

# Police shooting of a 1-year-old Mississippi boy ignites tension between police and Black residents

By Travis Loller and Sophie Bates  
Associated Press

The fatal shooting of a 1-year-old boy by police who were responding to a shoplifting call this week has ignited simmering tensions between police and Black residents in the small town of Senatobia, Mississippi.

The death of Kohen Wiley is the latest in a series of troubling encounters with police that have outraged community members in recent years. It has led to protests and calls for greater police accountability in the town of 8,000, with some civil rights activists pointing to Kohen’s death as another example of a Black life lost over something of nominal value — in this case, allegedly stolen diapers.

“We are treating items on a shelf as more valuable than a child,” Bernice King, the daughter of civil right icon Martin Luther King, Jr., said in a statement posted to Instagram on Wednesday. “That is not just bad policing; it is a moral collapse.”

Differing accounts of what happened

There are still many unanswered questions about the shooting and what led up to it.

Senatobia police responded to the shoplifting call at a local Walmart on Sunday, where they found two women and a child leaving the store, getting into a car and driving away. According to a statement released by the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation: “Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver drove in the direction of the officers, almost striking one. An officer then discharged their weapon and the vehicle fled the scene.

Kohen’s mother, Velleiya Wiley, said her son and her friend, who was driving, were hit by gunfire. In a video posted on social media Wednesday by civil rights attorney Ben Crump,



Photo provided by Veronica Robertson via AP shows her grandson, Kohen Wiley of Senatobia, Miss.

Wiley said her friend was not driving toward the officers because they were “all on the right side and she was driving towards the left.”

She also disputes the shoplifting claim, saying in the video that she believes her friend paid for the diapers she was carrying.

Policing expert Ian Adams, who teaches criminal justice at the University of South Carolina, said regardless of the circumstances, the officer should not have fired at the car.

“Modern policing knows that shooting into a moving vehicle is a very bad idea and one to be avoided at almost all costs,” Adams said. For one thing, “vehicles have other occupants, which is obviously a concern here in the current case.”

Shooting revives racial justice concerns

Kohen was Black, as are his mother and her friend, and the circumstances leading to Kohen’s death quickly drew com-

parisons to another Black mother shot during a response to a shoplifting accusation.

In 2023, Ta’Kiya Young, who was pregnant, was shot by police in a Columbus, Ohio, suburb, after they attempted to apprehend her. Police said Young, who was also the mother of two young sons, got into her car and accelerated in the direction of the officer who fired at her through the windshield. Both Young and her unborn daughter were killed.

The officer in that case was acquitted of criminal charges and found justified in his use of force by a review board.

The two deaths join a long list of other instances of Black Americans dying in interactions with police after accusations of petty criminal offenses. That list includes the murder of George Floyd in 2020, who was killed after police responded to a call that he used a fake \$20 bill at a Minneapolis grocery store.

For some racial justice advocates, such cases serve as a constant reminder of the consequences of systemic racism in law enforcement.

“In the name of ‘law and order,’ a child was killed and family was shattered over items that could be restocked, written off, and replaced,” King wrote on Instagram. “Our charge is clear: until the sacredness of human life is the starting point of every police encounter, we must demand changes in training and work unrelentingly to reform policies around police accountability.”

Tensions in Senatobia  
Marquell Bridges, the president and founder of an advocacy group called the Building Bridges Coalition and who has been helping the Wiley family, said Kohen’s death was “just the breaking point” after years of problematic interactions be-

*1-year-old  
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## Brandy Norward honored by thousands in her McComb, Mississippi hometown - Where roots run deep



Brandy and her mother, Sonja Norwood, a powerful “momager” who managed both Brandy and her brother Ray J. Photo credit, Richard Bourne of WAPT, Channel 16 (Hearst Television)

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

Amidst thousands, Grammy award-winning performer Brandy Norwood received multiple accolades on Monday, July 6, 2026, at a 5:00 p.m. welcoming event on Main Street at Front Street in downtown McComb Arts and Entertainment District. Free and open to the public, the right-on-time moment of reflection held the multi-talented honoree in high esteem. Brandy’s devotion to family, community, and the arts was highlighted.

City officials and other leaders spoke highly of the icon’s contributions to humanity. Two keys, one to the City of McComb, and the other to Pike County, were presented. The Mississippi Legislature showered the honoree with legislative proclamations. The Black History Gallery, McComb School

District, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority were among organizations that showed deference to her. After receiving the honors, Brandy pledged a \$100,000 donation to buy band instruments for Higgins Middle School.

“Life is often measured by the one you’re sitting beside. People shaped the life I know. Summer Street is the heart of this city. It reminds me that every neighborhood carries its own culture. Every family carries its own history. I came from people who kept enduring, who found joy when life wasn’t easy. Home remembers your humanity,” said Brandy.

Continuing, the honoree appealed to the crowd to never underestimate a place that seems small on the map. In doing so, she acknowledged that it was McComb that gave

*Brandy  
Continued on page 3*

## FROM HOPE TO HEARTBREAK *The guilty pleas that shook Black Mississippi*

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

There was a time when many in Jackson believed they were watching history unfold.

A young mayor carrying one of Mississippi’s most respected political names. A district attorney promising justice and reform. A city councilman trusted by his community.

They were viewed by many as the next generation of Black leadership.

Now, they are the faces of one of the state’s most highly profiled cases. When federal indictments were handed down in 2024, former Jackson

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, former Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens and former City Council President Aaron Banks stood firm. They pleaded not guilty, insisting the case was politically motivated and promising to fight the charges. “I am not guilty, and so I will not proceed as a guilty man, Lumumba said at the time the bribery scandal became public. He continued, “I will continue to handle the business of the City of Jackson, while my attorneys continue to handle the business of these court proceedings.”

Many in the Black community believed them.

Nearly two years later, one after another, each man walked into federal court and changed his plea to guilty, admitting to a conspiracy connected to an FBI bribery sting and ending what was expected to be one of Mississippi’s most closely watched political trials.

The guilty pleas didn’t just end a



Lumumba



Owens



Banks

criminal case.

They broke hearts.

For many residents, this story is about more than three public officials. It is about broken trust and a lingering question that has echoed across Jackson’s churches, barber shops and neighborhood gatherings:

Is justice truly equal?

That question persists because many point to the state’s welfare scandal, where high-profile figures such as

Brett Favre and former Gov. Phil Bryant have denied wrongdoing and have not faced criminal charges, while nonprofit leader Nancy New pleaded guilty and cooperated with prosecutors. The cases involve different facts and legal theories, but for many Black Mississippians, the contrast has fueled a perception that accountability is not applied evenly.

The timeline is as stunning as it is sobering.

November 2024: Owens, Lumumba and Banks are indicted and plead not guilty.

June 2026: Owens changes his plea to guilty and resigns as Hinds County district attorney.

July 2026: Lumumba and Banks also plead guilty, avoiding a trial that was days away.

Their legal fate will now be decided by a federal judge.

Their political legacy has already been decided by history.

Councilman Kenneth Stokes, who has never been shy about speaking his mind, said, “everything that I predicted and how I predicted it is unfolding. The steps of a righteous man is ordered by the Lord.”

For a city that invested so much hope in its Black leadership, the greatest loss may not be political power.

It may be public trust.

And rebuilding trust is always harder than winning an election.

Inside

Ida B. Wells inducted posthumously into the Mississippi Press Hall of Fame during 160th annual convention held in Biloxi



Good Grief  
Pass the Bread



## *Celebrating the Life and Legacy of* **Dora Etoy Boler Thigpen** *February 2, 1940 - June 27, 2026*



Dora Etoy Boler Thigpen

“Well done, good and faithful servant. - Matthew 25:23

With hearts filled with gratitude for a life well lived and faith well demonstrated, we celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Dora Etoy Boler Thigpen, affectionately known by her family as “Little Sister” and “Pennie.” A devoted Christian, loving wife, nurturing mother, dedicated educator, and faithful community servant, she touched countless lives through her compassion, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to helping others.

Born on February 2, 1940, in Jackson, Mississippi, to Mr. Wilmon Boler & Mrs. Emma Loper Boler. Dora Etoy Boler Thigpen was a cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother and friend. From an early age, she demonstrated a passion for learning, service, and leadership that would become hallmarks of her life’s journey.

Mrs. Thigpen received her high school diploma from Jim Hill High School in Jackson, Mississippi, as a member of the Class of 1958. She continued her education at Jackson State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Her commitment to lifelong learning led her to earn a Master’s in Education from Mississippi College.

For more than six decades, she shared a loving and enduring partnership with her husband and the love of life, Mr. Beray Thigpen (Daddy), with whom she enjoyed over 61 years of marriage. They were the proud and doting parents to Dr. Rickey L. Thigpen, PhD. and Sharon M. Thigpen. Together, they built a family rooted in faith, love, education, and service.

A gifted educator and mentor, Mrs. Thigpen dedicated her professional life to nurturing and inspiring young people. Her educational career included service at Henry Weathers High School in Rolling Fork, Mississippi; Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, Mississippi; Langston University Early Childhood Laboratory in Langston, Oklahoma; Crystal Springs Elementary School in Crystal Springs, Mississippi; Johnson Elementary School in Jackson, Mississippi; Northwest Rankin Elementary School in Flo-wood, Mississippi; Northwest Middle School in Jackson, Mississippi; and Powell Middle School in Jackson, Mississippi.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Thigpen was a passionate advocate for youth development. She served as a dance instructor, speech choir coach, reading coach, basketball coach, tumbling instructor, and cheerleader instructor, investing her time and talents to help young-people discover their potential. She found particular joy in mentoring young girls, preparing them not only for pageants but also for life’s challenges and opportunities. To many, she was more than a teacher; she was a trusted mentor, role model, and source of encouragement.

Her faith was the foundation upon which she built her life. As a faithful servant of God, she actively participated in numerous ministries at Cade Chapel M.B. Church since 1978, including the Mother’s Board Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, Youth Ministry, Angelic Choir, Cantata Choir, Women’s Missionary Society (Circle of Prayer), Renaissance Club and Wedding Coordinator. Through her service, she demonstrated Christ’s love and inspired others to grow in their faith.

Mrs. Thigpen was also deeply committed to her community and civic engagement. Her memberships included the Jim Hill High School Alumni & Reunion Committees, Ladies of Distinction Social & Civil Club, Ashley Acres Community Association, Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (Rho Lambda Omega Chapter), and the Jackson Area/Mississippi Association of Educators. Through these organizations, she forged lasting

friendships and contributed to the betterment of her community.

She was preceded in death by her beloved siblings: Dorothy Boler McMullian (Velish), Myrtis Boler Minor, Charcy Boler Buford, James Boler (jean), and Jessie Boler Bolero. She shared a special bond with her Goddaughter, Anne C. Coleman, whose compassionate care, faithful devotion, and steadfast love were a cherished blessing.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband of more than 61 years, Beray Thigpen; her grateful children, Rickey L. Thigpen, PhD. and Sharon (Chester A. Holden) M. Thigpen; her sisters, Mary Helen Anderson, Faye Jones (George); in-laws, L.C. (Annestine) Thigpen, Thomas Buford and Flora Harris, a Special Godson, David R. Thompson, surrogate daughters include Carolyn D. Coleman, Cynthia R. Coleman, and Cecelia A. Bass. These, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, former students, church family, friends, club & sorority sisters, and countless young people whose lives were enriched by her guidance and love. Mrs. Dora Etoy Boler Thigpen’s legacy lives on through the lives she touched, the wisdom she shared, and the values she instilled in future generations. Her memory remains a blessing, and her example of faith, perseverance, service, and love will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Though she has entered eternal rest, her influence will forever remain in the hearts of those she loved and served.

“Her children arise up and call her blessed.” - Proverbs 31:28

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MISSISSIPPI



## Brandy

Continued from page 1



Laying out the welcome format for those on the McComb scene for stellar award winner Brandy Norwood.

her perspective. Because of that perspective, she has been able to learn and to share her gifts across the globe.

Brandy’s tailor-made career of excellence has thrustured her into arenas that have embraced her. She has accomplished much. She has sold 50 million records. She recently released her bestselling memoir *Phases: A Memoir*, which topped the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list. Co-written with Gerrick Kennedy, the book summarizes Brandy’s life which discloses bullying; body image struggles; heartbreak; mental health; spirituality; and the pressures of fame. “*Phases: A Memoir*,” says Brandy, “is a raw and inspiring tes-



They sat; they stood; they waited for Brandy Norwood.

tament to resilience, healing, and self-discovery.”

The stellar artist was officially inducted onto the Hollywood Walk of Fame with the 2,839th star on March 30, 2026. In 1997, Brandy portrayed the character Cinderella, and Whitney Houston (Fairy Godmother) co-produced the film. Bernadette Peters (Stepmother), Whoopi Goldberg (Queen), and Paolo Montalban (Prince Christopher) were also members of the cast. The film, celebrated for its groundbreaking casting and classic songs, became a cultural touchstone.

From the stage to the dancing crowd, tunes exploded in the air. The Grammy-nominated blues artist Mr. Sipps (Castro Coleman), a fellow Mc-

Comb native, rocked the crowd with R&B and blues. Songs included: “Lady at the Casino;” “If You Love Me like You Say;” “A Change Gone Come;” “Swimming in the Shallow Water;” and “Mississippi Two-Step.”

Following the event was an after-party at Da Daiquiri Factory, located at 210 Main Street in downtown McComb. The open-community celebration featured signature ice-cold daiquiris, food, and music. This major cultural event recognized Brandy’s recent star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and her ongoing legacy as “The Vocal Bible” of R&B.



Brandy shares cellphone message with fans. PHOTO CREDIT, RICHARD BOURNE OF WAPT, CHANNEL 16



Brandy excitedly listens as an accolade is expressed. PHOTO CREDIT, RICHARD BOURNE OF WAPT, CHANNEL 16

## 1-year-old

Continued from page 1

tween Black residents and police.

Bridges pointed to an encounter last year in which an officer threatened Breshari Faulkner with a Taser, pulled her from her car onto the ground and arrested her during a confrontation over a handicapped parking space in the same Walmart lot where Kohen was shot.

Two years earlier, in 2023, a Senatobia officer was fired for his role in arresting a 10-year-old Black boy who had urinated in a different parking lot. The boy’s family settled a federal lawsuit with the city earlier this year.

“There is a culture there that they are above

the law – just because they wear a uniform,” said civil rights attorney Carlos Moore, who has represented the 10-year-old boy and others accusing the department of misconduct.

Police did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. The mayor and city aldermen also did not respond to messages.

About 40% of the city’s population of approximately 8,300 is Black, according to 2020 Census data. Police did not respond to questions about the racial makeup of the department, but the mayor and a majority of the Board of Alderman members are white. The city has elected only

three Black aldermen since it became a municipality in 1860, according to the Tate Record, a local newspaper.

A toy lawnmower that blows bubbles

The officer who shot Kohen and the woman driving the car he was in has been placed on administrative leave, a standard practice, while the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation looks into what happened. They have promised to release video of the shooting once the investigation is complete.

Kohen’s grandmother, Veronica Roberson, was there when Kohen was born and babysat him of-

ten. She described him as a happy little baby with “the prettiest smile you could ever imagine.”

She said he was a sweet child and: “He just loved on me, and I loved on him. We loved each other.”

One of his favorite toys was a little lawnmower that would blow bubbles when pushed. Roberson would sit outside with him while he played with it. “He really thought he was mowing my yard,” she said, laughing a little at the memory. “That baby was my world.”

Loller reported from Nashville, Tennessee. Jack Brook contributed from New Orleans. Aaron Morrison contributed from New York City.

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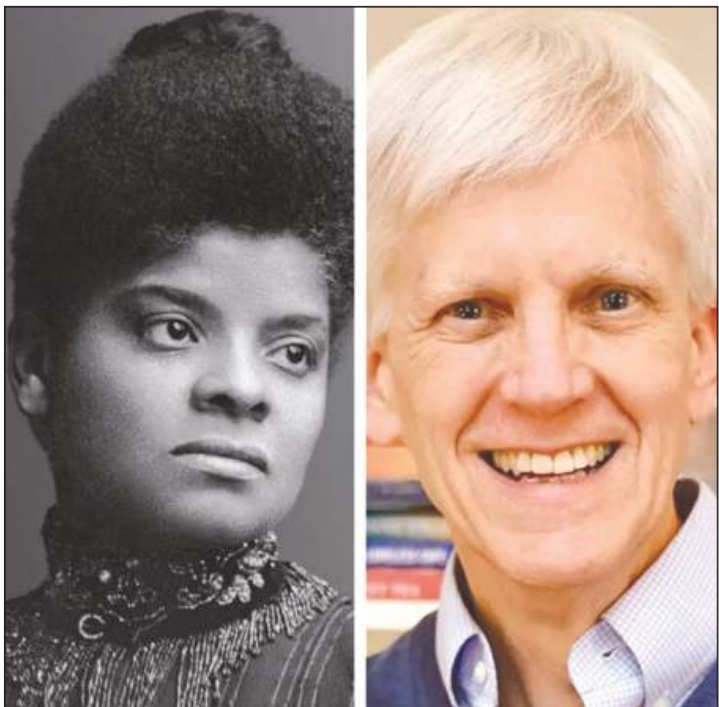


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# Ida B. Wells inducted posthumously into the Mississippi Press Hall of Fame during 160<sup>th</sup> annual convention held in Biloxi



Ida B. Wells & Tim Kalich were inducted into the MPA Hall of Fame Friday, June 26, 2016, in Biloxi, MS



David Duster, great-grandson of Ida B. Wells accepted posthumous inductee award on her the family's behalf. PHOTOS BY ANTHONY WARREN



Hall of Fame Inductee Tim Kalich, Jackie Hampton, MPA Board Member and David Duster great grandson of Ida B. Wells.

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

Ida B. Wells, an instrumental African American civil rights activist and journalist whose courage, integrity, and commitment to truth, was posthumously inducted more than 90 years after her death, into the Mississippi Press Hall of Fame Friday, June 26, 2026.

Also inducted was Tim Kalich, retired publisher of the Greenwood Commonwealth newspaper in Greenwood, MS . Kalich, who retired in March 2025 after a 40-year career, served as a past president of Mississippi Press Association and former chair of the Mississippi Press Foundation.

The Mississippi Press held its 160th annual meeting June 25-27, 2026, at the Gold Nugget Hotel in Biloxi, MS. It all started with a welcome from the outgoing Mississippi Press President, George “Russell” Turner, publisher of the Greene County Herald & Richton Dispatch newspapers.

In addition to the induction, the three-day event included membership and board meetings, speakers and presenters leading workshops on various topics, a silent auction, a silver dollar breakfast where individuals shared ideas for increasing revenue for newspapers, and a Better Newspaper Media Awards Luncheon.

The Mississippi Press Association Hall of Fame was established in January

1986 with the first honorees having been inducted during the 120th anniversary convention. It was established that those nominated must have made their journalistic reputation in Mississippi and/ or must be a native of Mississippi that have been a leader in the field of journalism for at least ten years and may be living or deceased.

In a June press release, Turner stated, “ We are very excited by the committee’s choices for induction into the Hall of Fame this year. “We feel these are worthy recognitions of journalism’s significance in our state and very appropriate for our 160th year.”

Wells (1862–1931), born in Holly Springs during the Civil War, became one of the most influential journalists

and civil rights activists in American history. An educator, newspaper editor, and investigative reporter, she exposed racial injustice in the South and challenged the narratives used to justify violence against African Americans. Throughout her career, Wells advocated for civil rights, women’s suffrage, and equal access to education. She was also a founding member of the NAACP.

Jackie Hampton, publisher of The Mississippi Link and MPA Board member presented the Ida B. Wells inductee award to Well’s great grandson, David Duster.

In her ending presentation she said, “Today, as we look back at the legacy of Ida B. Wells, I feel strongly that we

are called to carry her torch; and in so doing, let us challenge ourselves to look at our own communities, identify the systemic injustices of our time, and even when it is uncomfortable, let us be as brave as Ida B. Wells was by turning on the light of truth.”

“For her pioneering work as a journalist, editor, publisher, investigator, and champion of truth; for her extraordinary courage in the face of intimidation and danger; and for her lasting impact on both American journalism and American society, I proudly welcome Ida B. Wells into the Mississippi Press Association Hall of Fame. Please join me in welcoming her great grandson, David Duster, to accept the induction on her family’s behalf.”

## Pieter Teeuwissen resigns as City of Jackson Chief Administrative Officer



Mayor John Horhn



Peter Teeuwissen resigns as CAO

Mississippi Link Newswire

Peter Teeuwissen, City of Jackson Chief Administrative officer confirmed Monday, July 6, 2026, he would be resigning after serving right at a year as Mayor John Horhn’s CAO.

Teeuwissen stated as a result of recently losing his law partner, Anthony Simon, and being appointed as a trustee to the National Conference of Bar Examiners he does not have enough time to dedicate to his job.

Horhn in a press release regarding the resignation stated:

“I want to take a moment to publicly thank Chief Administrative Officer Pieter Teeuwissen for his dedication and service to the City of Jackson and to my administration.

Over the past year, Pieter has been an essential part of our team. He stepped into the role of Chief Administrative Of-

ficer and immediately made his presence felt, serving as a steady voice for this administration at city council meetings and representing Jackson’s interests on the 1 percent Infrastructure Sales Tax Commission. As we’ve faced budget shortfalls, Pieter has been at the table, working through the hard conversations and helping chart a responsible path forward.

The loss of his law partner earlier this year was a profound one, and I have the deepest respect for Pieter’s honesty in recognizing that his circumstances have changed. His recent appointment as a trustee to the National Conference of Bar Examiners speaks to the caliber of professional he is, and I know he will carry that same level of dedication into that new chapter. I wish Pieter nothing but the best, and I’m grateful for his service to our city.”

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# NAACP Grenada Branch awards Scholarships in honor of longtime Civil Rights Leader Jasper Neely, Jr.

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The NAACP Grenada Branch awarded four \$1,000 scholarships during its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on June 19. The scholarships, which were awarded for the first time this year, are named in memory of Mr. Jasper Neely, the longtime president of the Grenada Branch NAACP. For more than 30 years, Neely dedicated his life to advancing civil rights, expanding educational opportunities, and empowering future generations. A trusted advisor to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Neely was widely respected for his unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and community leadership.

The 2026 Inaugural Jasper Neely Scholars are:

Da'Janae Antoine, a junior, Communications major, Tougaloo College.

Morgan Hughes, a sophomore, Kinesiology major Mississippi State University.

Elizabeth Mason, a sophomore Biological Sciences major, Mississippi State University.

Makiya Shipp, a sophomore, Political Science major, Mississippi State University.

The scholarships are funded through proceeds from the Grenada Branch NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Banquet, the organization's signature fundraising event. By establishing the



Elizabeth Mason



Da'Janae Antoine



Morgan Hughes



Makiya Shipp

Jasper Neely Scholarship, the branch is ensuring that Neely's vision lives on through students whose academic pursuits and leadership potential reflect the values he championed throughout his lifetime.

"Naming our scholarship in honor of Jasper Neely ensures that his extraordinary legacy of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to educational opportunity will continue to inspire generations to come," said Dr. Dominique Miller, president of the Grenada Branch NAACP. "These outstanding students embody the promise of our community. We are honored to invest in their education and look forward

to the positive impact they will make as tomorrow's leaders."

The Grenada Branch NAACP remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding educational opportunities, advancing equity, and empowering young people through scholarships, advocacy, and community engagement. The Jasper Neely Scholarship stands as a lasting investment in both the future of Grenada County, and the legacy of a man whose life's work transformed countless lives. For more information about the Grenada Branch NAACP or to contribute to the Jasper Neely Scholarship Fund, contact Dr. Dominique Miller at naacpgrenada5288@gmail.com.



Students received scholarships in memory of Jasper Neely

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# Supreme Court strikes down Birthright Citizenship Order

By Clint Combs  
Contributing Writer

On June 30, the Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump’s executive order declaring that children born in the U.S. to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily are not U.S. citizens.

The 6-3 ruling upheld a long-settled understanding that the 14th Amendment, adopted after the Civil War, guarantees citizenship to anyone born in the country. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch dissented.

In his dissent, Thomas wrote that the 14th Amendment “was designed and understood to secure equal rights for the freed blacks but has instead been repurposed for political projects that the Reconstruction Congress did not support.”

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the high court, warned of “an even greater threat” posed by Thomas’ dissent and what she described as the Trump administration’s bad-faith interpretation of the Constitution.

“What is more, this alternative account pitches Black Americans against immigrants when the advocates who promoted the Fourteenth Amendment did no such thing,” Jackson wrote. “Freed Blacks fought for the shared humanity of all people.”

Justice Brett Kavanaugh suggested in his opinion that Congress, not the courts, could



CREDIT: LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

decide whether to change birthright citizenship through legislation.

Reaction to the ruling came quickly from civil rights and immigrant advocacy groups, many of whom connected the fight over birthright citizenship to broader efforts to restrict voting rights.

New Justice Project Executive Director Rod Adams said the ruling reflected a promise won through Black resistance.

“The 14th Amendment was never about legal language. It was a declaration that America could no longer decide who was fully human or fully American based on race or circumstances of birth,” Adams said.

“That promise was purchased with Black blood, Black courage and Black resistance.”

Adams argued that Trump’s push to end birthright citizenship is connected to the SAVE Act, a restrictive voting bill that would require Americans to produce a passport or birth certificate to register to vote. Last week, Trump refused to sign a bipartisan housing affordability bill until Congress passes the SAVE Act.

“The same forces attacking birthright citizenship are attacking voting rights,” Adams said. “The same forces targeting immigrant families are attacking Black communities. The same forces trying to erase

our history are trying to silence our voices at the ballot box.”

Hamsa Hussein, a Somali American rideshare driver and leader of the SEIU Local 26 Drivers Organization Committee, joined Adams after the ruling and said attacks on birthright citizenship are also attacks on workers’ rights.

“Instead of attacking migrants who are our neighbors, we should stand up to the billionaires, the big corporations,” Hussein said.

Unidos MN Executive Director Emilia González-Avalos said efforts to end birthright citizenship amount to voter suppression.

“When they move to erase

birthright citizenship, they move to erase your vote before you ever cast it, to make sure you could never hold them accountable for a mass deportation agenda tearing families from their homes right now,” González-Avalos said. “Make no mistake, this was voter suppression dressed up as immigration policy, but they miscalculated, because you are here, you are citizens, and your power is real.”

Thomas Wolf, director of democracy initiatives at the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, said the ruling doesn’t offset the damage he believes the court has done this term.

“The Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed citizenship to everyone born here over 150 years ago. The Supreme Court affirmed that 20 years later in Wong Kim Ark,” Wolf said. “Meanwhile, the court has been on an anti-democratic rampage. In just the past few weeks alone, the court further undermined the Voting Rights Act, encouraged more aggressive partisan gerrymandering, dangerously expanded presidential power over federal agencies, and further depleted protections for immigrants.”

For some young people, the ruling is personal. Emily Rodriguez, a first-generation American born prematurely with a weakened immune system, said her parents came to the U.S. seeking a better life after leaving behind poverty

and violence.

“Having health insurance meant that we could go to the doctor, get medication and get the care that we needed,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, 18 and college-bound, said she was devastated when she learned Trump had signed the executive order denying birthright citizenship to people like her. She’ll carry that memory with her when she votes for the first time this year.

“That is something that I don’t think is a given,” Rodriguez said. “My voice matters, because this country recognizes me as an American. Every young person deserves that same certainty about where they belong and what future they can build.”

Ali Bella, who turns 18 this October, will also be eligible to vote for the first time in the midterm elections.

“A child doesn’t choose where they’re born. A child does not choose where their parents were born. So why should any child have their rights taken away because of circumstances they never chose,” Bella said. “I’ll be able to vote. Imagine taking that voice away from millions of people simply because of who their parents are.”

For more information on Trump’s proposed Birthright Citizenship Executive Order, visit [www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/know-your-rights-birthright-citizenship/](http://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/know-your-rights-birthright-citizenship/).

## Actor and activist Danny Glover announces he has Alzheimer’s disease

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Actor and activist Danny Glover, best known for starring as an easygoing police officer in the “Lethal Weapon” franchise, has revealed he has Alzheimer’s disease.

The four-time Emmy Award nominee, who turns 80 on July 22, told “Today” and People magazine that he was diagnosed with the progressive, memory-destroying disease three years ago.

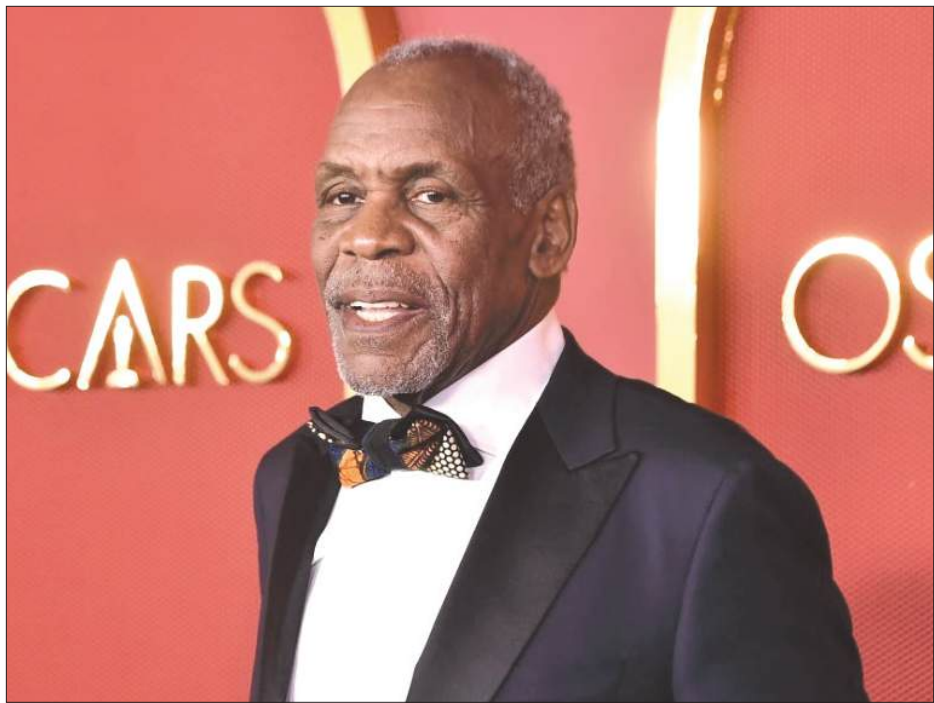
“I’m still not accepting in my mind all parts of it,” he told People magazine. “There are the moments that you keep remembering that validate the fact that you can remember stuff. And there are moments I’ll never forget.”

More than 6 million people in the United States and millions more around the world have Alzheimer’s, the most common form of dementia.

Glover earned four Emmy Award

nominations and an honorary Oscar in 2022. Other awards came from the NAACP and Black Entertainment Television, and he received nominations from the Screen Actors Guild.

Glover also served as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Program from 1998 to 2004. It focuses on poverty, disease and economic development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.



Danny Glover arrives at the Governors Awards on Friday, March 25, 2022, at the Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP, FILE

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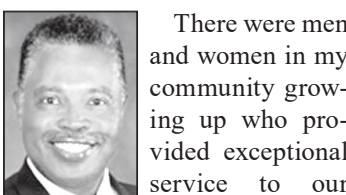
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# Republicans can't seem to get former President Barack Obama out of their minds

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



There were men and women in my community growing up who provided exceptional service to our neighborhood. The city of Winston-Salem NC was a better place because of them. Men like Carl Russell and women like Louise Wilson were stalwart leaders who created opportunities for others. Both left lasting legacies and are still talked about today. I was coming of age back then and I remember them quite well. Segregation was a way of life during that time, yet it didn't stop them from believing and achieving.

Both were activists who created avenues so that others could be better and help their families. Mr. Russell and Mrs. Wilson were visionaries before the term was popular. They saw things coming before they happened. As we gauge our political landscape today, we can say without question that Barack Obama was for the people. Of course, he was the 44th president of the United States of America. President Barack Obama had major legislation passed that changed the lives of Americans. Records show that, "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enacted a \$787 billion economic stimulus plan in 2009 to pull the U.S. out of the Great Recession, extending

unemployment benefits, creating jobs, and investing heavily in infrastructure." Prior to the passage of this law, the United States of America was almost down and out with no design to go forward. Over his eight years in office, President Barack Obama had a propensity for knowing how to pull both major political parties together for the greater good. General Motors and Chrysler were struggling mightily and had a bleak future. His direct lobbying and intervention saved over one million American jobs. His first major legislation was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This legislation, according to reports, made it easier for employees to have more individual rights such as appeals in

their places of employment. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that he signed in 2010 created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to help everyday consumers like you and me. President Obama's understanding of the need for health-care reform resulted in the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. Reports say, "The ACA expanded health insurance to millions of Americans, established a patient's bill of rights, protected individuals with pre-existing conditions, and allowed young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plans." He believed in the potential of all Americans. His spirit was caring, his actions were timely, and his character shone throughout his tenure in office.

His honesty made him the envy of his political opponents. Republicans were always 3 steps behind. He withstood the personal attacks with aplomb and grace. President Obama was well thought of by world leaders. They respected him and admired him. He built bridges of understanding and compassion. During his time, America was in good hands and the polls showed it. As a former president, his opinions still matter. People still want his leadership and counsel. Why do challengers compare themselves to champions? Why are jealousy and meanness central to comments that many members of the opposition party make? Maybe the bar is too high for them to scale.

Let's be clear. Not all from the GOP are tied up and twisted up in a movement to keep Americans from Americans. Destroying democracy and the rule of law are their only goals. You can identify them easily because they talk about President Obama constantly, albeit in a negative way. For example, every commercial that this extreme group makes includes his name or his picture. Some of them disparaged President Obama so badly and still got fired from their jobs. You know who they are and there will be more of them to go. Sometimes, being uninformed and critical of others is habit forming. President Barack Obama continues to defeat them even now as a private citizen.

## Black music is not just entertainment. It is survival

The Houston Defender

Black music has historically served as a vital tool for survival and cultural preservation for Black Americans, long before they achieved political power or equal protection under the law. It pre-dates Black ownership of radio stations or record labels, acting as an archive for stories omitted from mainstream history. While Black Music Month celebrates surface-level entertainment, the true essence

Long before Black Americans held political power, built economic influence, or could count on equal protection under the law, we had something untouchable. We had our music. Before we owned radio stations, record labels, or corporate boardrooms, we had music. Before our stories made it into mainstream history books, they lived in our melodies. Long before America was willing to actually listen to our voices, we found a way to make sure it could never ignore our sound. Black Music Month is over, but it's incredibly easy to let the celebration stay on the surface. We praise the chart-topping hits, replay legendary award show clips, and dance to the tracks dominating our social media feeds. We debate the classic albums, rank the best vocalists, and argue over who belongs on music's Mount Rushmore.

More than just a playlist, Black music has served as armor, history, and a powerful tool for survival across generations of American history. Credit: Getty Images Black music has never just been about making people dance; it has always been about helping people endure. It is the most accurate, unfiltered historical archive of the Black experience ever created. For generations, when mainstream institutions refused to document our humanity, our music did the heavy lifting. When textbooks omitted us, songs remembered. When newspapers ignored us, songs testified. When laws oppressed us, songs fought back. Music& Audio The spirituals sung by enslaved Africans weren't just religious expressions. They were literal roadmaps, warnings, and coded escape routes sung right under the noses of overseers.



Long before history books or mainstream media documented the Black experience, spirituals, blues, and gospel music served as the community's primary archive of survival and resistance. CREDIT: GEMINI

Imagine the sheer courage it took to create beauty while enduring that level of brutality. That isn't entertainment and defiance. Then came the blues, born out of the cotton fields and back porches of the South. The blues gave Black people permission to speak out loud about heartbreak, poverty, and systemic injustice. It said, "This happened to me, and I am still here." It taught generations that our individual stories mattered, even if the rest of the country wanted us to suffer in silence. Gospel music carried that exact same spirit straight into church sanctuaries. During the heaviest years of Jim Crow, gospel became fuel for weary spirits, reminding people they were infinitely more than what a segregated society labeled them. It's no coincidence that the songs echoing through Sunday morning pews became the same anthems fueling the Civil Rights Movement on Monday morning. The soundtrack of liberation was sung before it was ever written into law. As the decades marched on, every genre inherited that same assignment. Jazz put Black genius on display and challenged musical convention. Soul music wrapped heavy political messages inside irresistible grooves. Funk celebrated Black joy unapologetically, while R&B chronicled our love stories and aspirations. And hip-hop gave neighborhoods a megaphone the government tried to make invisible. When Billie Holiday sang "Strange Fruit," she forced America to look at the horrors of lynching. When Nina Simone sang "Mississippi Goddam," she turned performance

into direct protest. Marvin Gaye asked "What's Going On?" during a nation in turmoil, Public Enemy educated an entire generation on systems of power, and today, Kendrick Lamar continues that exact same lineage by dissecting race, trauma, and survival. Different eras, different sounds—but the exact same job description: tell the truth. That responsibility feels heavier today than ever. We are living through a time when efforts to rewrite history, sanitize uncomfortable truths, and erase Black stories from classrooms have become standard political battlegrounds. But Black music is too stubborn to copyedit. It refuses to forget, and it refuses to let us forget. Every beat carries a memory. Every lyric carries a legacy. This June, we need to listen differently. When the bass drops, listen to the history. When the choir swells, listen for the endurance. When the lyrics hit a little deeper than usual, remember you aren't just hearing a song—you are hearing survival. You are listening to the sound of a people who, when stripped of nearly everything else, used the rhythm of their own heartbeats to reshape the entire world. So by all means, celebrate the artists. Attend the concerts, buy the albums, and dance until your feet hurt. But never forget that Black music is more than a soundtrack. It is our armor, it is our testimony, and it is the reason we are still here.

## You cannot change yesterday

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



If you could go back and change anything in your life, what would it be? There are many who wish they could change what occurred yesterday (in the past) for many reasons. Ultimately, it is believed that if we could alter the past, life would be filled with more peace, joy, and less stress, etc. However, unfortunately you cannot change yesterday. I believe most if not all were given an opportunity to change yesterday, they would do it in a heartbeat, especially in marriage. One of the leading causes of separation and divorce is the inability or refusal to forgive yesterday's offenses, hurts, betrayals, etc. Are you still living in the past? Does your spouse refuse to let go of yesterday? Have you truly forgiven each other in words? Signs of Unforgiveness in Marriage Include the Following: • Constantly lives in the yesterday • The past is consistently mentioned • Refuse to forgive • Use the past to bully, control, manipulate, and even justify your wrong – remember, you have been wrong and you also have caused your spouse hurt and offense in some way • Constant arguments especially about the past • Constant fighting • Get anxious and uneasy when spouse is present • Hurt resonates with you daily and is worsening • Hate • Desire to seek revenge • Anger • Animosity • Gas Lighting • Bitterness • Little to no communication • Sadness • You hear crickets in the bedroom • Sleeping in separate spaces • Separation

• Pending divorce One of the greatest gifts humans can give to each other is forgiveness. Also, one of the greatest attributes one can have in marriage is the grace of forgiveness. Forgiveness in marriage can be the difference between sleeping in separate bedrooms, living solo lives, separation, divorce, and worse. Yes, forgiving your spouse and your spouse forgiving you is not easy but it is necessary and can be done. Of course, depending on the hurt or offense – it may take longer to forgive. In other words, it may be easier to forgive your spouse for leaving the toilet seat up, burning the chicken than to forgive your spouse for calling you out your name or buying a major item without consulting with you first. What Does Not Focusing on Changing Yesterday in Marriage and Deciding to Make Today and Tomorrow Better Look Like in Marriage? True forgiveness in marriage includes the following: • Have a real and sincere relationship with God – God is not just a part-time hobby - you are 100% committed to living for God • You love God more than you do self and your spouse • Pray constantly for each other and together • Understand that God says if you don't forgive, He won't forgive you either • Acknowledges that neither of you are perfect – both have caused disappointments, hurt, offense to each other, etc. • Spouse who caused the hurt/offense apologies as often as needed – make amends every chance they get • Spouse who caused the hurt and offense reassures you verbally but most importantly through actions • Spouse who caused the hurt and offense goes out of their way not to repeat it • The spouse who caused the hurt/offense is patient – gives you time and space you need to forgive and heal • You can discuss the hurt/offense in a healthy manner without raging emotions, etc. – it's important to communi-

cate about it – will require lots of patience especially from the spouse who caused the hurt/offense • Holds each other accountable – please do not ever enable your spouse to repeat the offense, hurt, etc. • Trust increases • You can see the scar, but the wound is completely healed • Both spouses are more vulnerable and open to each other about everything • Set boundaries with each other in the marriage • Are intentional about having a happy, loving, and healthy marriage • You have amnesia to yesterday Overall, additional indications that you have forgiven each other are you are growing as one, love is restored, and you both look forward to planning your future together and you are even able to encourage others to forgive as you have learned to. In conclusion, I understand that it is not easy to forgive based on having to forgive my husband and my husband having to forgive me. However, when you forgive – it becomes your path to healing and freedom whether you remain married or if you choose to divorce. You cannot change what occurred yesterday, but you can use yesterday to make today and tomorrow better in your marriage as described above. Will you let yesterday or what you can do today define your marriage? 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)

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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 • JHMC65653XC022090

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

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I. ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

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

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

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054 or 601-960-2747. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. Send an email to [cerafit@jacksonms.gov](mailto:cerafit@jacksonms.gov) or [sgraves@jacksonms.gov](mailto:sgraves@jacksonms.gov) Electronic proposals MUST be submitted at [www.jacksonmsbids.com](http://www.jacksonmsbids.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, contact PH Bidding Group at [admin@phbidding.com](mailto:admin@phbidding.com) or call 662-407-0193.

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

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

7/2/2026, 7/9/2026

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I. ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

The demolition and cleaning of parcels:

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

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

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

7/2/2026, 7/9/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Residential Lots, Right-of-Way, and Vegetation Management Services**  
**City of Jackson, Mississippi**  
**RFP# 96866-072826**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will receive sealed proposals for Residential Lots, Right-of-Way, and Vegetation Management Services.

RFP documents are available at [www.jacksonmsbids.com](http://www.jacksonmsbids.com). Proposals shall be submitted electronically through [www.jacksonmsbids.com](http://www.jacksonmsbids.com) in accordance with the requirements of this Request for Proposals. Proposals submitted by any other method may be rejected.

All proposals are due by or before July 28, 2026, at 3:30 PM Central Time. Sealed bids may be turned in at the City Clerk's office, located at 219 South President Street, and the bid must be stamped by 3:30 PM.

Interested bidders must attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting, which will be held on July 14, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Andrew Conference Room on the 1st floor, 200 S President St, Jackson, MS 39205.

Submissions shall be clearly identified as: RFP 96866-072826 - RESIDENTIAL LOTS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

All pricing shall be submitted on the required forms included with the RFP documents.

Minority-owned, women-owned, disadvantaged, Section 3, small, and local firms are encouraged to participate, either as prime consultants or subconsultants, consistent with applicable law and City requirements.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, waive informalities or irregularities, request clarifications, negotiate with the highest-ranked firm, and cancel or reissue this solicitation if determined to be in the City's best interest and consistent with applicable law.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

7/9/2026, 7/16/2026

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SPORTS MEDICINE  
Fortification and I-55  
MURPHY USA  
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)  
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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN  
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507 Church Street - Canton, MS  
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WEEK OF JULY 5, 2026

P R E S E R V E D

# Badge of Shame: The Childfree Aunt

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“I like my freedom. I like being able to get up and go and move and do what I want to do. I don’t want to have to tend to someone all the time.” Singer and actress Mary J. Blige made what some considered these controversial statements in 2022 about why she never had kids. She added that she loved her nieces and nephews. It created a social media fire storm with some applauding her honesty while others accused her of being selfish. She was talking about what so many women like me actually deal with which is how do you manage through all of the expectations that come your way when you are a woman and you don’t have kids. Even more so, what happens when you are an aunt that willingly loves the children of others when you have none of your own? I’ve even had this conversation with some uncles who are childfree who seem to be

praised for not having children. But for women, where the expectation is that you are going to be a nurturer, you’re going to be connected to a husband or to a child, there’s an attitude that there is something wrong with you if you don’t have kids. For some of us that are child-free aunts, we have to manage a lot of different emotions including feeling devalued and ignored yet applauded for being good aunts. You have to manage all of those different emotions when you are dealing with what I’ve called “a badge of shame” for not having children. So how could I then be a good aunt to my nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews if I’ve never had a child? The ability to love, nurture, encourage and empower can happen whether you have given birth to children or not, right? One friend who is also childfree said that someone told her that she wasn’t a real woman because she did not have children. She was stunned that someone would actually say that you’re

not a real woman until you have kids. What about all these other women who don’t have kids? Does this mean that they’ve never blossomed and stepped into their full womanhood? It is hurtful to say something as ignorant as that as well as to imply that you don’t have the same value as a woman because you haven’t had children. On some days you love your nieces and nephews, but you may also have a longing for your own. Or you may have simply have a longing to be appreciated for the time, the treasure, and money that you’ve poured into those nieces and nephews. Some would say it’s actually a badge of honor and not a badge of shame. It’s an honor to be childfree, carefree, and childless because you get to pour into their lives, to make a difference, to encourage them, to nurture them, and, most importantly, to show them a whole lot of love. It takes a lot of heart to be an aunt or uncle. So why hate those who are childfree? Simply put, some haters are not at peace with themselves and are

envious. Proverbs 14:30 says “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.” But here is one thing to consider: if you rearrange the letters in the word hater, you actually get the word heart. Now you can choose to be a hater. Or you can rearrange what’s in your life and be led by your heart and not envy. It’s a waste of time to be a hater. It’s more fun, you get more things done, and you have a more fulfilling life when you have heart. Celebrate National Aunt and Uncle Day July 26th! Join me at the Dock Bookshop in Fort Worth for a special celebration for aunts and uncles on Saturday, July 18th 5 pm – 7 pm. For more information, call 972-533-3543. Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda

## Black wealth, prosperity preaching and a new push for ‘Economic Power’

BlackPressUSA Newswire

As Black churches increasingly move beyond the pulpit into economic development, a small group of high-profile pastors—many tied to the prosperity gospel tradition—illustrate how faith, media, and business ventures have converged to build multimillion-dollar ministries and personal brands. The shift comes as churches across the country are also embracing initiatives like “Spend in the Black,” a Chicago-based effort led by the Rev. Dr. Charlie E. Dates of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago and Progressive Baptist Church. The campaign encourages consumers to direct their dollars toward Black-owned businesses, framing spending as a tool for community empowerment. “This is about resurrecting the Black dollar,” Dates said. “So rather than being in the red, we are spending in the Black.” The initiative has drawn elected officials and business owners across the country and helped generate large vendor marketplaces featuring Black-owned businesses. Against that backdrop, a number of prominent Black pastors have become symbols—both celebrated and scrutinized—of wealth accumulation within modern American Christianity. While pastors have these powerful roles of inspiration and engagement, where does that translate to empowerment of those who listen to them, or is it for entertainment purposes only? Mega-ministries and media empires Among the most widely cited is T. D. Jakes, founder of The Potter’s House in Dallas, one of the nation’s largest megachurches. Jakes’ estimated net worth is commonly placed between \$20 million and \$50 million, driven not only by church leadership but also by book publishing, film production, conferences, and media ventures. Another leading figure is Creflo Dollar, founder of World Changers Church International in Georgia. Dollar is closely associated with prosperity preaching and has built a global ministry empire that includes broadcasting, books, and organizational networks. His estimated net worth is widely reported in the tens of millions. Prosperity theology—the belief that faith, giving, and positive confession can lead to material and physical blessing—has been a defining and controversial feature of several large ministries. Critics argue it risks conflating spiritual devotion with financial success, while supporters say it empowers congregants to pursue economic stability and generational wealth. Advocacy, Authors, speakers, and media ministries Other prominent figures include Cindy Trimm, a speaker and author whose ministry and books have contributed to an estimated multimillion-dollar net worth, and Juanita Bynum, a televangelist and gospel artist whose public profile helped define early 2000s Christian media culture. The Rev. Al Sharpton is one of the nation’s most recognizable civil rights activists, serving as founder and president of the National Action Network, which he established in 1991 to advocate for voting rights, criminal justice

reform, economic opportunity and equal justice. An ordained Baptist minister, Sharpton does not serve as the senior pastor of a local congregation, instead focusing his ministry through NAN’s faith-based advocacy and weekly action rallies in Harlem. Over four decades, he has led or supported campaigns involving police accountability, voting rights, racial justice and economic equity, making him a prominent voice in national civil rights debates. He also represents a cross-over between ministry, activism and media influence. Sharpton’s National Action Network, along with broadcasting and public speaking, contributes to an estimated multimillion-dollar financial profile. Pastor Jamal Bryant of Atlanta has emerged as one of the nation’s leading voices for economic activism, urging Black consumers to use their collective buying power to influence corporate policies. Bryant gained national attention after launching a boycott of Target in 2025 following the retailer’s rollback of several diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Framing the campaign as both a faith-based movement and an economic protest, Bryant called on consumers to redirect spending to Black-owned businesses while demanding greater corporate investment in Black businesses, partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities, and continued commitments to economic inclusion. In March 2026, Bryant declared the yearlong boycott a partial victory, saying organizers had secured progress on three of their four major demands while pledging to continue monitoring corporate accountability. Regional megachurch leadership In Los Angeles, Bishop Noel Jones leads City of Refuge, a congregation often cited at nearly 17,000 members. Like many megachurch leaders, his income is tied to pastoral leadership, speaking engagements and media visibility. Younger leaders are also emerging in the same space. In Birmingham, Alabama, Mike McClure Jr.—also known as Pastor Mike Jr.—has built Rock City Church alongside a growing gospel music career. His income streams include church leadership, recording success and speaking engagements. Faith, economics and community reinvestment The visibility of wealth among some pastors has fueled ongoing debate about prosperity preaching, particularly in Black church traditions where churches have historically served as centers for civil rights organizing, education and mutual aid. At the same time, initiatives like “Spend in the Black” highlight a renewed focus on collective economic strategy. Supporters say Black churches are uniquely positioned to mobilize consumers, build business networks and circulate dollars within underserved communities. The U.S. Black consumer market now represents hundreds of billions of dollars in annual spending power, according to industry estimates, giving faith-based economic initiatives new urgency. Organizers say the goal is not only spiritual uplift but material transformation.



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# COVID19 in 2026

## What we should still be concerned about

By Vince Faust MA  
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

In 2026, many people hoped COVID19 would be a thing of the past. While the emergency phase is long over, the virus has not disappeared. It continues to spread around the world, and health experts say it remains a significant public health concern. Even though most people now have some immunity from vaccines, past infections or both, COVID19 still causes illness, hospitalizations, longterm health problems and sometimes even death.

Understanding the risks in 2026 can help us stay prepared and protect our communities and ourselves.

COVID19 continues to spread year-round, without a clear seasonal pattern. The virus spreads through the air when an infected person breathes, talks, coughs or sneezes. It spreads more easily indoors, especially in crowded or poorly ventilated places. Anyone can catch it, even if they've had it before. Reinfections are common, and each infection carries some risk.

While most people recover at home, older adults, people with chronic health conditions and those with weakened immune systems are still more likely to get very sick.

Viruses change over time and COVID19 is no exception. New variants can spread faster or cause different symptoms. Some variants may also be better at escaping immunity from past infections or vaccines. This means people can get infected again, even if they've been careful.

Experts' say slowing the spread of the virus helps reduce the number of new variants. That's why basic prevention steps still matter.

One of the biggest risks in 2026 is



Long COVID, a condition where symptoms last for months or even years after infection. Long COVID can affect almost any part of the body and can happen even after a mild case. Millions of people in the U.S. have experienced it.

Common symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Brain fog
- Shortness of breath
- Headaches
- Sleep problems
- Chest pain
- Digestive issues

More than 200 symptoms have been reported. Some people improve after a few months but others continue to

struggle for much longer. Long COVID can sometimes lead to disability or make daily tasks difficult.

Anyone can get Long COVID, but it is more common in:

- People who had severe illness
- People with underlying health conditions
- Women
- People who were never vaccinated

Because there is no approved test or cure, prevention is the best protection.

Many people have had COVID19 more than once. Each infection brings a chance of complications, including Long COVID. Even if earlier infections were mild, there is no guarantee the

next one will be. Reinfections can also worsen existing health problems.

Vaccines remain one of the strongest tools for preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. They also reduce the risk of Long COVID. Health experts recommend staying up to date with the 2025–2026 COVID19 vaccine, especially for older adults and people with health conditions.

Vaccination does not completely stop infection, but it greatly lowers the chances of getting very sick.

The most common symptoms of current variants include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Sore throat

Other symptoms like fatigue, cough, headaches and stomach issues are also common. Severe symptoms, such as trouble breathing, chest pain or confusion, require immediate medical attention.

Even though many cases are mild, the virus can still cause serious complications, especially in highrisk groups.

Experts continue to recommend simple steps to reduce risk:

- Stay home when sick
- Improve indoor air quality by opening windows or using air purifiers
- Wash hands often
- Wear a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated places, especially if you are highrisk
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Seek treatment early if you are at risk for severe illness

These steps help protect not only individuals but also the community.

Scientists now know that COVID19 spreads mainly through tiny particles in the air. Good ventilation bringing

in fresh air and filtering indoor air can greatly reduce the amount of virus in a room. Schools, workplaces and homes are encouraged to improve airflow to help prevent outbreaks.

COVID19 continues to affect health-care systems, schools and workplaces. Long COVID has increased the need for medical care and support services. Public health agencies are working to better understand the condition and provide resources for patients and doctors.

Even though the world is no longer in crisis mode, the virus still shapes daily life in many ways.

In 2026, the biggest concerns include:

- Long COVID and longterm health effects

- New variants that may spread faster or evade immunity

- Reinfections and their risks
- Protecting highrisk individuals
- Keeping vaccines up to date
- Improving indoor air quality
- Avoiding misinformation about COVID19 and treatments

These concerns remind us that COVID19 is not gone, it has simply changed.

COVID19 is now part of our everyday life, but that doesn't mean we are powerless. With vaccines, good habits and awareness, we can reduce the risks. Staying informed helps us make smart choices for our communities and ourselves.

The virus may still be here, but so are the tools to protect us.

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## Breathe better today with free asthma resources and support

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**Support:** As a part of the program, people can connect with Lung Health Navigators — registered nurses, respiratory therapists, certified asthma educators and certified tobacco treatment specialists, who provide free, personalized support, guidance and resources. Lung Health Navigators meet with people one-on-one to answer questions about asthma techniques, provide educational resources, help them navigate insurance challenges, link them with support group connections and much more. These sessions are unlimited, and can happen over the phone, via live online chat, or with video calls when it works best for the participant's schedule.

**Education:** Participants get access to the proven Breathe



PHOTOS: (C) RYANJLANE / GETTY IMAGES

Well, Live Well course, which is the Lung Association's premier asthma self-management program for adults and for parents of children with asthma. The evidence-based curriculum teaches participants how to take control of their asthma, and is based on national best practices for asthma care. Breathe Well, Live Well is the only program available nationwide that has shown to result in less severe asthma, fewer respiratory problems, and a better ability to stick to treatment plans. Participation includes the Breathe Well, Live Well Asthma Education workbook, available in digital or hard copy format in five languages.

**Community:** Community is

critical for families living with asthma, so the program includes complimentary membership in the Patient & Caregiver Network, which provides free resources, education, and access to emerging research like clinical trials. In addition, people who sign up for the Asthma Lung Health Navigator program will receive a free air cleaner to help improve their indoor air quality (limited time only and while supplies last).

To learn more and to sign up, visit [Lung.org/navigator](https://Lung.org/navigator).

There is no cure for asthma. The good news is that proper management and control can help people with the condition live a normal, healthy life.

## Experiencing tooth pain? What endodontists want you to know

StatePoint

When a tooth is infected or giving you pain, having it pulled may seem like the easiest option, but dental specialists called endodontists say that saving natural teeth whenever possible is better for your oral health, your overall health and your confidence.

That's why the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) is sharing these important tips about recognizing tooth pain, understanding treatment options like root canal treatment, and seeking care from an endodontist to save natural teeth:

Don't ignore tooth pain. If you're like many Americans, anxieties around dental visits or financial concerns may lead you to delay or avoid care altogether. In fact, in an AAE survey, 60% of Americans admit they've put off going to the dentist when they suspected something was wrong. When you have tooth pain, don't ignore it. It could be a sign of infection or damage that requires prompt care.

Save your natural tooth. Not only is saving your natural tooth usually the best option for your long-term oral health, it's desired by most Americans. About 78% of those surveyed agree they would do almost



anything to avoid losing one of their natural teeth. Fortunately, root canal treatment is a safe, effective, and virtually pain-free procedure that can relieve discomfort and restore function. So, any time you're experiencing lingering sensitivity, swelling or severe pain, ask your dentist for a referral to an endodontist. Endodontists are the specialists uniquely trained to relieve tooth pain and preserve natural teeth and are also the go-to practitioner to see if you've experienced a knocked-out tooth.

Maintain your oral health. Regular dental visits and good oral hygiene at home can help prevent issues that could lead to tooth loss. Be sure to keep up

with both for a healthier smile.

At a time when there is a glut of medical misinformation circulating on social media, getting reliable information is critical. More than a third of Americans surveyed say they've seen conflicting or confusing information online about dental procedures such as root canals. To get trusted facts from endodontists about tooth pain and care, visit <https://www.aae.org/sytm>.

"Natural teeth are both irreplaceable and central to your overall well-being," says Dr. Craig Nobilett, president, AAE. "Be sure to get timely, proper dental care from an endodontist whenever you experience pain, discomfort or a dental injury."

## Natchez High senior Jayda Myles awarded \$1,000 Hugh Green Scholarship

Mississippi Link Newswire

Natchez High School senior Jayda Myles received the 2026 Hugh Green Scholarship, a \$1,000 award presented by the Hugh Green Scholarship Foundation during a ceremony Thursday, July 2.

"I'm so thankful for this opportunity," said Myles. "I am very thrilled and honored to have this scholarship."

Jayda is the daughter of Galaundra Myles. She plans to attend Alcorn State University this fall and major in agriculture.

A standout athlete, Jayda was recognized for her achievements in softball. Although she also played basketball during high school, she said softball was her primary sport.

Throughout her athletic career, she earned numerous championship rings and medals.

The scholarship is named for Hugh Green, a former NFL standout and College Football Hall of Famer. He is a native of Natchez and 1976 graduate of North Natchez High School.

The foundation has been actively presenting the scholarship each year for more than 30 years, according to Eva Dunkley, who chairs the foundation committee.

She said it all originated as a vision of her late husband, George Dunkley III, who followed Green's football career "from the beginning to the end."

"After Hugh was drafted to the Miami Dolphins, my husband had Miami Dolphin Day, which was the day we had the parade to honor Hugh," Eva said. "After Hugh finished pro ball, my husband decided he would like to have a Hugh Green Day. Thirty years later,



Jayda Myles (center), the 2026 recipient of the \$1,000 Hugh Green Scholarship, is pictured with Eva Dunkley and scholarship namesake Hugh Green. PHOTOS BY ROSCOE BARNES III

it's still going. We're just so proud of what Hugh has done for the community. As long as we have a dollar in this fund, we will be giving a scholarship."

Eva said it's important to keep the scholarship going to help the children of the community.

The previous recipient of the award was Markeith Thompson, who attends the University of Southern Mississippi.

Green was on hand for the recent scholarship presentation.

"Congratulations to you," he said to Jayda. "I hope this helps you somewhere down the road."

Green said his goal has always been to strengthen the scholarship program. He added that its continued success has been possible because of the support of people in Natchez and across Mississippi.

Eva also presented certificates of recognition from U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson to both Jayda and



The Hugh Green Scholarship Foundation committee along with Jayda Myles. Pictured from left (front row) are Galaundra Myles, Hugh Green, Jayda Myles, Laura Ann Jackson (seated), and Eva Dunkley. Back row from left: Josie Gilchrist, David Myles, and Phillip West.

Green. The certificates read, "We are celebrating you because you did more and did it better and always exceed our expectations. Your hard work, dedication, and achievement will be cherished."

The scholarship is awarded each year to students "who really need and deserve it," Eva said. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, pastor, or coach, and write an

essay explaining what the scholarship would mean to them. Applicants also must be active in high school athletics, she said.

In addition to Eva, the foundation's committee members include Secretary Wilbur Johnson and Treasurer Laura Jackson, both of whom attended the scholarship presentation. Other attendees included Jayda's uncle, David Myles, Phillip West, and Eva's classmate, Josie Gilchrist.

## FREE-FREE-FREE!! EVERYTHING FREE!!



### August 1, 2026 - West Jackson

on Washington AVE Between Hill AVE and Jones Ave.

The Covid-19 virus is still a **HEALTH** concern for everyone at this **2026** community event. However, the children are always at the **HEART** of **ALL** activities. Therefore, back this year will be food given 'till **GONE**, with children activities and Live Entertainment(TBA). **PLEASE STAY SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASK, PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING & WASH YOUR HANDS. THANKS for your LOVE & UNDERSTANDING! GOD BLESS!**

**"Jim Hill High School Marching Band Of Distinction"**

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**No Dogs - No Grills!**

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Patrolled by JPD/CPD/HCSO A Drug Free Family Event!

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**Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.**

## Dr. William M. Merritt IV has been named Deputy Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools (JPS)

JPS Newswire

Dr. Merritt is an accomplished educational executive with more than 24 years of distinguished service in JPS. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to educational excellence, organizational effectiveness, and scholar success, serving in progressively responsible leadership roles that have shaped districtwide initiatives and improved operational performance.

A native of Midland, Texas, Dr. Merritt began his career in education as a classroom teacher at Siwell Middle School before teaching fourth and fifth grades at Galloway Elementary School. His passion for instructional excellence and leadership led him into school administration in 2008, when he was appointed Assistant Principal at Walton Elementary School.

Dr. Merritt subsequently served as Interim Principal of both Watkins Elementary School and Lester Elementary School before being named Principal of Lester Elementary. Following his tenure as principal, he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, where he provided instructional leadership and support for the district's elementary schools. He later served as Assistant Superintendent of School Support, leading cross-functional initiatives designed to strengthen school operations and scholar achievement.

As Chief of Staff for Jackson Public Schools, Dr. Merritt served as a key member of the Superintendent's executive leadership team, providing strategic leadership and executive oversight for several critical divisions that support the district's mission

and long-term strategic priorities. In his role as Deputy Superintendent, he will continue to oversee the district's operational and administrative functions, including:

- Information Technology
- Public Engagement
- Talent Management and Development
- Enrollment Strategy and Data Systems
- Grants Management
- Research and Evaluation

In addition to his current responsibilities, the JPS Police and Emergency Management Department has been added to Dr. Merritt's executive portfolio, further expanding his leadership oversight of critical district operations.

Working closely with Superintendent Greene, Dr. Merritt will help drive organizational excellence by aligning people, sys-

tems, and resources to improve district performance, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and enhance the educational experience for more than 16,000 scholars.

Dr. Merritt earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grambling State University, a Master of Arts degree from Belhaven University, a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College, and a Doctor of Education in Early Childhood Education from Jackson State University.

A respected educational leader, Dr. Merritt is committed to building high-performing organizations that foster academic achievement, operational excellence, and equitable opportunities for every scholar. He is actively involved in civic and professional organizations and is the proud father of William M. Merritt, V.



Dr. William M. Merritt IV

## Jana Williams becomes JPS Manager of College & Career Readiness (Gear Up)

JPS Newswire

Jana Williams, Ed.S., will serve as the College and Career Readiness Manager for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) with Jackson Public Schools, where she will lead strategic initiatives designed to prepare scholars for postsecondary success. In this role, Mrs. Williams will oversee the implementation of a college and career readiness framework that supports middle school cohorts through early intervention, academic enrichment, and exposure to college and career pathways, providing support through their first year of college.

As part of the federally funded GEAR UP grant, Mrs. Williams will collaborate with district leaders and community partners to expand access to high-quality college readiness programming, increase college enrollment, and strengthen family and community engagement. She will lead major initiatives such as postsecondary advising systems for grades 7-12, college exposure opportunities, work-based learning experiences, and family engagement programs that equip scholars and their families with the knowledge and tools needed for long-term success.

Before this role, Mrs. Williams served as the College and Career Readiness Manager for the High School Network, where she cultivated a districtwide college-going culture and implemented innovative programs,



including the E3Ready Campaign, districtwide college fairs, national testing initiatives (ACT, WorkKeys, ASVAB), dual credit partnerships, and college tours across Mississippi. She has extensive experience managing CCR teachers, career coaches, and graduation coaches, ensuring alignment in student support and postsecondary readiness efforts. During her time in the High School Network, the district experienced increased graduation rates due to her collaborative work.

Mrs. Williams began her career in education as a graduation coach and teacher at Murrah High School, where she was recognized as the 2017 Mustang of the Year. Earlier in her career, she served in auditing and compliance roles with the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Office of the State Auditor, bringing a strong background in data analysis and accountability to her work in

education.

A proud Jacksonian, Mrs. Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Tougaloo College, multiple graduate degrees from Jackson State University, and an Education Specialist in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi. She holds certifications in administration, teaching, college and career readiness, and is a fellow of the National College Attainment Network.

Mrs. Williams will remain deeply committed to advancing equity, excellence, and meaningful postsecondary opportunities for all scholars. Embracing a growth mindset in her new role, she will continue to challenge scholars to maintain high standards of academic achievement. Through her leadership, she will continue to champion innovative strategies that strengthen college-going cultures and ensure students graduate prepared to thrive in college, career, and life.

## Parent & Family Engagement Center offers free Summer Literacy and Learning Resources for JPS Scholars

JPS Newswire

The Jackson Public Schools Parent & Family Engagement Center is actively supporting scholar achievement throughout the summer months by providing free educational resources to JPS families. Aligned with the District's commitment to transforming lives through excellent education, the center is offering a variety of free materials designed to reinforce core skills, build academic confidence, and keep scholars reading all summer long.

These materials are available to all currently enrolled Jackson Public Schools families on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Families visiting the center can receive the following resources:

Summer Reading Books: A wide selection of titles aligned with the official Jackson Public Schools Summer Reading Lists for scholars in grades Pre-K through 12.

Summer Enrichment Packets: Personalized academic packets designed to reinforce key grade-level skills and prevent summer learning loss.

Home Library Additions: Supplemental books to help scholars discover new stories, build a love for reading, and expand their libraries at home.

Hours of Operation  
Resources can be picked up during the center's standard

**RESOURCES FOR JPS FAMILIES**

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES. CONNECTING SCHOOLS. EMPOWERING SCHOLARS.**

The Parent & Family Engagement Center of Jackson Public Schools is here to support your child's learning all summer long!

**SUMMER READING**

A variety of reading materials aligned with the Jackson Public Schools Summer Reading Lists for grades Pre-K-12. Keep reading skills strong all summer long!

**SUMMER ENRICHMENT PACKETS**

Personalized learning packets designed to reinforce skills, build confidence, and keep scholars learning throughout the summer.

**ADDITIONAL BOOKS TO EXPAND YOUR SCHOLAR'S HOME LIBRARY**

Additional books to help your child discover new stories, build a love for reading, and continue learning all summer long!

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**VISIT US**

Raines Administrative Complex  
156 North Flag Chapel Road  
Jackson, Mississippi 39209

**CONTACT US**

For more information or support, please contact:

Keila R. Adams  
Parent Specialist  
keadams@jackson.k12.ms.us  
(601) 960-8945

**Keep Learning. Keep Growing.**  
This summer, together we can achieve more!

**TOGETHER, WE CAN! | STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG SCHOOLS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.**

weekly operating hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (Book distribution window: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

Friday: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM (Book distribution window: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

Location & Contact Information

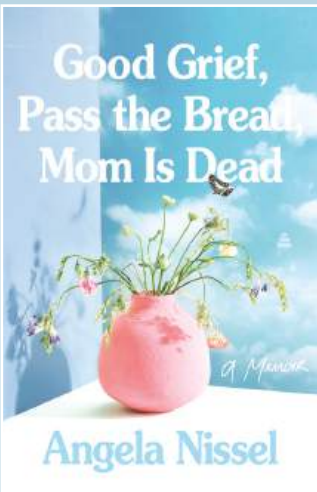
The Parent & Family Engagement Center is located at the Raines Administrative Complex.

Address: 156 North Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, MS 39209

Main Office Line: (601) 960-8945

Staff Contact: Keila R. Adams, Parent Specialist  
Email Contact: Keila Adams

For more information regarding summer learning initiatives or to check resource availability, please contact the center directly.



# BOOK REVIEW: GOOD GRIEF, PASS THE BREAD, MOM IS DEAD: A MEMOIR

BY ANGELA NISSEL  
C.2026, AMISTAD  
\$21.99 • 224 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

For weeks, you’ve been picking at a scar. Your brain says to stop, but your heart likes the sweet pain you get when you pick, pick, pick. It’s a scar from loss, a scar of trauma — yours, and your parent’s — a scar that might heal in time, or maybe not. You’ve been around awhile and you’ve had bruises but this one, as in the new memoir, “Good Grief, Pass the Bread, Mom is Dead” by Angela Nissel, this one hurts the most.

Gwendolyn Nissel had had a lot of triumphs. She’d fought her way to an Ivy League education, marched for Civil Rights, and worked with the Black Panthers. She raised two kids on her own, and held decent jobs to keep food on the table. She could do anything. Except beat cancer. Her daughter, Angela Nissel, was thirty-five, living in California, and looking for a job to match the TV-writer-producer work she’s known for when Gwendolyn was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. Nis-

sel’s marriage had crumbled. She was flat-broke but she knew where her place was: back in Philly with her newly-married mom, who said she was “fine.” She wasn’t “fine.” Gwendolyn was sick, and Nissel soon became her caretaker. Getting Gwendolyn away from the new husband, who was in the process of taking all her money, was Nissel’s first order of business. Getting her to L.A. was the next step, and to a highly-regarded doctor, but the cancer had metastasized too far... Grief is different for everyone,

and Nissel was surprised to realize that she hated anybody who still had a mother. She’d prayed that God might spare her mom. She tried to love the cancer away. She fought with the brother she adored, until they argued and he cut ties with her. How is it possible to survive without a mother? How do you stop fighting a fierce enemy like cancer, and start saying goodbye? First thing: should you bring tissues when you read “Good Grief, Pass the Bread, Mom is Dead”? Yes, you’ll need them

for awhile; author Angela Nissel tells a story of loss and grief that’s raw and honest. And funny. Don’t think that the humor is disrespectful, though. Nissel has a keen ability to highlight the bitter pill of caretaking one’s beloved parent, the horror of breast cancer for Black American women, and the expectations demanded by our culture in the grieving process, and she shows readers the personal absurdity of these things. Going further, she lets us in on her family’s complicated dynamics, and she

subtly explains how she stood her own way sometimes. Then she’s devastatingly funny, which could be beneficial to someone who’s grieving or about-to-be-grieving — though for some readers, this candor-humor mix may hit wrong, depending on where you are in the process, so be mindful. Also beware that there’s profanity sprinkled quite liberally throughout this memoir, but it fits where it is. Laugh or cry, they’re both here, and “Good Grief, Pass the Bread, Mom is Dead” is the right book to pick.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
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Verify/Update your Registration Today

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**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

- Marriage License: \$36.00
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  - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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(601) 969-0052

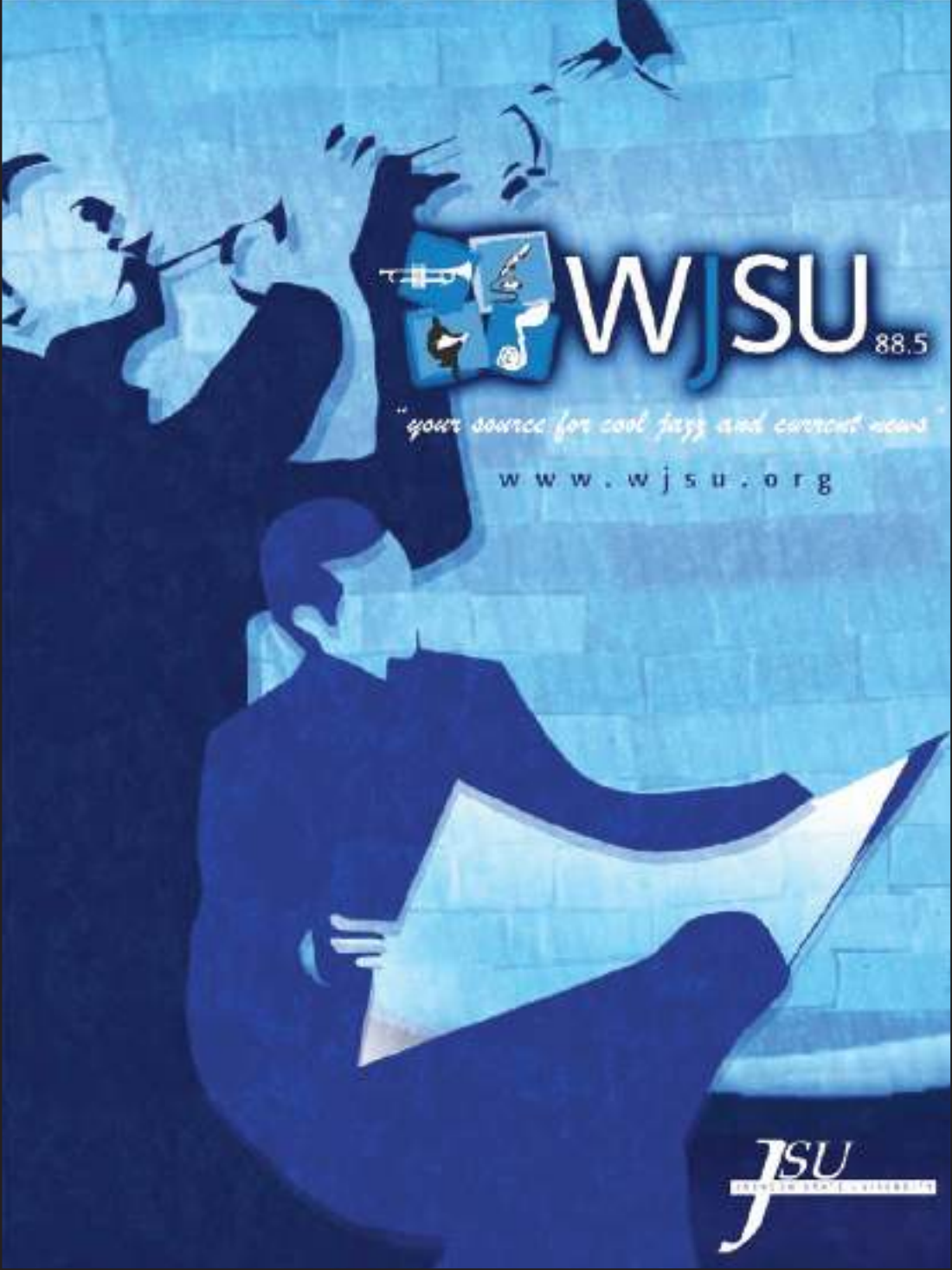
**SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Circuit Clerk's Office  
P.O. Box 999  
Raymond, MS 39154  
Phone: (601) 857-8038  
Fax: (601) 857-0535

**Jury Duty Recording:**  
Second Judicial District  
(601) 857-8869

**Office Hours:**  
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# Reed, Cabral, Lopez, Davis, and Jarome honored by Black College Nines

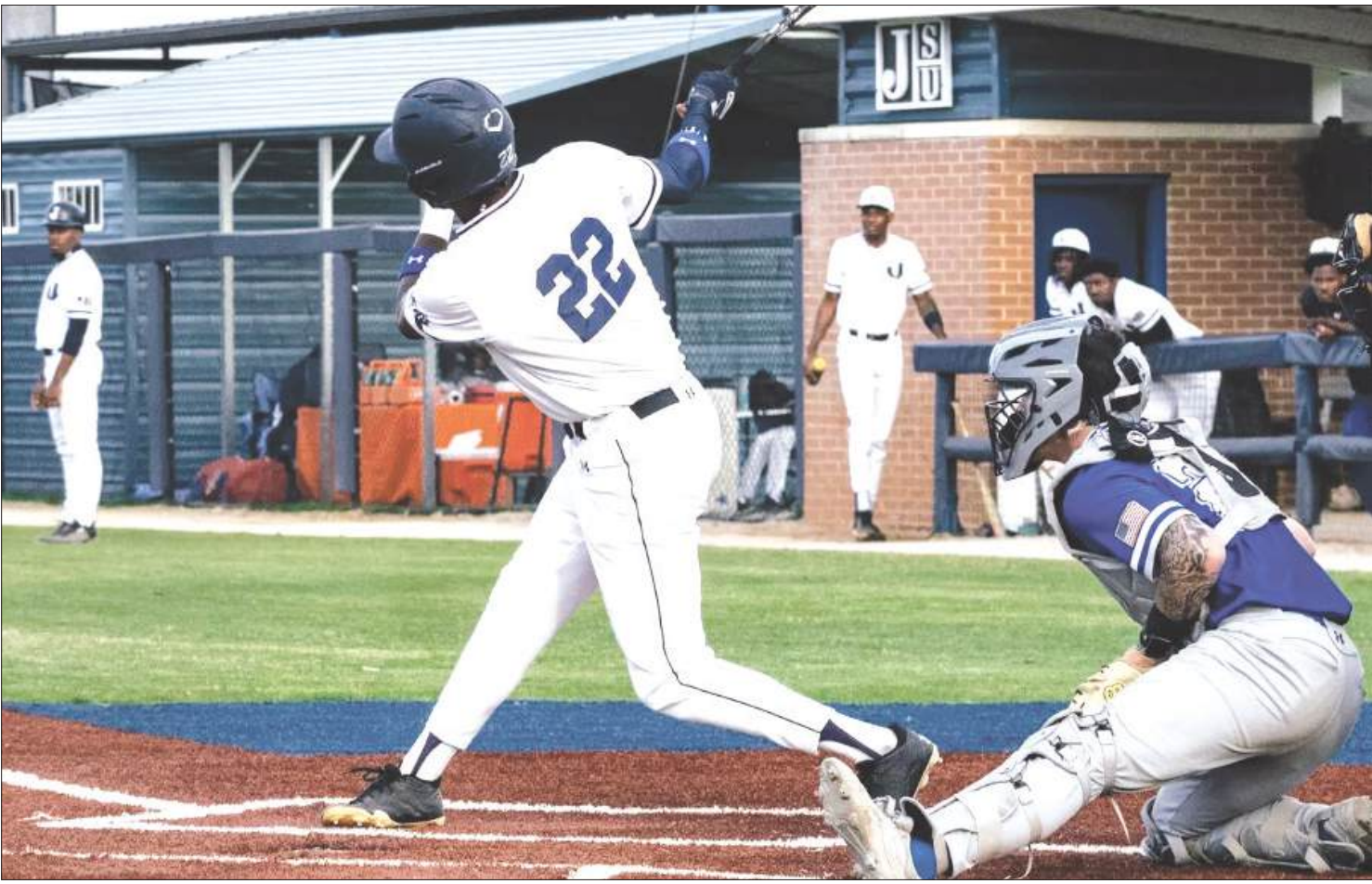
Collegiate Athletic News

Thirty-seven ballplayers from 11 different Historically Black Colleges and Universities make up Black College Nines’ 2026 Large School Elites representing institutions within the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I.

Additional recognition is given to our Player, Pitcher, Freshman, Coach, and SID of the Year. Selections were made based upon statistical information and research provided by Black College Nines, analytics provided by A. Rod White of the National Scouting Bureau, and input from coaching staffs and their sports information departments.

Jackson State had four players chosen for the two teams, along with the Sports Information Director of the Year.

Tyree Reed was the lone first-team selection after hitting .401 to earn all-conference and all-region honors this past year. He finished the season with 75 hits in 187 official at-bats, including 25 extra-base hits (14 doubles, two triples, and nine home runs), while driving in 41 runs. The redshirt junior finished the season scoring 63 runs and recording 10 stolen bases (14 attempts). He finished with a .642 slugging percentage and a .538 on-base percentage, while



outs. Lopez also held opponents to a .235 batting average. He was joined on the second team by Talmadge Davis, who finished 2-2 with a 4.64 earned run average. He appeared in 22 games with 10 starts, recording a pair of complete games. Davis logged 54.1 innings, allowing 28 earned runs on 36 hits, while recording 74 strikeouts. He held opponents to a .189 batting average.

Meanwhile, Travis Jarome was named the SID of the Year by the publication. Along with his day-to-day duties and promoting the program, Jarome was instrumental in working with MLB to promote and staff the MLB HBCU Power Series held at Trustmark Park in Pearl (Miss.), with every game airing on MLB.com with the assistance of the Frontier League. He also assisted in producing and broadcasting 20 games at Braddy Field in the inaugural season for SWAC TV and provided instant replay for every home game for the officials.

Follow Jackson State Athletics

For complete coverage of Jackson State athletics, follow the Tigers on social media at @GoJSUTigers (Instagram and Twitter), Jackson State Tigers (Facebook), or visit the official home of Jackson State athletics at GoJSUTigers.com.

Reed, Cabral, Lopez, Davis, and Jarome honored by Black College Nines Baseball

walking a team-high 48 times and being hit by a pitch another 12 times. In conference play, Reed hit .400 with 44 hits, including 18 extra-base hits (eight doubles, one triple, nine home runs). He finished with 47 runs scored and 26 RBI, and also connected for a conference-best three home

runs in a single game against Florida A&M.

Pierre Cabral was one of three players selected to the second team after hitting .320 with 66 hits in 206 official at-bats, including 27 extra-base hits (19 doubles and eight home runs). He finished the season with 53 RBI and 52 runs

scored, and also recorded 14 stolen bases (18 attempts). Cabral recorded a .529 slugging percentage and .420 on-base percentage that included 28 walks while being hit 11 times. In conference play, Cabral hit .318 with 18 extra-base hits (12 doubles and six home runs), while also scoring 32 runs and

knocking in another 35.

Jayden Lopez was one of two pitchers named to the second team after finishing 6-4 with a 5.98 earned run average. The senior appeared in 16 games with 14 starts, logging 84.1 innings. He allowed 61 earned runs on 56 hits, while recording a league-high 93 strike-

# HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

## Raymond High School is growing

Raymond High School is growing, and we’re looking for passionate educators to join our team! If you’re committed to making a difference in the lives of students and want to be part of a positive, supportive culture, we’d love to hear from you.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Math (Grades 7–12)
- English (Grades 7–12)
- Biology

At Raymond High School, we believe in preparing achievers for success while fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and meaningful relationships. If you’re ready to make an impact, come join the culture!

For more information, please call (601) 857-8016 or email [cwillis@hinds.k12.ms.us](mailto:cwillis@hinds.k12.ms.us).



RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Join the Culture.

- Math 7-12
- English 7-12
- Biology

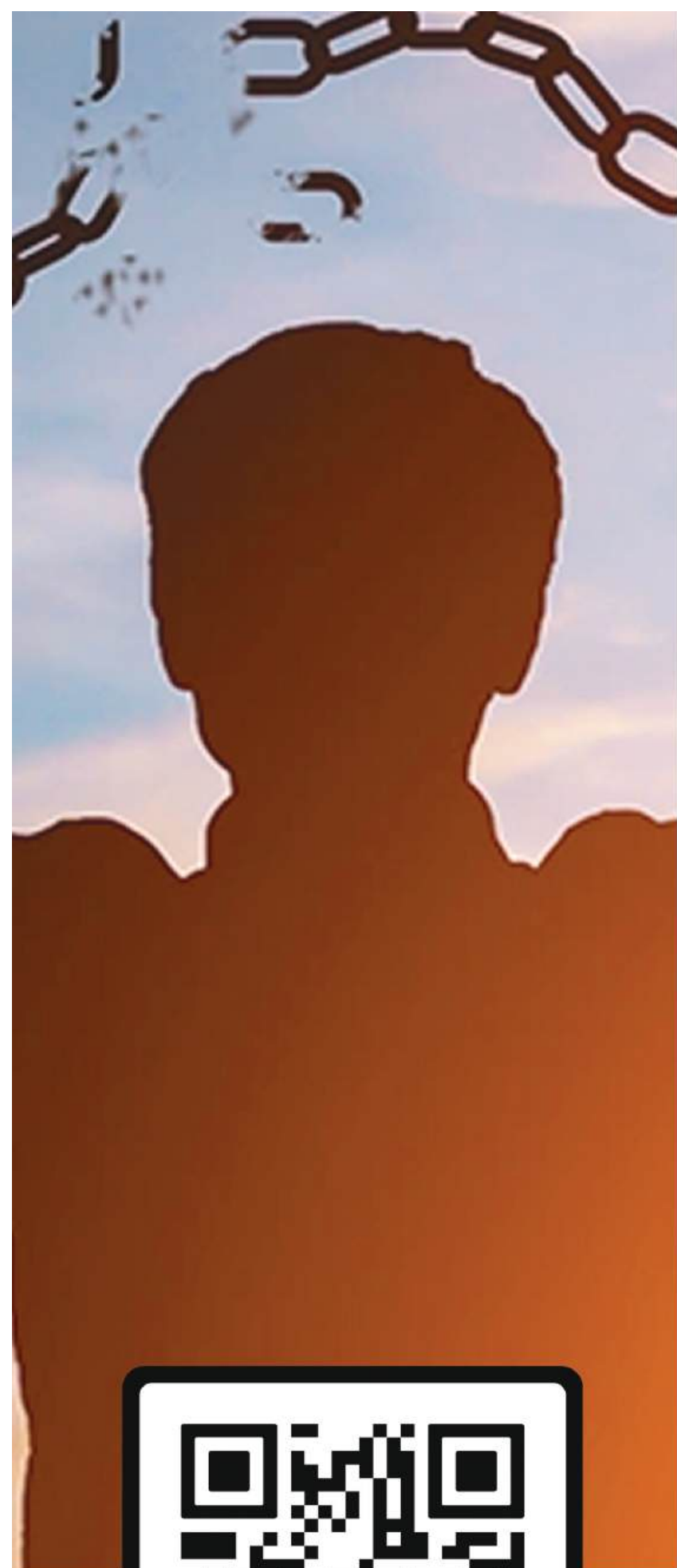
TOGETHER. WE RISE.

PREPARE. WE ACHIEVE.

GRADUATE. WE SUCCEED.

RESPECT. WE VALUE.

RANGERS. WE LEAD.



## Have a Criminal Record? We Can Help.

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

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

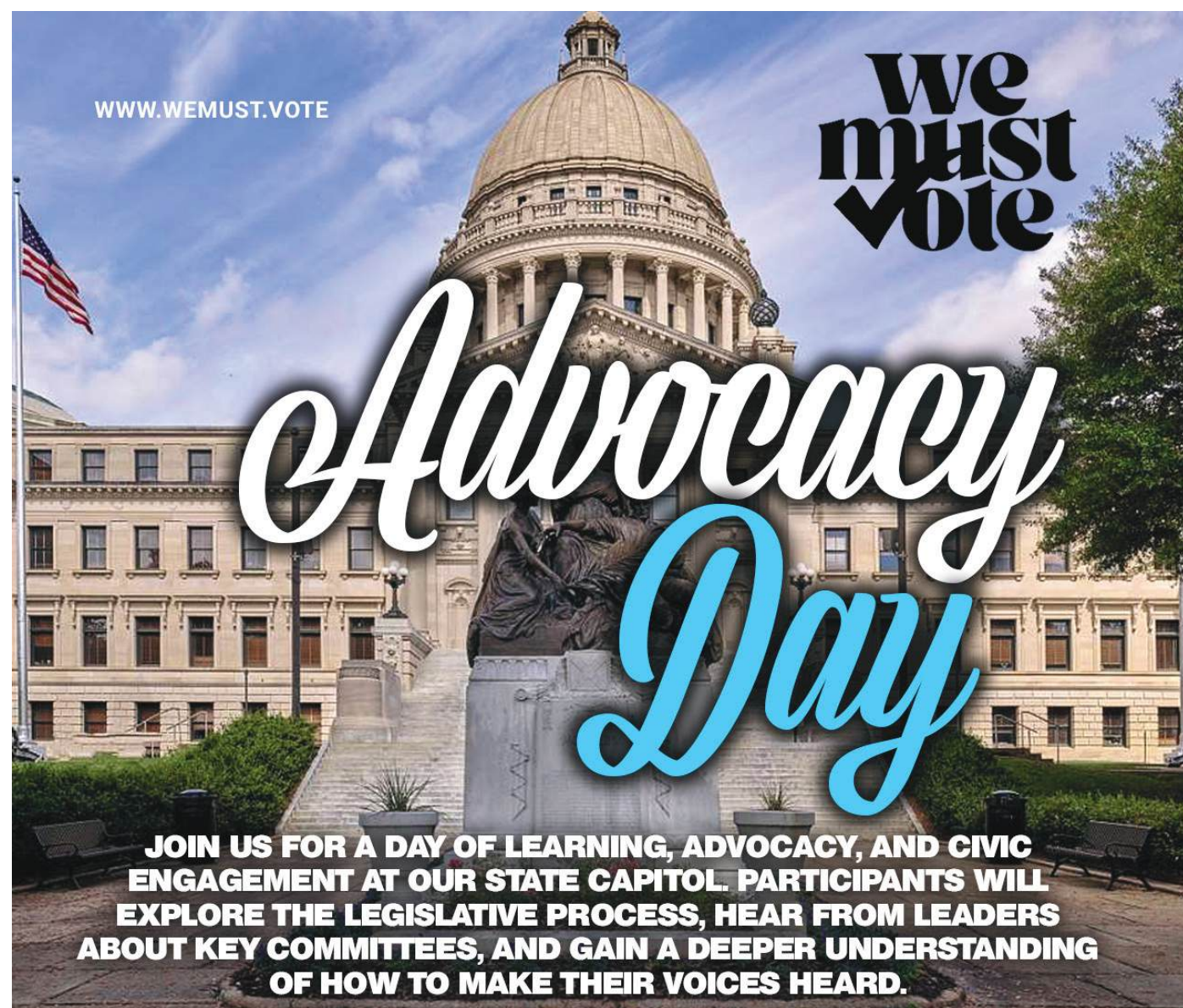
Get informed. Get empowered. Take the next step toward restoration.

#SecondChances #JusticeImpacted  
#TheRestorationLab



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**LEGALEASE**



[WWW.WEMUST.VOTE](http://WWW.WEMUST.VOTE)

**we  
must  
vote**

**Advocacy  
Day**

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

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



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