful for every expression of love shown throughout this unforgettable weekend,” Hall said. She also thanked Dr. Harvey, her spiritual father and pastor, for believing in her, mentoring her, praying for her and standing beside her for 20 years.

Near the close of the celebration, Dr. Harvey offered a special prayer for Pastor Hall as she and the Holy Temple family stay “On the Move for Christ For Such A Time as This” (The church’s motto).



During the banquet, Pastor Audrey Lynne Hall (center) and members of the Dais pause for a photo opt. From left: Minister Bettie Horne, Inglewood, Calif.; Speaker Elder Gale Robinson of JRC, Senior Pastor Jennifer Biard of JRC, Emcee Pastor Dr. Barbara Green, Hope in Life WC. PHOTO BY DON SPANN



During the close of service.



The Black Press

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our energies in a common purpose for the benefit of Negro journalism.’ At least one representative from 22 publications attended the meeting and the group decided to form the National Negro Publishers Association. In 1956, the trade association of the nation’s Black Press was renamed the National Newspaper Publishers Association.”

To the extent that African Americans have increasingly participated in democracy, The Black Press has lit the path. Recall for a moment – its origins came 34 years prior to The Civil War, so beginning during chattel slavery, The Black Press has been there telling the story, showcasing Black truths, achievements, successes, heroism – ensuring African Americans are all prominently displayed – always on the Cover Page.

Yes, there are the arts, literature, music, medicine, athletics, and humanitarianism of African Americans depicted in America’s mainstream media – but nothing that compares to the depth of coverage of Black America contained in the pages of publications of The Black Press.

To this day, grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, reach for the scissors – that photo, article about the class reunion, story of local girl or boy making good, and on and on preserved in the family scrapbook or displayed in a frame on the living room wall.

An altar of freedom and justice for those oppressed in ‘the land of the free and the home of the brave’ surely has The Black Press at its foundation. As we draw closer to this phenomenal achievement – the 200th anniversary of The Black Press of America – consider how you can support your local community newspapers.

Subscribe, advertise, donate, tell a friend, train the next generation through a gift subscription. And don’t forget to reach out to share your own story and the issues that have impacted your community. The Black Press is, and always has been, about you.

Books

Continued from page 1

ter understanding of how the justice system works – and sometimes fails – Parker’s “Lynched by the Law” was written for every segment of society: law enforcement; prosecutors; judges; defense attorneys; legislators; correctional professionals; faith leaders; college students; criminal justice students; community leaders; and everyday citizens – including families of incarcerated individuals.

He believes that in order for change to last, everyone must be part of the conversation. He insists that the book’s purpose can only be accomplished if greater understanding is encouraged, more thoughtful dialogue, and a renewed commitment to equal justice under the law comes forth.

When it comes to understanding, the author has a message for the young, especially young Black men and women. Why? “I want them to understand the life-changing consequences that can result from poor decisions and the reality that the criminal justice system does not always produce perfect outcomes.

“Don’t place yourself in a position where your future depends upon the system getting everything right. Make wise decisions, respect the law, and protect your future,” he advised.

Arguing that “the best way to win in the criminal justice system is to stay out of it,” Parker challenges the young to do four things: 1) Respect the law; 2) Value their education; 3) Choose their friends wisely; and 4) Avoid drugs, gangs, and criminal activity.

He added that adhering to the above will allow them to maintain focus. Staying on track in times like these will increase the chances for Black men and women to move forward, despite life’s hard knocks

and rough roads.

When asked his rationale for writing “ReDeemed: How I Lost My Freedom and Found My Faith,” Parker explained, “I wanted people to know that no failure, prison sentence, tragedy, or setback is greater than the redeeming Power of God.”

He references ReDeemed as his testimony: “During the darkest season of my life, when I lost my freedom, my reputation, my career, and many relationships, I found something infinitely greater: a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

The author continued that ReDeemed is not a story about prison, but a story about God’s grace. It is a story of “victory.” He charged that people define us in a way that does not line up with God’s definition.

Specifically, he pinpoints that the book “reminds readers that while people may define you by your past, God defines you by His purpose for your life.”

Freedom and faith are used on two different levels within ReDeemed. Freedom supersedes “being outside prison walls” because we can be physically free and still be prisoners of fear, guilt, anger, addiction, pride, bitterness, or unforgiveness.

Sabotaged by these daggers can cause us to never break the cycle of resentment. Thus, pressing toward a higher goal is the gateway to defeating resentment’s wrath. He argues that faith is an unwavering trust in Jesus Christ.

When life’s circumstances carry us downhill, faith is “believing in God’s promises.” When life is at it’s hardest, “it is trusting that God is solemn, faithful, and good.”

Wells

Continued from page 1

cumstances leading to Wells’ disappearance have fueled rampant online speculation and galvanized leaders in the Black community, including some who have expressed skepticism about the independence and transparency of the investigation.

In his eulogy, Sharpton urged those following the case to withhold judgement until more information becomes available. But he also questioned why Wells’ phone and keys were found with his friends, why they had not immediately called police after realizing he was missing and why local officials appeared so quick to dismiss the possibility of foul play.

Invoking the history of racist violence in Mississippi, including the lynching of Emmett Till and assassination of Medgar Evers, Sharpton continued, addressing the state’s law enforcement authorities: “Before we can medicate and heal today, we’ve got to look at your history.”

The family’s attorney, Ben Crump, then led the crowd in a chant of “Nolan’s life mattered,” as Wells’ mother sobbed into the shoulder of her husband, Elmore Wonsley.

At a news conference following the funeral, Crump said they were still waiting on the results of an independent autopsy. The official autopsy

has also not been released.

Crump had said he is working alongside the local prosecutor to inspect Wells’ phone. The prosecutor has agreed to present the results of the investigation to a grand jury once it is completed, according to Crump.

“They went out on the boat, the boat came back, and Nolan washed up on the shore two days later dead,” he said at the funeral Monday. “Wouldn’t you want answers?”

Wells, who would have turned 19 next month, played wide receiver on the football team at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi, and had aspirations of playing at a high-level Division I program.

At the funeral, Wells’ father, Elmore Wonsley, recalled the hours the two spent studying game tape and running drills on the beach.

“I nicknamed you Mr. Cool Hands because it seemed like you were catching a touchdown every game,” the father said through tears.

“Our son meant a lot to a of people,” he concluded. “Today shows us how much he meant to the community, the country and the world.”

Associated Press video journalist Sophie Bates in Jackson, Mississippi, contributed to this report.



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HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

BOLTON/EDWARDS ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE HYGIENE CLOSET

Clinton MS Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., we called and you all answered! Thank you for donating an abundance of hygiene products to restore our student hygiene closet for the 2026-2027 school year! You all are truly appreciated



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It’s good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Striking a Chord for Southern Music Scholarship

Feder Foundation gift supports study of region's music at University of Mississippi

By Michael Newsom
University of Mississippi

From the Delta blues to the birth of rock ‘n’ roll, many of the harmonies that shaped American music were first struck in the South, and a new gift aims to help the University of Mississippi study this rich history in depth.

The R&B Feder Foundation has added \$100,000 to the Music of the South Endowment, supporting research, teaching and student opportunities focused on the region’s musical traditions. The endowment was established in 2006 with a long-term goal of funding a professorship in Southern music at the university’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

The gift extends the center’s enduring and storied relationship with the sounds of the South, said Kathryn McKee, the center’s director and McMullan Professor of Southern Studies and English.

“Its central benefit will be to students who will have multiple opportunities to learn more about the broad cultural heritage of this region and its many artistic expressions,” McKee said. “We are deeply grateful to Ron and Misty Feder for their long-standing and continued support of this endowment and its goals.”

The university’s location near Elvis Presley’s hometown of Tupelo, the Mississippi Delta and Memphis, Tennessee, places it at the crossroads of blues,



PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI BLUES ARCHIVES

rock, soul, and hip-hop history. Mississippi is also the birthplace of country icon Jimmie Rodgers, blues legends Robert Johnson and John Lee Hooker, opera great Leontyne Price, rock ‘n’ roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis, and many other influential artists.

The late blues music legend B.B. King, from Itta Bena, donated his vast record collection to the university in 1982. The collection formed the core of the university’s Blues Archive, one of the largest resources of its kind in the world.

Ron Feder, a Vicksburg native, earned a bachelor’s degree from Ole Miss in 1974 and later attended the UM School of Law. He and his late wife, Becky, established the Music of the South Endowment in 2006.

“There is a lot of valuable scholarship to be done on the origins of American music,” he said. “It all begins in the South. If Elvis gave birth to rock ‘n’ roll, it was midwifed on the road from Tupelo to Memphis.

“As a later counterpoint, musically, hip-hop was born in the urban areas of the South. How

all of this happened needs to be studied.”

The Feder family has supported the center for more than 20 years, beginning with major contributions to the Oxford Conference for the Book. In 2014, the Feder family pledged \$100,000 toward establishing a professorship in Southern music.

The university is working to raise an additional \$1 million or more to fund a professorship focused on the study of music, providing new opportunities for both undergradu-

ates and graduate students. The center, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027, could also host regular music symposia that bring together scholars, performers, and fans.

The inaugural Music of the South concert featured Southern studies alumna Caroline Herring, known for her folk singing and songwriting. Performers also included Cajun roots-rock band Feufollet, Randall Bramblett, Valerie June, Blind Boy Paxton and John “JoJo” Hermann.

Feder said he realized the

global reach of Southern culture while stationed in the Philippines after rejoining the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate. There, he connected to home through the center’s “Highway 61” radio program.

Ole Miss is a natural place to study Southern music, he said.

“My goal is to get a doctoral program where serious scholars can do the deep digging,” Feder said. “The evolution of American music reflects society.

Caroline Hourin, director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, lauded the couple’s commitment to shaping the university’s creative mission.

“Ron and Misty are champions of the creative culture across Mississippi,” she said. “Their commitment to the success of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture continues to have an incredible impact on our students, faculty and the university as a whole.”

To make a gift to the Music of the South Endowment, send a check to the University of Mississippi Foundation, with the fund’s name noted in the memo line, to 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655; or give online here.

To learn more about supporting the Music of the South Endowment, contact Caroline Hourin, director of development, at cehourin@olemiss.edu or 662-801-3995.



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Assemblymember Mike Gipson: Tragic Compton Shootings Drive Home Need for Stronger Gun Control Legislation

By Solomon O. Smith
California Black Media, Oakland Post

Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson) says a deadly Fourth of July weekend shooting in Compton that claimed the life of one of his former staff members underscores the urgent need for stronger gun safety laws at both the state and federal levels.

The shooting was one of several acts of gun violence reported across California over the holiday weekend, renewing debate over firearm regulations and the limits states face in enacting gun control measures.

At a block party in Compton, a gunman opened fire on a crowd, killing Eric Washington, a former California Assembly aide, and Meah Bordenave-Jenkins, while injuring three others. The deaths of Washington and Bordenave-Jenkins left deep wounds in the community.

Bordenave-Jenkins, 19, was a sophomore studying nursing at the University of Nevada. She was staying with her sister for the summer. Her mother, Eb-one Jenkins, said her daughter wanted to become a neonatal travel nurse and was active in church.

Washington served as a field deputy for Gipson before later working for HACLA, the Hous-



Assembly member Mike Gipson (D-Carson) at the State Capitol in Sacramento, California, with colleagues of the California Legislature Black Caucus. May 15, 2023. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey. FILE PHOTO.

ing Authority of the City of Los Angeles. To honor his memory, HACLA established the Eric Washington Community Impact Awards.

His mother, Tina Johnson, told California Black Media (CBM) that her son was “deeply compassionate” and a “mentor to everyone,” including his own father, whom Washington helped adjust to life after incar-

ceration. She said he was committed to public service and wanted to address gun violence.

For Gipson, Washington’s death was both personal and political, as the two worked together for years, united by a shared commitment to reducing gun violence in their communities. Further explaining how Washington’s passing has been deeply felt, Gipson said in

2020, his own son, an innocent bystander, was injured in a violent shooting.

The Compton tragedy also comes as California and other states continue to navigate legal challenges to their authority to regulate firearms. A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Wolford v. Lopez* invalidated portions of a Hawaii law prohibiting people with concealed-

carry permits from bringing firearms onto private property that is open to the public without the owner’s consent.

Some advocates worry this new ruling could weaken states’ ability to enact gun safety legislation. Gipson is among those expressing concern.

“Because of the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down protections in *Wolford v. Lo-*

pez and rule against Hawaii’s common-sense laws, a pattern continues where the U.S. federal government cannot guarantee us the most basic protections,” Gipson told CBM.

Throughout his legislative career, Gipson has championed firearm regulations aimed at creating safer communities. He was among the first California lawmakers to pursue ghost gun regulation through Assembly Bill (AB) 879.

Currently, Gipson is working to pass AB 2339, the Accuracy in Mental Health Reporting Act. The bill would ensure that “prohibited persons are accurately identified in a timely fashion” and reported to the California Department of Justice to restrict their access to firearms.

The measure has garnered strong support, including from California Attorney General Rob Bonta. While Gipson believes state legislation can reduce gun violence, he argues that meaningful progress also requires stronger federal action.

“Just doing the basics, like background checks, putting age limits, red flag warnings – the list just goes on and on. If they would just take just the basics, we can decrease a lot of gun violence,” said Gipson.

Developing historic cultural corridors in Nashville

By Phyllis Qualls
The Tennessee Tribune

As skyscrapers and cranes dominate Nashville’s skyline, there are a number of unique legacy projects under way that will revitalize the city’s cultural corridors being spearheaded by Black women leaders. The ladies are inspired by both the deep legacy and visible transitions taking place within historically Black communities. The projects explore how revitalization can occur without cultural erasure.

Among these visionaries are Monchiere Holmes-Jones, president of the Jefferson Street Historical Society; Fathiyah Suso, founder and director of the World AfriCultural Community Project and coordinator of the JBAR (Jubilee Bridge) project; Janice Woodard, president of the Clark United Methodist Church Community Development Corporation; Jennifer Horne, chief executive officer of Urban Campus and Core; and Terri Skipper, of the New Level CDC.

“Jefferson Street is one of America’s most historically significant Black cultural corridors, and this is the latest ac-



Shown I-r are Fathiyah Suso, JBar Project; Carlina Bell, Buchannan Community Development Corp.; former State Senator Brenda Gilmore, Janice Woodard, Clark UMC Community Development Corp.; and Monchiere Holmes-Jones, president Jefferson Street Historical Society. Photo by Elle Danie

tivity to preserve and protect its legacy,” said Holmes-Jones. “All the partners involved understand that communities deserve more than buildings. They deserve environments that create opportunities for dignity, ownership, economic mobility, cultural continuity, tourism and quality of life,” she added.

Longtime Jefferson Street business owner, the late Rosetta

Miller-Perry, publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, welcomed the new developments. “Some may think of development as outside individuals and groups doing something in ‘our’ community; however, the women involved in these projects show the reality of what we can do ourselves. They’re proof that nothing is too good for North Nashville.”

Woodard explained, “Revitalization should not come at the expense of the people who made North Nashville what it is today. Our commitment was to create high-quality affordable housing that allows longtime residents to remain in their community and benefit from its growth.”

Holmes-Jones also serves as developer and owner’s representative for Elevate North

Nashville, where she is helping shape transformative mixed-use and housing projects designed to serve both current and future residents.

The developments focus not only on affordable and attainable housing, it is also on holistic place making – integrating walkability, green space, wellness-centered environments, parks, gathering spaces, and culturally reflective design into the future of the neighborhood.

The Jubilee Bridge Area Revitalization Project (JBAR) is a community-centered initiative in North Nashville that seeks to preserve and honor the cultural and historical identity of the area, while helping reimagine its future through thoughtful development.

Inspired by both the deep legacy and visible transitions taking place within historically Black communities, the project explores how revitalization can occur without eliminating cultural identification.

“JBar is a multi-site vision that includes updating the Jubilee Bridge, named in honor of the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers, to reflect its location

as a gateway between Midtown and the historic Jefferson Street corridor that’s home to three of the four of Nashville’s HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), and other landmarks,” said Fathiyah Suso.

“This bridge is more than concrete and mortar; just like the community, it’s a symbol of excellence in many areas,” she added.

With numerous projects currently under way, residents and visitors will be able to see the corridors’ enhancements in the very near future. Retired State Senator Brenda Gilmore, a major supporter of these projects and a member of the Elevate North Nashville board, sees an impact far beyond the city of Nashville.

Going full circle, Holmes-Jones said, “By merging cultural economics, preservation strategy, and community-first urban development, these projects are helping position Jefferson Street and North Nashville as national examples of how historical Black corridors can evolve without losing the people, stories, and culture that made them matter in the first place.”

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The MOU between the U. S. and Iran is over. Will there be new talking points?

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



“ T a l k i n g points” is a term that we use when we are sitting down and trying to broker a reasonable outcome. There is some compromise to talking points because you can’t get everything you want. This strategy is used over a variety of personal and professional engagements. To stay on point, some experts believe you need talking points. They help so that in your discussions you aren’t all over the place. Back in the day, which was my day, if you had a job interview you had talking points. While

the term wasn’t popular yet, we had areas we wanted to cover in the interview. Usually, there were points we wanted to make, so that the prospective employer would be impressed with us. It was always wise to know some facts about the organization. Talking points have been used in the war with Iran. An American delegation led by Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were at the negotiating table for months trying to bring about a peace settlement. A 60-day MOU was finally agreed upon after time-consuming talks. One of the talking points on both sides was the Strait of Hormuz. Each side at different points during the talks declared it closed. In the meantime, the gas

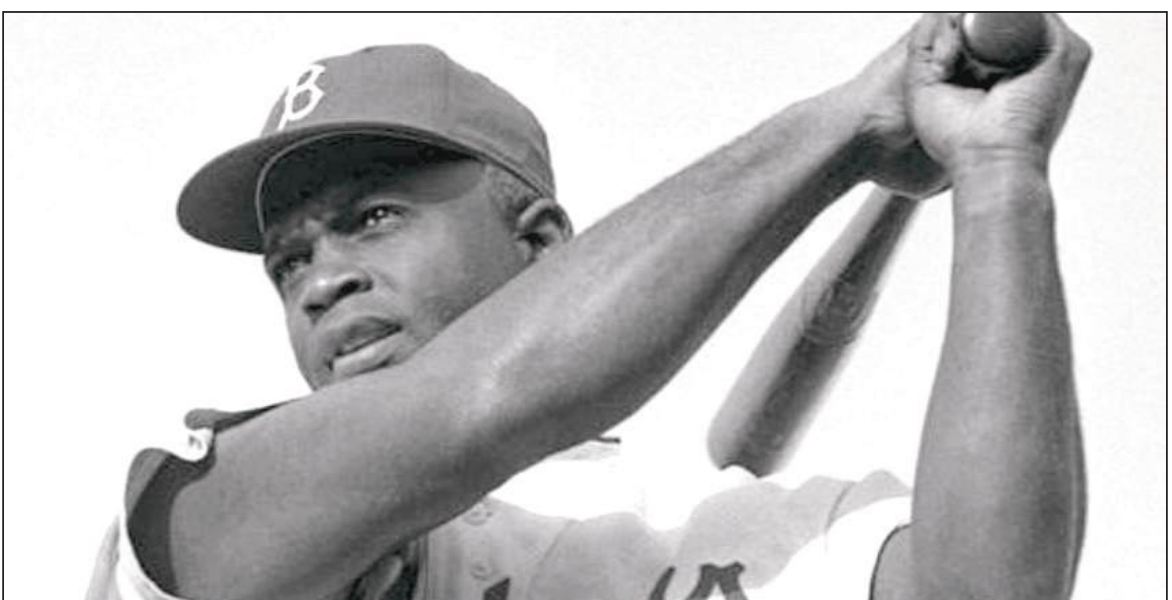
prices in this country have been skyrocketing. In some regions the price of gas has increased to over five dollars a gallon. I guess the expression “pain at the pump” applies here. No matter what word salad the administration uses, consumers are experiencing gas attacks at the pump. The prices were going down, but now with the ceasefire ending, the prices are back up - again. According to confirmed reports, “The fragile U.S.-Iran ceasefire has collapsed following repeated attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. President Trump officially declared the truce over prompting a massive wave of retaliatory U.S. airstrikes.” The ceasefire didn’t last one

month. The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said that their intelligence found that Iran did break off the agreements. However, a report out of Iran claims the U.S. supports Israel’s operation in Lebanon and that’s the reason. Despite the different accounts, both countries want to talk again. Trust was always a factor during these highly publicized talks. Reports out of Iran come from different sources. Who do you believe? The new supreme leader is Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, and he has never been seen. It is unrealistic, in my view, to think that the Iranian leader would be seen in the public square. So, the leadership in Iran is simply not showing their hand. Although many believe that Iran

is back to making nuclear weapons. The question on the table now: When will the talks between the U.S. and Iran begin? At this juncture, there is only speculation about a starting date. It could be in the next month or so. A report from the Associated Press said, “The U.S. military was seeking to degrade Iran’s ability to attack commercial ships freely transiting the strait. The statement came after a third round of strikes late Sunday night and into Monday in Iran.” United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, “A return to full-scale hostilities would have catastrophic consequences.” That assertion is shared by many world leaders and political pundits.

Mark Esper, former Defense Secretary in the first Trump administration, says he doesn’t believe that the agreement between the two countries is dead because neither side wants to return to an all-out war. The former secretary is correct in my opinion. Destruction, despair and disappointment will reign over both nations, albeit in different ways! Secretary Marco Rubio made some comments about the Strait of Hormuz, saying, “It’s an international waterway. No country is allowed to charge tolls or fees on an international waterway.” Get ready for a new round of talks. Each country will have their “talking points.” It will be in their rational self-interests to have them.

Kalshi’s ‘Segregation Market’ turns Black suffering into a betting line



Jackie Robinson swinging bat. PHOTO CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Hazel Trice Edney
Trice Edney Newswire



How much would you have bet on Rosa Parks moving to the back of the bus? This is the kind of information that Kalshi, a U. S. prediction market, wants to know. For America’s 250th birthday, the market platform rolled out an ad campaign inviting the country to ridiculously and insultingly imagine placing wagers on the color line – a segregation market, if you will. The centerpiece of the campaign, which Kalshi founder Luana Lopes Lara called her “favorite,” is a 1946 market: Will Baseball End Segregation? Odds: 0%. A Bob Feller quote sneers that even Robinson lacks “the qualities of a big-league ballplayer.” Click forward, and the year turns to 1947, and we are told the market has “settled.” The color line breaks. Payouts, presumably, are issued. The romanticization of segregation markets by a multi-billion dollar company currently battling state law enforcement officials is not only a new one, but one that is highly insulting to African-Americans, who literally built America on our backs, from enslavement through civil rights and beyond. For America’s 250th anniversary, the company reimagined our nation’s history as a series of gambling questions, each with stylized illustrations. Jackie Robinson’s integration of Major League

Baseball is one of them. The image Kalshi chose to accompany it depicts young Black men lounging on a stoop, a baseball tossed in the air like a coin. Some might see it as a pretty picture. It is also, if we are being honest, an obscene and absurd one. Let me say plainly what this ad asks us to imagine: It asks us to imagine a world in which Americans in 1946 could have logged on and wagered on whether an entire race of ballplayers would finally be allowed to earn a living at their craft. A market in which Branch Rickey’s conscience and Jackie Robinson’s dignity were data points, and the fifteen-to-one vote of white owners to preserve the color line was pricing information. Kalshi asks us to imagine a world in which the question “Will Black men be treated as human beings?” was simply a gaming line you could take action on. This is not a celebration of history. It is a belittling of our suffering and our achievements thus far. The company will say I am missing the point, that the campaign honors a country that defied its own worst instincts. But look again at what is actually being sold: Kalshi is not marveling at Jackie Robinson. Kalshi is marveling at the profit that would have been available to any speculator willing to take the “yes” side against a country that hated him. And there was so much hate and so much to lose. Robinson received death threats mailed to his home. He was spiked on the

base paths, spat on in the dugout, refused hotel rooms that his white teammates could freely enter. There is no line on a prediction market for what that costs a man. There is no ticker for what it costs the country that made him pay. Nor is there any accounting, in Kalshi’s tidy timeline, for the Black ballplayers who did not get their April 15th: The men of the Negro Leagues who aged out before the door opened; the pitchers whose arms gave out in exhibition games in Jim Crow towns; the families whose fathers came home from segregated buses too tired to play catch. History did not “settle” in 1947. It shifted, painfully, and left a great many people uncompensated on the losing side of a market they never chose to enter. I do not object to Kalshi as a business. I object to the instinct – increasingly common in this economy – that treats every human question as a market question, and every market as a stage on which we may now perform the past. The trouble with Ms. Lopes Lara’s “favorite campaign” is not simply that it is offensive, though it is. It is that it reveals a worldview in which nothing is sacred enough to be exempt from the wager. We are 250 years into this experiment – not counting the 157 years, starting in 1619 and leading up to 1776. Within those 407 years, we should have learned by now that some things must no longer be for sale – including Black dignity.

Having an affair is not worth it

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



Many may not want to admit that marriage is not easy. However, after being married for twenty plus years I have no problem acknowledging that marriage is challenging at times. In fact, remaining married is a choice that one makes every day. The choice to remain married is often not motivated by the notion of being in love with your spouse but more so by one’s commitment to their vows and the mere hope that maybe growth and improvement will eventually occur in the union. When couples struggle in marriage many pursue various methods to cope and distract them from home such as ignoring their spouses, planning life without considering their spouse, engage in substance abuse, becoming workaholics, putting all their time in the children, pursuing hobbies, and unfortunately many indulge in emotional and physical affairs. Spouses, I know that marriage can be arduous but please understand that having an affair is not worth it! Why do affairs occur? Many assume that affairs happen mostly due to the physical aspects of it and yes that is true, but sex is not the only reason spouses engage in affairs. Many affairs occur for the following reasons: • Know god but you fail to have an intimate relationship with god • Little to no prayer life individually and/or together • Unresolved childhood traumas • Little to no communication • Irrational thinking – think in the moment rather than considering the overall impact of your decision • Don’t feel accomplished/successful • Discontentment – be content with the spouse god gave you • Unresolved hurts and offenses in marriage • Unforgiveness which turns to bitterness which can turn to revenge • Loneliness in marriage • Lack of intimacy in marriage • Little to no respect from spouse • Lack of appreciation and gratitude • Crises such as midlife crises, perimenopause, etc. • Deprives each other from intimacy – where there is no physical touch- the marriage will perish • Marriage is only about the business, the ministry, the church, the children, etc. – You forget to prioritize your marriage • Seek revenge against the spouse who cheated on you • Escape from the pressure of being a spouse, a parent, etc. • Lack of self-control If you are contemplating having an affair – please realize there are consequences like the following: • God is not pleased • Godly consequences • Risk getting std’s/sti’s • Destroys your marriage

- Break and damage your spouse’s heart into pieces
- Believe it or not you ultimately hurt yourself and the other man or woman
- Hurt everyone such as your children, family, friends, etc.
- Trust dissipates and it takes a very long time to rebuild the trust if it is ever rebuilt
- Experiences shame, humiliation, embarrassment
- Lose your covenant spouse and other things such as money, time, property, businesses, churches. Careers, - you almost never gain in an affair – you lose
- If you both choose marriage reconciliation – it is a very long healing and restorative process – cannot build upon what you previously had – must rebuild something new from scratch which can be better than what you previously had

How do you avoid having an affair?

- Establish an intimate relationship with god
- Realize that you both share the same enemy - learn how to fight the enemy together
- Address the root issue that hasn’t been healed – get to the root of your temptation to engage in an affair before the root grows and destroys you
- Communicate with your spouse about everything
- Seek godly and professional healing for all unresolved issues from childhood, etc.
- Seek godly and professional marriage counseling
- Address all the hurts and offenses even the mild ones
- Forgive and forgive quick
- Appreciate who god gave you
- Don’t involve the opposite sex/family into your relationship
- Hold each other accountable
- Date each other
- Exchange hearts with each other – think would i want my spouse to say or do this to me?
- Reflect on vows
- Love each other – go out of your way to love each other in every way

Can a marriage survive and heal from an affair (s)?

There is nothing impossible for god to do especially when both fully commit to god and fight for their marriage together. Statistics illustrate that a marriage has a higher success rate of reconciling, healing, and being successful than building a new relationship/ marriage with an affair partner.

In conclusion, I know you may not be the happiest in your marriage and I promise I understand but trust God because having an affair is not worth it!

Contact dr. Lashunda calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) Marriage ministry: the restoration church, 3931 hanging moss road, suite h, jackson, ms. 39206, On: instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (dr. Lashunda calvert) facebook: dr. Lashunda calvert email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.Com contact # 601-596-2528



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

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

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

Hinds County Court House

Hinds Country Chancery Court Building
Jackson City Hall/City Clerk’s Office” (7/2/2026)

8840221 2024/NISSAN/SENTRA/SILVER888 • 3N1AB8CVXRY228369

8843659 • 2015/NISSAN/ROGUE/GRAY • 5N1AT2ML3FC854513

8844558 • 2011/HONDA/ACCORD/RED • 1HGCP3F89BA006384

8847163 • 2015/DODGE/CHALLENGER/BLUE • 2C3CDZFJ9FH747174

8847185 • 2007/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/WHITE • 1GNFC13097J353061

8847192 • 2011/DODGE/CHARGER/BLACK • 2B3CL1CT8BH587578

8847470 • 2015/HYUNDAI/SANTA FE SPORT/WHITE • 5XYZU3LB9FG299596

8847486 • 2005/HONDA/ACCORD/BLUE • 1HGCM56855A046647

8847498 • 2007/MERCURY/MILAN/GOLD • 3MEHM08177R636878

8847721 • 2018/KIA/SPORTAGE/BROWN • KNDPM3AC4J7348406

8847898 • 2011/HONDA/ACCORD/BLACK • 1HGCP2F88BA152088

8847918 • 2013/FORD/EDGE/BROWN • 2FMDK4KC1DBB95374

8848096 • 2003/FORD/CROWN VICT/GRAY • 2FAFP71W93X189082

8848172 • 2013/NISSAN/SENTRA/BLACK • 1N4AB7AP8DN902459

8848245 • 2022/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/GRAY • 1GNSPKPD3NR191421

8848336 • -/DODGE/OTHER/BROWN • D14AN9S233711

8848434 • 2012/GMC/ACADIA/GRAY • 1GKKVRED8CJ187050

8848501 • 2016/FORD/FUSION/SILVER • 3FA6P0G78GR248148

8848578 • 2017/NISSAN/VERSA/BLACK • 3N1CN7AP7HL892154

8848589 • 2019/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/RED • 5NPD74LF2KH424368

8850900 • 2020/KIA/OPTIMA/SILVER • 5XXGT4L30LG402123

8850929 • 2018/CHEVROLET/TRAX/RED • 3GNCJLSB9JL410320

8850955 • 2013/KIA/OPTIMA/SILVER • KNAGM4A74D5324158

8850997 • 2017/KIA/OPTIMA/BLACK • KNAGT4L34H5147551

8851043 • 2018/KIA/OPTIMA/SILVER • 5XXGT4L39JG235242

8851059 • 2012/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK • 1N4AL2AP6CN412617

8851104 • 2011/FORD/FUSION/BLACK • 3FAHP0JG2BR165857

8851283 • 1995/LEXUS/LS/BLACK • JT8UF22E7S0009123

8851353 • 2018/HYUNDAI/SONATA/GRAY • 5NPE24AF6JH613643

8851447 • 2005/CHEVROLET/EQUINOX/SILVER • 2CNDL63F456167208

8851485 • 2014/HYUNDAI/ELANTRA/SILVER • 5NPDH4AE4EH498421

8851964 • 2004/TOYOTA/OTHER/SILVER • 2T1KR32E94C230267

8852046 • 2005/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/BLACK • 3GNEC16Z75G277375

8852139 • 2023/KIA/SOUL/WHITE • KNDJ53AUXP7851488

8852230 • 2013/TOYOTA/COROLLA/WHITE • 5YFBU4EE7DP167198

8852233 • 2002/CHEVROLET/EXPRESS/WHITE • 1GCGG25RX21227710

8854897 • 2018/DODGE/CHARGER/WHITE • 2C3CDXGJXJH134783

8854906 • 2005/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/WHITE • 1GCEC19T45Z215853

8854914 • 2021/DODGE/CHALLENGER/BLUE •

2C3CDZFJ6MH517265

8855698 • 2003/NISSAN/ALTIMA/SILVER • 1N4AL11D43C342529

8855833 • 1997/INFINITI/QX4/GRAY • JNRAR05Y3VW012284

8855873 • -/CHEVROLET/MONTE CARLO/ORANGE • 1Z37JAK447983

8855906 • 2018/NISSAN/ALTIMA/SILVER • 1N4AL3AP9JC174261

8855953 • 2017/NISSAN/MAXIMA/SILVER • 1N4AA6AP3HC437197

8855994 • 2014/HYUNDAI/SONATA/GRAY • 5NPEB4AC4EH814534

8858495 • 2013/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/WHITE • 1G11B5SA1DF261506

8858696 • 2016/KIA/SOUL/SILVER • KNDJN2A22G7292284

8858769 • 2020/DODGE/DURANGO/WHITE • 1C4RDJDG0LC155496

8858782 • 2014/CHEVROLET/CAMARO/BLACK • 2G1FC1E38E9124002

8858954 • 2002/CHEVROLET/TRAILBLAZER/GOLD • 1GNDT13S322290115

8859039 • 2016/NISSAN/ALTIMA/SILVER • 1N4AL3AP2GN337393

8859115 • 2004/HONDA/ACCORD/BLUE • 1HGCM56324A015763

8859176 • 1999/TOYOTA/4 RUNNER/GRAY • JT3GM84RXX0040451

8859287 • 2014/FORD/FUSION/WHITE • 1FA6P0G75E5401147

8859288 • 2007/NISSAN/MURANO/WHITE • JN8AZ08T17W509700

8859304 • -/CHEVROLET/OTHER/BLACK • 2GCEC19R7W1126535

8859364 • 2006/TOYOTA/CAMRY/GRAY • 4T1BE32K56U697818

8861514 • 2007/VOLKSWAGEN/TOUAREG/BLACK • WVGZE77L77D000898

8861521 • 2009/DODGE/JOURNEY/GREEN • 3D4GG57V79T220392

8861568 • 2011/GMC/SIERRA/WHITE • 3GTP1UEA8BG364461

8861588 • 2020/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/GRAY • 1G1ZD5ST5LF045039

8861591 • -/HYUNDAI/OTHER/BLACK •

KMHDU4AD7AU017835

8861609 • 2021/FORD/ECOSPORT/GRAY • MAJ6S3KL3MC409827

8861689 • 2011/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/SILVER • 1G1ZC5E10BF278628

8861709 • 2016/KIA/FORTE/WHITE • KNAFX4A64G5469473

8861740 • 1997/HONDA/ACCORD/SILVER • 1HGCD5604VA252021

8861781 • 2013/KIA/OPTIMA/BLACK • 5XXGR4A64DG093706

8861787 • 2023/NISSAN/SENTRA/RED • 3N1AB8CV5PY316307

8861789 • 2007/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/BLUE • 2GCEC13C171533367

8861928 • 2011/KIA/SORENTO/GRAY • 5XYKT3A18BG106024

8861983 • 2008/NISSAN/ALTIMA/BLACK • 1N4AL24E48C124589

8862018 • 2003/CADILLAC/ESCALADE/BLACK • 1GYEC63T93R239692

8862103 • 2017/TOYOTA/COROLLA/SILVER • 5YFBURHE9HP629999

8862232 • -/CHEVROLET/CORVETTE/WHITE • 1Z8T878AS419376

8864090 • 1999/FORD/WINDSTAR/GOLD • 2FMZA5249XBA30961

8864107 • 1999/TOYOTA/CAMRY/RED • 4T1BG22K0XU539960

8864247 • 2021/FORD/EXPEDITION MAX/BLACK • 1FMJK2AT5MEA26309

8864317 • 2020/KIA/FORTE/SILVER • 3KPF2AD47LE234810

8864423 • 2009/VOLVO/S60/BLACK • YV1RS592092733826

8864458 • -/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPET4AC9AH584237

8864548 • 2020/CHEVROLET/EQUINOX/GRAY • 2GNAXKEV8L6236673

8864574 • 2023/CHEVROLET/EQUINOX/WHITE • 3GNAXHEGXPL165028

8864684 • 2014/FORD/C-MAX/GRAY • 1FADP5AU8EL519921

8864996 • 2022/DODGE/CHARGER/WHITE • 2C3CDXBG8NH122780

8865041 • 2002/LEXUS/ES/SILVER • JTHBF30G125027427

8865056 • 1999/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/WHITE • 1GCEK19T9XE168347

8865074 • 2013/HYUNDAI/SONATA/GRAY • 5NPEB4AC8DH754370

8865142 • 2002/TOYOTA/TACOMA/GREEN • 5TEVL52N42Z000301

8865270 • 2002/CHEVROLET/TAHOE/BLACK • 1GNEK13Z72J259668

8865280 • 2017/KIA/SOUL/GREEN • KNDJP3A51H7884335

8867469 • 2006/PONTIAC/G6/BLACK • 1G2ZG558X64189535

8867480 • 2015/TOYOTA/COROLLA/SILVER • 5YFBURHE2FP271691

8867684 • 2014/MERCEDES/C CLASS/BLACK • WDDGF4HB2ER317278

8867989 • 2001/CHEVROLET/SUBURBAN/BLACK • 3GNFK16T41G220676

8868035 • 2004/JEEP/GRAND CHER/BLACK • 1J4GX48S74C143856

8868248 • 2015/FORD/F150/GRAY • 1FTFW1EGXFFA84967

8868315 • 2010/GMC/TERRAIN/RED • 2CTALDEW0A6349639

8868670 • 2017/HONDA/ACCORD/BLACK • 1HGCR3F95HA003347

8872511 • 2008/LAND ROVER/RANGE ROVER SPORT/BLUE • SALSF25478A176315

8995702 • 2005/CHEVROLET/EQUINOX/WHITE • 2CNDL63F156137745

8995709 • 2007/HYUNDAI/SONATA/SILVER • 5NPEU46F47H221174

9024615 • 2008/CHRYSLER/300/GOLD • 2C3LA53G08H140996

9065689 • 2000/CHEVROLET/IMPALA/MULTI-COLOR • 2G1WF55E0Y9205466

9180502 • 2001/FORD/EXPEDITION/GREEN • 1FMRU15L81LB82952

9192869 • -/JEEP/CHEROKEE/BLACK • 1C4PJMAB8GW182301

9199428 • 2010/CHEVROLET/SILVERADO/BLACK • 3GCRKSE34AG269115

9203408 • 2015/FORD/F350/BLACK • 1FT8W3BT0FEB60398

9214525 • 2008/GMC/ENVOY/BLUE • 1GKDT13S182124990

5FNRL38755B002157

9215448 • 2012/CHEVROLET/MALIBU/BLACK • 1G1ZC5E08CF352354

9218294 • 2013/HYUNDAI/SONATA/GRAY • 5NPEB4AC6DH594151

9224757 • 2003/FORD/CROWN VICT/GRAY • 2FAFP74WX3X162629

9237060 • 2005/FORD/MUSTANG/BLUE • 1ZVFT82HX55181960

9237106 • 1981/FORD/OTHER/WHITE • 1FTCF10E0BUA64340

9237201 • 2005/FORD/CROWN VICT/TEAL • 2FAFP74W05X159225

9238229 • 2004/JEEP/GRAND CHER/GRAY • 1J4GW48N64C276069

9238261 • 2010/FORD/OTHER/WHITE • 1FTNE2EW7ADA88328

9240457 • 2008/BMW/OTHER/SILVER • WBANW53578CT54047

9243944 • 1999/HONDA/ACCORD/GREEN • JHMCG5653XC022090

9245070 • 2021/NISSAN/SENTRA/GRAY • 3N1AB8DV9MY202093

9245095 • 2005/GMC/SIERRA/WHITE • 2GTEC19T151343119

9247332 • 2016/DODGE/CHALLENGER/BLACK • 2C3CDZC91GH130587C136

9260682 • 2003/CHEVROLET/AVALANCHE/BLUE • 3GNEC13T93G339548

9266659 • 2016/NISSAN/SENTRA/BLACK • 3N1AB7AP7GY262118

9267449 • 1999/DODGE/DURANGO/BLACK • 1B4HS28Z1XF528985

9273818 • 2007/TOYOTA/AVALON/GOLD • 4T1BK36B37U222317

9274130 • 2003/GMC/ENVOY/WHITE • 1GKES16P236169517

9282759 • 2014/CHEVROLET/CRUZE/GRAY • 1G1PC5SB0E7329192

9282838 • 1993/GMC/SIERRA/WHITE • 1GTDC14Z0PZ544592

9282863 • 2004/HONDA/CRV/BLUE • JHLRD78814C031036

9283220 • 2015/HONDA/OTHER/BLACK • MLHNC5108F5100641

9289532 • 2025/FORD/F150/BLACK • 1FTFW3L55SKD38230

9321293 • 2003/FORD/OTHER/WHITE • 1FDWE35L93HB03273

LEGAL

HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPING SERVICE

Overview

Introduction: The Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) is located in Holmes County, MS. The district consists of seven schools, a career and technical center, an alternative school, and a central office. The district has four (4) lawn care service areas.

Purpose of RFP: The district is requesting sealed bid proposals for Lawn Care and Landscaping Services in the Holmes County Consolidated School District.

A bidder can bid on more than one service areas (See Attachment A for Lawn Care Service Areas). In submitting a bid, each bidder should refer to items listed in the scoring rubric.

Tentative schedule of RFP events are as follows:

Advertisement Dates July 16, 2026 & July 23, 2026
Proposal Due Date: July 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Bid Opening: July 27, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

These services shall be provided to the Holmes County Consolidated School District during the 2026-2027 school year.

HCCSD reserves the right to accept, reject, or negotiate any or all offers on the basis of the evaluation criteria contained within this document. Presentation of services may be requested by contractor as an additional evaluation criterion.

General Specifications and Instructions to Bidders:

A paper copy or an email copy of this document, including any addendums, can be obtained by request below:

Dr. Shem Y. Whigham, Assistant Superintendent
Holmes County Consolidated School District
Post Office Box 630
313 Olive Street
Lexington, MS 39095
(662) 834-2175
Email: swhigham@holmesccsd.org

RFP Submission requirements: Submit 3 copies of the RFP response in one sealed package with Lawn Care Bid Proposals indicated on the outside of the package by July 27, 2026 @9:00 a.m. to the following address:

Ms. Michelle Cage, Chief Finance Officer
Holmes County Consolidated School District
Post Office Box 630
313 Olive Street
Lexington, MS 39095

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026 AT 11:00aM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

NEW BUSINESS
CASE NO. HPNC-26-23
LOCATION: 1402 HAZEL ST (PARCEL 15-32)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: GREG PITTS
REQUEST: REPAIR & REPLACE ROTTED DECKING AND DETERIORATED STUCCO WALLS

CASE NO. HPNC-26-24
LOCATION: 436 E CAPITOL ST (PARCEL 33-18-1 or 33-18)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: SPENGLER'S CORNER APPLICANT: MARCUS CHEATHAM
AMENDED REQUEST: REPLACE METAL SIDING PANES WITH STUCCO OR LIKE KIND MATERIAL

CASE NO. HPNC-26-27
LOCATION: 1842 LINDEN PL (PARCEL 9-101)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: KEVIN SUMRALL
AMENDED REQUEST: REPAIR BURNED STRUCUTRE; REPLACE DOORS, WINDOWS, SIDING, & SHINGLES

CASE NO. HPNC-26-28
LOCATION: 1315 OLIVE ST (PARCEL 15-65-1)
HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: ANN MACMASTER
AMENDED REQUEST: DEMO DELAPIDATED GARAGE APARTMENT

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

7/16/2026, 7/23/2026

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Notice is hereby given that the HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT will receive SEALED BIDS for the purchase of PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

The district is requesting sealed bid proposals for Adaptive Assessments and Standards-Aligned Assessments to provide universal screeners, individualized instruction to meet each student's academic needs, collects data based on individual responses, and adjusts instruction to meet each student needs at their level accelerating their path to reading mastery. The Proposal Due Date is July 23, 2026, at 9:00a.m.

RFP Submission Requirements:

Submit 5 copies of the RFP response in one sealed package with Professional Services for Adaptive Assessments indicated on the outside of the package by to the following address:

Michelle Cage, Chief Finance Officer
Holmes County Consolidated School District
Post Office Box 630
313 Olive St.
Lexington, MS 39095

A complete bid package which contains bid instructions and general specifications may be obtained by visiting the Holmes County Consolidated School District's website:

<http://holmesccsd.org>. All questions regarding the bid specifications shall be emailed directly to

Tara Harris, Federal Programs Director
tara.harris@holmesccsd.org
Holmes County Consolidated School District
(662) 834-2175 (office)
(662) 834-4002 (Fax)

Please include full contact information, including company name, email address, telephone numbers and contact person in your email request. Within the limitations of Mississippi State Purchasing Law, the Purchasing Entity reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received, or to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable.

7/16/2026, 7/23/2026

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF JACKSON'S
ADOPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE'S ASSESSMENT
SCHEDULE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

You are hereby notified that on July 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, the City Council for the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will examine and consider the Department of Revenue's motor vehicle assessment schedule as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The City shall use in the collection of ad valorem taxes thereon for the taxable year beginning August 1, 2026, subject to the right of motor vehicle owners and taxpayers to object to any of said valuations appearing on said assessment schedule; that said schedule for special equipment, trailers, motorcycles, ambulances and hearses.

The public has the right to inspect and examine at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in the City of Jackson, said schedule for passenger vehicles. The light truck assessment schedule is in the Hinds County Tax Collector's computer system. It is now ready for public inspection and examination at the Hinds County Chancery Court Building.

Any objection to the valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said schedule shall be made in writing, objecting to and petitioning for a specified reduction on any portion or portions of the assessment schedule affecting the complainant directly. Objections to the assessment schedule must comply with Section 27-51-23 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and filed in duplicate with the Municipal Clerk of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at City Hall located at 219 S. President Street, in Jackson, Mississippi, on or before 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2026, as provided by law, and particularly Section 27-51-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

The Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 219 S. President Street in said City on said date and will then commence hearing any objection to any valuation of motor vehicles set forth and contained in said assessment schedule which has been made in writing and filed with the Municipal Clerk, as hereinabove provided, and will remain in session from day to day thereafter, considering such objection and claim for adjustment until all parties in interest have been heard and such objection for adjustment claim is disposed of as provided by law.

7/23/2026



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WEEK OF JULY 19, 2026

P R E S E R V E D

Becoming Aunt Janet

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



We should all aspire to be Aunt Janet. And you may say, who is Aunt Janet? Aunt Janet was the aunt of comedian Mike Epps’ child’s mother who changed his life. He described in his comedy special *Delusional* that she told him to let her know when he wanted to come to Atlanta. These simple words gave him the open door that changed his life. When the time came for him to make a change and when he didn’t know exactly what to do, he remembered the words of Aunt Janet. Her words let him know you have a safe place. You have a place where you can start over. Eventually, he did make the decision to change his life and called Aunt Janet. He ended up staying with her and her husband for a year and

built up his comedy credentials. In the case of Aunt Janet, the words that she spoke impacted him and put him on a pathway to great success. He believed in himself and that he could change his life. Her words helped him get to his next level. What do we do when we want to do something to help our loved ones get to the next level? Do you say like Aunt Janet “I got you. I’m gonna help you out when you’re ready.” She probably recognized that even though he said he really wanted to make a change, he wasn’t yet ready. She saw his potential, even when he couldn’t. She didn’t demand that he do it right then and there, but she just let him know, when you’re ready to make that change, like I said earlier, I got you. Sometimes that’s all people need to hear. Proverbs 18:21 says “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” So, in the

case of Aunt Janet, she spoke life and planted an amazingly powerful seed in the life of Mike Epps. We don’t know the exact words, but whatever it was that was said, it had such an impact on him that he remembered those words and followed up. It’s nice to say casually that you’ll help anyone. But are you prepared to follow through? Do we believe the words that we say to people, basically the seeds that we plant? Do we believe that it is going to harvest and it’s going to bear fruit? If we did, we’d be more careful with what we say. I want to challenge those of you that are Aunt Janets or want to be Aunt Janets to keep planting those good seeds as well as those encouraging and life changing words. Her example shows that we have the ability to change people’s lives with the words that we say. I love this quote that hangs over my desk in my office: My mind is my garden; my

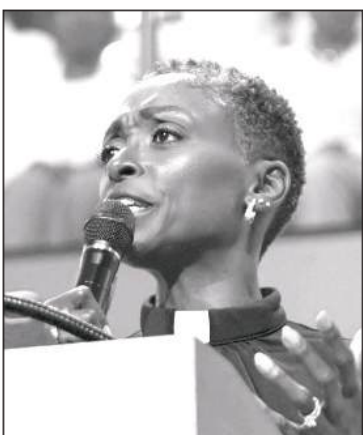
thoughts are my seeds. My harvest will either be flowers or weeds. Your words will create a harvest in the lives of the people that you touch. Never miss an opportunity to plant good seeds. This week leading up to National Aunt and Uncle Day, take the time to show those aunts and uncles who have planted good seeds in your life how much you appreciate them. There are free, one of a kind electronic greeting cards you can send on my website www.chocolateauntiepodcast.com. And to all the aunts, uncles, uncs, and aunties out there, have a wonderful National Aunt and Uncle day July 26, 2026! *Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda*

Prayer Built the Ministry. The Platform came later.

By Rev. Dorothy S. Boulware
Retired Pastor/retired newspaper editor

A grandmother’s daily prayers shaped Dr. LeKesha Attuquayefio long before she became a preacher, author, and ministry leader. Today, the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church minister is using digital media, leadership coaching and mentoring to reach believers, while remaining rooted in the same spiritual discipline that launched her calling.

Every day at noon, Dr. LeKesha Attuquayefio’s grandmother disappeared into the bedroom of her modest home in Houston, a Bible in one hand and her family’s burdens in the other. The television might be playing soap operas in the background. Grandchildren might be running through the yard. But when the clock struck noon, every day, she knelt beside her bed and prayed. Family members outside could hear her calling for blessings on the names of her children, grandchildren, pastor, and church. Those moments remain among Attuquayefio’s most treasured memories. “They were just what Granny did,” she recalled. Many people know Attuquayefio as the leader of the prayer and young adult ministries of Houston’s Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. She serves alongside Dr. Marcus D. Cosby, the church’s nationally respected pastoral leader. What they often don’t see is that Attuquayefio is building a digital ministry that reaches believers through weekly YouTube programming. She also coaches pastors and ministry leaders through “Essentials Intensified Consulting and Coaching”. She mentors women called to ministry, leads international mission experiences, authors books, and teaches leadership and discipleship. For Attuquayefio, however, none of those facets of her life exist independently. “They all point in the same direction,” she said. “It’s about that intensified life in God.” Long before podcasts became common and churches discovered livestreaming during the COVID-19 pandemic, Attuquayefio was experimenting with digital ministry. She began creating online content in 2011 but set much of it aside after accepting her assignment at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. Then the pandemic became an unexpected season of reflection. Like many pastors, she found herself asking what ministry would look like beyond church buildings. The answer wasn’t creating something new; rather, it was returning to a vision God had planted with her years earlier. “The Intensified Life,” the title of her first book, published nearly two decades ago, has become the organizing principle for everything she now produces online. Today, the YouTube platform functions less as a single program than as a ministry network. Weekly Bible Studies sit alongside sermons preached at Wheeler Avenue and churches across the country. Relationship conversations with her husband occupy one playlist. Another series features candid conversations with men about faith and discipleship. Travel experiences, leadership lessons, and spiritual formation round out the programming. The goal is to help believers



Dr. LeKesha Attuquayefio's ministry spans preaching, leadership development, YouTube, missions, and mentoring women in ministry
PHOTO COURTESY DR. LEKESHA ATTUQUAYEFIO

discover that following Christ should never become routine. “I like the new and impossible becoming possible,” Attuquayefio said. “I like asking, ‘What if we could do this?’” Borrowing the phrase “new and next” from a trusted ministry colleague, Attuquayefio describes herself as someone energized by vision more than maintenance. She enjoys building systems, organizing teams, and preparing people to flourish before moving on to the next assignment. “If I weren’t in ministry,” she said, “I’d probably be doing something with organizational leadership.” That calling has resurfaced in Essentials Intensified Consulting and Coaching, where she helps churches, pastors and individuals clarify vision and navigate seasons of transition. “I love seeing people get it,” she said. “When they have their ‘light bulb moment.’ When they understand God’s assignment for their lives.” Years before conversations about women in ministry became more commonplace, Attuquayefio founded Her Call Ministries, a nonprofit designed to train, encourage, and develop women sensing God’s call to preach. The organization hosted preaching intensives, leadership workshops and conferences, while creating safe spaces for women to develop gifts that were not always welcomed elsewhere. While ministry occupies much of her public life, Attuquayefio speaks just as passionately about another unexpected gift: her marriage. They met on a dating app during the pandemic. When he saw her profile, he immediately believed she was the woman he had been looking for; within days of their meeting, he had given her his phone number and deleted the app. The couple now shares ministry through what they call the Agape Dance Trio, blending their mutual love of salsa dancing into marriage retreats and relationship workshops that explore trust, communication, and partnership. She celebrates dramatic healing, including answered prayers for members of Wheeler Avenue whose medical reports changed unexpectedly after prayer. “You couldn’t write the script,” she said. Perhaps that’s why she continues returning, even after all these years, to the image of her grandmother kneeling beside the bed. For Attuquayefio, prayer was never preparation for ministry. Prayer is the ministry. Everything else has simply been God’s answer to it.



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Understanding Air Quality: What the Numbers Really Mean

By Vince Faust
Health Educator and Motivational Writer
Tips to Be Fit

When most people step outside in the morning, they notice the temperature, the clouds or maybe the chance of rain. But there is something else in the air that affects our daily lives just as much, even though we cannot see it. That invisible factor is air quality. Over the past few years, air quality has become a major topic in the news, especially during wildfires, heat waves, or pollution events. Yet many people still do not fully understand what air quality means, how it is measured or why it matters. This article explains the basics in clear terms so everyone can make sense of the air they breathe.

Air quality describes how clean or polluted the air is. Good air quality means the air is safe to breathe for almost everyone. Poor air quality means the air contains harmful substances that can make people sick, especially if they breathe it in for long periods of time.

These harmful substances are called pollutants. Some pollutants come from natural sources, like dust or smoke from wildfires. Others come from human activities, such as cars, factories, power plants, or chemicals used in farming. Even everyday items like gas stoves or cleaning sprays can release pollutants indoors.

The most common pollutants measured outdoors include:

- Ground-level ozone a gas formed when sunlight reacts with emissions from cars and factories. It can irritate the lungs.

- Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) tiny particles of dust, smoke, or soot. PM2.5 is especially dangerous because it is small enough to enter the bloodstream.

- Carbon monoxide a gas that comes from burning fuel.

- Nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide gases released by vehicles, power plants and industrial processes.

Each pollutant affects the body differently, but all can cause health problems when levels get too high.

To help people understand air quality, scientists created a system called the Air Quality Index or AQI. The AQI is a number that tells you how polluted the air is on a scale from 0 to 500. The higher the number, the worse the air quality.

The AQI is divided into colorcoded categories:

- 0–50 (Green): Good
Air is clean and safe for everyone.
- 51–100 (Yellow): Moderate
Air is acceptable, but some people who are unusually sensitive may feel mild effects.
- 101–150 (Orange): Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
Children, older adults and people with asthma or heart disease may experience symptoms.
- 151–200 (Red): Unhealthy
Everyone may begin to feel health effects, especially if they spend time outdoors.
- 201–300 (Purple): Very Unhealthy
Health warnings are issued. People should avoid outdoor activities.
- 301–500 (Maroon): Hazardous
Emergency conditions. The air is

dangerous for everyone.

These categories help people make decisions about outdoor activities, exercise, and travel. For example, if the AQI is 160, a school might keep students indoors for recess. If the AQI reaches 250, cities may advise residents to stay inside and close windows.

Breathing polluted air can cause both shortterm and longterm health problems. Shortterm effects include coughing, sore throat, headaches, and difficulty breathing. People with asthma may have attacks more often. Longterm exposure can lead to serious conditions such as heart disease, lung cancer, and reduced lung development in children.

Children are especially vulnerable because their lungs are still growing. Older adults and people with chronic illnesses also face higher risks. Even healthy adults can be affected if they exercise outdoors during high pollution days, because they breathe more deeply and take in more pollutants.

Scientists have found that PM2.5, the tiny particles often produced by wildfires and vehicle exhaust, is one of the most dangerous pollutants. These particles are so small that they can pass through the lungs and enter the bloodstream, increasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Air pollution has many sources, and they vary depending on where you live.

In cities, the biggest sources are usually cars, trucks, buses and industrial facilities. Traffic congestion can cause spikes in pollution during morning and evening rush hours.

In rural areas, pollution may come from farming equipment, dust or chemicals used in agriculture. Wildfires, which have become more common in many regions, can send smoke hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

Indoor air pollution is also a major concern. Gas stoves, fireplaces, cleaning products, and mold can all affect the air inside homes. Because people spend most of their time indoors, indoor air quality is just as important as outdoor air quality.

Air quality is measured using sensors placed on buildings, poles, or special monitoring stations. These sensors collect data about pollutants in the air and send them to environmental agencies. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses this data to calculate the AQI.

In recent years, small personal air sensors have become popular. These devices allow individuals to monitor air quality in their own neighborhoods. While they are not as accurate as official monitors, they can still provide helpful information.

Weather also plays a major role. Wind can blow pollution away or bring it in from other areas. Rain can wash pollutants out of the air. Heat and sunlight can increase ozone levels. That is why air quality can change quickly from one day to the next.

Climate change has made air quality more unpredictable. Higher temperatures increase ozone formation. Drier conditions lead to more wildfires, which produce large amounts of smoke. Stronger storms can stir up

dust and debris.

As a result, many regions now experience more days with poor air quality than they did decades ago. Scientists warn that without action, these trends may continue.

Even though individuals cannot control all sources of pollution, there are steps people can take to protect their health:

- Check the AQI daily, especially during summer or wildfire season.
- Limit outdoor exercise when the AQI is above 100.
- Use air purifiers indoors to reduce pollutants.
- Keep windows closed on high pollution days.
- Avoid burning candles or using strong chemicals indoors.
- Wear N95 masks during wildfire smoke events.

Communities can also take action by planting trees, improving public transportation and supporting clean energy.

Air quality affects everyone, regardless of age, location or lifestyle. By understanding what the AQI means and how pollution impacts health, people can make informed choices to stay safe. As environmental challenges continue to grow, awareness becomes even more important.

Breathing clean air is something many people take for granted. But as scientists often remind us, clean air is not guaranteed, it is something societies must work together to protect. The more we understand about air quality, the better prepared we are to face the challenges ahead.



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First Lady Horhn calls for community support for Foster Youth

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Recently, Jackson's First Lady Lydia Gail Horhn joined the Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ, Inc. (COGIC) for a powerful gathering of worship and fellowship.

First Lady Horhn served as a guest speaker and helped shine a light on the urgent needs within the foster care system. During her remarks, she highlighted the reality facing thousands of children, both in Mississippi and nationwide, including the shortage of licensed foster homes, the challenges tied to neglect and parental substance abuse, and the more than 20,000 youth who age out of the national system each year without permanent family support.

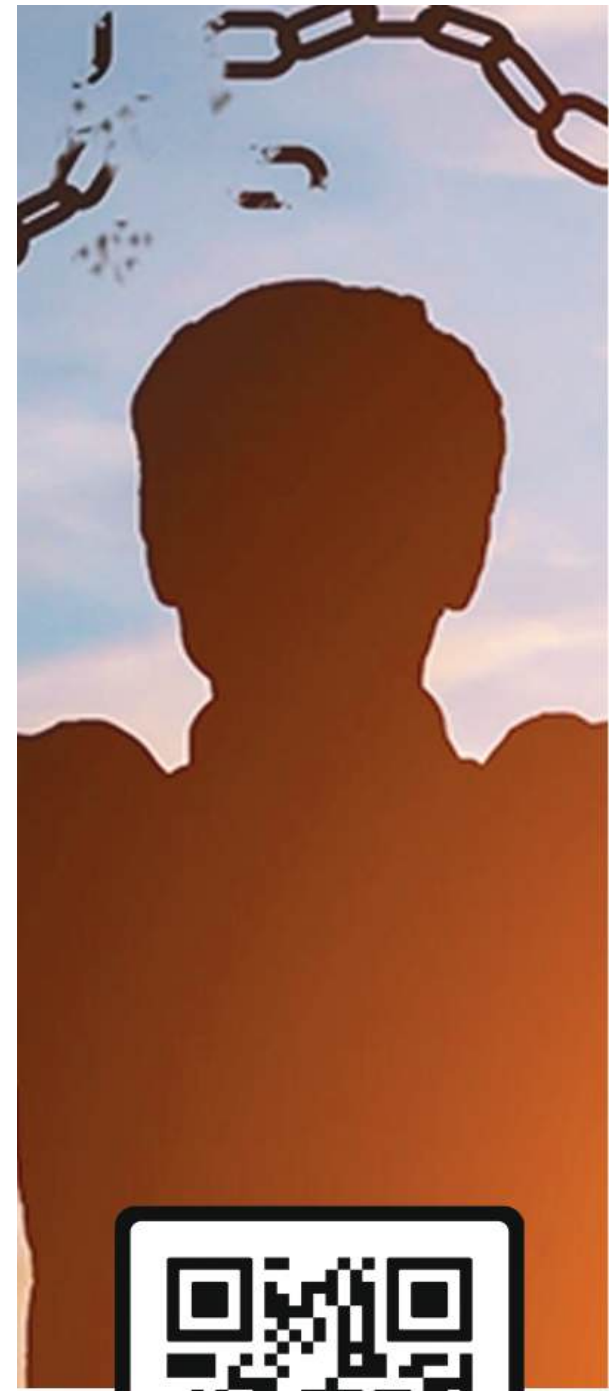
She encouraged attendees to take action by mentoring, tutoring, and supporting foster youth as they prepare for adulthood, whether through guidance on education and careers, or by helping meet critical needs like transportation, mental health services, and financial literacy.

"Stronger support for foster youth helps create safer communities and opens the door to brighter futures for our children," said First Lady Horhn. "Each small act of care and guidance can change the course of a child's life."

The First Lady also commended COGIC and Davis Temple COGIC for elevating this important issue and supporting both children and the professionals who serve them.



City of Jackson First Lady, Lydia Gail Horhn



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Jackson State, Yale collaboration adapts Margaret Walker's 'Jubilee' into new folk opera

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Published in 1966, Jubilee chronicles the life of Margaret Walker's great-grandmother, Vyry, tracing her journey from enslavement through emancipation and Reconstruction.

The novel, which has remained in print for six decades, is widely recognized as a pioneering work that helped establish a genre of historical fiction centered on the experiences of enslaved African Americans.

Robert Luckett, director of the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State, said the novel remains one of the most important literary works to emerge from Mississippi.

"Jubilee is the story of Margaret's very real grandmother and great-grandmother as they lived from slavery to freedom," Luckett said. "It launches a genre of fiction that would later include works like Beloved and Roots, telling the stories of enslaved people from their own perspectives."

Luckett said the opera arrives during a milestone year, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the novel's publication.

For the last five years, the Margaret Walker Center has worked alongside New York composer Randy Klein and librettist Joan Ross Sorkin to transform the book into an operatic work that preserves Walker's language while introducing her story to new audiences.

The project premiered in May at Yale University through a partnership grant before returning to Jackson State for its Southern premiere. Luckett emphasized that one of the most meaningful aspects of the production is the opportunity it provides students.

"In this production, there are over 30 voices singing, and over half of them are students," he said. "They're getting to do major roles and major work in this opera, while also learning from professionals in the field."

Luckett noted that the experience demonstrates that students belong in elite artistic spaces and should view themselves as future leaders in the arts.

Composer Randy Klein said his connection to Walker's work began decades ago while composing music for a documentary about author Richard Wright. Later, he encountered Walker's poetry on a New York subway through the "Poetry in Motion" program.

One poem, in particular, inspired him to begin setting her words to music. "I wrote the poem down, and that night I wrote music to it," Klein said. Years later, a friend encouraged him to read Jubilee.

"I went and bought a copy of Jubilee, and I started to read it. It was a page-turner. I couldn't put it down. At the end of it, I simply said, 'This sings.' I heard it singing, and that's how Jubi-



JSU TIARA JACKSON, MPB NEWS

lee got started."

Klein said the opera focuses on universal themes that continue to resonate. "This piece is talking about freedom," he said. "It's talking about learning. It's talking about the desires that everyone in life has, and these are universal themes."

He believes the work has the potential to grow beyond its concert format and eventually become a fully staged opera performed by companies nationwide. "The story of Jubilee is a story about emancipation," Klein said.

"The theme of it is home, family, and freedom. These aren't foreign thoughts. These are very basic human experiences," he concluded.

For librettist Joan Ross Sorkin, adapting Walker's novel required distilling a sweeping historical narrative into a format suitable for the stage while remaining faithful to its themes.

"It's a story of freedom. It's an American story," Sorkin said. "It's a story of struggle, and it's also a story about strong Black women."

Rather than adapting the entire novel chronologically, Sorkin chose to begin near the middle of the story, at emancipation, when Vyry must decide how to rebuild her life and secure a future for her children.

The opera also incorporates several of Walker's poems, creating connections between the Civil War era and later struggles for civil rights and equality. Sorkin noted that one of her favorite creative choices was making Walker a character within the opera itself.

"The story is about freedom sought, freedom gained, and freedom yet to come," she said. Audiences will hear both the emotional weight of Walker's words and the optimism that runs throughout the story.

"We've been working on this for over five years, and it's thrilling to see the work come to life," Sorkin added. "The students are very committed to the work, and they have glorious voices."

Many of those students traveled to Yale University in May,

where they collaborated with Yale students and faculty. The Yale performance was supported by the University's ASCEND Initiative, a five-year \$10 million effort launched in 2024 to strengthen partnerships between Yale and historically Black colleges and universities.

Through the initiative, students and faculty from both institutions worked alongside professional artists to develop and present Jubilee in New Haven and Jackson, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement between scholars, performers, and educators.

Columbia native Julia Johnson, a Jackson State senior majoring in music education and one of the principal singers, said the opportunity has been transformative.

"It has been really amazing getting to see this program flourish as much as it has," Johnson said. "Getting to experience all these new things and traveling to these places has truly been a blessing."

Johnson, who portrays Minna – Walker's grandmother in the story – said participating in an original opera is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"How many times do you get to say, 'In undergrad, I got to participate in the making of an original opera?'" Johnson said. "It's such an amazing experience to know that I'm part of the foundation that helped make this opera happen."

As a Mississippi native, Johnson said the project carries special significance. "As a Mississippian and as a Jacksonian, it is so amazing getting to hear this story and have others hear the story with her text put to music," she said.

Caris Green, a recent Xavier University of Louisiana graduate, who returned for a second year with the program, said participating in the opera feels historic. "This is literally us making history in a way that reaffirms the significance of the arts as a means of empowerment," Green said.

He noted that Walker's work deserves to reach broader audi-

ences. "Margaret Walker was such an influential African American writer, and her works deserve to be shared with the larger community," he said.

"By putting it into music through this opera, it becomes more accessible to a wider audience," Green also said the Yale collaboration demonstrated the strength of HBCU arts programs.

"It meant so much to be representing the work of an HBCU educator while being an HBCU student myself," he said. "I don't believe it would have had the impact it had, had HBCU students not been integral to its performance at Yale."

Associate Professor of Music Phyllis Lewis-Hale said the initiative is designed to expose students to opportunities they might not otherwise experience. "We have to keep broadening their horizons," Lewis-Hale said.

"We have to keep letting them see what the world looks like and what the world of music looks like." She then noted that the partnership with Yale helped students understand the realities of professional performance while building confidence.

"They realized that no matter where they go, they have the work ethic to get anywhere and do a great job," Lewis-Hale said.

"They can compete with anyone and hold their own ground."

Lewis-Hale also said Jackson State is the ideal place to stage the opera because of Walker's deep connection to the university.

"Margaret Walker taught here for more than 30 years," Lewis-Hale said. "The Jackson State campus is the home and hub of where she began to do all of her foundational work and research."

As audiences prepare to experience the concert production, organizers hope the opera serves not only as entertainment but also as a reminder of Walker's enduring impact on American literature and culture.



Margaret Walker pictured with the original copy of Jubilee next to How I Wrote Jubilee TIARA JACKSON, MPB NEWS

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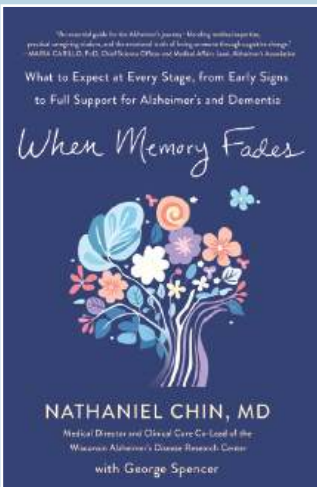
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BOOK REVIEW: WHEN MEMORY FADES: WHAT TO EXPECT AT EVERY STAGE, FROM EARLY SIGNS TO FULL SUPPORT FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA BY NATHANIEL CHIN, MD C.2026, ST. MARTIN'S ESSENTIALS \$30.00 • 422 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Mom called you in a panic the other day. She'd lost her keys and by the time you arrived to help, she'd found them.

She'd lost her keys and by the time you arrived to help, she'd found them.

In the refrigerator.

These kinds of things keep happening, not often but often enough, and you don't know quite what to worry about. But in the new book "When Memory Fades" by Nathaniel Chin, MD, you'll learn about the journey ahead, for both of you.

You can't remember why you

walked into a room. You got lost last week, going to the bank. Popular wisdom says that things like that are normal as we age, but Chin says that's not true – although the answer may not be a worst-case scenario, either. Yes, memory problems could just be signs of stress, dehydration, or lack of sleep – or is it time to see a doctor?

Chin says maybe, yes.

He was working his way through medical residency when his father, a geriatrician in Madison, Wisconsin, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Chin, now a

geriatrician, was blindsided, but that diagnosis also changed his life.

Here, he writes about the brain, and how Alzheimer's and dementia are diagnosed, explaining that dementia has many faces and, depending on a doctor's evaluation, memory problems might be slowed or improved. He shares his father's illness with readers, but he also writes about his mother, a steadfast, steady caretaker.

Her story reminds reader-guardians to care for themselves, too.

Know how to talk the talk, so

that you can have "a more productive" conversation with your doctor. Understand that there's nothing "normal" about dementia or Alzheimer's. Know the statistics – African Americans are affected with dementia twice as much as whites – and know how to lower your risks. Learn here what questions to ask, how to break the news to everyone, and any legal matters that will be important soon. And know how to tend to you.

Says Chin, "The best action you can take is to educate yourself... The more you understand,

the better equipped you are to make sound judgments."

Something's off about Dad, just a lot of little things that don't add up. When is it time to step in? "When Memory Fades" can help you decide.

Wise, wide-spread, comprehensive, and compassionately helpful, this is a book you can read and then take it to the doctor with your loved one. It's a book that makes sense when nothing else does, and its biggest feature is that it smoothly transitions from easy-to-grasp science and charts, to gentle coaching for caregiv-

ers. Author Nathaniel Chin, MD, writes with storytelling, humility, grace, and experience from both sides of the Alzheimer's/dementia issue, and his words are reassuring but also urgent. Learn, but don't wait, he says. Know how to safeguard yourself. See your doctor, and don't fear testing. Watch for signs of depression. And never, ever stop asking for help.

Read those last seven words, and find "When Memory Fades" now. It's a book to have on your shelf, whether you're 45 or 95 because, as you'll see, dementia happens and knowledge is key.



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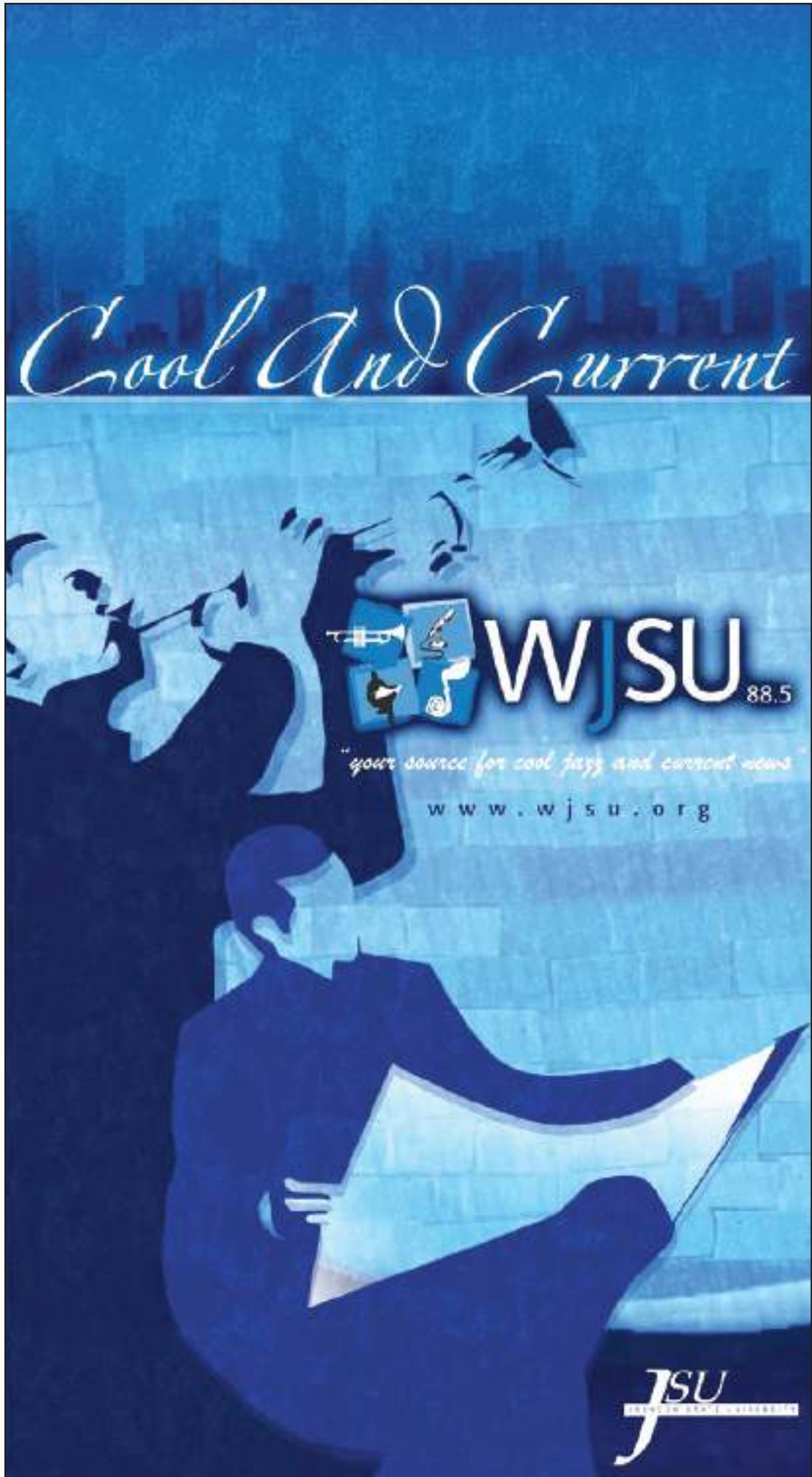
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SWAC Media Day contains predictions, introduction, and new tv contract extension

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

Last Wednesday in Birmingham, Alabama, the SWAC held its annual Football Media Day. One of the announcements coming from media was the new multi-year media rights agreement that will keep league football and basketball games on ESPN networks through the 2030-31 sports seasons. The deal, announced out of Birmingham, gives the conference a long runway of national exposure heading into a season already buzzing with anticipation.

ESPN will annually air 10 regular-season football games across its linear and digital networks, the conference football championship game on ABC, ESPN or ESPN2, and both the men's and women's basketball tournament championship games on a linear ESPN network. The rest of the basketball tournament rounds stay on ESPN's digital networks, with four regular-season men's basketball games also getting linear and digital coverage.

Just as important, the SWAC and ESPN Events extended the conference's participation in the MEAC/SWAC Kickoff Challenge and the Celebration Bowl for six more years, through the 2032 season. Those two games remain important to the SWAC-MEAC rivalry — a regular-season opener and a postseason championship matchup pitting the two FCS HBCU leagues against each other in Atlanta.

The Kickoff Challenge, began back in 2005, when ESPN launched ESPNU, and this year's edition sends Alabama A&M against Howard on August 29. Financial terms weren't released.

One of the most anticipated Coach's interviews was newly hired Southern Baton Rouge Head Football Coach, Marshall Faulk. Faulk is a NFL Hall of Famer, Super Bowl Champion, and NFL League MVP. One of the most dynamic running backs to ever play the game, is the new "celebrity" coach for the SWAC. Faulk was a coach last year in Colorado with Deion Sanders. Marshall Faulk is a Louisiana native, stating when he was younger, he worked in the SuperDome during the Bayou Classic, the big Southern vs Grambling football game.

During several interviews, Faulk mentioned how the NFL is no longer the "next level" for HBCU players instead, it's the Power 4 doing the poaching. "We get poached by the FBS," Faulk said. "They want our players." Faulk pointed to NIL and the transfer portal as the drivers, noting that once a player proves he can perform at a high level, bigger programs come calling with the promise of real money. It's a blunt admission from a coach still building his own roster in Baton Rouge, and it underscores the roster-retention fight every SWAC program is now navigating heading into fall camp.

SWAC preseason predictions and awards have been announced. Alabama State is predicted to win the East Division and Prairie View is expected to repeat at West Division champions. Based on the points systems, Alabama State got 131 points and 16 first place votes, while Prairie View received 130 points and 19 first place votes. Jackson State was predicted to finish 2nd in the East receiving 122 points and 7 first place votes. Grambling State was predicted to finish 2nd in the West with 93 points. Marshall Faulk is expected to finish 5th in the West.

SWAC Individual Awards have also been announced. Alabama State quarterback Andrew Body was named the 2026 Preseason SWAC Offensive Player of the Year.

Year, confirming what had been the expected outcome since Media Day previews began circulating. Body had a great season in 2025, completing 113 of 160 passes (70.6 percent) for 1,770 yards, 20 touchdowns and just 1 interception, while adding 500 rushing yards and 4 more scores on the ground. His 221.3 passing yards per game and 203.6 passer rating helped push Alabama State to a 10-2 overall record and a 7-1 mark in SWAC play.

On the other side of the ball, Jackson State defensive back Kam Sallis was tabbed the 2026 Preseason SWAC Defensive Player of the Year. Sallis inter-



Jared Lockhart interviews with HBCU Go PHOTOS BY TIM WARD

cepted two passes in 2025 and was a key piece of a Jackson State defense that held opponents to 18.8 points and 111.7 rushing yards per game, helping force eight team interceptions. The Tigers finished 9-3 overall and 7-1 in conference, reaching the SWAC Championship Game.

Both players were on hand at SWAC Media Day for interviews and questions. Alabama State placed nine total players on the Preseason All-SWAC Team, more than any other school in the SWAC. Jackson State, Bethune-Cookman and Alcorn State tied for the second-most recognition with six selections apiece, while Prairie View A&M, Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Alabama A&M each landed five players on the list.

Jackson State's six honorees beyond Sallis include quarterback Jared Lockhart (Second Team), offensive lineman Quaveon Davis (First Team), wide receiver Nate Rembert (First Team), linebacker Carmello Jones (Second Team) and defensive back KJ Chisholm (Second Team). Alcorn State's group of six was led by offensive lineman Cameran Rogers and defensive lineman Eric Thomas Jr. on the First Team, along with punter Demetrian Duvall, offensive lineman Abe Diallo, defensive lineman Kenneth Andrews and defensive back Tayvion Haney on the Second Team. Mississippi Valley State's lone selection was linebacker Douglas Franklin on the Second Team.

Now that SWAC Football Media Day is over, the excitement really ramps up for the start of the season. Jackson State opens the season on the road in Nashville against Tennessee State, August 29th. Tiger Nation is ready!



QB Jared Lockhart and Safety Kam Sallis were on hand for media day



Southern Head Coach Marshall Faulk on stage with Jay Walker



JSU Coach TC Taylor interviews on stage with Tiffany Greene and Jay Walker



SWAC Commissioner Dr Charles McClelland announces new ESPN deal

College Hill celebrates their pastor through faith, love, and hope

By Daphne Monix Higgins
Contributing Writer

Sunday, July 18, 2021, was the beginning of a new era at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church. That date signifies the day the 15th pastor of the church, Rev. Chauncy Jordan, became the new shepherd of the West Jackson congregation. Five years later, on July 19, 2026, the members and surrounding community of the church, located at 1600 Florence Ave., celebrated Rev. Jordan and his wife, Dr. LaShanda Jordan, for five years of faithful service.

The anniversary theme, “Guiding with Faith, Nurturing with Love, Inspiring with Hope,” was taken from Ephesians 4:11–12. And the celebration began with the church choir’s rendition of “One More Day,” singing joyfully “I woke up this morning to a brand-new day,” setting the tone for a joyous celebration.

Terrance McEwen, program guide, noted that the worship service would be a timely one, and later introduced the “Tribute to the Pastor” showstoppers: Children’s Ministry participants Breland Franklin and Maverick McGee. The youngsters, both under the age of 7, shared a heart-warming moment of their admiration for the pastor.

Maverick thanked the pastor for walking in his purpose, while Breland thanked the pastor for being a shepherd making room in his heart for his church family, every sermon preached and every prayer prayed.

Zoe Nash and Taylor Hardy shared additional tributes. And Denise Griffin-Whittington ended this segment of the program by sharing the traits of a perfect pastor. It was determined that no such person exists but quickly added that the College Family was celebrating its pastor because of his “faithful obedience to God’s calling, his vision, his love for people, his servant heart and his unwavering faith.”

Griffin-Whittington said, “Thank you for saying yes to God. And to LaShanda, thank you for walking this journey too. We celebrate you, as well.”

As the service progressed, the guest preacher for the celebration, Rev. Tony Montgomery, pastor of Greater St. James M. B. Church, Jackson, stood to let Brother McEwen know that he had done a good job of keeping the program timely but that was about to change.

Sharing his chosen scripture for the day, 1 Samuel 14:7, Montgomery based his sermon on the topic: “Be That Somebody.” Rev. Montgomery shared the scripture’s context of Jonathan, a vision-bearer who was the son of King Saul, and the support of his unnamed armor bearer.

As noted in the Bible, Jonathan makes a courageous stand to his enemies, the Philistines. Because of his faith and determination, the armor bearer, a loyal supporter of the king’s son, stood by him. This scripture explains that the pastor–people relationship is an honorable one.

It should always be a unified one that does not have the church’s leader (the pastor) operating alone. Through God’s love and guidance, a few can make as a strong of an impact as many.

Montgomery shared how church members can “Be that Somebody,” by citing the following: #1 Be somebody who is willing to see what’s possible; #2 Be willing to do what needs to be done; and #3 Be willing to offer your heart and soul. He ended his sermon thanking everyone for the time given to share God’s Word.

Before the service ended, Pastor and Sister Jordan, parents of sons and active members, Chauncy II and Joshua, stood at the podium to thank the College Hill church family for their love and support and the anticipation of many more years of service.



Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr. & Lady Lashanda Jordan (center) with sons Chauncy II and Joshua
PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



Pastor Tony Montgomery, Greater St. James Baptist Church, gave the preached word



Denise Griffin-Whittington gives tribute on behalf of the church family



Etan Franklin leads the litany



Kristen Melton gives the occasion



College Hill Baptist Church Mass Choir directed by Brandon Mitchell



Terrance McEwen, Presiding



Scripture being given by Kaye Brooks



Prayer offered by Vera Collins



Introduction of speaker by Sheila Willis



Breland Franklin (left) and Maverick McGee (Right.) gave a tribute to Pastor Jordan (kneeling center) on behalf of the Children’s Ministry



Pastor Jordan entering sanctuary being escorted by Jamencia Day



Lady Jordan entering sanctuary being escorted by Blake Hansberry



Zoe Nash gives tribute on behalf of the Youth Ministry



Taylor Hardy giving tribute on behalf of the College Ministry



Deaconess Bobbie Anderson, president of Pastoral Support Ministry, along with other members along with Pastor Jordan and Sister Jordan