The Mississippi Link

Keepers of the knowledge for people who speak the truth since 1993

www.themississippilink.com

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The Mississippi Link's unwavering stance for "Truth" tickles my spine

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

When you want to discover the truth, read The Mississippi Link Newspaper, the publication that promotes ethics and fairness for potential community readers. Newswriting standards fused with the search for truth are incorporated, thereby pushing the paper's content locally, regionally, nationally and worldwide. Irrespective of space – home; work; school; bus; plane; car; park, etc., you're bound to be attracted to the paper's community-centered journalism.

The Mississippi Link has held a settled, unbothered calm that resonates in the community. This year's pendulum swings steadily while allowing the newspaper to never surrender the right to listen well and be heard. Standing on its mantra of speaking truth, The Mississippi Link's 33rd Anniversary speaks volumes.

Jackie Hampton, publisher, and her staff of journalists, columnists, graphic artists and others are "keepers of the knowledge for people who speak the truth since 1993." Hampton never ceases to amaze me with her gracefulness, intelligence, hunger and thirst for phenomena that need to be shared with you, our readers. Her perseverance, ingenuity and dedication move beyond measure by reporting a community voice that often shares its thoughts and messages with ease. With a track record of expeditiously meeting deadlines for press and coverage, there is no such thing for Hampton as a 9-5 workday nor a five-day work week. Meeting the community's reading needs has priorities produced by focus, commitment and hard work. Completing the week's edition or forging ahead with next week's edition is an ongoing determination that Hampton has maintained.

Hampton's persistence in pursuing advertisers, sponsors and subscribers is an ongoing and challenging process. Nevertheless, the go-getter in Hampton has made The Mississippi Link a long-time survivor whereas a

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Tony Brown of Tony & Tina's Beauty Salon viewing an article in The Mississippi Link, which Dr. Ramonica Lewis, optometrist is reading while receiving services. PHOTO BY JACKIE HAMPTON, JUNE 30,2017

Breast Cancer Survivor Tina Leavy speaks of challenges, support, and encouragement

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



Tina Leavy

September 2021 was the beginning of health unrest for Tina Leavy. That was a time period that she could never forget. She learned during that time that she was in a new world. Her new discovery frightened her. To her, there was no way to be relieved from the fear that kept her on edge. She was trapped. She had been diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer.

Tina learned that undergoing the treatment process was a significant challenge. It was something new on her plate, and she had to learn how to cope in her "new life." She had to yield to her doctor's advice by "doing everything" she was advised to do. Taking radiation daily for 36 weeks and taking chemo pills were burdensome. "I had significant pain and had to deal with it because the doctor could not administer pain medication," she recalled. Additionally, there were periods of uncertainty, not knowing what was next. Despite hurdles, she had to learn how to fight negativity - which only dragged her down - by "remaining positive."

The breast cancer survivor was so keyed up that she was unable to sleep at night. Tossing and turning made her restless. She was tired the next day after the night's long ordeal. As a result, her doctor prescribed sleep medication. It was helpful in that it brought on relaxation, and "such calm" allowed her nerves to rest.

Beyond tapering down to sleep, Tina knew that she had to do something else. A step in the right direction of coping was reaching out to her family and friends who prayed daily for her. Her old-

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Colom rallies at home in Columbus with another groundbreaking VIP

Two days after her birthday, Vice President Kamala Harris stumps for Scott Colum in Columbus

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

Oh, what a night! Well over a thousand souls descended on the Columbus High School gymnasium – Home of the Falcons – to rally for Columbus native Scott Colom is his bid to unseat the incumbent junior Senator from Mississippi, Cindy Hyde-Smith, on Thursday, October 22, 2026. The energy, hopefulness, and momentum roared throughout the evening, and when the one and only Vice President Kamala Harris made her way to the stage - while chanting Mississippi Matters – you can just imagine.

Colum was born in Columbus, Mississippi, and the night had the passion of Homecoming, and then some. He is a graduate of Columbus High School, Millsaps College, and the University of Wisconsin School of Law (Cum Laude) in 2009. He served as a staff attorney at the Mississippi Center for Justice. He operated The Colom Law Firm, and in 2011 was appointed as a Justice Court Judge in Lowndes County – the youngest ever, and the first African American. He served as Aberdeen Mississippi Municipal Judge. He served as interim City Prosecutor for Columbus, Mississippi – becoming the city's first African American prosecutor. He was elected and re-elected twice as District Attorney for Mississippi's 16th Judicial District, serving from 2016 to the present. Another first for an African American in his white-majority voting district.

In 2022, Colom was nominated by President Biden to serve as U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. Despite bipartisan support from Senator Roger Wicker, Congressman Bennie Thompson, and former Governor's Barbour and Bryant, the nomination was blocked by Senator Cindy Hyde Smith.

Hyde Smith, whom Colom refers to as Cindy High Prices, is a graduate of a segregation academy – Lawrence County Academy, Copiah-Lincoln Community

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Members of The Divine Nine front and center at the stage. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG



Country-Soul Singer and songwriter Elsie Alford, who released her first album at age 22 and was a contestant on America's Got Talent earlier this year.

MAPPING a Path to Breast Cancer Awareness: Knowledge, Action, and Hope



By Rasheda Bell, Ph.D .
Contributing Writer

Behind every breast cancer statistic is a person, a family, and a story that matters. Although a diagnosis can bring fear and uncertainty, advances in research, improved treatments, and appropriate screening offer hope. Breast cancer awareness is about more than wearing pink in October; it is about understanding risks, recognizing changes, seeking medical care, and supporting those affected.

The acronym MAPPING provides seven important steps toward greater awareness, informed decisions, and action.

M — Modifiable Factors and Mammograms

Knowledge is a powerful tool in protecting your health. Maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating a balanced diet, and limiting alcohol may help reduce breast cancer risk. Mammograms can

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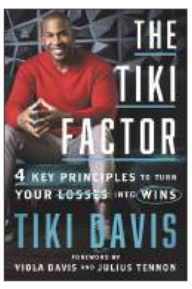
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College Hill MB Church recognition for breast cancer survivors and their caregivers

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Tiki Factor



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The Secret Life of a Preacher's Wife

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

October is dedicated to recognizing the following: Breast Cancer Awareness, Cybersecurity Awareness, Mental Illness & Emotional Wellness, ADHD Awareness, Heritage/Cultural Awareness, Clergy Appreciation Month and National Domestic Violence Awareness and various traditions and holidays.

However, is enough emphasis put on domestic violence? Statistics reveal that domestic violence hotlines nationwide receive over 20,000 calls on a typical day.

According to FBI statistics and health data reports millions of women and men especially women are abused and tens of thousands are killed every year because of domestic violence and intimate partner abuse; 75 percent of these deaths are women.

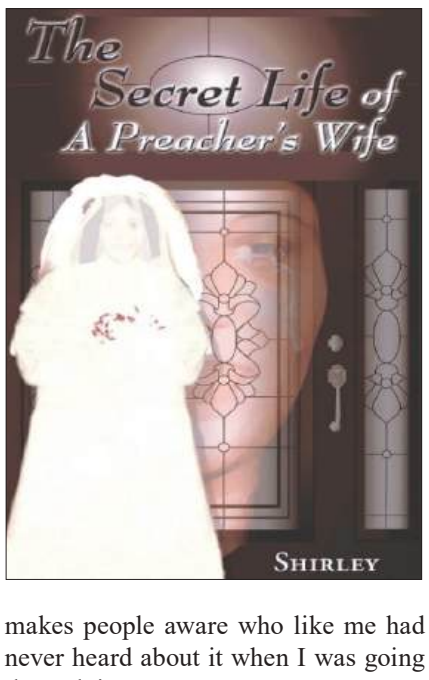
According to CDC, about 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience partner violence in their lifetime. In other words, domestic violence is not a Black or a White issue, man or woman issue, heterosexual or homosexual issue, poor or rich issue, educated or uneducated issue, young or old issue, athlete or non-athlete issue, politician or non-politician issue – it's happening everywhere by people of various backgrounds even in the church.

A powerful minister, powerful orator, a virtuous mother, according to Coach Deion Sanders, she is a 'soul food' master cook, passionately recognized as, "Grammy," by her grandbabies, a domestic violence overcomer, a bold domestic violence advocate, and the renowned author of, "The Secret Life of A Preacher's Wife," her name is Minister Shirley.

I wore purple and Minister Shirley had purple on too which is the symbolical color for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple was chosen because most bruises and scars are purple.

Mississippi Link (ML): Why do you think Domestic Violence Awareness Month is important?

Shirley: The word awareness obviously answers this question because it



makes people aware who like me had never heard about it when I was going through it.

ML: Why did you write your book?

Shirley: The book is based on a true story concerning my own personal marriage to a minister of twenty-five years. I wrote my book under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit after a severe night of being beaten one night. I was praying the remaining of the night, and God spoke to me before I fell asleep and said that He wanted me to write this book to inform women and men that He does not intend for anyone to be abused in marriage or any type of relationship under any circumstances. It's as if God allowed me to go through domestic violence so that I could be an advocate and voice for exposing and helping put an end to it.

ML: Did you recognize any red flags before you got married?

Shirley: Yes, I did all of which I ignored.

ML: Would you name some of the red flags that you saw before walking down the aisle?

Shirley: Jealously, he tried to control places I went and who I went with, told me how to do my hair, I was a virgin and there was a constant pressure for intercourse to prove to him that I was a virgin. And he even called our wedding off two days before we got married because I had gone to dinner with my family and returned to my parents' house very late. After explaining to him several times that my family took me out to celebrate my engagement, he changed his mind and the wedding took place unlike the previous two he had with others that he called off too."

ML: Why did you ignore the red flags?

Shirley: Simply because I wanted to be married more than anything in the world and a lot of money, time, and planning had been put into this wedding where over four hundred people attended. And more than anything I didn't want to live with the embarrassment of what people would think or say. Love played no role in me making the decision to proceed with my wedding. I didn't experience being loved and feeling loved before or after I got married because he never made me happy. But I anticipated that our love would grow for each other later in our marriage.

ML: Did physical abuse start before the marriage or after the marriage?

Shirley: A form of abuse started before the marriage, but the physical abuse started three months into the marriage.

ML: What did the abuse involve and are there long-term effects of it?

Shirley: Hitting, stomping, kicking, black eyes, busted nose, busted lips, bruises, lots of pain, being pushed out of moving vehicles, mop water poured over me, food thrown on me. It also involved Mental abuse – name calling, being spit on, and so much more. And yes, I am very affected by the abuse that I endured for over twenty-five years. In fact, I do not recognize myself as a survivor - I am still surviving. I say this because of the proven medical and scientific studies that show the health impacts of what abuse can cause like in my case - cancer, fractured bones, several corneal transplants, thyroid complications and surgeries from all the times that he strangled me, and other surgeries.

ML: Why did you keep the abuse a secret?

Shirley: Number one, it was embarrassment, two, I wanted to protect him because he was a minister and an assistant Pastor and I thought I was giving my marriage a chance to make it – I did not want my marriage to fail. And I wasn't allowed to work outside of the home, so it forced me to have to depend on him. Also, we had five children, and I didn't think I could make it on my own, and my love started to grow for him - I did love him.

ML: When did the abuse end? When did enough become enough?

Shirley: God told me after asking Him, why for twenty-five years, He told me to leave, after twenty-five years. Invite me to come and speak for more details. (Read the book for the details).

ML: What would you say to women or anyone who is being physically abused now?

Shirley: Please under all circumstances find a safe way to get out because abuse never ends – it never stops. It gets worse and many die in it unfortunately as I almost died several times throughout my marriage. And if you have children, please know they are being negatively impacted by the abuse whether you know it or not and these consequences follows your children.

ML: What resources/organizations exist that can help victims safely get out of these physical abusive relationships?

Shirley: They can contact the local police department, the Domestic Violence Hotline – Call 1-800-799- SAFE (7233) or text "START" to 88788 for 24/7confidential support, call or text the StrongHearts Native Helpline at 1-844-762-8483, Catholic Charities, Butterflies (Eva Jones), and the local ER/hospital – they can also help provide resources, etc. There is help available.

ML: How can people become more aware about domestic violence?

Shirley: When you hear of domestic violence programs, conferences, etc. happening in your community, please attend. The churches need to get involved, schools as well as colleges and universities need to educate people about it. And it starts at home with parents teaching their children what it is and how to resist it and report it. And share this article with everyone you know.

ML: Do you share your story publicly?

Shirley: Yes on all platforms and I have been sharing my story for over fifteen years. No month and place is off limit. I have spoken at numerous churches, prisons, colleges, universities, workshops, conferences, programs, etc. I have committed my life to speaking to others about my story so that they won't have to go through what I went through and plan to continue sharing as this is how I receive my ongoing healing.

ML: Do you want to get married again?

Shirley: So much so that I have already purchased my wedding picture frame. I want an opportunity to know what it feels like to be in love, and someone in love with me with the years I have left. I want the rocking chair, sweet tea, and ice-cream experience that you write about regarding marriages.

ML: Where can your book be purchased and how can people contact you for speaking engagements? If someone wants to donate to your ministry, how can they?

Shirley: My book can be purchased at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Westbow Publishing Company, and other book sites and directly from me. People can contact my publicist on 601-573-4231/601-596-2528. My Cash App is $MyVictory2026

In conclusion, how many will be abused or die prematurely because one feels that this is a private home matter and it should be swept under the rug? Domestic Violence is everyone's issue because at any point it can be your daughter, sister, mother, brother, father, colleague, next door neighbor, or your first lady, etc. I am so glad that my mother left her abusive situation and has committed her life to helping others get out too. And I am also elated that I got the honor of interviewing her too about her true story of being married to our father, her minister husband who abused her over twenty-five years – I can reassure you she's not the only one who has lived and/or is living "The Secret Life of A Preacher's Wife."

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Colom

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Apostle RJ Matthews.



Columbus Mayor Stepen Jones.



Nadia Dale Colom - wife of US Senate candidate Scott Colom, and mother of their daughters Luci and Brooklyn.





Vice President Kamala Harris, with her passionate and engaging demeanor, and with her 'we know what they're up to' face.



District Attorney for the 16th Judicial District of Mississippi, and U.S. Senate Candidate Scott Colom. PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.

College, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Those taking the stage prior to Colom and Harris included Columbia, Mississippi singer and songwriter Elsie Alford, Apostle RJ Matthews of Kingdom Vision Church in Columbus, Columbus Mayor Stephen Jones, and Colom's wife. Nadia Dale Colom shared her husband's lifelong habit of always finding a way to lift those around him, even sharing that after a terribly long day, and just when she started to share it with her husband at the dinner table, the telephone rang, and Scott apologized and said he just had to answer. It was Vice President Kamala Harris, and after saying hello, he handed the phone to his wife, telling the Vice President he was glad to talk with her but that his wife really needed to hear her voice more than his.

Colom stuck to his theme of Mississippi Matters, including, "when we say Mississippi Matters, we are saying that Mississippi values matter. My church taught me the values that matter. My community taught me the values that matter. This gym taught me the values that matter… right now we need leaders that understand Mississippi's values and are going to live those values; taking care of our neighbors, doing right…the President is coming to Mississippi on Monday ya'll, and we welcome him. It's time to debate and I want to debate him. Cindy High Prices won't debate me so maybe he will…when she violates our values it costs us.

When I say Mississippi Matters, I also mean Mississippi wages matter. I've done over 60 Town Hall's across Mississippi, unlike our junior Senator who hasn't done even one in six years…all these costs – she's giving it away as Mississippian's suffer…I will never give away your voice. Mississippi healthcare and hospitals matter. Why does Vice President Harris care more about our healthcare and hospitals than Cindy Hyde-Smith? We have a chance to write a new chapter in our state. In the past many people wrote chapters that we are embarrassed of…finding ways to divide and distract us so they could remain in power and not look out for us. Now, together, we can write a chapter that our children and grandchildren can truly be proud of."

After a rousing introduction by Colom, Madam Vice President took the mic and reminded, "alright now, we have work to do. We have twelve days. I work with a lot of young people, and I mentor them and I tell them - never let somebody else's ability to see your capacity be a limitation on your ambition. That's their limitation, not ours. We see Scott Colom as the next United States Senator from Mississippi. We understand that the people of Mississippi deserve better. It doesn't have to be this way. We know that over half the babies born in Mississippi are born through the assistance of Medicaid – 1 in 4 Mississippians rely on Medicaid for their healthcare, yet the junior Senator voted in favor of a $1 trillion dollar cut to Medicaid. I'm here in this high school in Columbus because this is the place that helped raise Scott, because they understood the capacity of a young man to be a leader among people and lift them up…you know his character…you know him…we have twelve days with you as the best messengers to help people know Scott.

We are in troubling times, we are witnessing brutality, we are witnessing the most callous, corrupt, and incompetent Presidential administration. We spent the last year and half looking at the TV saying words we don't say in church, sometimes throwing things, going through a range of emotions from anger to sadness to depression… well guess what, we're twelve days out from an election and it's time to turn that anger into action."

Truth

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significant number of Black-owned newspapers no longer exist, primarily because of financial blows. Just as you've been staunch supporters throughout the years, we need you to help keep The Mississippi Link alive. What's the current status of Black papers? "Only about 200 Black-owned community newspapers remain active today across roughly 150 cities nationwide, coordinated in part through trade associations like the National Newspaper Publishers Association," also known as The Black Press, of which Hampton serves as Vice President.

On another note, let's look at Hampton's team of artistry. We can never thank graphic artist Marcus Johnson enough for his devoted work. The visual layouts, illustrations, infographics, and advertisements that make stories clear, readable, and engaging for print and digital editions come from the work of Johnson's mind and hands. The genius in him puts our minds at ease as we read the paper.

Just as Hampton and Johnson adhere to newspaper decorum, so do the journalists. We work collaboratively with the editor in our story submissions. If we have interviewed people, we are responsible for sharing with readers the highlights of those interviews. Submitted stories must be clear, accurate and must adhere to journalistic ethics.

You – the readers - believe in your values and have no hesitancy in sharing and reading messages designed to reach other community members. Thus, keen eyes and open ears are the links from the paper's staff to the community's needs, thereby allowing the writers to correspond with the readers. Such camaraderie creates space for minds to ponder, to remember, to inject and to connect.

Sometimes when I go online or receive my copy of the Link in the mail, chills run down my spine. They run rapidly because I get caught up in emotional states such as curiosity, joy, happiness, sadness, or relief. When I read captions, I sometimes scan rather than read the stories. In my excitement, I seemingly cannot wait to learn their essence. Then there are times when I thoroughly read the story in front of my eyes to take in every detail. Perhaps a word, a phrase or a transition has prompted me to place my eyes there, like a fixed portrait gaze.

I have learned from all of this that The Mississippi Link Newspaper has a backbone that has touched generations with a wealth of knowledge too strong to become null and void. For this reason, my spine is tickled. I love the structural support, and I look forward to facing the very future with flexibility as I move in and out of storied situations.

This special 33rd Anniversary edition is a reminder that The Mississippi Link team holds you, our readers, our advertisers, our sponsors and our subscribers in high regard. It shines in the building of a chapter three decades in the making. That chapter produces a new birth of stories aimed to better humankind from the most fundamental to the most complex depictions of life. The Mississippi Link team holds a promise that will not only harness positive relationships that occurred long ago, but it will strengthen them with finesse and aplomb.



Hampton



Johnson



The Mississippi Link's Register to Vote Booth, Sept. 25,2016 at a Heroines of Jerico Fight to win against Sickle Cell event. FILEPHOTO

Awareness

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detect some cancers before symptoms appear. Discuss the appropriate screening schedule with your healthcare provider. Become familiar with your breasts and promptly report unusual changes. If cost is a barrier, explore local hospitals, health departments, and community programs offering free or low-cost mammograms.

A — Awareness

Awareness becomes meaningful when it inspires action. Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October encourages education, research funding, and support for survivors. Pink ribbon campaigns, social media, workplace workshops, fundraising walks, and community events provide opportunities to educate and engage others. However, awareness should continue year-round. Sharing reliable information or helping someone access screening can make a lasting difference.

P — Prevalence

Approximately one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during her lifetime. Men can also develop breast cancer, although it is much less common. The American Cancer Society projects approximately 321,910 new cases of invasive breast cancer among women in 2026. Despite these sobering numbers, more than four million breast cancer survivors live in the United States. Research and treatment advances continue to improve outcomes for many patients.

P — Prevention

No strategy guarantees prevention, but healthy choices can help reduce risk. Eat a balanced diet, maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly, and limit alcohol. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week. Discuss hormone therapy, contraceptives, and personal risk factors with your healthcare provider. Those with significant family histories or inherited genetic risks may benefit from genetic counseling and discussions about additional screening or preventive options.

I — Intervention and Implementation

Report new lumps, skin dimpling, nipple changes, unusual discharge, or persistent breast changes to a healthcare professional promptly. If diagnosed, learn about your type of cancer and stage and discuss treatment options with your care team. Depending on the diagnosis, treatment may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy. A multidisciplinary team can help develop an individualized plan and coordinate medical and emotional support.

N — Nuances

Breast cancer is not one single disease. Different types and subtypes behave differently and may require different treatments. Doctors consider the cancer's stage, hormone receptor status, HER2 status, and other characteristics when recommending care. Not every cancer produces a noticeable lump, and some changes are detectable only through imaging. Understanding these differences helps patients make informed decisions alongside their healthcare teams.

G — Genetics and Goal Setting

Most people diagnosed with breast cancer do not have a known family history. However, inherited genetic variants, including BRCA1 and BRCA2, can increase risk. Share your family's cancer history with your healthcare provider to determine whether genetic counseling is appropriate.

Set achievable goals: schedule recommended screenings, learn your family history, locate affordable healthcare resources, and encourage loved ones to seek medical advice. Approach these conversations with compassion, recognizing that everyone faces different circumstances.

Map Your Next Step

The fight against breast cancer advances when awareness becomes action. MAPPING reminds us that knowledge, prevention, screening, timely care, and community support all matters.

We cannot prevent every diagnosis, but we can encourage a loved one to seek care, help a neighbor find affordable screening, support research, and stand beside those facing treatment.

Make breast health a year-round priority, not just an October campaign. Schedule an appointment, ask a question, share reliable information, or reach out to someone who needs support.

Every life matter, every conversation counts, and the next step toward hope may begin with you.

Leavy

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est sister Linda Smith stayed by her side from day one. "She went to every appointment and made sure I was okay. My boys and my other sisters showed much love and support by making sure I was following the doctor's orders," she confided.

What has happened to Tina since her breast cancer diagnosis? Her breast cancer saga has given her a positive outlook on life. "God graced me a chance to live; therefore, I enjoy the little things I used to take for granted. Whenever I can, I encourage others to get and keep their annual mammograms," she said.

Signs of that encouragement are visible. Tina says her family and friends have looked at themselves in another light, the light of self-awareness. From that light, they understand the essentiality of taking care of themselves by being attentive to their health. Thus, they now do self-examinations and annual checkups.

In that regard, the interviewee asserted that others could help raise awareness "by sharing their stories and encouraging annual checkups." From these stories, others can be uplifted. From these stories, support systems can be developed.

When asked what her new priorities are, breast cancer survivor Leavy listed loving on family, staying positive, and continuing to trust God. These tools are the mechanisms for enabling her to function properly while being mindful that hers is not a walk alone. From these tools, there is resilience.

Irrespective of Leavy's story, anyone, despite gender, race, or ethnicity can get breast cancer. Age plays an essential part in getting the disease, but after age fifty, the stakes can be higher. Learning the signs of breast cancer, such as body changes, is highly recommended.

Bridgett Clayton: A Steady Hand for Matters of the Heart

Decades of preparation, a lifelong vision and a commitment to compassionate justice shape her bid for Hinds County Chancery Court

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer





For Bridgett Clayton, the dream began at eight years old, while sitting on her porch with family and friends; become a lawyer, then a judge. What followed was a lifetime of preparation for work that requires both a sharp legal mind and an understanding heart.

Now seeking a seat on the Hinds County Chancery Court, Clayton offers a refreshing message centered on maturity, emotional intelligence, integrity and the steady temperament families deserve.

"I feel this is my season," she said.

According to Clayton, others saw that readiness, too. People encouraged her to run because of her temperament, including a deacon at her church. Their encouragement reflected confidence in how she handles people, pressure and responsibility.

Those qualities carry particular significance in chancery court, where the matters before a judge often touch the most intimate parts of a person's life.

Chancellors handle adoptions, divorce, child custody and support, guardianships, estates and property disputes. They hear evidence, determine facts, interpret the law and issue enforceable rulings. Most proceedings take place without a jury, placing substantial responsibility directly on the judge.

Behind those proceedings are children awaiting permanent homes, parents navigating separation and families grieving loved ones. Legal knowledge is essential. So are patience, discernment and the ability to listen before deciding.

Clayton's preparation includes a decade as a Jackson municipal judge and a private practice encompassing family law, probate, estate matters and real-property disputes, the very kinds of issues that come before chancery court. In her published candidate responses, she identifies competence, compassion and civility as the foundation of her judicial philosophy.

A 1994 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, Clayton recalls entering with 15 African American students. By graduation, she said, she was the only woman among the five who finished, a personal milestone that speaks to perseverance and determination.

For Black women who have had to establish their place in demanding professional spaces, that journey carries familiar meaning: preparation, persistence and the resolve to keep going.

Clayton says her public service has included working with six different mayors. Alongside her judicial experience, she points to private practice, church service and civic engagement as preparation for the responsibilities ahead.

Her community commitments extend beyond paid legal work. Meridian Community College's alumni profile documents her participation in the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, providing legal assistance to people with limited financial means, as well as service at New Hope Baptist Church and membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

She also speaks proudly of 43 years of marriage and two successful children. Family life has helped shape the perspective she would bring to a court where decisions can affect generations.

Clayton's argument is that voters should weigh relevant experience and judicial temperament carefully. Being connected to a district matters; understanding its families, mastering the law and treating people fairly are responsibilities that continue long after an election.

Her own experience in chancery matters gives that argument substance. She emphasizes the importance of studying changes in the law and knowing how to interpret and apply them to the individual circumstances before the court.

Compassion, in her view, must work alongside accountability.

"I don't deal with mess and everyone should be held accountable while applying justice fairly," Clayton added.

That is a firm standard with room for humanity, an orderly courtroom, careful consideration and equal treatment for everyone who enters.

For families approaching the courthouse with uncertainty, the promise of a judge who will listen, remain composed and apply the law thoughtfully has real value. Clayton's candidacy brings those qualities to the forefront, offering Hinds County a vision of justice grounded in experience and delivered with dignity.

"We can move Hinds County forward," she said.

For Clayton, that next chapter would fulfill a childhood vision. For Hinds County families, her candidacy offers the prospect of a steady hand when life's most personal matters reach the bench.

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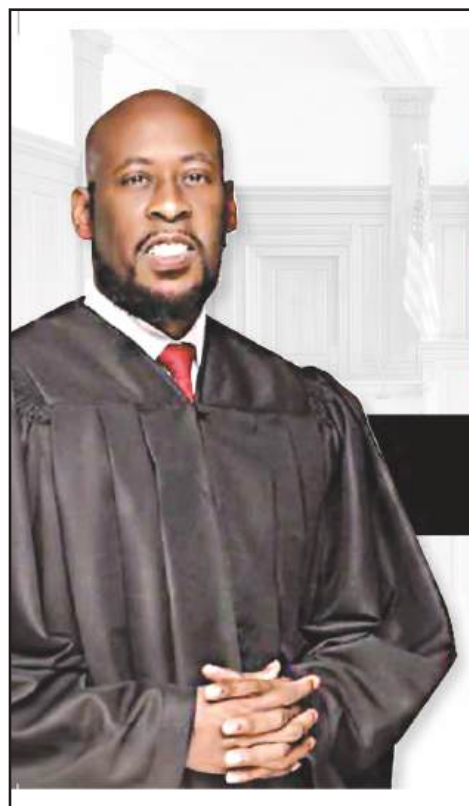
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EXPERIENCED JUDGE
- Credible Messenger Certified Youth Mentor
- Presided Over More than 8,600 Civil Cases in 2025
- Closed Over 4,100 Civil Cases in 2025
- Presided Over Bench Trial and Jury Trials
- Former Public Defender and County Prosecutor

AWARDS
- Received U.S. Congressional Record Award From Congressman Bennie G. Thompson for Act of Heroism, 2022
- R. Jess Brown "Lawyer of the Year" Award Winner, 2011 and 2022
- Judge Larita Cooper-Stokes Humanitarian Award Winner, 2025
- Dog Gone Dition Festival Appreciation Award, 2025
- Mississippi Judicial Award, 2025

"FROM THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY"

Federation of Colored Women

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates will host the 116th Annual Convention and 123rd Anniversary on November 6–8, 2026. The convention will be held at The Hilton Jackson Hotel, located at 1001 E. County Line Rd., Jackson, MS 39211. The MSFCWC will celebrate its rich heritage, spirit of excellence, and perseverance to make a difference in the community, state, and nation.

This event engages federated clubs across Mississippi to share their visions and showcase their accomplishments. Its aim is to increase awareness of our national

Organization (National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates), which was founded in 1896 and has the distinction of being America's oldest Black women's organization. It will also highlight regional, state, and local historical trailblazers and offer inspiring workshops and enrichment activities.

In addition to business and youth activities, the convention will open with a Welcome Reception. This is a "meet and greet affair that introduces MSFCWC to the citizens of the Metro area. It will be held on Friday, November 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public. For ticketed meal events, contact any club member.

About MSFCWC

The purpose of MSFCWC is the binding together of women to advance their social, moral, and charitable endeavors, as well as promote the education of women and youth in economic, cultural and civic affairs. Scholarships and service programs are also part of the organization's agenda. It is unparalleled as a charitable, nonprofit devoted to uplifting others. It's motto is "Lifting as we Climb."

We keep on Mississippi-ing

Carnival of chaos in Washington as we go to the polls - The Hospitality State has its own brand

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker and Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden - 29 Byron Street, Ruleville, MS. PHOTO: MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL.

COMMENTARY

There is so much chaos going on in our nation's Capital. Keeping track is a phenomenal task, despite nearly 24-hour news coverage. Trump will do whatever it takes to keep the House and Senate in Republican control – not for the good of the country, but to increase his chances of staying unaccountable to the country he was elected to serve.

Just one of his initiatives was announced in the Oval Office September 18, 2026 – implementing the Medicaid GENEROUS model – which portends to lower prescription drug prices. The details have not been made public, and so it's difficult to tell if the billions in announced savings will ever be realized. In speaking to reporters, Trump said, "this one thing alone should win us the midterms," while flanked by Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee and Mississippi Governor Jonathan "Tate" Reeves – leaders of two of the five poorest states in the country. Unlike Mississippi, Arkansas has expanded Medicaid.

Who knows what will come of it, like most things Trump does, it seems like regular American's get squeezed, making 'affordability' the core issue in the minds of midterm voters across the country, and surely in Mississippi. Just three years ago, the incumbent Mississippi Governor won re-election by 26,619 votes, or 3.2 percent of the ballots cast. It could have been less than 2 percentage points but for 11,153 votes that went to independent candidate Gwendolyn Gray, all per the New York Times. Just 325 more votes for Democratic challenger Brandon Pressley, in each of our 82 counties, and we would have been able to realize change in The Hospitality State. It would have been a watershed moment for the poorest state in the nation, where racial division rules. But no such good fortune, so we just keep on Mississippi-ing.

The clock ticks on as we drift from year to year in our lastness. So many of our citizens suffer, are discounted or ignored. 'Liberty and justice for all' and 'all men are created equal' are painfully hollow sentiments in Christian-dominated Mississippi. Is there more than one conclusion to draw as to why?

Permit me a brief detour. There are many who criticize the 2011 movie, The Help. After all, it's a story in which a white female novice writer catapults her career forward by telling the stories of Black female domestic workers in 1960's segregated Jackson, Mississippi. Even Viola Davis, the EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony) winner, who played the role of Aibileen Clark, and was nominated for an Oscar for the performance, later expressed regret in interviews saying that "the story was not truly from the perspectives or voices of the maids," per The Activist History Review. In the final lines of the movie, after Aibileen was fired – on trumped up charges - by the white woman whose daughter she cared for, she walked away tearfully, saying to herself, "God says we need to love our enemies. It's hard to do. But it can start by telling the truth."

As we prepare once again for critically important elections in Mississippi, let's tell some truth:

The Mississippi Legislature is 70 percent white, even though our state's white population is 58 percent. Soon, they will ignore vast public input and redistrict themselves even more white power.

Ninety-five percent of state agencies in Mississippi are led by white folks. 100 percent of statewide elected offices in Mississippi are held by white folks. We have a white Christian State Auditor who publicly defames African American non-profits, then apologizes privately. We have a poverty rate of 17.9 percent, yet the national rate is 10.2 percent.

The continued refusal to expand Medicaid for Mississippi's poor, now increasingly jeopardizes federal funding to hospitals, per Kaiser Family Foundation, and half of our hospitals face ongoing financial distress or closure risk, per Mississippi Today. We have the highest infant and child mortality rates in the nation. Our maternal mortality rate is among the highest in the nation, and 82 percent of the deaths of these mothers are preventable, per Mississippi Department of Health. We rank 50th in healthcare access per US News & World Report, and 51st in healthcare systems, access, and outcomes, per the Commonwealth Fund and Mississippi Today. 1 in 4 children in Mississippi experience regular food hardship or live in food-insecure households, per the Mississippi Food Network.

Mississippi routinely ranks first in the United States for its per capita imprisonment rate, per Equal Justice Initiative. Mississippi's prison population is 39 percent white, despite being 58 percent of population. African American prison population is over 60 percent, despite being 38 percent of population, per The VERA Institute.

Each year Mississippi awards over 99 percent of taxpayer- funded contracting expenditures to white folks, per annual Minority Participation Reports, published by Mississippi Development Authority.

The truths listed above are just the tip of the spear of Mississippi's oppression of minorities and of poor people. The governance of our state is truly anti-Christian. Now comes the right to vote. Mississippi's elected officials routinely find ways to disenfranchise voters, usually claiming the need to increase election integrity. Do you suppose that's the real reason, or is it just one more bullet-point of Mississippi-ing? We can't do what we can't do, but for most – we can still vote – we can have our voice heard. See you at the polls, Mississippi.

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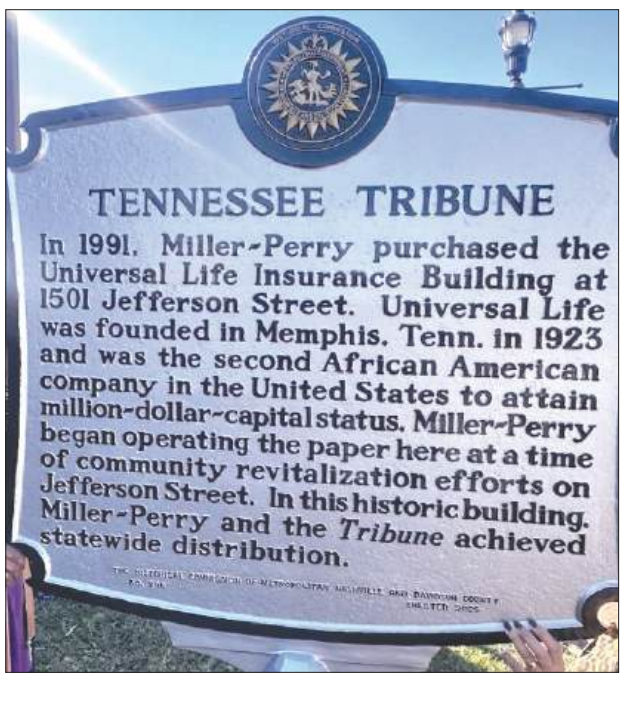
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Tennessee Tribune honored with Historical Marker on Jefferson Street

By Dr. Phyllis Qualls
Special to the Mississippi Link















It was a beautiful day, with temperatures in the mid-70s, as community members, elected officials, business leaders and supporters gathered on Jefferson Street to celebrate the legacy of the Tennessee Tribune and its founder, the late Rosetta Miller-Perry, known as the "Queen Mother of the Black Press," a title bestowed by National Newspaper Publishers Association President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

A historical marker was unveiled Saturday, Oct. 24, in front of the Tennessee Tribune building at 1501 Jefferson St., recognizing the newspaper's enduring presence and contributions to Jefferson Street and the broader Nashville community. The marker also honors Miller-Perry, whose vision, determination and commitment to the Black press helped establish the Tribune as an important voice in Tennessee.

Miller-Perry founded the Tennessee Tribune in 1991, following the launch of Contempora Magazine in 1990. Both publications became part of the cultural and historical fabric of Jefferson Street, a community she loved and worked tirelessly to see recognized and respected.

She believed Jefferson Street was an economic engine with the potential to thrive alongside any other part of Nashville. She understood its historical significance, cultural contributions and economic promise and advocated for its businesses and institutions throughout her life.

Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell reflected on his relationship with Miller-Perry and her impact on the city.

"I met Mrs. Perry years ago when I moved to a neighborhood a few blocks from her beloved Jefferson Street," O'Connell said. "Through the years, as she and I got to know one another, I learned so much more about her lifelong impact and reach."

He recalled receiving what he called a "Rosettagram" when she believed he had made a mistake on an issue important to her.

"Every now and then, as an elected official, I would be the recipient of a Rosettagram—a stinging screech about something important to her where she judged that I had erred. And then one of us picked up the phone, and somehow, it seemed like things would get sorted out with the power of her passion intact and the point of her pen less severe."

Miller-Perry died June 26, 2026, at age 91. Her daughter, Wanda Miller-Benson, said the marker represents the values and determination that defined her mother's life.

"This marker reflects my mother's lifetime of hard work, sacrifice, courage, and faith that will be reflected for generations to come, not only in our family but to her beloved Tennessee community," Miller-Benson said.

The marker was approved by the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission, following a project led by Assessor of Property Vivian Wilhoite, who worked to fulfill Miller-Perry's wish to have Jefferson Street's history recognized and preserved.

Wilhoite explained that the marker came about because Miller-Perry herself had asked for it.

"This historical marker came to be because Mrs. Perry asked that it be done. She wanted this history recognized and preserved, and once she shared that desire with me on more than one late night and in the wee early morning hour, there was one moment when I felt like I must get to work on this. I contacted the Metro Historical Commission, and together we began the process of bringing her vision to fruition," Wilhoite said.

Wilhoite concluded her remarks by emphasizing that Miller-Perry's request had been honored and that the marker carried significance beyond one individual's legacy.

"Mrs. Perry, your request was heard. Your words were respected. Your wishes were honored. And as Jessica of the Historical Commission observed as your marker was being installed, of the Historical Markers that are established in this area on Jefferson Street who are all honoring amazing men, you are the only one marker that's of an amazing woman," Wilhoite said.

Davidson County District Attorney Glenn Funk described Miller-Perry as a powerful advocate for Tennesseans.

"Rosetta Miller Perry was one of Tennessee's greatest natural resources. She was the conscience of our state. She voiced the concerns of people to community leaders and convinced elected officials to make necessary changes. Nashville and Tennessee are forever better, thanks to Ms. Miller-Perry," Funk said.

The dedication brought together a broad cross-section of Nashville's civic and cultural community, including Mayor O'Connell, former Mayor Bill Purcell, Council Member-at-Large Zulfat Suara, Funk and song stylist Patrick Dailey, with June Michaux serving as emcee. Miller-Benson spoke on behalf of the family, while elected officials, business owners, clergy, civil rights advocates and longtime supporters joined in the celebration.

The historical marker serves as a lasting recognition of the Tennessee Tribune's place in Nashville's history and the legacy of the woman who founded it. Through the newspaper, Miller-Perry helped preserve the stories, amplify the concerns and champion the aspirations of Black communities across Tennessee.



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What to do when you have a relentless chronic cough

StatePoint

A chronic cough isn't just a nuisance; it can adversely impact quality of life. Chronic coughing can cause lack of sleep, increased anxiety and depression, impaired work productivity and social stigma. Defined as a cough lasting eight weeks or longer, chronic cough impacts an estimated 5% of people in the United States.

People living with a chronic cough may experience spasms sometimes called "spells," "fits" or "bouts." These sudden, often intense and uncontrollable coughing episodes can last several minutes, and may cause chest pain, vomiting, difficulty breathing or bladder leakage.



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) LIUBOMYR VORONA / ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Some people suffer from unexplained chronic cough. Paulette N. spent years searching for answers for her chronic cough. "Everything they told me to do, I would do." Nevertheless, she sometimes coughs in bouts that disrupt her quality of life and remains anxious about when the next episode will occur. "Will I start coughing on a plane or at the movies? It's always on my mind," she says.

For others, chronic cough is linked to their interstitial lung disease. Mitch F.'s late father Irv was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a type of interstitial lung disease. And like many others living with IPF, Irv had a debilitating chronic cough. Mitch recalls "relentless coughing" that impacted his dad. "He was always trying to clear his lungs. He couldn't breathe."

"Maybe the hardest part is that the cough is a constant reminder that my lungs aren't healthy," says Rick M., who is living with interstitial lung disease. Rick's diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis is hard on its own, limiting his physical activity and making it harder to do the things he loves. "But I still persevere. I have to keep moving forward and not let the disease or the cough define me."

The American Lung Association, with support from Trevi Therapeutics, Inc., recognizes World Chronic Cough Day. Launched by the Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform, the day is dedicated to giving people living with chronic cough a stronger voice and increased understanding of the condition and encouraging people with a persistent cough to seek appropriate medical support. Here's what the Lung Association wants you to know about this World Chronic Cough Day and beyond:

Types of Coughs Differ: Paulette and Rick have persistent dry coughs – ones that don't produce mucus or phlegm. Unlike a productive cough, which can help clear irritants or phlegm out of your airway, their coughs do not offer physical relief. Like other types of chronic cough, they can be exhausting, embarrassing and physically uncomfortable.

Treatment: While there are currently no FDA-approved chronic cough treatments, clinical trials are underway to help identify and test new therapies. "My hope is that there will be help and comfort for people like me in dealing with this cough that seems to take control of my life," says Paulette.

Take Action: Talk to your healthcare provider if you have a cough that has lasted for eight weeks or longer to determine if there is an underlying cause. And if you have a loved one who has a chronic cough, talk to them about steps they can take to help make living with a chronic cough easier.

The Lung Association offers broad Chronic Cough Resources, including patient stories, fact sheets, videos—featuring patient and physician perspectives—a Diagnosis Roadmap, an online support community, and a Chronic Cough Quiz. The free Lung Helpline offers expert chronic cough information or support by phone, web chat or email. Learn more about chronic cough at Lung.org/chronic-cough.

While chronic cough can be frustrating, understanding it is the first step toward breathing easier.



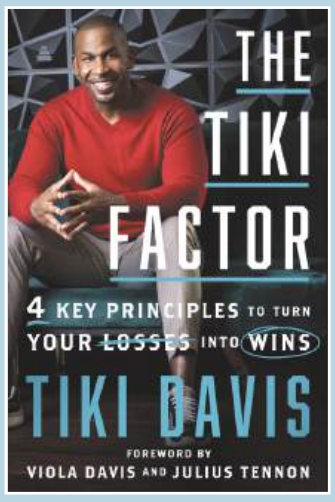


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BOOK REVIEW: THE TIKI FACTOR: 4 KEY PRINCIPLES TO TURN YOUR LOSSES INTO WINS

BY TIKI DAVIS, FOREWORD BY VIOLA DAVIS AND JULIUS TENNON • C.2026, AMISTAD $30.00 • 320 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Pull yourself up by the bootstraps.

That's often the advice given to someone who's down and out and left with nothing. Get ahold of yourself, find your spine, and just do it. Take that first step, be brave, don't accept "no" for an answer. There are all kinds of advice for getting ahead but advice ignores one important thing: as in the new book "The Tiki Factor" by Tiki Davis, you cannot pull yourself up by the bootstraps unless you have boots first.

His life, he says, was never anything "normal."

Neither of Tiki Davis's parents completed high school; he was not even certain who his father was until he became older. For much of Davis's early childhood, he was shuttled between Artesia, New Mexico and Odessa, TX, between his mother and his grandmothers. He was almost killed by one of his mother's customers at age nine; he wore his older brother's raggedy hand-me-downs until he was eleven years old. That was when Davis landed a job so he could pay for his own food and clothing. Even then, he resorted to stealing when he needed something he could not buy.

Adults pushed him toward sports to channel his aggression and energy, and football became Davis's passion. He set his sights on playing for a specific local high school team, but doing so meant leaving The Flats behind and entering a boys' home, where he found safety in what was left of his childhood. He became a leader, and he dared to dream of college.

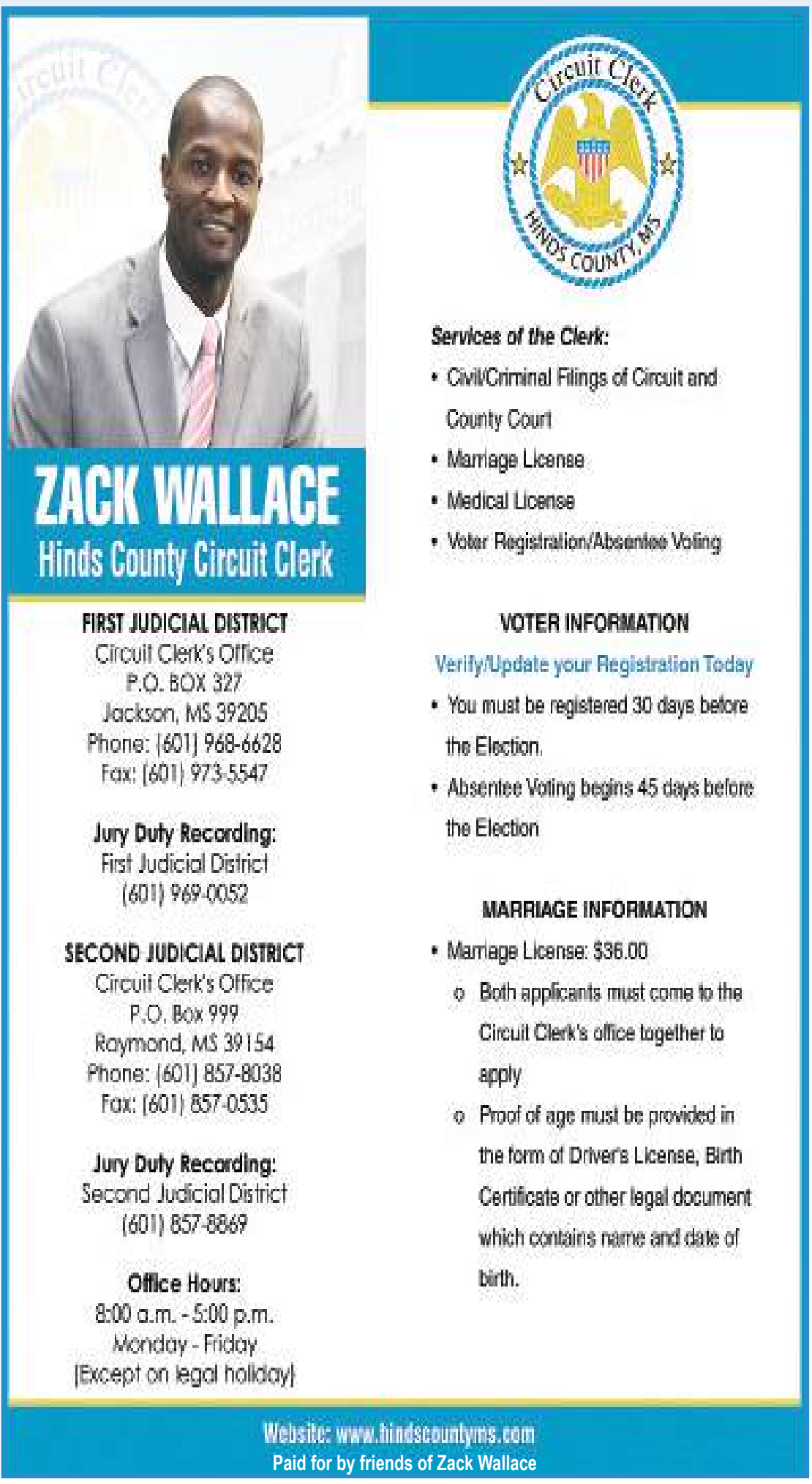
But his track to success fell apart when he was accused, arrested, and imprisoned for a crime he could not prove he did not commit. He missed his high school graduation, and job prospects were bleak, but he was good at spotting opportunity.

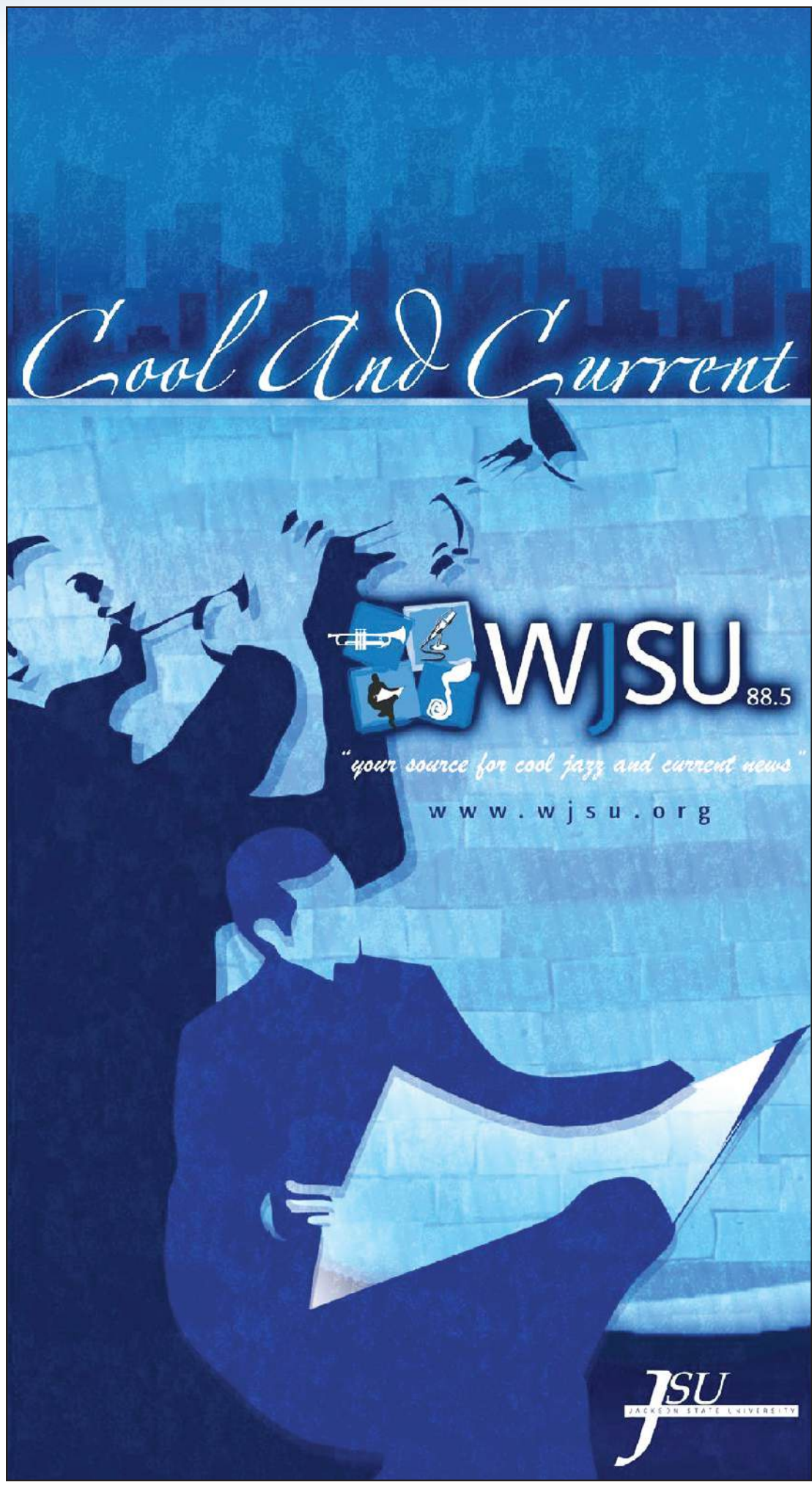
Still, "It seemed every time I took two steps forward," he says, "I was knocked back five or ten."

At the risk of being a spoiler, "The Tiki Factor" is not without a happy conclusion. You will find goodness in this story pretty quickly. What you will not find – at least not overtly – are the promised "4 Key Principles."

Those principles are inside this book somewhere, subtly, probably, maybe. The good news is, you will not mind if you miss them while you're enjoying this biography, because author Tiki Davis is brutally honest about his early life. Yet, despite every slight and disadvantage, through every denial and hardship, and because of mentors and angels that came when he needed them most, he succeeded, which is a riveting tale. Davis is a businessman now, an entrepreneur, and a philanthropist and, after chapters and chapters of heart-in-your-throat reading, just knowing that might come as a whoosh of relief to most readers.

Perhaps that's where the "Principles" are in the overall book, hidden in tales of poverty, crime, abandonment, perseverance, inspiration, and leadership. Readers will want to possess a willingness to wait, though, to read between the lines, or at least not fret so much about these cloaked "Principles." Do that, find "The Tiki Factor," and strap in.





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Le Fleur Haven Senior Housing connects Cultures & Communities at Octoberfest

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



Residences, Visitors, Vendors, and Hinds County speakers rose to the occasion by making Octoberfest beneficial to cultures and communities. PHOTO BY JANICE NEAL-VINCENT

Several Hinds County speakers and residents mingled at the Octoberfest at Le Fleur Haven Senior Housing (161 Briarwood Dr.) in Jackson last week. The sunny, breezy day was perfect for entering the building to witness what the featured speakers had to say to the community. Orchestrated by Shirley Richardson, Service Coordinator Le Fleur Senior Housing, the gathering had a halo effect. Deference shown to senior citizens for the work that they had done in the community and the influence they had on residents and persons who frequent Hinds County created a welcoming spark of approval among listeners who sighed, smiled, laughed and applauded.

Richardson claimed, "Octoberfest community leaders have consistently demonstrated their willingness and ability to support senior affordable housing communities by providing high-quality services that enable residents to continue to live independently and self-sufficient." She stressed that through the power of partnership, they are connecting cultures and communities. Such a connection creates better homes, safer communities, excellent services and resources. "Our residents are striving to live well and stay well, through the power of community partnership," she denoted.

The care that was exemplified came from the speakers' acknowledgement of the seniors as human beings who deserve the "best" of care. Care was expressed with raise the praise; community safety; tax understanding; gender-related concerns; civil suits and jury management. Connecting with the community makes "a better tomorrow." Accolades were given to the seniors because "seniors build stronger communities."

Eddie Fair, Hinds County Tax Collector - provided pertinent information regarding how Mississippi taxes affect residents by age. For instance, he emphasized that despite the county in which one resides, a person would have to be at least 25 years old to get an antique tag. An extra $58.00 is required for a personalized tag. Taxes are exempt for persons who are 65 or older with property that is $75,000 or less. Fair further stated that there are two Tax Collector's offices: Jackson and Raymond. "When you pay your car tag and house taxes, the City of Jackson has no more money. All we do is collect the money and distribute the money. You can pay by cash or check. If you use a credit card, you have to come inside," he stated.

Recruiter Bernard Moore III of the Hinds County Sheriff's Office issued a caveat about answering phone scammers: "No verifiable agency is going to call and tell you to send them money. We have an app for you to download so you can reach us. There's information in that app about crime." The speaker further noted that if the citizens see something that is not right, they should report it. Mentioning that "the enemy is out," citizens should never go out alone. "Always go out in groups."

"We cannot be successful if we do not honor you. We are here to share information with you. We look forward to a continued partnership with you," said Sheriff Tyree Jones. He stated further that he wanted the citizens to "choose to converse" with his office by using their cellphones.

Jackson City Councilwoman Tina Clay represents Ward 2. She specified that her objective is to improve the quality of life for Jackson residents. There is a language spoken by females that is not spoken by males and vice versa. Both perspectives, however, are essential for improving life for all.

Hinds County Circuit Clerk Zack Wallace serves as the main court-records officer for Circuit Court and County Court in Hinds County, MS. He mentioned that there are two clerk offices in Hinds County: one in Jackson and one in Raymond. Each serves a different court district. The Circuit Clerk manages case files for felony prosecutions, major civil suits, and appeals at the circuit level, jury management and certain election functions. Unlike the Circuit Clerk's Office, the Chancery Clerk's Office handles equity, land, and estate matters.

Dr. Hilda Bourne is CEO/Owner of The Insurance Group. She explained that insurance is vital and citizens should have adequate knowledge about it. She said essentially that insurance provides stability (financial peace of mind). Group insurance covers a collection of people under a collective agreement. It is an employee benefit package that can be beneficial to those who have it.

National Evangelist Dean Cotton sprinkled familiar songs amidst the speakers' presentations. Her skillful techniques pulled the listeners into the songs as they identified with her. Additionally, occasionally, some speakers would urge the listeners to vote during the November 3rd election, a reminder of back in the day approaches used by civil rights leaders and pulpiteers.

Outside the walls of Le Fleur Haven Senior Housing were company representatives. They distributed information and answered questions from those who visited their tables. Senior Technician Jamyra Mangum and Pharmacy Manager Anney Khalie represented Walgreens. They explained vaccine opportunities for communities. Persons who desire to contact Walgreens can call 601-853-2088.

Alicia Barnes (MBA, CEO) and Ashley N. Barnes (Office Manager) are Circle of Care Health Clinic representatives who "focus on the whole person" for wellness. The two sisters provide vaccinations to the community. Partnering with Walgreens, they connect to, care for and transform the community with compassion.

Krissy Hudson of MAC Center (located in Jackson) is a representative for Resource and Referral Center for those 60 and older or disabled. Assistance is provided for a number of things. Ranges from Medicaid Waivers to aging Services are included. Older people with disabilities and their families and representatives are assisted in finding long-term care services and supports to keep them living well and independent.

Also onsite were several assisted living persons. Jannie Wells explained that those facilities offer support with daily activities, safety monitoring and social engagement while allowing residents to maintain their independence. "We also serve independent and assistant living with occupational and physical therapy in the surrounding Jackson areas," declared Wells.

Persons who attended Octoberfest at Le Fleur Haven Senior Housing benefitted in a variety of ways. They were able to converse one-on-one with community representatives. They established connections with cultures and communities. They received packets loaded with invaluable information for better homes; better health; safer communities; The Fair Report (October 2026); pens; journals; snacks; and a hearty meal. On the outside, DJ Randy Wildman Brown and wife, Janice, entertained attendants with popular tunes and a table with original art by James Hampton was on display and available for sale.

PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT AND JAMES HAMPTON III



















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Jackson Public Schools shows gains in 2026 State Accountability Results

The JPS Newswire

Jackson Public Schools made broad academic gains in the 2026 Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, increasing its district score by 37 points, from 536 in 2025 to 573 points in 2026, maintaining a C rating even under the higher performance requirements.

Barack Obama is a 700-point elementary school ranked in the state's top ten.

The progress extended across the district. Twenty-six of JPS's 35 rated schools gained at least 10 accountability points, 10 schools improved by at least one letter grade, and 20 schools are now rated C or higher, up from 15 the previous year.

Gains Under a Higher Bar

The gains come during the first year of newly approved performance-level cut scores for Mississippi's accountability system. On November 20, 2025, the Mississippi State Board of Education approved new performance thresholds for A–F school and district ratings, effective beginning with the 2025–2026 school year. "We are proud to achieve measurable progress across our district, especially under the increased state expectations for academic performance," said Superintendent Dr. Errick Greene.

Schools Moving Up

The number of C-rated schools increased from three to 11, while the number of F-rated schools declined from 10 to six.

Timberlawn Elementary led the district with a 130-point gain, moving from D to B. Shirley Elementary improved from F to C with an 89-point gain. Wilkins Elementary gained 103 points and moved from D to C, while Lanier Jr./Sr. High gained 103 points.

Cardozo Middle School demonstrated significant academic growth, earning a 93-point increase in its school rating and reflecting meaningful progress in scholar achievement.

Four schools, Barack Obama, Casey, McWillie and North Jackson, earned an A for the second consecutive year.

Building Toward 2029 Strategic Plan

Science represents one of the district's strongest areas of momentum. JPS science proficiency increased from 35.7 percent to 42.4 percent in one year, moving the district significantly closer to its 2029 goal of 50 percent proficiency.

The 2026 results demonstrate progress while reinforcing the work ahead. Guided by its core values of Equity, Excellence, Growth Mindset, Relationships, Relevance, and a Positive & Respectful Culture, JPS will continue building on this momentum as it works toward its 2029 strategic goals.





College Hill MB Church recognizes breast cancer survivors and their caregivers

By Gail Gettis
Contributing Writer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month when organizations, businesses and churches use this as an opportunity to educate, support and recognize those who have suffered with breast cancer and treatment. Claudia Henderson, president of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church's Mission Circle #1 and cancer survivor, leads the charge to recognize survivors annually. This year, on October 25th during the 10 o'clock Sunday morning worship service, Henderson elected to include recognition of selfless caregivers.

Prior to Pastor Chauncey Jordan, Sr.'s message, the recognition began with a special declaration. "This message is personal for me. After seven years of follow up care for breast cancer I have been released by my oncologist two months ago," said LaGrace Barnes, leader of College Hill's Healthcare Ministry. "I stand before you today grateful for God's grace, and as a living reminder of why awareness and advocating for yourself is important."

Barnes went on to discuss the correlation between early detection, education and saving lives. According to Barnes, who is a nurse, Black women are 38 percent more likely to die from breast cancer though less likely to develop it. This shows how important getting annual mammograms, early diagnosis and proper care is for survival of women in the Black community.



Breast Cancer Survivors holding certificates on behalf of their caregivers along with other College Hill members.



LaGrace Barnes speaking on behalf of College Hill's Healthcare Ministry.

On behalf of caregivers, Deacon Darryl Jenkins, as a husband to a survivor in the fight for many years spoke. Jenkins stated how important it is for Christian caregivers to be in the service of the Lord as the hands and feet of Jesus. He encouraged caregivers to remember that compassion is not simply what we do but how we do it. He further emphasized the fact that caregiving is not easy and can be tiring, but suggests leaning on the words in Galatians 6:9 (KJV): "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not."

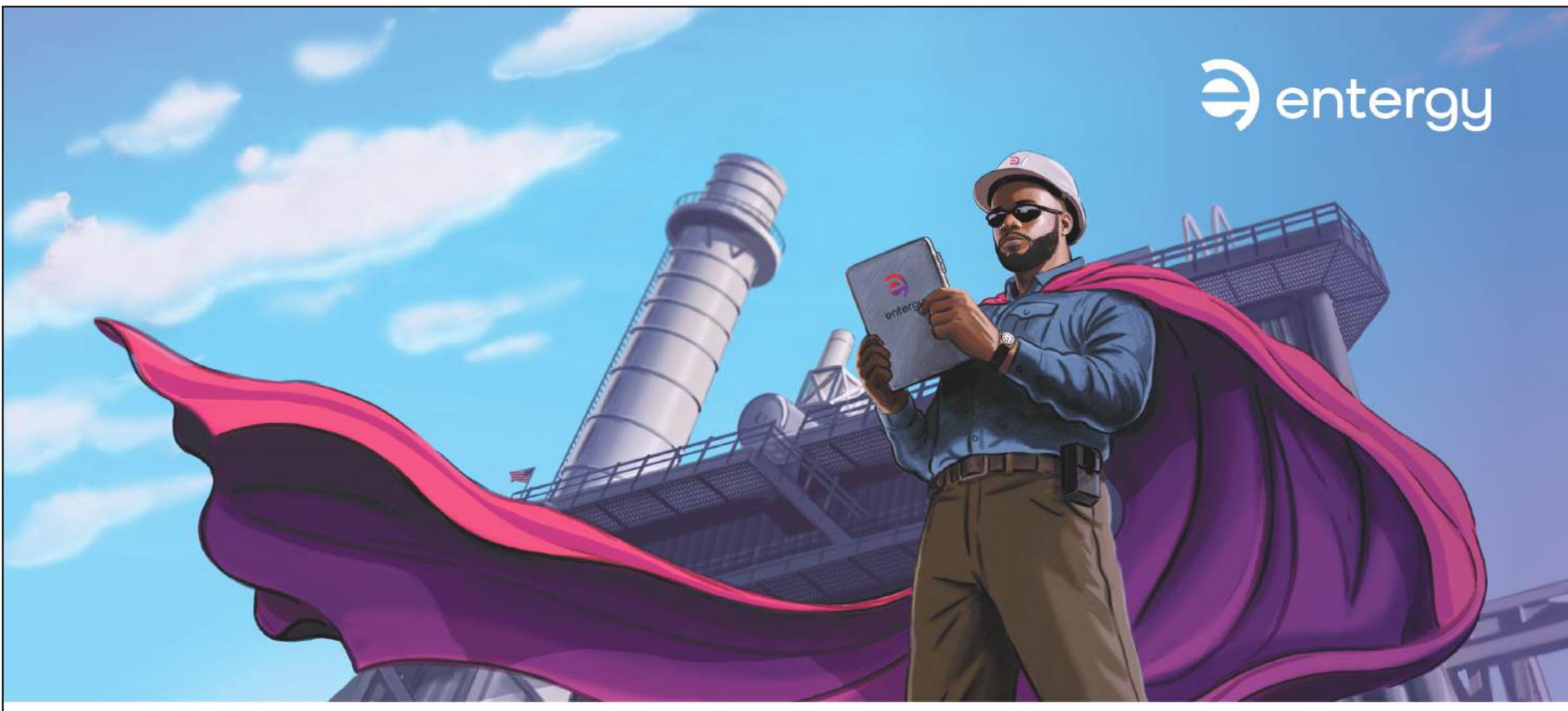
As is tradition, in their representative pink attire survivors were called to the front to be recognized, and their primary caregivers and families stood to be recognized also.



Mission Circle # 1 President, Claudette Henderson, (4th from left) along with other Mission Circle #1 members.



Deacon Darryl Jenkins speaking on behalf of caregivers.



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Children Having Guns In Our Schools. Does That Sound Right?

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



There are several events today that make me think about my days as a young boy. While technology and other improvements have made life better, I long sometimes for the days of yesteryear.

Maybe some of yesteryear could be blended into this year. Some of yesterday's mores could be infused into today's mores.

We could use a little more please and thank you instead of remaining silent. How about acting a little better instead of being off the chain. Having a more pleasant disposition as opposed to having a scowl on your face.

As I go around the landscape these days, I see the constant look of bewilderment and unhappiness, especially among our youth.

Just days ago, tragedy occurred at an elementary school in Bend, Oregon. Confirmed reports say that a boy, age 16 shot and killed three children and a teacher at Silver Rail Elementary School. This sadness overwhelms me because children and a teacher are gone too soon because of gun violence.

It pains me to use guns and schools in the same sentence. This continues to be a problem in the United States of America. According to CNN data analysis, this is the 36th shooting on K-12 school grounds in 2026.

The young shooter was fatally wounded by one of the parents at the school. The shooter's mother told CNN, "I'm so sorry." Records show that he was a student at the school a few years ago.

The investigation is ongoing as law enforcement tries to figure out the motive behind this school shooting. At this time, we can only speculate as to what may have triggered this incident.

We are living in a society where guns are getting into the hands of the wrong people. How do children get their hands on guns? Unfortunately, it troubles me to say that's an easy answer.

Parents and relatives are simply careless with these deadly weapons. They keep them in places that are easily accessible to children. Keeping them in a locked safety box is the only way to go and parents must maintain strict control of the keys. That is my opinion.

Prior to this case, there were some other recent gun tragedies that involved young children. One of them happened in Sterling Heights, Michigan. A child in pre-school had a gun in their backpack. Fortunately, a teacher discovered it before harm was done.

Do you recall the case involving a child age 3 who brought a loaded firearm to class? This happened at the Children's World Early Learning Center in Canton Township, Michigan.

While you are reading this, you are probably wondering how in the world did these incidents happen? You must pay attention to detail when you own a gun. When there is a lack of attention to detail, things happen.

I am totally flummoxed as to what the mindset is of love providers when they leave guns out in public spaces. Do you think kids will just walk by them and not pick them up?

According to reports from the Pew Research Center and Gallup, 77 million to 107 million people own guns in America. This is roughly 32% to 40% of adults. Men own guns at a rate of 40% to 45% while women own them at a rate of 12% to 19%.

Now for those affected by the gun violence most recently in Oregon, the lives of these families will never be the same. Anguish and torment will be their constant companions.

Schools will be out for the Thanksgiving holiday soon. As a result, children will be at home playing and having fun. As we did when we were young, they will get into stuff. Be cognizant of the fact that it only takes a minute for joy to turn into sadness. Be careful and be cautious.

Could Trump's execution push help end the death penalty?

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



What if President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's push for more executions ends up helping America abolish the death penalty?

After this wild October, the question is not so far-fetched.

Hegseth wanted Americans to watch the firing-squad execution of Nidal Hasan, convicted of murdering 13 people at Fort Hood. But some of the sharpest objections came from conservatives.

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis called streaming the execution "beyond disgusting," adding: "Public executions are what oppressive dictatorships like Iran and Afghanistan do." Utah Republican Sen. John Curtis warned, "A civilization erodes when it cultivates an appetite for executions as a form of entertainment."

A Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll found 80 percent of Americans opposed the broadcast, including 64 percent of Republicans. Trump canceled the livestream October 15. The execution itself remains scheduled.

That distinction matters. Opposing a spectacle is not the same as opposing capital punishment. But look at what else happened this year.

On October 20, Republican Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey commuted Toforest Johnson's death sentence to life without parole.

Johnson was convicted of murdering a sheriff's deputy. His conviction stands, but the local district attorney, former judges and others questioned the evidence.

"I had concerns there was not enough direct evidence to carry out the most serious punishment, death," Ivey explained. She did not declare him innocent. She recognized that execution leaves no opportunity to correct a mistake.

Then there is Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine. As a state senator in 1981, he voted to restore Ohio's death penalty. After decades as a prosecutor, attorney general, U.S. senator and governor, he called for its abolition in June.

"The moral justification I had," DeWine said, "no longer exists." He concluded the death penalty does not deter murder and described the toll that decades of appeals exact on victims' families. Ohio has not executed anyone since 2018. Bipartisan repeal legislation is pending, although legislative opposition remains.

Those are not identical positions. They do, however, raise questions conservatives have particular reasons to ask: How can we distrust government with ordinary powers yet trust it never to execute an innocent person? And what does justice require when punishment becomes a spectacle?

There is also a constitutional reason to pay attention.

Fifty years ago, in Gregg v. Georgia, the Supreme Court allowed executions to resume. But the Eighth Amendment still forbids cruel and unusual punishment. In Atkins v. Virginia, the Court prohibited executing people with intellectual disabilities. In Roper v. Simmons, it prohibited execution of crimes committed before age 18.

Both rulings considered America's "evolving standards of decency," including the number of states rejecting those practices and the direction of change.

Today, 23 states have abolished the death penalty. Ten more retain it but have gone at least a decade without carrying out an execution. That is 33 states — two-thirds of the country — where executions have been abolished or absent for at least ten years.

Just three more abolition states would make a majority. That would not automatically make capital punishment unconstitutional. The Supreme Court has no simple 26-state rule. But the growing rarity of executions is evidence future justices would have to confront.

The cruelty, meanwhile, is impossible to dismiss. In September, Tennessee's attempt to execute Christa Pike by lethal injection failed. She survived, and Republican Gov. Bill Lee halted the state's remaining scheduled executions pending an independent review.

September also marked 15 years since Georgia executed Troy Davis. I stood outside that prison. Seven of nine key witnesses had recanted or changed their accounts. William Sessions, FBI director under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, urged Georgia to stop. It did not.

I helped lead Maryland's successful abolition campaign in 2013, making it the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to end capital punishment. I learned then that this cause can unite people who disagree on almost everything else: believers in redemption, skeptics of government, and people determined not to risk an irreversible injustice.

Virginia became the first former Confederate state to abolish the death penalty five years ago. More executions are taking place in some states now; today's Court may be unwilling to overturn the punishment. Hope should not be confused with certainty.

But this October brought something real: Republicans rejected an execution broadcast, one governor spared a man amid doubts, and another is asking his state to end executions altogether.

Those are not the same steps. They are steps in the same direction.

Maybe Trump and Hegseth have inadvertently done something abolitionists could not: made more Americans look squarely at what government killing means.

Fifty years after executions have resumed, that may help us finally bring them to an end.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP. He also served as the founding director of Amnesty International USA's domestic human rights program.

Which Candidates are worthy of our Trust?

By Jannie B. Johnson
Caring n' Sharing



Fellow Americans let us go to the polls in droves on Nov. 3rd and vote for the candidates of our choice. If our choices of candidates win, that could be good, hopeful-ly. If they don't win, let's spend no time bad mouthing the winners. Why… because our new laws/new policies will not allow them, Republicans or Democrats, to do much of anything about fixing our broken systems, restoring integrity in our institutions, and reviving a moral sense of decency.

Our laws have our leaders strapped down in fear of offending somebody or some group somewhere. They are wedged in tight between diversity and political correctness. Therefore, their leadership is in the thick of thin things, and personal matters that are noisy.

I think our candidates mean well. I believe that they know that we are living with brokenness everywhere. All of our institutes are in need of a fixing, repair, a replacement, or a makeover.

America has some serious issues before her as a civilized nation. Her issues are core, basic and fundamental/foundational. This is a unique hour in the history of America. If we are to hold this civil society together, we need more than your truth and my truth. That won't work for us! Our customized moral compass is no match for our base instincts to abuse, misuse, lie, cheat, steal, kill and destroy ourselves. We need those invisible bonds of shared morals restored in our private and public places. America needs divine intervention in her policies, plans, and projects.

America must live as if there is a God or proposes there is a God. If NOT, there are no alternate bases for ethics. No civilization is safe until it is second in allegiance to God and His morality. Anon.

We have evolved into a hybrid society. We don't think like we used to think. We don't know what we used to know. Our words don't mean what they used to mean. Our language is scrambled and fluid. We have created handicaps for ourselves and blaming others.

I have come to this realization, people are people; they are capable of good and evil and sometimes they mix it up. Without a moral compass, they will do what is right in their own eyes. Without guilt or shame, they can justify their choice of behavior, moral/immoral, legal/illegal or whatever. They can get comfortable with wrong doings, too, and feel no responsibility for or accountability to anybody.

Voters, do you believe that the candidates you plan to vote for on Nov. 3rd are trustworthy? Do they have the moral courage, commitment and ability needed to resist the temptations that come alongside their positions of authority, power, and influence? Now, which candidates will you vote as trustworthy ?

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2026 AT 11:00aM IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

NEW BUSINESS
CASE NO. HPNC-26-33
LOCATION: 1055 MANSHIP ST (PARCEL 19-4)

HISTORIC DISTRICT: BELHAVEN APPLICANT: THERESA FRIDAY

REQUEST:

1. REPLACE DAMAGE PINE SIDING WITH SMOOTH HARDIE PLANK
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3. REPLACE WOOD TRIM AS NEEDED
4. REPAIR BRICK STEPS

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026 AT 6:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF RUSSELL C. DAVIS PLANETARIUM LOCATED IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI AS THE "McNAIR-DAVIS PLANETARIUM".

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, RENAMING THE CITY-OWNED RUSSEL C DAVIS PLANETARIUM LOCATED IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AS THE "McNAIR-DAVIS PLANETARIUM"; FINDING THAT THE HONOREES HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRIBUTION TO THE CITY, STATE, AND NATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10/29/2026

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
Office of the Mayor | Department of Human & Cultural Services

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF INFORMATION

Request for Information (RFI) No. 98863-020927

Livingston Super Park at the Jackson Zoo

Next-Generation Family Entertainment & Recreation

The City of Jackson, Mississippi, through the Office of the Mayor and the Department of Human & Cultural Services, will release a Request for Information (RFI) on **October 29, 2026**. The City seeks concepts, development ideas, and partnership structures for the redevelopment and enhancement of **Livingston Park and the Jackson Zoo**, a campus of approximately 100 acres in West Jackson in Ward 5, as a unified family entertainment, recreation, and tourism destination.

Qualified firms, developers, entertainment companies, nonprofit operators, technology innovators, and public-private partnership specialists are invited to respond. Concepts of interest include outdoor recreation and adventure; water-based recreation on Livingston Lake, including canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boating; family entertainment attractions; immersive and holographic wildlife experiences, events, and small conference facilities; environmental & walking trails, eco- enhancements; and funding / financing models. Responses may address one element or the whole.

KEY DATES

RFI release / Advertisement Dates	October 29, 2026 & November 5, 2026
Optional pre-submission conference online	Thursday, November 12, 2026
Deadline for written questions	Tuesday, November 17, 2026
City written responses to questions	Wednesday, December 2, 2026
RFI responses due	**Monday, February 8, 2027, by 5:00 PM Central Time**
Opening Date	**Tuesday, February 9, 2027, at 3:30 PM Central Time**

OBTAINING THE RFI

The complete RFI and background documents will be available beginning October 29, 2026 on the City's procurement portal at https://jacksonms.gov/business/business-procurement-and-contract/, and www.jacksonmsbids.com or by request to the contact below. Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive addenda and video conference call details.

HOW TO RESPOND

Submit responses via mail to Municipal Clerk, 219 S. President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39201, or in PDF format by email to **procurement@jacksonms.gov** with the subject line **"RFI No. 98863-020927 — [Organization Name] — Livingston Super Park."** Supporting images and renderings may be sent as separate attachments. Responses must be in English with all figures in U.S. dollars. Questions must be submitted in writing to the contact below; no oral questions will be accepted.

IMPORTANT

This RFI proposals does not commit the City to issue a Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications, or to award any contract. The City will not reimburse any costs of responding. The City may amend or cancel the RFI at any time.

CONTACT

Von Anderson, Special Projects, and Kahrna Stimley, Director
Department of Parks & Recreation, City of Jackson
200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Email: Von Anderson, vonanderson@jacksonms.gov , Kahrna Stimley, kstimley@jacksonms.gov & procurement@jacksonms.gov

OPTION B: SHORT-FORM NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE | CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
Request for Information No. 2026-26-October
Livingston Super Park at the Jackson Zoo

The City of Jackson Department of Human & Cultural Services will release a Request for Information on **October 29, 2026** seeking concepts and partnership structures to redevelop Livingston Park at the Jackson Zoo as a family entertainment and recreation destination.

Optional pre-submission video conference online: **November 12, 2026.**

Written questions regarding RFI due: **November 17, 2026.**

City of Jackson written Responses to questions due: **December 2, 2026**

RFI response submittals due: **5:00 PM Central Time, February 8, 2027.**

Opening Date of RFI: **Tuesday, February 9, 2027, at 3:30 PM Central Time**

This RFI proposals does not commit the City to issue a Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications, or to award any contract. The City will not reimburse any costs of responding. The City may amend or cancel the RFI at any time.

Full RFI and submission instructions: https://jacksonms.gov/business/business-procurement-and-contract/ and www.jacksonmsbids.com Contact via Mail: Municipal Clerk, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39201,

Email: procurement@jacksonms.gov, Von Anderson, vonanderson@jacksonms.gov & Kahrna Stimley, kstimley@jacksonms.gov

10/29/2026, 11/05/2026

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DOLLAR GENERAL
2030 N Siwell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
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5990 Medgar Evers Blvd
DOLLAR GENERAL
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)
DOLLAR GENERAL
304 Briarwood Dr
DOLLAR GENERAL
2855 McDowell Rd
DOLLAR GENERAL
104 Terry Rd
J & A FUEL STORES
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.
LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST
2325 Livingston Rd.
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Northside Drive
PICADILLY CAFETERIA
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue
SHELL FOOD MART
5492 Watkins Drive
SPORTS MEDICINE
Fortification and I-55
MURPHY USA
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)
REVELL ACE HARDWARE
Terry Rd (South Jackson)
WALGREENS
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

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B & B
702 West North Street - Canton, MS
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SOUL SET BARBER SHOP
257 Peace Street - Canton, MS
TRAILER PARK GROCERY
22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

B Y R A M

DOLLAR GENERAL
125 Swinging Bridge Dr.
HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE
5495 I-55 South Frontage Road
VOWELL'S MARKET PLACE
5777 Terry Road
CITY HALL
Terry Road

C L I N T O N

DOLLAR GENERAL
807 Berkshire St - Clinton, MS

T E R R Y

SERVICE STATION
at Exit 78
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PRESERVED

An Old-Fashioned Lesson about Forgiveness.

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



In the past few weeks once again the names Botham Jean and Amber Guyger have been in the news. After spending just 7 years of 10-year prison sentence for the murder of Botham Jean, Guyger was released from prison last week. All of the talk about her release reminded me of what I wrote a few years ago, when the eyes of the world were focused on the Dallas Police Department and Jean's murder. "She should go to jail!" "That hug was too much!" "I would not forgive period!" were some of the responses heard and read on social media regarding the Amber Guyger murder trial. The world was shocked by the senseless death of 26-year-old accountant and praise and worship leader Jean in 2018 at the hands of convicted murderer Guyger.

But what was perhaps one of the most shocking things to come out of the trial was the "hug" that Brandt Jean, Botham's younger brother gave to Guyger on the day of her sentencing. What was a gesture designed to free him from the bondage of unforgiveness, and bitterness became part of the larger conversation about police relations with the African American community as well as the often-unrealistic expectation that African Americans be gracious in forgiving the unforgiveable.

Many on social media were adamant that she was the perfect example of the "bad cop" that did not deserve forgiveness since she had not expressed remorse for her crime. I do not think it helped that the body cam footage and phone calls made by her after the shooting showed Guyger more concerned about losing her job than actually providing CPR and other potentially life-saving medical help to the mortally wounded Jean.

Matthew 18:15 is clear," If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." Did this apply to the situation with Guyger? Was forgiveness asked for and given? I am not sure because so often, it takes years to process all that happened during the controversial trial. Now her early release adds more to those still unanswered questions. Primarily, is her release from prison too early?

I still believe that the Amber Guyger murder trial could be an old-fashioned lesson in forgiveness. Looking at it through spiritual eyes, I still see it as a lesson about the difficult position of forgiving even if you don't think they deserve it. It's true that the murder of a loved one is a potentially unforgiveable offense. However, the Jean family provided a complicated example of the power of forgiveness and the grace that God gives us during the most emotionally and spiritually challenging situations. They did not offer forgiveness to free her; they did it to set their family free from a lifetime sentence of bitterness and anger.

As Christians, solutions are found in God's word even if we cannot find the strength or grace to follow them. If you look at Matthew 18:15, we get a fairly clear idea of what we should do: show compassion and grace because the goal is for the offender to see their fault and change so they can grow in their own spiritual walk. The question that remains is whether Guyger's release from prison will show whether or not she served enough time to completely understand the consequences of her actions? Time will tell

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.

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SMALL GROUP STUDY 9:00 AM
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Reverend Eric D. Williams
Pastor

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Website: farishstreetbc.org
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10 a.m. in person

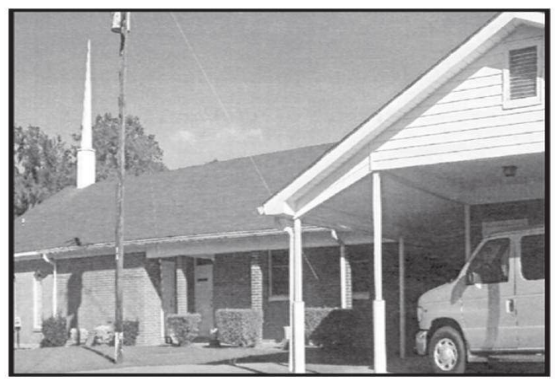
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Chauncy L. Jordan

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

Wednesday
Prayer/Bible
Study:
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Over 30 years of legal experience

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Former Municipal Court Judge • Former Assistant Hinds County Prosecutor

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THE MISSISSIPPI LINK

on Your 33rd Year Anniversary!

Your continued commitment to informing, uplifting and empowering our community makes a lasting impact.

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Mississippi Department of Human Services Announces Open Enrollment Assistance for Eligible Families through SHIP

Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), announces the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will provide assistance for eligible Mississippians during the Medicare Open Enrollment period that runs from October 15 through December 7, 2026.

During this enrollment period, Medicare recipients have an opportunity to review and adjust their health and prescription elections, compare available plans, and make changes that better suit their healthcare needs and financial profile. Changes made during open enrollment will take effect January 1, 2027.

SHIP is a free state program, provided by MDHS, that provides local, in-depth, and unbiased insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, or caregivers to help them better understand their coverage options.

For many older adults in Mississippi, navigating healthcare can be overwhelming. SHIP counselors are here to assist individuals understand changes in prescription drug costs, provider networks, and plan benefits, as well as how these changes can affect access to care and household expenses.

"Like most health insurance plans, Medicare is not a one-size-fit-all. What may have worked last year, may not be suitable this year," said KenYada Blake-Washington, MDHS Division Director of Aging and Adult Services. "Our SHIP counselors are here to help clients, at no cost, navigate those changes and ensure that older Mississippians have access to the information and resources they need to make an informed decision about their healthcare."

SHIP counselors can help Medicare-eligible individuals:

- Understand Medicare benefits and eligibility
- Organize doctor and hospital bills
- File Medicare appeals
- Review Medicare Supplemental Insurance
- Evaluate Medicare+ Choice or Health Maintenance Organization options
- Explore long-term care options

MDHS encourages all Medicare-eligible individuals to review their coverage annually, even if they are satisfied with their plan. Plan offerings and health care needs can change from year to year.

Those who do not wish to make any updates to their current coverage do not need to take action, however, reviewing plan details prior to the December 7 deadline can help prevent unexpected costs or coverages in the upcoming year.

Medicare Open Enrollment ends December 7, 2026. Medicare-eligible individuals in need of assistance are encouraged to contact a SHIP counselor before the deadline to allow time to review their options.

For more information about Medicare Open Enrollment or to connect with a SHIP counselor, call 1-844-822-4622 or visit https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/aging/finding-services-for-older-adults/.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services provides services and resources that help Mississippians build stronger families, improve their quality of life, and achieve greater independence. Through its Division of Aging and Adult Services, MDHS works to support the health, well-being and independence of older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout Mississippi.

THE COMMUNITY STUDENTS LEARNING CENTER

continues to raise

Breast Cancer Awareness

No matter where you are in your journey with breast cancer, please remember there is **Hope!**

CSLC is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization with multiple programs and services under its umbrella:

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
The CSLC SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP)
BJA's Stop School Violence Program - TIME (Transforming & Investing in MS Education)
FHLB of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Program
Homebuyer Education / Housing Counseling Services
Strategies for Emergency Empowerment for Delta Students (SEEDS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (662) 834-0905.
CSLC is located at:
333 Yazoo Street | Lexington, MS 39095
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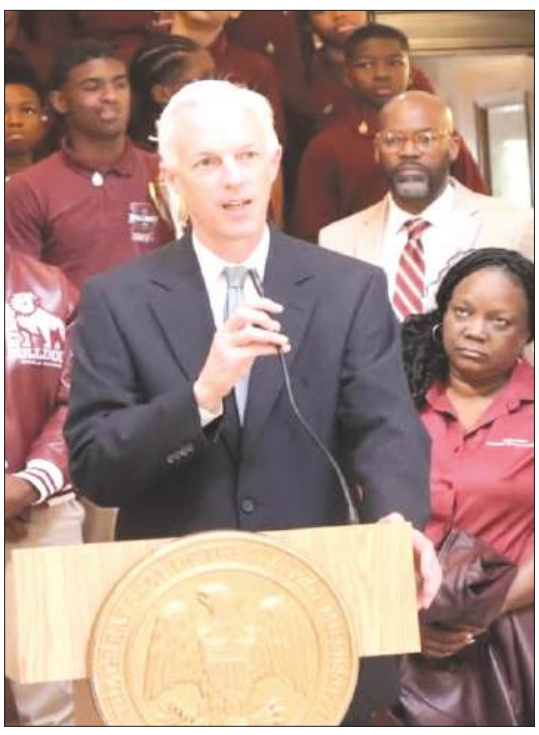
HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

Byram Middle School Little 6 Champions

Representative Fabian Nelson and Senator David Blount welcomed the Byram Middle School 2026 Little 6 Champions to the Mississippi State Capitol and presented them with a proclamation recognizing their outstanding achievement!









Congratulations to the team on a successful season and this well-deserved recognition.

SAMPLE Official Election Ballot
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HINDS COUNTY
2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Precinct:
Ballot Style:

TO VOTE: YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL(●) COMPLETELY USING A BLACK OR BLUE PEN.

Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil.

Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

For United States Senate
Vote for ONE

- Scott Colom — Democrat
- Cindy Hyde-Smith — Republican
- Ty Pinkins — Independent
- Write-in

For US House Of Rep 02 2nd Congressional District
Vote for ONE

- Ron Eller — Republican
- Bennie G. Thompson — Democrat
- Bennie Foster — Independent
- Write-in

For US House Of Rep 03 3rd Congressional District
Vote for ONE

- Michael A. Chiaradio — Democrat
- Michael Guest — Republican
- Erik Kiehle — Libertarian
- Write-in

SPECIAL ELECTION For State House Of Rep 70 District 70
Vote for ONE

- Imelda A. Brown — Independent
- Marcus A. Cheatham — Independent
- James Lott III — Independent
- Write-in

SPECIAL ELECTION For District Attorney 07 District 07
Vote for ONE

- Gwen Agho — Independent
- Greta Mack Harris — Independent
- Darla Palmer — Independent
- Marvin L. Sanders — Independent
- Wendy Wilson White — Independent
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Court Of Appeals 02 District 2 Position 1
Vote for ONE

- Deborah A. McDonald — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Court Of Appeals 04 District 4 Position 2
Vote for ONE

- David McCarty — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Chancery Court 5-1 Chancery District 5-1
Vote for ONE

- J. Dewayne Thomas — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

TURN BALLOT OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Chancery Court 5-2 Chancery District 5-2
Vote for ONE

- Crystal Wise Martin — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Chancery Court 5-3 Chancery Court, District 5-3
Vote for ONE

- Bridgett B. Clayton — Nonpartisan
- Tametrice E. Hodges — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Chancery Court 5-4 Chancery District 5-4
Vote for ONE

- Tiffany Grove — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Circuit Court 7-1 Circuit District 7-1
Vote for ONE

- Adrienne Wooten — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Circuit Court 7-2 Circuit District 7-2
Vote for ONE

- Debra Gibbs — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Circuit Court 7-3 Circuit District 7-3
Vote for ONE

- Winston Lee Kidd — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Circuit Court 7-4 Circuit District 7-4
Vote for ONE

- Faye Peterson — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For Circuit Court 7-6 Circuit Court 7-6
Vote for ONE

- Damon R. Stevenson — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For County Court 1 County Court District 1
Vote for ONE

- Carlyn Hicks — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For County Court 2 County Court District 2
Vote for ONE

- Yemi 'Larry' Kings — Nonpartisan
- Bridgette M. Morgan — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

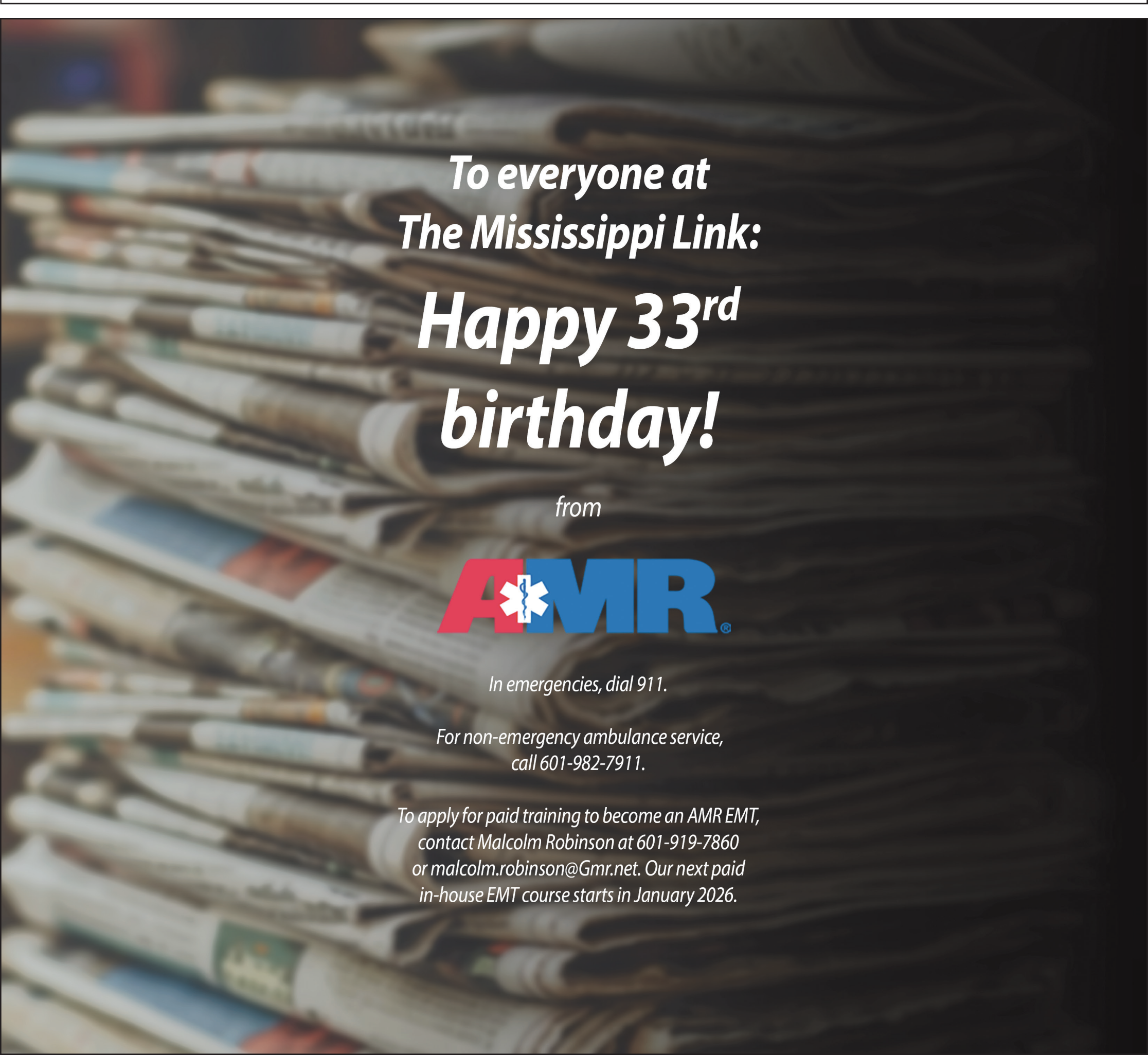
NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL ELECTION For County Court 3 County Court District 3
Vote for ONE

- Johnnie McDaniels — Nonpartisan
- Write-in

For School Board 5 School Board
Vote for ONE

- Patrina Dace — Independent
- Write-in

TURN BALLOT OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING



children's defense fund
unleashing the joy in growing up

NOW

THE URGENCY IS

SOUTHERN RURAL BLACK WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE
SRBWI

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.



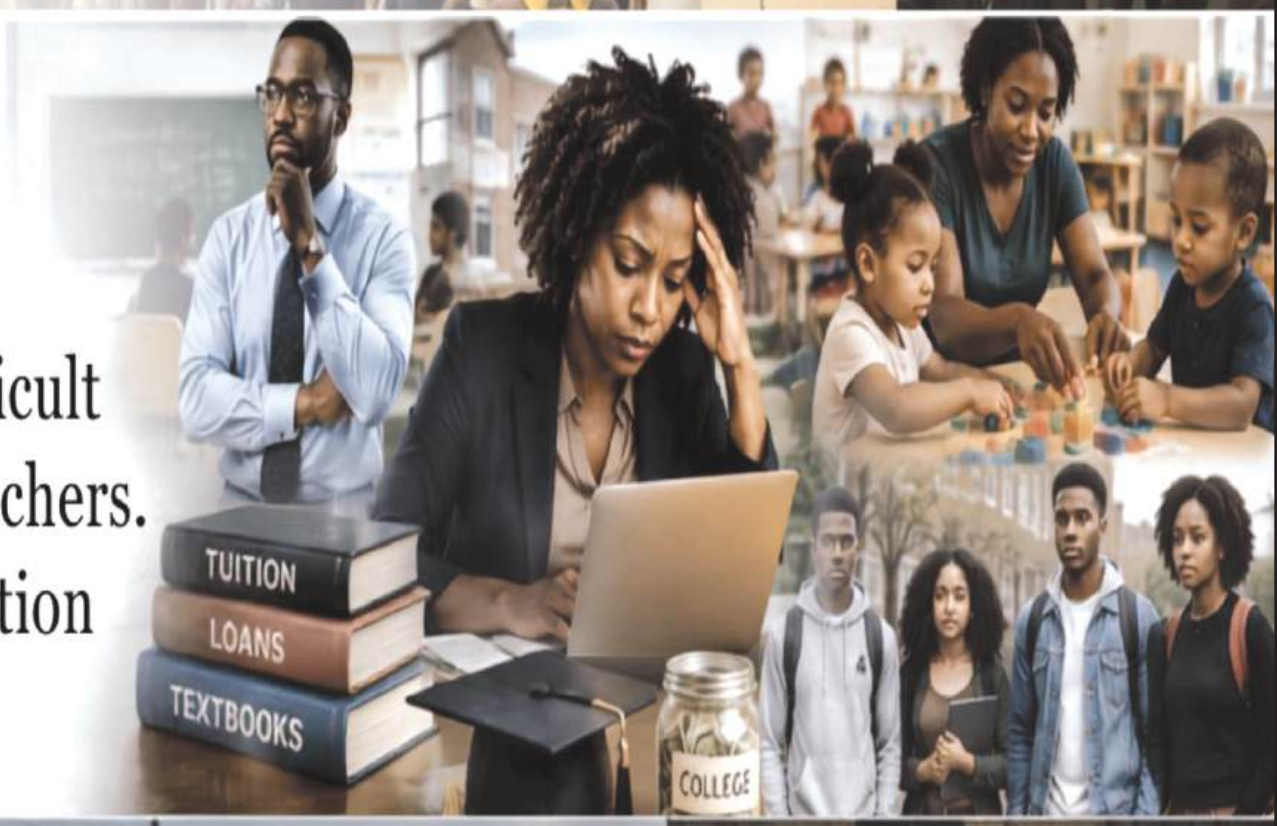
RACE AND EQUITY

• 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.



CHANGE OUR REALITY
VOTE NOVEMBER 3

If YOU want a different REALITY,

VOTE, NOVEMBER 3