

Obligations of Democracy – A free press, voting, and more

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Watchdog. I just love that word. It embodies caring, monitoring, being watchful – like the unheralded role of guardian. In our representative democracy, the free press serves as a watchdog. They investigate actions by the government at all levels, expose corruption, report bad actors and bad actions – and do so without fear of reprisal because of Constitutional protections. It’s right there in The Bill of Rights, the First Amendment to the US Constitution. By exercising this responsibility, they provide citizens with facts, so that informed choices can be made.

It’s really not unusual for President’s to get annoyed with the press. There probably isn’t one in our history that hasn’t tried in some way to silence the press, after all they are so powerful that they want things told to the public the way they want them told. These are all very smart people, and so they know the value of the Free Press in our society, yet they still want what they want – and that is always to gain and hold power. Per the New York Times, Nixon once said during National Newspaper Week – in a formal proclamation - “the freedom of the



Smiling Black woman voting at Cardozo High School in Washington, DC in 1964. PHOTO: MARION TRIKOSKO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

COMMENTARY

press is one of the proudest and most zealously guarded aspects of our national heritage.” Yet words and actions don’t always match up. He did his best to stop the publishing of The Pentagon Papers, and well, then there was Watergate, and he was declaring

“the Press is the enemy.”

Now we have President Trump. Oh, do we have him. Last week he pushed back harshly against three news organizations – Politico, MS Now (formerly MSNBC), and CNN – barring them from The White House. It seemed like only a nanosecond later and US

District Court Judge Timothy J. Kelly, who was appointed by Trump in 2017, and was confirmed to the US District Court for the District of Columbia in a 49-2 vote, called Trump’s actions “likely unconstitutional.” It’s nothing new – extreme be-

*Democracy
Continued on page 3*

A Tale of Three Candidates - The future of Mississippi is on the ballot



Michael A. Chiaradio engages with voters and sets the tone for positive outcomes.



Zakiya Summers displays heartfelt appreciation for the strong support from the community.



Scott Colom acknowledges an audience of constituents and thanks them for being active in the process. PHOTOS BY RASHEDA BELL

By Rasheda Bell, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Three candidates. Three distinct paths. One message: Mississippi’s future is at stake. Recently, the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women hosted a well-attended meet-and-greet, bringing together community members from

across local districts to hear directly from candidates seeking vital offices in the November 3rd election.

The gathering was more than a meet-and-greet. Attendees received educational materials, election day resources, and even a copy of the United States Constitution—tools designed to encourage informed and active participation in the democratic process.

The conversations were equally substantive. With Mississippi families facing mounting economic pressures, the candidates spoke to issues that resonated deeply with many in attendance: the cost of living, rural development, healthcare, education,

wages, civil liberties, and the future of Mississippi’s economy.

Each candidate brought a different life story and a distinct perspective.

Michael Chiaradio, a local rural farmer, former finance professional, and former baseball athlete, focused on the economic challenges facing rural Mississippi. His message centered on expanding rural development, restoring support for farmers, and rebuilding an economy that works for Mississippi communities. Chiaradio’s strategy emphasizes hard work, perseverance, and delivering results. He has experience as a supervisor providing health insurance support related to Medicaid and the

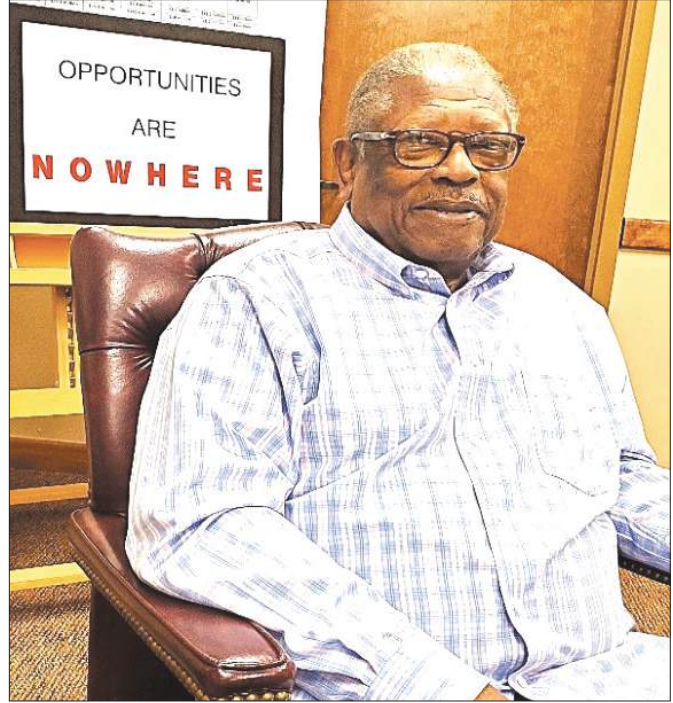
Affordable Care Act. He said he is running for Congress because he believes Mississippi deserves better.

Zakiya Summers, seeking reelection to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 2027, highlighted her advocacy for HBCUs, women’s rights, equity, and protections for working families. She emphasized the importance of investing in Mississippi and reminded attendees of a sentiment that remains deeply personal for many residents: Mississippi matters, and there’s no place like home. Summers quoted James 2:17, “faith without works is dead,”

*Candidates
Continued on page 3*

State ‘Contracting System’ in Mississippi

Runaway Freight Train



MDOT Central District Commissioner Willie Simmons, on September 22, 2026 PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Visiting for a full hour with Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Central District Commissioner Willie Simmons yields so much information. It had been two and half years since my last visit to his offices on N. West Street in Jackson, and he had a lot to share. What began as a mission to learn more about the exceptionally low percentage of minority contracting, done by the agency that gets more contracting funds from the state than any other agency, took on a much broader perspective.

Starting with those numbers though, in FY2022, MDOT received just under \$834 million dollars in contracting funds, and 2.02 percent went to minorities. In FY2023, they received \$1.05 billion dollars, and 2.46 percent went to minorities. In FY2024, they received \$1.14 billion dollars, and 2.28 percent went to minorities, and in FY2025, they received \$1.29 billion dollars, and 1.48 percent went to minorities. Simmons has made clear he wants these numbers to improve, but despite being just one of three members that make up the Mississippi Transportation Commission, he hasn’t been able to deliver what we know he wants to. It’s a lot to take in, and when asked to dive into it, to discuss the barriers and what’s getting in the way of more equity, he was direct.

“Our goal is to change and increase the numbers of what you are reading – that is that we have very few minority and Black contractors that we have participating in the process. But I would say the system is...I would kind of describe it as a runaway freight train, and you must first stop the train, and then reverse it and go back.

COMMENTARY

You don’t turn a freight train around. The system...and here we are talking about minority and Black participation, the system has been moving in this direction so long that you have to put the brakes on it to get a handle on it and redirect it to send it to where you want it to go. Even small changes can be challenging, and it takes time to make that work.”

He then discussed what could be considered a cultural change at MDOT. He is the first African American Commissioner, elected in 2020, “and right away the transportation commission has put on a new face, and I serve with two White Republicans who elected me as the Chairperson, and that is a phenomenal change in slowing that train down.” In 2020, there were no African Americans in top leadership positions at MDOT. Now, in addition to Commissioner Simmons, Terrance Yarborough took over as Human Resources Director in 2021 – 2,700 hundred employees, Earl Glenn became the Chief Engineer in 2024 – overseeing the entire contracting process - and this year Jada Kirk was promoted to Deputy Executive Director and serves as Chief Financial Officer.

MDOT partners with Systems Consultants Associates, an extraordinarily successful minority and woman-owned local business, to identify, recruit, and support Black and other minority contractors through its management of the Supportive Services Program at MDOT. They help bridge the gap between state government demands and minority-owned businesses. They offer free technical training, bidding and technical guid-

*Mississippi
Continued on page 3*

Rulings Leave Questions Lingering in Nolan Wells Case



Sample Official Election Ballot



HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

Homecoming at Bolton-Edwards Elementary

Homecoming Week is officially underway at Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School, and excitement is filling the campus as students, faculty, staff, families, and supporters prepare for a week of celebration and school spirit.

This year’s theme, “**Blue and Gold Spirit,**” highlights the pride, unity, and enthusiasm of the Bolton-Edwards school community. Throughout the week, students and staff will have opportunities to participate in special activities designed to build school spirit and make Homecoming a memorable occasion.

Excitement is running high as the Bolton-Edwards family comes together to celebrate its students, school, and community. Homecoming Week is more than a celebration—it is an opportunity to strengthen school pride, create lasting memories, and showcase the tremendous spirit that makes Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School special.

Go Blue and Gold!



At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

we’re not just about providing health insurance. We’re creating a strong, supportive community that empowers every Mississippian to live their healthiest life. We make managing your health easier by empowering you with the tools and support you need to take proactive steps toward maintaining and improving your health. Working together, we’re ensuring quality healthcare and wellness opportunities are within reach for all. Because when you are at your best, Mississippi is too.

A healthy community begins with the health of its people — and when you thrive, we all do.

It’s good to be **blue**.





MISSISSIPPI



@BlueCrossBlueShieldofMississippi | bcbsms.com

Mississippi

Continued from page 1

ance. They host events that bring potential minority subcontractors face-to-face with prime contractors, and so much more.

Yet, just as a foundation is laid to make progress, along comes the Trump Administration with new rules for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), codified in an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on October 20, 2025, and you guessed it – it removes the presumption of race and gender-based disadvantage, claiming they are unconstitutional. MDOT informed stakeholders by letter <https://mdot.ms.gov/documents/Civil%20Rights/Public%20Notices/DBE%20IFR%20Letter%2010.20.2025%20updated%202.10.26.pdf>.

Adding insult to injury, the rule requires a ‘re-evaluation’ of all existing DBE firms based on their ability to demonstrate individual disadvantage. Non-DBE’s are not impacted, and it rolls downhill, so now MDOT must play by those warped rules. Per one law firm, PilieroMazza, 639 comments were received during

Democracy

Continued from page 1

havior is Trump’s norm. The Center for American Progress claims that in this term alone over 200 Trump policies and executive orders have been blocked by federal judges being deemed as likely unconstitutional.

A week ago, this past Sunday, idly scrolling the television lineup before church, I came across the ABC program - This Week with George Stephanopolis, and heard something that caught my attention. The host, Jonathan Carl, asked a panelist, “Why should Americans care about whether news organizations are allowed into The White House?” Frank Luntz – a political and communications consultant and pollster – replied, “It’s really not about what happens to the press. It’s about what happens to - the people. And it’s more than just their right – it’s actually about their responsibility. One of my greatest concerns about democracy right now is that not enough people are paying attention, following the details, knowing the facts, and knowing the truth. And anything that interrupts that delivery of truth from your profession to the American people should be opposed.”

Candidates

Continued from page 1

interpreting the passage as a call to action: Mississippians must do the work necessary to bring the power of their faith to full fruition. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that all mothers have access to prenatal care and health insurance. Summers said that by keeping their eyes on the prize, they can achieve their goals.

Scott Colom, whose career has included work as a prosecutor, judge, and district attorney, invoked the legacy of civil rights icon John Lewis and his call to get into “good trouble.” Colom outlined his priorities around healthcare reform, higher wages, and lowering costs, pledging to make those issues a priority from day one if elected. Colom proposes eliminating taxes for police officers and teachers as a way to recruit and retain the best workers in those

the public comment period. Now, with the rule finalized, those presumptions have been replaced with a requirement that all applicants submit a personal narrative with an individualized demonstration of social and economic disadvantage.

Just imagine, you are disadvantaged, you are trying to use available resources to attempt to compete in the contracting process, and you now have to recertify (costly and time consuming) and complete a narrative where you share your individual experiences; individualized evidence of discrimination, social barriers, denied opportunities, and other circumstances that contributed to your social and economic disadvantage.

Simmons shares that so many Black and other minority contractors have run into the closed doors on this runaway freight train, and therefore they have a lack of demonstrated experience and a lack of resources. He encourages those contractors to take advantage of more engagements, pre-bidding conferences - where

His use of the word – responsibility – in terms of people’s participation in our democracy, is not something we hear about every day. Do we take it for granted? We all know that we have a legal responsibility to respond to a summons for jury duty that shows up in our mailbox, and to follow national, state, and local laws. When we run afoul of that legal responsibility, we find out really quick. But that is legal, what about moral responsibility to participate in our democracy? There is a difference between legal obligations and civic duties, or voluntary civic responsibilities.

The Colleges of Law, at the University of California, published an article the day after Christmas last year, titled, “Freedom Isn’t Free: Why Democracy Demands an Informed and Engaged Citizenry.” The author is Constitutional Law Professor Jiae Moon, J.D., his article can be read here <https://www.collegesoflaw.edu/2025/12/26/freedom-isnt-free-democracy-informed-engaged-citizenry>. “The bottom line is that America must reframe our understanding of what it means to be a citizen. Our rights are not passive entitlement, but an active obligation to be taken seriously.

they can learn about how joint ventures operate, which can create opportunities, and to attend small business training programs whenever possible.

One critical question to be answered by the new Trump recertifications is if white women, or as the Mississippi Development Authority calls them – other non-ethnic women – will be able to justify their disadvantage. This group, perceived as disadvantaged, currently receives 81.79 percent of all minority contract-expenditures. The FY2026 Minority Participation Report has not yet been reviewed by this writer, yet there is every indication that Mississippi will continue to award the vast amount of taxpayer-funded contracting dollars to non-minorities. Despite our history of discrimination, and the new rules set by the Trump Administration, Simmons insists that the sign in his office that says, Opportunities Are Nowhere, actually says Opportunities Are Now Here. If change can ever come, he’ll have his hand on it.

That means reading primary sources, starting with the Constitution itself, factchecking claims we see in the media, serving on juries, voting in every election, and respecting the rights of others, even those with whom we disagree. Most of all, it means demanding stronger civic education from our schools and communities.”

We now live in a time when trying to stay informed is a tremendous challenge. Starting in the 1980’s, accelerating in the 1990’s, by the 2010’s – 90 percent of mainstream media organizations were owned by just six companies, per The Atlantic. Watching most news channels today it is unclear if they exist to provide news or are they platforms that include news while primarily existing to generate revenue. The challenge for consumers – for voters trying to learn the facts – is compounded by misinformation and disinformation. And when certain people put themselves and their selfish and greedy interests over the voters – when they try to drench the citizens in their own versions of the truth, our democracy suffers. Have Americans now reached the point where we will redouble our obligations to our democracy?

professions. He has pledged to put Mississippi first and to work with Republicans, Democrats and Independents to achieve positive outcomes for the state. He is running for the U.S. Senate on a platform that includes lowering costs for families, supporting Mississippi hospitals and bringing good-paying jobs back to the state.

Though their professional backgrounds and personal journeys differ considerably, the candidates emphasized citizen participation and a more engaged approach to governance. Their remarks reflected concerns voiced by many Mississippians about government accountability and policies they believe have contributed to persistent challenges involving civil liberties, healthcare, and affordability.

The discussion did not stop there.

Attendees raised questions about oversight of artificial intelligence data centers, support for public schools, the effects of tariffs, the impact of the war in Iraq, and other issues affecting Mississippi communities and families.

What emerged from the evening was not simply a collection of campaign messages, but a broader conversation about what Mississippians expect from their elected officials—and what role voters will play in shaping the state’s direction.

They traveled very different roads to arrive at this moment. But standing before the community, they shared one central message: The future of Mississippi is on the ballot.

Reputation.
Earned.

THROUGH NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED OUTCOMES.

At Mississippi Heart and Vascular Institute at FMOL Health | St. Dominic, every patient, every procedure and every outcome has helped shape who we are today. National accreditations, leading physicians and advanced cardiovascular care have earned the trust of patients and providers across Mississippi.

When your heart demands proven expertise, choose the team whose reputation has been earned through every heartbeat protected.

stdom.com/heart

FMOL Health
St. Dominic

Mississippi Heart and
Vascular Institute

U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson . . .

“Make your plan to **VOTE.**”



Absentee Ballot Voting has started: You can vote Absentee if:

You will be out of the County on Election Day

You are 65 years old or older.

You are a student, teacher, or school administrator whose studies or employment require you to be away from your county on Election Day.

You must work or remain on call while the polls are open.

You are physically disable.

You are caring for a hospitalized parent,
spouse or dependent with a disability.

You are incarcerated but remain eligible to vote because
you have not been convicted of a disenfranchising crime. (By Mail).

If you have questions call your County Circuit Clerk
to find out if you are eligible to vote early by Absentee Ballot.

You can now cast your vote on the voting machine
when you vote Absentee at your Circuit Clerk's office.




This is the show that is about You, Life, and Money!

Hosted by CEO & Founder
of TCL Financial & Tax Services

TIM C. LEE

every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST
on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, Mississippi
or Listen Live at
www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com



Need a Loan?

Get It at HOPE!

No matter why you need a loan, HOPE has a solution for you.¹ Make sure we're your first stop for affordable options that fit your needs.

- New and Used Vehicle
 - Personal
 - Small Business
 - Credit Building (Borrow and Save)
 - Payday Loan Alternatives
- Credit Cards
 - Boats, ATVs, and RVs
 - Home Equity
 - Share Secured
 - Home Purchase or Refinance

To learn more or to get started, scan the QR code or visit www.hopecu.org/anyloan.

Visit one of our Greater Jackson locations!

**I-55 Jackson Branch
& HOPE Economic
Empowerment Center**
5471 I-55 North
Jackson, MS 39206
(601) 524-1745
Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - 4:30PM
& Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Medical Mall Branch
350 Woodrow Wilson Ave.
Suite 370B
Jackson, MS 39213
(601)362-8050
Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 1:00PM
& 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

University Boulevard Branch
1748 University Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39204
(601)965-7100
Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
& Friday 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Brighter Futures Begin with HOPE.



Federally Insured by NCUA | NMLS #653874
www.hopecu.org | 1-866-321-HOPE (4673)

¹All loans subject to credit approval.

New Orleans senior citizens know the value of exercise and fitness

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

 “Aging gracefully” is an expression that is firmly planted in the American lexicon. We have heard it many times as it describes how senior citizens move into another chapter of their lives.

There is more emphasis today on health-related matters. Research shows we are living longer and have a better quality of life. It is safe to say that health-care has improved and is one of the reasons for seniors being more active these days.

I am a senior citizen and in the 4th quarter of my life. Getting exercise is an important part of my daily routine. Some years back now my wife, Deborah, a retired educator, and I found out about the Senior Dance Fitness Class. It is sponsored by the New Orleans Ballet Association and held at Joe Brown Park, a New Orleans Recreation Development Commission facility.



Senior Dance Class held at Joe Brown Park, New Orleans, LA. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAMES B. EWERS

This partnership has given us a chance to have physical exercise through stretching and aerobics. I would characterize our sessions as motivating and satisfying.

Another important feature of our class is that we develop new friendships and have great conversations. There is, in my opinion, a deep human element to these classes. Relaxation and peace of mind are words that hold true here.

Sharing stories and experiences have made us closer as a

group. We welcome new members which allay any apprehension or anxiety they may have.

We get to know one another in a relaxed environment. It is natural and unplanned. It just happens. These weekly engagements have taken on a life of their own. We look forward to them as we are all ardent participants.

Margie, a retired healthcare professional, has been with our group for many years and when it comes to recognizing birthdays or providing us with some

updates, she is the go-to person. When I asked her why she joined the class, she said, “I had some health challenges, and this was a part of my rehabilitation plan. Now, it’s a part of my lifestyle.”

Confirmed reports say that consistent exercise and movement have positive results when recovering from illnesses. Janice, another member of our class and a retired transportation administrator had an accident. She credits the class as being fundamental in her physical and emotional healing. Janice said, “Our

class gives me inspiration each week. It’s simply the best.”

There is undoubtedly a high degree of happiness in being a part of this class. Colette, a former educator and actor, says that she enjoys the conversations she has in the class. Colette said, “I enjoy very much the music and the dancing. The New Orleans Ballet Association has done a brilliant job of putting this together.”

Being sedentary and sitting at home doesn’t happen as much with this generation of

senior citizens. We continue to make contributions to our society. Mary Ann, who worked in banking and social work retired to New Orleans from the New England area. She initially heard about the Senior Dance Fitness Class because of her swimming class at Joe Brown Park. Mary Ann said, “I feel like it’s my community. They give strength and joy.”

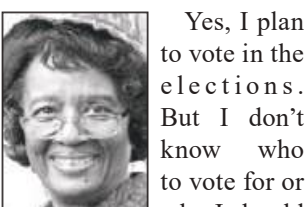
While each of us has a different story, we all have the same story when it comes to the excitement and exhilaration we get from our class.

Calvin, a businessman, has been in the class for ten years. He has become an unofficial ambassador for us telling his friends about the class. He said, “I like to dance and this gives me the movement and motion that I want.”

Our instructors, Carly and Rebecca, have provided us with expert instruction. Their knowledge and execution have translated into us having a wonderful experience. We are at a well-earned time in our lives and we are enjoying it.

Let’s ask WHY

By Jannie B. Johnson
Caring n’ Sharing



Yes, I plan to vote in the elections. But I don’t know who to vote for or why I should vote for one candidate over the other.

All the candidates speak well of themselves. But.., why should I believe all the good things they say about themselves and all the bad things they say about their opponents? I don’t know any of them, personally.

I remember the ‘26 candidates’ predecessors; they would be very positive and confident about making promises to do the ‘miraculous’ and moving Mississippi forward. At the end of their terms, Mississippi remained at the bottom of the good list and at the top

of the bad list in the polls. What happened to the promise, “Together we will move MS forward?”

There is an art to life and living.

I’m looking and listening for candidates to give us reasons to believe that they know the difference between a lie and the truth, right and wrong, and the just and unjust. I want to know if they have established a reputation as people of integrity. In their homes, their jobs and in their communities, have shown courage in leadership? Do they have that inner strength to do what is right, fair and just in sight, out of sight and in the cover of the night? I don’t know; do you?

Are the candidates committed to giving an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay? Will they be

honest in their clocking-in and clocking-out time? Will they shun the abuse of their lunch hour, time off, sick days and personal days? Will they honor the public trust; will they respect public property/funds and public supplies? Why? Why would they care about doing right by us, the voters? They have their reasons to believe that they won’t get caught, convicted or jailed for doing what others are doing in positions of trust.

So... when candidates say, “Vote for me”, take courage and ask why. WHY?

If candidates don’t have a good work record, they have past due bills at the house, and they are unfaithful to their spouses, why should we think or believe that they’ll keep promises made to us during a campaign season? Why?

A house is not a home without ice cream

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



I know that one of my favorite singer’s, Luther Vandross famously sang, “A House Is Not a Home,” without having the love of your life dwelling there with you. And I wholeheartedly agree. However, I also believe that a house is not a home without ice cream.

Now, let me explain to all you judgy, health fanatics, zero sugar free Greek Yogurt lovers – by the way I added this yogurt to my lifestyle plan (not a diet plan - hunny) and no ma’am/sir, I could not do it. I tried it but it tasted like school glue, in fact, school glue tasted better. Yes, I unfortunately know the difference due to my kindergarten self – don’t act like you didn’t snack on erasers, crayons, and your little crusty boogers. Anyways, for those of you who are worried that I was overloading our children on junk – far from the truth. Our children were reared consuming real food, rarely purchased junk food, and sodas and juice were a very rare option and still is to this day. But as a mother I did associate love with food. So, I may have fed them too much especially during their primary years. Their jaws were running over – they became our little sumo wrestlers – now, the Lord is still working on me.

But yes, I sure kept ice cream in our freezer on any given day. And yes, I know it takes more than ice cream to build and foster a loving, healthy, and happy home and it doesn’t solve issues. But our children enjoyed our ice-cream days to the maximum. Eating ice cream together as a family was fun, comforting, rewarding, sweet, and I truly as-

sociated it with love. However, I had no idea that our ice-cream days would dwindle due to our children getting older.

Our children are now working, in college, hanging with their friends, and pursuing their own lives for the most part. Therefore, I truly miss them and our ice-cream days. And it makes me reminiscence about parenting – what we did right and what we did wrong. And like others who warned my husband and I, I also want to encourage you to please enjoy your children especially while they are young. We barely get to see ours now (thank God they still attend church – that’s mandatory until they move on their own) and it will worsen as they get older – now, I understand, what we did to our parents.

Parents go out your way to do the following for your children:

- Pray for and with them
- Train them up in the Lord
- Love them unconditionally
- Do not parent in fear, unresolved trauma, etc.
- Hug your babies often
- Support them
- Be patient
- Don’t say yes or no to everything – compromise some before the no
- Realize they aren’t perfect and never will be
- Don’t force them to live your dreams out – God may have a different purpose for them
- Hold your babies accountable – tough love is necessary
- Advocate for and support lifetime healthy and loving siblings’ relationships
- Share your imperfect lives with them to help them
- If you hurt them – apologize as often as needed, help them heal, redeem the time, make amends
- Communicate/listen
- Don’t be judgmental

- Have fun
- Stop trying to fix their failures, mistakes, – they need this to grow – you won’t be around forever
- Eat ice-cream or sugar free yogurt

Parents whatever you do – love and enjoy your babies while they are young – you can’t get that time back.

When our children were much younger people would always advise my husband and I to enjoy them while they were young. For some reason, I could not comprehend what people meant, especially considering that we were already enjoying our children. Nonetheless, we would embrace their sentiments and naively laugh it off assuming that we would forever be able to enjoy our children. But we were wrong – our babies grew up.

In conclusion, we were and are not perfect parents and we are still learning but I think we went out of our way to create a home that was filled with love, support, and fun. Eating ice-cream was a major event for us – it was a fun bonding ordeal. In fact, it’s a tradition we plan to continue with our babies and our future grandbabies because a house is not a home without ice cream.

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

The Mississippi Link™

Volume 32 • Number 53

October 1 - 7, 2026

© copyright 2026. All rights reserved.

Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Sports Editor Tim Ward
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: publisher@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$50 per year; \$100 for two years or \$150 for three years.

Postmaster:
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,
please call (601) 896-0084.

The Mississippi Link accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials and in general does not return them to sender. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for publication are welcome by The Mississippi Link, but no responsibility can be taken for sources considered to be authoritative, because the publication cannot guarantee their accuracy. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content, is prohibited.

Member:





Get Fast, Affordable Fiber Internet

FAST ENOUGH to keep up with your life.
AFFORDABLE ENOUGH to fit your budget.
AND NO DATA CAPS ... EVER!

PLUS! Sign up today and get a \$100 gift card!



Reliable Internet *NOW!* 855-271-5323

Interested in advertising in The Mississippi Link?

Businesses
Schools
Churches
Want ads

Call 601-624-4542 or 601-896-0084.

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ALICE JONES, DECEASED

SADDIE SABIR, ADMINISTRATRIX

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2021-443

VS.

THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW OF
ALICE JONES, DECEASED,

DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
RE: MOTION TO CLOSE ESTATE

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TO: Della Mae Washington, Joseph Jones, Willie D. Jones, Geneva Jones;
Rosaland Michelle Jones, Shawn Phillips Jones, Johnny Shurell Clincy,
Joseph Jones, resident of Florida

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Sadie Sabir, Plaintiff(s), to Close the Estate of Alice Jones, deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said Motion to Close Estate, at 9:00a.m. on the 30th day of November, 2026 in the Chancery courtroom of Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson Mississippi, located at 316 S. President Street, Jackson, MS 39201, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Motion.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading, but you may do so if you desire. Such should be served by mailing to Joseph A. Denson, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is P.O. Box 5022, 1931 23rd Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi 39302, Telephone (601) 693-5400.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 28th day of September, 2026.

CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BY: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

(SEAL)
Prepared by:
JOSEPH A. DENSON, MBN 101910
DENSON AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
1931 TWENTY-THIRD AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 5022
MERIDIAN, MS 39302-5022
PHONE: 601-693-5400
FAX: 601-693-5983



10/01/2026

LEGAL

RULE 81 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
NETRA COOPER, DECEASED

CAUSE NO. P2025-430 G/2

PETITIONER: GABRIELLE COOPER

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NETRA COOPER, DECEASED

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Gabrielle Cooper Petitioner, seeking the adjudication of heirs of Netra Cooper, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 a.m. o'clock, on the 19th day of October, 2026, in the Chancery Courtroom of Hinds County before Honorable Tiffany Grove, Chancellor. In case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this the 9th day of September, 2026.

EDDIE JEAN CARR
CHANCERY CLERK OF HINDS COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

BY: [Signature]



9/17/2026, 9/24/2026, 10/01/2026

U-RENTAL

Van Company



- New fleet of vans
- 12 & 15 passenger vans
- Unbeatable prices
- Unlimited miles
- Church / business trips
- Family vacation & more
- Cash or credit cards



3840 ROBINSON ROAD - JACKSON, MS 39209 - PHONE: 601-398-1162

IRS Back Taxes Got You Worried?





PRIORITY TAX RELIEF



4.9/5 ★★★★★









Our Tax Professionals will get you on the phone with the IRS in minutes for FREE.

We will help negotiate the best solution for your tax challenge. At PRIORITY TAX, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION!

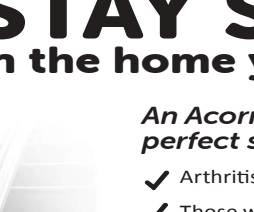
877.433.7430

Priority Tax is a private company that identifies qualified consumers who require tax assistance. They are not the IRS, nor a State Taxing Authority. They are not a debt relief company or attorney referral service. Costs and results will vary. **RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED.** Hiring a tax resolution company is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements. There is no charge for a consultation. Call for complete details.



STAY SAFE

in the home you love.



An Acorn Stairlift is the perfect solution for:

- ✓ Arthritis / COPD sufferers
- ✓ Those with mobility issues
- ✓ Anyone who struggles with stairs

SPECIAL OFFER

\$250.00

OFF YOUR PURCHASE
OF A NEW ACORN STAIRLIFT!*




Trustpilot



Call today to receive your FREE in-home consultation!

1-877-309-3903

PICK UP
THE MISSISSIPPI LINK
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

B O L T O N
BOLTON LIBRARY
BOLTON CITY HALL

MCAN | MISSISSIPPI
CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISING NETWORK

STATEWIDE REACH. LOCAL RESULTS.

Place your ad in 80 newspapers statewide. Call 601-981-3060 ext. 1 or email mcan@mspress.org

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN 80 NEWSPAPERS STATEWIDE
Call 601-981-3060 ext. 1 or email mcan@mspress.org

WEEK OF SEPT. 27, 2026

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN 80 NEWSPAPERS STATEWIDE
Call 601-981-3060 ext. 1 or email mcan@mspress.org

P R E S E R V E D

Do you want God’s arm to fall off?

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



“You want my arm to fall off?” is one of the most memorable lines from the 1972 Oscar nominated film *Lady Sings the Blues*. In the scene, Billie Holiday (Diana Ross) has just finished singing at a nightclub and is being heckled by the crowd for not taking money from patrons. As she stands nervous with her head bowed in the middle of the stage, a hand

is held up with a \$20 bill in it. Because her head is bowed, she doesn’t initially see the money or the person who holds it up. Encouraged by the bar owner to take the money but still hesitant, she slowly moves in the direction of the hand.

As she moves closer to the money and a well-manicured hand is shown, those now famous words are heard and the face of Louis McKay (Billy Dee Williams) comes out of the shadows. Holiday makes lingering eye contact with McKay and takes the money. She then fin-

ishes the musical set and takes more money from other patrons.

This scene came to mind a few years ago as I was having a conversation with a friend about some difficult choices that she was trying to make. She shared how she knew that God could answer her prayers; she was just stuck not knowing what to ask for. As I listened to her, I thought about how God was like McKay. He was ready to answer her prayer and bless her according to her level of faith. All she needed to do was ask Him and he would bless her. I shared

these words of encouragement with her and even showed her the video clip since she wasn’t that familiar with the movie.

I think part of the reason why Holiday hesitated to take the money is the same reason why my friend is not sure of what to pray: she knows what is being offered but is not familiar with who is offering it. It sometimes happens when we don’t spend as much time with God; we may not recognize when he is trying to bless us or wants to move in our lives. My friend admitted that she hadn’t spent much time

in prayer with God lately and that she missed the close intimacy that came from spending time with God. I assured her that despite feeling that way, God was still waiting to bless her. He was just waiting on her to ask Him.

Jeremiah 32:17 reminds us about the outstretched arm of God: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.” We should not just focus on getting the blessing from God but

also on getting to know better the One who loves to bless us. When we have that close, intimate relationship with God, we will trust Him and won’t hesitate to go to Him for whatever our needs are.

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

True Light Baptist Church

224 E. Bell Street | Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: 601.398.0915
WWW.TRUELIGHTJACKSON.ORG



@TRUELIGHTMBCHURCH



TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

THE Light Line PRAYER

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY
MORNING AT 6:00 AM
CALL: 559-671-2546

VIRTUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | SUNDAY 10:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM



REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

619 N. Farish St. • Jackson, MS 39202

“An Extraordinary Church Doing Extraordinary Ministry”

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM
(in person and online)



facebook.com/TSBCMedia youtube.com/@tsbcmmedia/live



Reverend Eric D. Williams
Pastor

Email: info@farishstreetbaptistchurch.org
Website: farishstreetbc.org
Phone: 601.355.0636



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

1600 Florence Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi 39204
601-3552670 ~ 601-355-0760 (Fax)

www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbc@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY
Worship Services**
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. in person

Or you may worship with us via
Facebook or our YouTube
channel at CHMBC

Bible Study
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



“A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man”

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Live Radio Broadcast
WOAD AM 1300 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

New Bethel M. B. Church • 450 Culberston Ave. • Jackson, MS 39209
601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: Serenitynbc@aol.com

Crossroads Church of God

Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



Sunday Morning
Sunday School:
9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**Sunday Worship
Service:** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(Fellowship following
worship service 1st
Sundays)

**Wednesday
Prayer/Bible
Study:**
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

231-A John Day Road • Off Hwy 16 East • Canton, MS 39046
Church: 601-859-2858

TURN BALLOT OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING

we must vote

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

PART-TIME CANVASSERS

\$18-\$20
AN HOUR

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

PAID WEEKLY

CANVASSER LEAD

\$22 AN HOUR

NOW HIRING IN:

**JACKSON, MS
MERIDIAN, MS
HATTIESBURG, MS
INDIANOLA, MS**

GET PAID. MAKE AN IMPACT. BE THE CHANGE.
EMAIL: CAREERS@WEMUST.VOTE
EMAIL ONLY, NO CALLS ACCEPTED!!!

Former Mississippi Legislators share life lessons at Book Festival

Two Minds, One Rhythm: A Story for a Fractured Nation offers a hard-won blueprint for healing ‘America’s Divide’

By Michael Marks
Guest Writer, Style & Study LLC

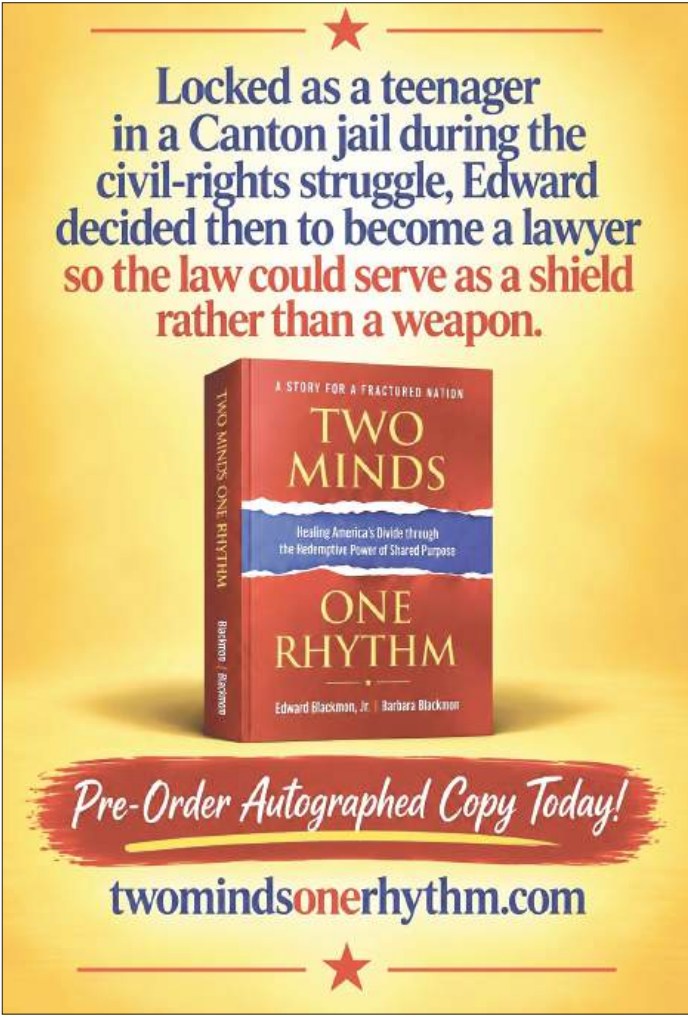
The Mississippi Book Festival has become an annual literary event where thousands of prominent authors and celebrity guests join thousands of book lovers for this annual event. The annual gathering includes panel discussions, book signings, children’s activities, food trucks, live music and workshops.

This year’s festival, as in past years, drew thousands of book lovers. It was held Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Mississippi State Capitol, 400 High Street in Jackson from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Former Mississippi Legislators Barbara and Edward Blackmon, Jr. hosted a diverse crowd as part of the Book Festival. A packed room witnessed the former state senator and representative, respectively, discussing the impetus for their new book, *Two Minds, One Rhythm: A Story for a Fractured Nation*. According to State Representative Omeria Scott of Laurel, “The public got a real treat, since the book has not officially launched yet.” Scott moderated the panel discussion and fielded questions from the enthused crowd.

It was evident at the pre-launch event that Canton’s power couple was truly “Two Minds and One Rhythm,” as they often completed each other’s thoughts. The informative public conversation started with remarks about the New York Times. The day after Donald Trump was elected in 2024, a Times reporter posed the following question to nationally recognized trial attorney Edward Blackmon, Jr., “What should the rest of America expect?” Blackmon responded, “Welcome to Mississippi. We’ve lived through this enough to recognize that our history is meeting our future.”

This past weekend’s Book Festival crowd consisted of all ages and races, who listened intently, even late in the day, as Barbara Blackmon spoke about the importance of voting in this environment, “We are overwhelmed with the reception for our book but education



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MICHAEL MARKS



City of Jackson Mayor John Horhn holds a copy of the special edition of *Two Minds, One Rhythm* while standing between the Blackmon’s.



Front Row Seated: Barbara and Edward Blackmon Back Row Standing: Dr. Deborah Hyde and Rep. Omeria Scott with purchased copy of *Two Minds, One Rhythm: A story of a fractured Nation*.



Close friend Attorney Dennis Sweet gets his personal edition autographed by Barbara Blackmon.

begins with you.” Audience member Dennis Sweet added, “The Blackmon’s have been true mentors. This book reflects their collective fight to shape law, politics, and representation.”

Following the conversational panel discussion, the group adjourned to the signing tent outside on the Capitol grounds,

provided by the Mississippi Book Festival. The Blackmon’s then autographed special editions of their book, as student volunteers from Millsaps College helped organize patrons who stood in long lines to get their copy.

To learn more about healing America’s divide through the

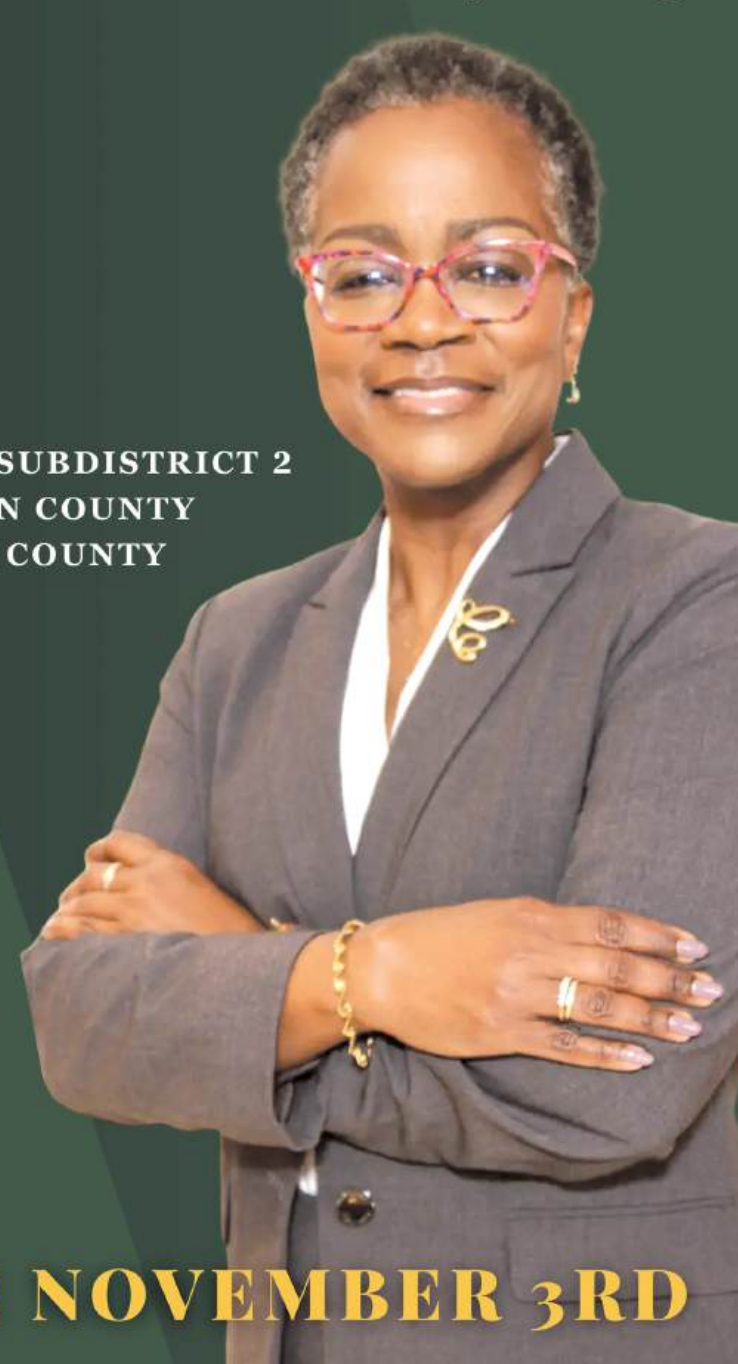
redemptive power of shared purpose, go online to twomindsonerhythm.com. The book will be available online at Amazon for one day only on October 6. The publication will be 99 cents on Kindle that day but will be available at Amazon in perpetuity. The co-authors plan to stage an official launch in late October.



Students from Millsaps College who served as volunteers at the Mississippi Book Festival

RESPONSIBLE • COMPETENT • COMPASSIONATE

2026 VOTE
COOPER
For Chancery Judge



DISTRICT 11 SUBDISTRICT 2
MADISON COUNTY
LEAKE COUNTY

VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD

Paid for by Committee to Elect Rhonda C. Cooper for Chancery Court Judge



Nissan believes in
the power of education.



nissan-canton.com

Celebrating
20 years of service
in the Greater
Jackson Area.

Dr. Antionette Woodall named a 2026 national EdTech All-Star

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds County School District is celebrating Dr. Antionette L. Woodall, Executive Director of Student Services, who has been named a 2026 EdTech All-Star in the Instructional Leader category by ClassLink and RTM Business Group.

Woodall was recognized during the 2026 Fall Education Congress, held September 20–22, 2026, in Orlando, Florida. She is one of four K–12 leaders selected for this year’s national honors.

In its announcement, ClassLink

highlighted Woodall’s belief that every child deserves a champion. In her district role, she brings together people and resources to support student well-being, attendance, engagement, and school climate. Her experience as a teacher, instructional coach, and school leader helps her understand the needs of both Achievers and educators.

“Dr. Woodall has helped strengthen the support services our Achievers need to attend school, feel connected, and succeed,” said HCSD Superintendent Dr. Mitch-

ell M. Shears. “She brings people and resources together to respond to Achievers’ needs with care and consistency. This national recognition reflects her commitment to making sure every Achiever has the support to thrive.”

Since 2018, the EdTech All-Stars awards have recognized education leaders who turn ideas into action and make a lasting difference in their school communities. Woodall’s honor reflects the district’s commitment to Engaging, Empowering, and Ensuring Excellence for every Achiever.



Dr. Antionette L. Woodall, Executive Director of Student Services

Lindsey Fordis selected as Teacher of the Month

Canton Career Center –
Canton Public School District



Lindsey Fordis, teacher of the month and Michael Ellis , director of Career and Technical Education.

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Lindsey Fordis, an instructor at Canton Career Center was recently chosen as Teacher of the Month” for Canton Career Center located at 487 N. Union Extension Street, Canton, MS.

Fordis was recognized by the Canton Public School District Board of Trustees and Interim Superintendent, Dr. Bonita Coleman, at the September Board meeting. She was presented with an Award of Excellence by Michael Ellis, Director of Career and Technical Education.

In congratulating Fordis, Ellis stated in a press release , “This recognition is well deserved, and

we appreciate her commitment to our students and Canton Career Center. Working with Mrs. Fordis has been an outstanding experience. She is a professional and effective instructor who communicates clearly, listens thoughtfully, and approaches every situation with patience and respect. She is always willing to help, and her students truly appreciate her. Most importantly, she leads by example and inspires her students.”

Fordis is excelling as an engineer and instructor in Canton Career Center’s Nissan of Excellence Advanced Manufacturing Program.

CJHS remains at the top with release of state test scores

By Robert Chapma,
Director of Communications
Clinton Public School District

With the release of the 2026 MAAP student performance data from the Mississippi Department of Education, teachers and students at Clinton Junior High School found themselves in the Top 5 of mathematics and English Language Arts for seventh and eighth grades.

Eighth grade scores ranked CJHS third in mathematics and fifth in ELA.

Seventh grade scores ranked

CJHS 4th in mathematics.

CJHS Principal Dr. Ivory Gray said these scores reflect the hard work of the students.

“These scores reflect the exceptional hard work of our students and represent just one step in our ongoing journey to be elite,” he said.

“Success like this is never a solo effort. It stems from the daily commitment of our dedicated teachers, the support of our CJHS families and the determination of our students to grow every single day.



Northside’s Math Scores remain in top five statewide

By Robert Chapma,
Director of Communications
Clinton Public School District

During its August board meeting, the Mississippi Department of Education released state test proficiency scores and rankings for Mississippi public school districts.

Clinton’s cohort of third grade students ranked 5th in mathematics across the Magnolia State.

Northside’s principal Mandi Ambrose said keeping the math scores in the top five is an accomplishment that reflects the passion and dedication of the teachers towards their students.

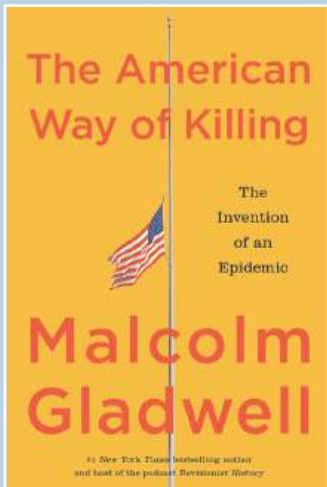
“Our teachers understand that these test scores are the

result of meaningful learning, not the goal itself,” Ambrose said. “They see each student as an individual, meet them where they are and then challenge and support them to reach their fullest potential.”

Ambrose added that high student achievement at Northside is a product of academic teachers as well as support staff, interventionists and activity teachers.

“Our teachers and staff work together to know our students, believe in them, and give them the support and encouragement they need to be their best,” she said. “These scores are a reflection of that collective commitment, and I couldn’t be prouder of the Northside team.”





BOOK REVIEW: THE AMERICAN WAY OF KILLING: THE INVENTION OF AN EPIDEMIC BY MALCOLM GLADWELL C.2026, LITTLE, BROWN \$34.00 • 304 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Lately, you’re almost afraid to check the news. You can’t bear to see footage of another mass shooting. You can’t stand to read about another young man losing his health, limbs or his life. It’s all too much, and you feel helpless. So read “The American Way of Killing” by Malcolm Gladwell. Maybe we’re looking at gun control the wrong way. Abdullah Pratt had always had “a passion for science.” He grew up in a Black commu-

nity, went to museums, attended college and medical school, and he works where he was raised, in Chicago. Recently, Gladwell asked him how many of the people he knew growing up have died of gun violence. “... it’d probably be like in the thirties, forties,” Pratt said, including his brother and at least fourteen other close friends. The stats, says Gladwell, don’t show the whole picture about gun violence because we’re looking at things all wrong and we’re having “dishonest” conversations. First of all, he be-

lieves, we should remember that “robbery and homicide are not siblings.” We should not lump all gun crimes into a category that includes gun deaths. Before we talk about public safety, we need to specifically define it. We must know exactly what is, and what is not, in gun control bills that Congress passes or doesn’t. “Assault-rifle bans are gun control theater,” Gladwell says, “they pretend to be something they are not.” As for the Second Amendment, we have to look at the era in which it was written and gram-

mar used to understand what it means. And when it comes to reporting, we must ask the police to separate the level and degree of gun violence in their official reports. Was someone killed, or did the victim survive? Without that information it’s easy for medical professionals’ expertise to save a life, but which hides the facts and makes “it easier for Americans to live with their gun violence.” Is there any American left who doesn’t have an opinion one way or another about gun ownership or control? Probably

not – which is why “The American Way of Killing” is essential reading today, now. The one thing you need to know before you start is this: author Malcolm Gladwell’s work here is calm, considerate, and balanced. You may notice nuances, but this book isn’t overtly pro-gun control, nor does Gladwell seem against it. Instead, he methodically shows readers the mistakes we make in our thought-processes, how we misunderstand laws, and where collective thinking can be more effective in an overall argument.

In many ways, the two sides, pro- and against, aren’t as divergent as we might think we are, especially when presented with commonsensical, important and shocking statistics that could flip your understanding of the facts. “The American Way of Killing” may not change minds, but it may loosen them considerably. It’s a book for both sides, and for anyone who wants to save lives. Gun violence, as Gladwell shows, isn’t new news, but our attitudes and our work to end it might start here.



ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



Services of the Clerk:

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

VOTER INFORMATION

Verify/Update your Registration Today

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - 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.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. BOX 327
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: (601) 968-6628
Fax: (601) 973-5547

Jury Duty Recording:
First Judicial District
(601) 969-0052

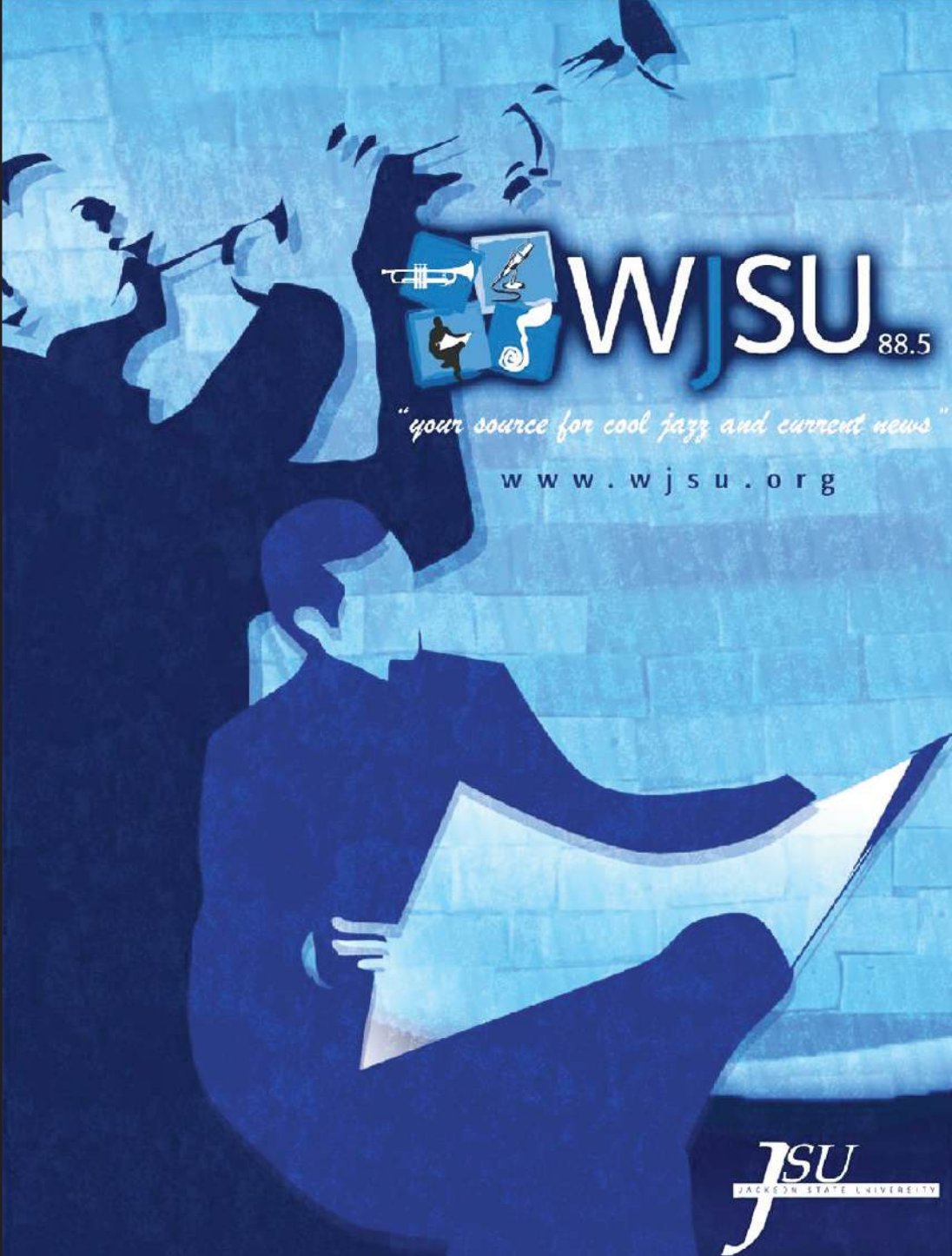
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Circuit Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 999
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: (601) 857-8038
Fax: (601) 857-0535

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

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Except on legal holiday)

Website: www.hindscountymiss.com
Paid for by friends of Zack Wallace

Cool And Current



WJSU 88.5
"your source for cool jazz and current news"
www.wjsu.org

JSU
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



WRTM
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

WRTM-FM 100.5 FM, JACKSON’S SOUL, RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SOUTHERN SOUL STATION PLAYING MORE VARIETY, LESS TALK AND THE MUSIC ADULTS WANT TO HEAR!

Jackson State takes care of Southern in the Boombox Classic... ‘Again’

By Tim Ward
Sports Writer

38,973 people packed “The Vet” this past Saturday night for the Boombox Classic, and Tiger Nation got exactly what it came for. Jackson State opened SWAC play by handling rival Southern 35 to 17, moving to 4-0 overall and 1-0 in the SWAC. The win ran the winning streak over the Jags to 8 straight. That’s the longest streak Jackson State has ever put together in this series.

The fireworks started before kickoff. Players from both sides got into it during warmups, a little pregame scuffle that went on for several minutes before coaches and state troopers finally pulled everybody apart. That got the juices flowing early on both sides. Jackson State got the ball first and went right to work. Jared Lockhart went 4 for 4 on the opening drive and Nate Blount IV punched it in from the 1. Just like that JSU 7 SU 0. Southern answered with a solid drive of its own, converting a 4th and 6 and getting a 22-yard catch and run from Trey Holly on 3rd down to the JSU 12. The Darkside Defense held there though, and field goal kicker, Chris McKenna knocked through a 27-yard field goal. 7 to 3. Jackson State needed exactly one play to answer. QB Lockhart flies deep for Nate Rembert, and there wasn’t a Jaguar near him at all. 70-yard touchdown. Crowd goes crazy! 14 to 3 in the 1st quarter so far.

After a Southern three and out, the Tigers got pinned back at their own 5. Didn’t matter. Blount found a crease and broke off for 48 yards. He finished the 95-yard drive himself with an 8-yard touchdown run. 21 to 3. Earlier in the week Coach T.C. Taylor said if you give Blount a crease, “he will take care of the rest.” He wasn’t lying.

Southern kept feeding Holly and it worked for a drive. Holly hurdled a defender on a 17-yard run and capped it with a 6-yard touchdown up the middle, but the extra point was no good. 21 to 9 with 5:36 left in the half. Then the Jags’ special teams bit them again. DeJay Welch took the kickoff back 52-yards, and 4 plays later Lockhart kept it himself at the goal line. 28 to 9. Southern had already opened the game with a face mask penalty on the opening kickoff, missed that extra point, and gave up returns of 52 and 44 yards to Welch. First year Southern head coach Marshall Faulk, in his first Boombox Classic, didn’t sugarcoat it afterward, basically admitting he



Darkside defense came to play



RB Nate Blount hurdles a defender

doesn’t have an answer for his special teams right now.

At the half, JSU 28 SU 9. 4 touchdowns on 6 first half drives, and Blount already had 111 yards and 2 touchdowns on just 9 carries. Tiger fans cheering with the expectation of another blowout win.

However, second half was a different story. Southern’s defense came out tightened up, and most of Jackson State’s drives were over after 3 plays. Tiger nation looked a little concerned. Did JSU take their foot off the gas too soon? The Jags smelled it. Just before the start of the fourth quarter, Mike Franklin busted a 51-yard run and then punched it in from the 1 himself. Holly got pushed across by his quarterback and center for the 2-point conversion. 28 to 17 with 1:25 left in the 3rd. The Vet got a little quiet. A little uneasiness could be felt in the air.

Southern got the ball back with a chance to make it a



Pregame scuffle between the teams

real ballgame and went three and out. The Darkside defense stood up strong. Under 3 minutes left. The play of the game happens. Sophomore quarterback, Jared Lockhart, takes the snap, looks for the end zone, the ball gets tipped at the goal line, two Southern defenders are going for the pick, ball is floating, and who comes down with it? Offensive lineman Alex Valbuena. Big fella in the end zone. Valburena is the starting center.

Wow. Tiger Nation erupts. 35 to 17. Ballgame.

Final Stats for the game. Nate Blount IV led the way with 17 carries for 135 yards and 2 touchdowns, his third 100-yard game of the season. Jared Lockhart completed 12 of 18 for 165 yards and 2 touchdowns and added a rushing touchdown, the first time this season he’s been held under 200 through the air. Nate Rembert caught 5 passes for 87 yards and the 70 yard



Sophomore qb Jared Lockhart



QB Christian Johnson is grabbed by JSU defender Keith Bass

score.

Jackson State put up 355 total yards, 190 on the ground, with no turnovers and held the ball for 35:28. For Southern, Quarterback Christian Johnson went 16 of 29 for 153 yards with no touchdowns and no turnovers, and put the loss on himself afterward, saying “This game, I put a lot of it on me.” Holly carried it 26 times for 97 yards and a touchdown, and the Jags finished with 317 total yards.

Next up, JSU heads to Mobile for the Gulf Coast Challenge against Alabama A&M, Saturday October 3rd at 4 pm at Ladd-Peebles Stadium. JSU has won all 4 previous Gulf Coast Challenge meetings with the Bulldogs, including 57 to 24 last year.

Southern goes back to Baton Rouge for homecoming against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Saturday at 6 pm at A.W. Mumford Stadium.



Tiger nation dressed in white



Whiteout game

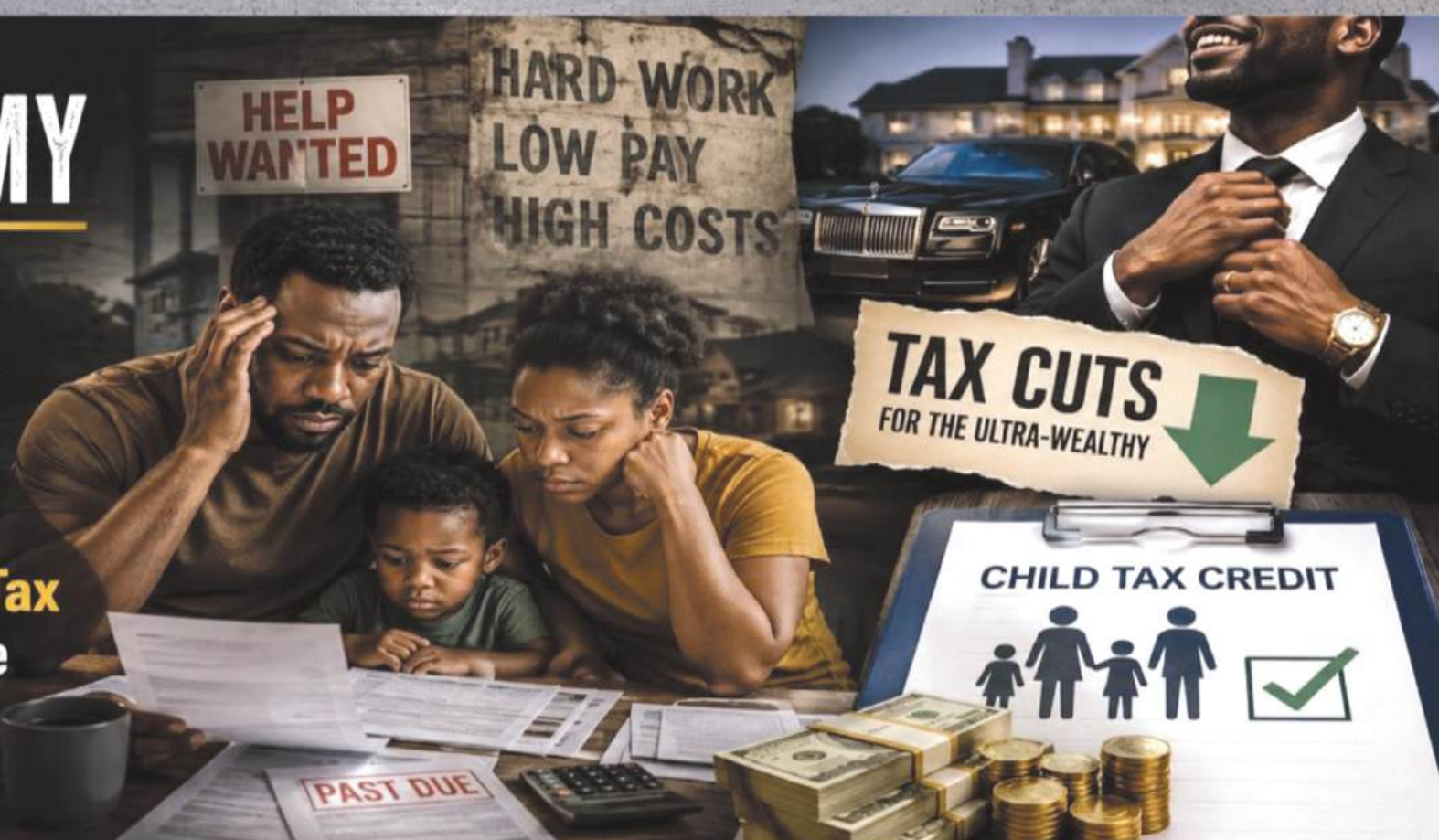


NOW THE URGENCY IS NOW



THE ECONOMY

- Wages are **stagnant** for the working class.
- Taxes are **reduced** for the ultra-wealthy.
- The expanded **Child Tax Credit** will benefit the wealthy more than the working class.



RACE AND EQUITY

- The Supreme Court decision in Louisiana vs Callais has opened the door to redistricting up and down the ballot. Lines can be drawn to eliminate majority Black districts. This includes congressional, legislative, supervisors, alderpersons, city council, school boards, judges, ...



EDUCATION

- Childcare centers are closing.
- School districts are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining teachers.
- The cost of postsecondary education is skyrocketing.



HEALTHCARE

- People are dying because of a lack of doctors and hospitals.



If YOU want a different REALITY,
VOTE, NOVEMBER 3