The Mississippi Link

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145 years later, Mississippi stands at the crossroads of history: Election Day tells us that regardless of the final count, Mississippi is not Red or Blue: It is Purple!

Democrats capture both chambers of Congress as Scott Colom's historic Senate challenge puts Mississippi's political future in focus

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer



As of 3:00 AM, Wed. morning, Scott Colom held a lead of just 43 votes, but he told his supporters at a 10:00 AM news conference "Where we are, where the ballots are, we're gonna win" PHOTO COURTESY OF ROY LEWIS ©

The American people went to the polls Tuesday, November 3, and sent a message that could be felt from Washington, D.C. to the Mississippi Delta. Rising grocery prices, gasoline costs, economic uncertainty, and concerns about President Donald Trump's policies shaped an election that challenged political expectations.

Across the nation, Democrats captured control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, changing the balance of power in Washington.

But in Mississippi, the election carried the weight of 145 years of history. All vote totals reflected unofficial returns available at press time with the Mississippi Senate race being separated by 43 votes.

Democrat Scott Colom received 462,821 votes (48.9%), compared with Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith's 462,778 (48.9%). Independent Ty Pinkins received 19,935 (2.1%). With approximately 96% counted, Colom led by just 43 votes, leaving the contest too close to call.

Colom speaking virtually Wednesday on the MSNOW morning show stated that the people of Mississippi were not surprised at the results of the election. He stated, " We were prepared for this moment and have been planning on it for weeks. We had hundreds of volunteers and will protect the integrity of this election." Colom went on to say that he wanted everyone to know that there are no run-offs for the Senate seat. Mississippians that voted by affidavits have until Tuesday, Nov. 10th to call 888-300-4350 to make sure their vote is counted.

In Hinds County, earlier returns showed Colom receiving 61,793 votes to Hyde-Smith's 14,702. He also received 87.3% in Claiborne County, 87.1% in Jefferson County and 74.9% in Leflore County.

The contest carries extraordinary historical significance. Hiram Rhodes Revels became America's first Black U.S. senator in 1870, followed by Blanche K. Bruce in 1875. Both represented Mississippi during Reconstruction, when state legislatures selected U.S. senators.

Mississippi has not sent another Black senator to Washington since Bruce left office in 1881. A Colom victory would make him the first Black U.S. senator elected directly by Mississippi voters.

That possibility carries particular significance in a state where the Mississippi Plan of 1875 used intimidation and violence to suppress Black political participation, followed by the 1890 Constitution's discriminatory voting restrictions.

Hinds County district attorney race heads to runoff

Darla Palmer led the five-candidate contest with 19,599 votes (26.9%), followed by Gwen Agho with 16,741 (23%). Marvin Sanders received 12,439 (17.1%), Greta Mack Harris 12,154 (16.7%), and Wendy Wilson White 11,822 (16.2%).

With 100% reporting, Palmer and Agho advanced to a runoff to determine who will succeed former District Attorney Jody Owens.

Judicial elections

In Hinds County's Chancery Court District 5, Place 3, Tametrice Hodges defeated Bridgett Clayton with 5,747 votes (56.2%) to 4,471 (43.8%).

In County Court District 2, Yemi Kings defeated Bridgette Morgan with 6,309 votes (53.3%) to 5,532 (46.7%).

In Chancery Court District 11, Subdistrict 2, incumbent Cynthia Lee Brewer defeated Rhonda Cooper. At press time, unofficial returns showed Brewer receiving 70.9% of the vote, compared with 28.4% for Cooper.

In the 22nd Circuit Court District, covering Holmes, Humphreys and Yazoo counties, Tim Howard defeated Akillie Oliver with 8,803 votes (66.9%) to 4,365 (33.1%).

In Circuit Court District 20, Place 1, Sarah Moulder Butler led with 43,080 votes (49%), followed by Scott Gilbert with 29,491 (33.5%) and Carter Smith with 15,403 (17.5%).

Legislative races head to runoffs

In House District 70, Marcus Cheatham received 3,345 votes (44.6%), James Lott III 2,386 (31.8%), and Imelda Brown 1,775 (23.6%).

In House District 77, Melissa Sullivan received 3,319 votes (40.4%), Christopher Dunn 2,705 (32.9%), Dianne McNair Gaddis 1,458 (17.7%), and Craig Williams 736 (9%).

Neither contest produced a majority winner in the reported returns, setting up runoffs between the two leading candidates in each race.

Mississippi congressional incumbents win re-election

All four Mississippi congressional incumbents won re-election, preserving the state's three Republican-held seats and one Democratic-held seat.

In District 1, Republican Trent Kelly received 138,744 votes (58.7%), Democrat Cliff Johnson 94,273 (39.9%), and Libertarian Johnny Baucom 3,296 (1.4%).

In District 2, Democrat Bennie G. Thompson received 164,261 votes (67.6%), Republican Ron Eller 73,001 (30%), and Independent Bennie Foster 5,796 (2.4%).

In District 3, Republican Michael Guest received 143,578 votes (57.8%), Democrat Michael Chiaradio 101,882 (41%), and Libertarian Erik Kiehle 3,127 (1.3%).

In District 4, Republican Mike Ezell received 131,074 votes (61.1%), Democrat Jeffrey Hulum III 76,856 (35.8%), and Independent Carl Boyanton 6,588 (3.1%).

Jackson voters reject tourism tax

Jackson voters rejected a proposed tourism tax increase, with 23,962 votes (54.2%) against and 20,242 (45.8%) in favor.

The measure, which failed by 3,720 votes, would have increased the city's restaurant and hotel taxes to support tourism promotion and convention-related activities.

Democrats capture both chambers of Congress

Nationally, Democrats secured majorities in both chambers of Congress, gaining Senate seats in Texas, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, North Carolina, and South Carolina, among other states.

The results give Democrats control over congressional committees, oversight investigations, and the legislative agenda when the new Congress convenes in January.

In Texas, Democrat James Talarico defeated Republican Ken Paxton in the U.S. Senate contest, while Gina Hinojosa defeated Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

In Georgia, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms defeated Republican Rick Jackson, becoming the first Black woman elected governor of a U.S. state. Earlier unofficial returns showed Bottoms receiving 2,213,805 votes (54.3%) to Jackson's 1,863,652 (45.7%).

New Mexico also made history with the election of Deb Haaland, the first Native American woman elected governor of a U.S. state.

For Mississippi, the most consequential question remained unanswered at press time.

One hundred forty-five years after Blanche K. Bruce left the U.S. Senate, Mississippi stood on the possibility of electing its first Black senator by popular vote.

The final count will determine whether that historic milestone has been reached.

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From Michigan to Mississippi: Journalists examine voting rights, rising costs and the future of democracy



Journalists across the country discuss issues weighing on voters SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF DR. JAY

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer

Just days before Americans headed to the polls for the November 3 midterm elections, six journalists from across the country gathered to discuss the issues weighing on voters and the growing frustration surrounding political representation, economic uncertainty and government accountability.

The October 30 virtual roundtable, hosted by American Community Media (ACoM), brought together journalists representing communities whose concerns are often overlooked in national political conversations.

Moderated by ACoM Associate Editor Pilar Marrero, the discussion examined what motivated voters, what discouraged participation and what communities hoped would change following the election.

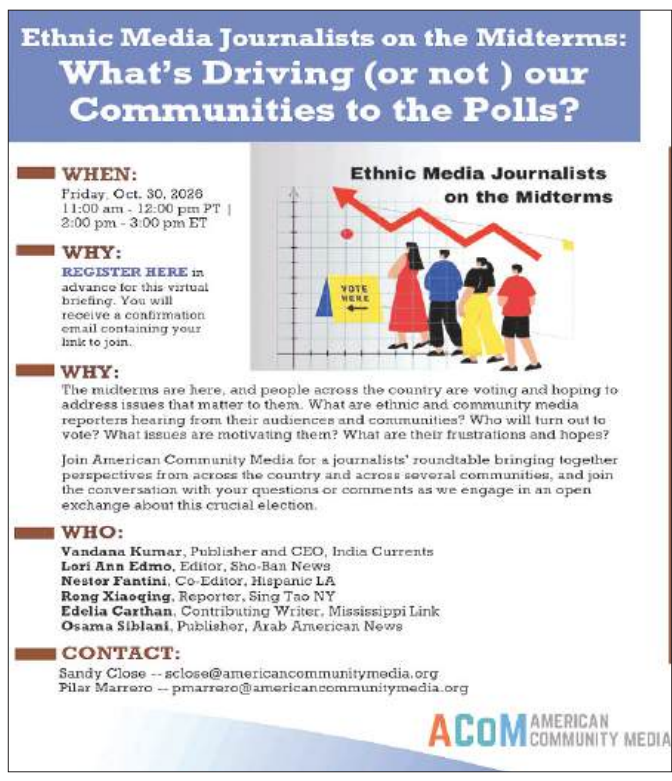
"With Election Day basically here, we're brought together six journalists from different communities and regions to discuss what they're hearing, what is motivating people to vote, what might keep them home, and what their communities hope or fear will come next," Marrero said.

Different communities, similar concerns: From Arab American communities in Michigan to Black voters in Mississippi, the discussion revealed concerns about the direction of the country.

Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab American News in Dearborn, Michigan, represented a community whose political influence has at-

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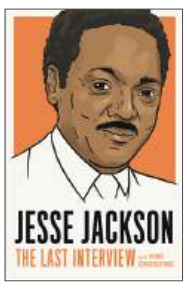
National roundtable highlighting concerns facing diverse communities ahead of November 3 midterm elections

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Latrice Rogers expands business empire with The Lofts at Fondren Taste

Belle Collective star celebrates another milestone as OWN cameras capture the festivities in Jackson

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.
Contributing Writer

Entrepreneur and reality television personality Latrice Rogers celebrated another milestone in her growing business empire Friday, October 30, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Lofts at Fondren Taste in Jackson's historic Fondren community.

The celebration brought together family, friends, elected officials, business supporters and the entire cast of the Oprah Winfrey Network's (OWN) popular reality television series Belle Collective. OWN camera crews were also on location filming the festivities, capturing the celebration for the reality television series.

The occasion marked another chapter in Rogers' entrepreneurial journey as she and her husband, Clifton Rogers, continue expanding their investments in Jackson's hospitality industry.

Rogers, owner of Goddess Lengths, a hair extension and beauty brand, built her entrepreneurial reputation in the beauty industry before becoming a familiar face on Belle Collective. Her expansion into Taste Bar + Grill and now The Lofts at Fondren Taste demonstrates her growing interests in hospitality and real estate.

For Rogers, the celebration represented more than another business venture. It symbolized determination, perseverance and the challenges entrepreneurs sometimes face when attempting to invest in their own communities.



Entrepreneur and Belle Collective star Latrice Rogers celebrates The Lofts at Fondren Taste during a ribbon-cutting ceremony October 30 in Jackson. Among those attending were Mississippi Central District Public Service Commissioner De'Keither Stamps, State Representative Justis Gibbs (District 72), Belle Collective personality Tambra Cherie, Clifton Rogers and other community supporters.



Radio personalities Chelle B (left) and Tambra Cherie (right), also a cast member of OWN's Belle Collective, pose outside Taste Bar + Grill in Jackson's Fondren neighborhood during festivities celebrating The Lofts at Fondren Taste on October 30, 2026. PHOTOS BY DR. JAY

"The obstacles that I had to endure," Rogers said while reflecting on the journey. "Just bringing business to Jackson.... Of course it shouldn't be hard."

Her remarks offered a glimpse into the difficulties she encountered while working to bring her vision to life.

Among those attending were Mississippi Public Service Commissioner De'Keither Stamps, who represents the Central District, and Mississippi State Representative Justis Gibbs, who represents House District 72.

The entire cast of Belle Collective joined the celebration, including radio personality Tambra Cherie and Rogers' husband, Clifton. Radio personality Chelle B was also among the attendees.

The presence of the cast and OWN production crew added another dimension to the celebration, bringing national television attention to the Jackson business venture.

The gathering reflected the relationships Rogers has built through her businesses, television appearances and involvement in the Jackson community.

Located in Jackson's Fondren neighborhood, Taste Bar + Grill has become one of the Rogerses' most visible business ventures.

The Lofts at Fondren Taste represents an effort to expand the property's use beyond dining and entertainment by incorporating residential accommodations.

On October 19, the Jackson City Council approved a rezoning request involving the Taste property, allowing plans for residential units above the restaurant to move forward.

The proposal generated discussion among nearby residents, including concerns about parking, traffic and noise. The council's decision cleared an important regulatory hurdle for the proposed expansion.

The development reflects a business concept combining dining, entertainment and accommodations within the same property.

Fondren, known for its restaurants, locally owned businesses, arts community and entertainment venues, continues to attract entrepreneurs seeking opportunities in one of Jackson's established neighborhoods.

Rogers' entrepreneurial journey reflects the opportunities that can emerge when business owners expand beyond their original industries.

Through Goddess Lengths, she established herself in the competitive beauty industry. Her success helped create opportunities for additional ventures, while her television platform introduced her businesses to a national audience.

Her continued investment in Jackson also highlights the significance of Black entrepreneurship and the role locally owned businesses can play in creating economic opportunities.

However, the path to business ownership and expansion often involves navigating financing, property development, government regulations and community expectations.

Rogers' remarks during the celebration highlighted those challenges and the determination required to overcome them.

While her television career has brought national recognition, Rogers continues to invest in Mississippi's capital city. The ribbon-cutting served as both a celebration of her accomplishments and a public introduction to the next phase of the Fondren property.

As supporters gathered outside Taste Bar + Grill, the occasion underscored the persistence required to transform an entrepreneurial vision into a business investment.

With The Lofts at Fondren Taste moving forward, Rogers is adding another chapter to her entrepreneurial story – one rooted in perseverance, business ownership and continued investment in Jackson.

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Democracy

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tracted national attention.

Journalists also examined immigration enforcement, rising living expenses, political representation and the uncertainty facing families navigating changing federal policies.

For many Americans, the election was about more than political parties. The cost of groceries, housing, health care and everyday necessities remained central concerns.

The discussion included perspectives from Latino, Native American and Asian American communities, illustrating how national policies can affect populations differently while producing similar questions about fairness and accountability.

Mississippi's long struggle for political power

Representing The Mississippi Link, Edelia Carthan brought Mississippi's complicated political history into the national conversation.

Mississippi has the highest percentage of Black residents of any state and a substantial number of Black elected officials. Yet no African American has held statewide elected office in Mississippi since Reconstruction.

That contradiction reflects a history shaped by voter suppression, political violence and laws designed to limit Black political power.

The Mississippi Plan of 1875 used violence and intimidation to suppress Black voters. The state's 1890 Constitution later established restrictions that disenfranchised generations of African Americans.

During Reconstruction, Mississippi elected Hiram Revels and Blanche K. Bruce to the United States Senate, making history at a time when newly emancipated Black Americans were beginning to exercise political power.

More than a century later, the struggle for equitable representation remains part of Mississippi's political conversation.

Carthan connected that history to contemporary concerns about voter participation, access to health care, public education and economic opportunity.

The discussion raised questions about whether elected officials are addressing the needs of the communities they represent and why some eligible voters remain disconnected from the political process.

Beyond Election Day

The roundtable also highlighted the importance of community journalism in holding elected officials accountable and providing information that larger media organizations may overlook.

For ethnic media journalists, reporting on elections involves more than covering candidates and campaign appearances. It requires examining how government decisions affect families, neighborhoods and communities.

Although the November 3 election has passed, the issues discussed during the roundtable remain.

Rising costs, voting rights, immigration, political representation and government accountability will continue shaping conversations long after election results are announced.

From Michigan to Mississippi, the discussion underscored a question that extends beyond any single election: Will the voices of communities historically excluded from political power be heard when decisions affecting their futures are made?

Parents of 1-year-old fatally shot by police protest at Mississippi Attorney General's Office

By Sophie Bates
Associated Press

The parents of a 1-year-old boy who was shot and killed by a police officer in Mississippi led a protest Monday at the office of the state's attorney general, who ruled last month that the shooting was justified.

Cries of "our baby's life mattered" echoed through the office's lobby as Kohen Wiley's parents and a small group of activists demanded to speak to Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch.

Marquell Bridges, an activist who has been working with Kohen's parents, said they wanted Fitch to look Kohen's parents in the eyes and tell them why the shooting was justified.

"These people work for us. We pay their salaries. We vote. We put them in office, and our people have to understand that we have the power," he said.

They were met in the lobby by Fitch's chief of staff, who said Fitch was not in the office. An email seeking comment was sent to the attorney general's office Monday.



A group of activists pray inside the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to protest the fatal police shooting of Kohen Wiley AP PHOTO/SOPHIE BATES

Kohen Wiley was killed in June when a police officer in the small town of Senatobia, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) south of Memphis, Tennessee, fired his gun into a moving vehicle while responding to a shoplifting call.

Body-worn cameras show Kohen's mother, Vellesiya Wiley, holding Kohen as she and a friend run across the parking lot of a Senatobia Walmart and enter their vehicle. Wiley and the friend, who was driving, are Black.

Five officers approach the parked car with guns drawn. The car reverses away and crashes into a parked vehicle nearby as officers yell for it to stop.

The vehicle then accelerates forward as Senatobia Sgt. Hunter Foster steps toward it, directly in front, with his gun drawn. The wheels turn away from him, and he appears to put his hands on the hood as he jumps out of the way. He fires his gun, shattering the window of the front passenger side, where Kohen was seated on his mother's lap.

The shooting sparked months of mourning and calls for justice, both nationally and in Senatobia. Kohen would have turned 2 on Sunday.

Sitting outside the attorney general's office, Kohen's father, Davion Williams, said the passing of Kohen's birthday was "the worst feeling ever."

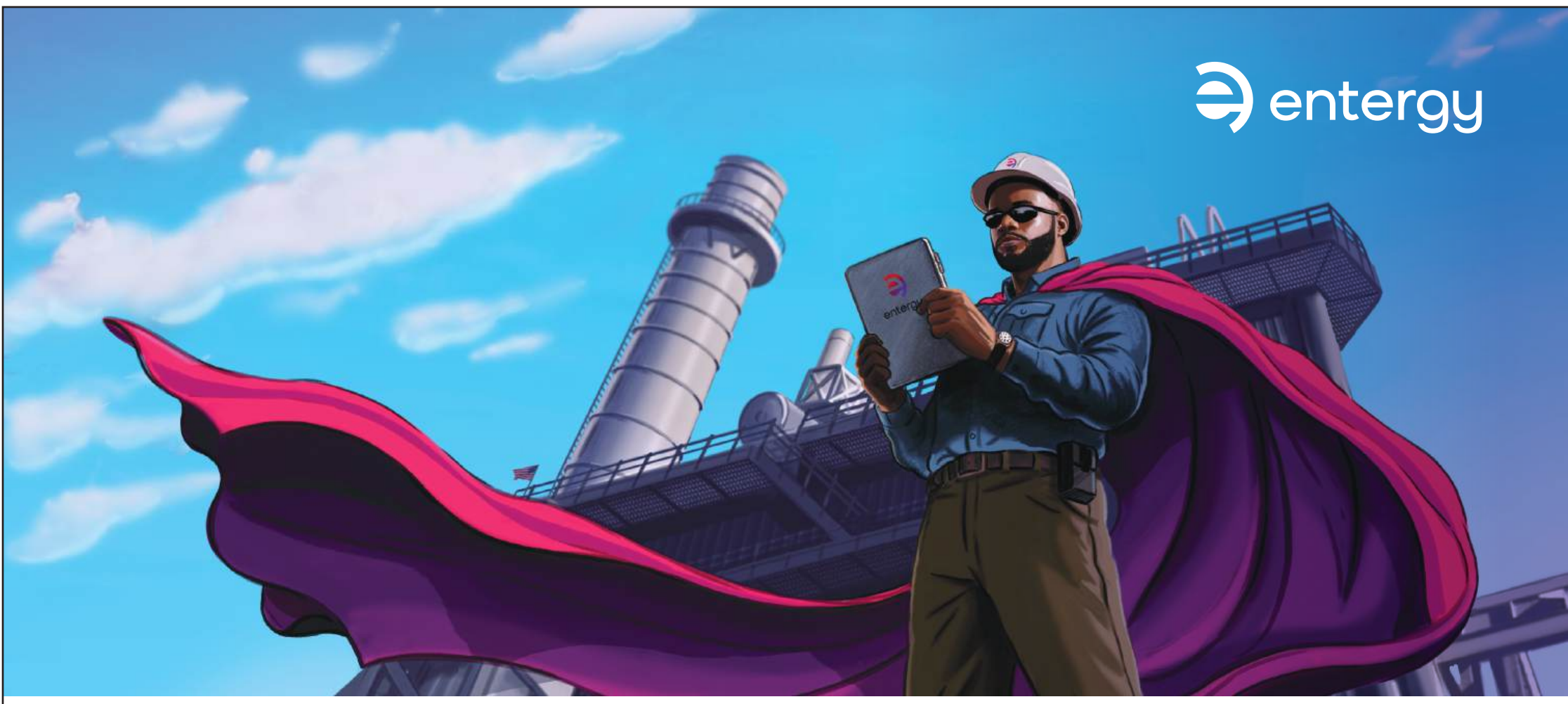
"It's hard. It's just hard to even express and talk about," said Williams. "Now we have to keep his name alive."

Williams said he wants Foster prosecuted and Fitch out of office. He wore a t-shirt with Kohen's face that read "Kohen should be 2. Vote in his honor."

Foster's attorney, Martin Zummach, has said his client had "no choice" but to shoot at the vehicle because it was going to hit him. The Mississippi Attorney General's office said its monthslong probe found that Foster's use of force was appropriate.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, meanwhile, was investigating an arson fire on Saturday that damaged the Senatobia police building. It was unclear what caused the fire. An email to the ATF on Monday was not immediately returned.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is assisting in the investigation, spokesperson Beth Reiss said in an email, adding a reward is being offered of up to $5,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction.



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The Buzz Gets Louder - Law and Justice in Hinds County

Announcement by Hinds County Circuit Judge E. Faye Peterson raises equity issue

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer



Judge E. Faye Peterson PHOTO: STATE OF MS JUDICIARY ON THE OCCASION OF HER INDUCTION AS A FELLOW OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAR FOUNDATION A HIGH HONOR, JULY 18, 2023



L-R: Nancy New and her son Zachary New PHOTOS: HINDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PUBLISHED BY WTOK (MERIDIAN) ON MARCH 18, 2021.

Adding to the lengthy list of notable conflicts in law and justice within Mississippi's largest county, WAPT's Ross Adams reported, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, that Judge Faye Peterson thinks the federal authorities are "dragging their heels" when it comes to the sentencing of two key figures in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) embezzlement scandal.

It has been more than four years since the mother and son – Nancy New and Zachary New plead guilty to multiple state and federal charges including bribery of a public official, wire fraud, fraud against the government, and money laundering.

"Had I known this case was going to be backed up like this, for this long, I probably would have come to this conclusion a long time ago." The conclusion she refers to is her intent to hand down a state sentence of just house arrest for the New's, within the next few weeks.

The buzz around Hinds County centers on how house arrest can possibly be considered justice, when the New's appeared central to the misspending of at least $77 million dollars in federal taxpayer money intended to benefit some of the poorest people – families, mothers, and children – in the poorest state in the nation.

Some reports indicate that Mississippi denies 90 percent of applications for assistance, all while using tens of millions for other than their intended purpose.

In 2025, long after guilty pleas by eight people involved, the federal Administration for Children and Families, issued a demand letter to Mississippi – the Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services (MDHS) specifically, for nearly $101 million, per records disclosed by MDHS.

The amount has since been pared down to about $90 million. These are penalties for doing wrong, and the money must be paid back. Misspending seems like such a kind word. So does misusing. These folks were deliberate. They clearly have no regard for others, and especially the poor.

The moral outrage in the community about these white folks, now preparing to receive a state sentence of just house arrest as they await the boom of their federal sentencing to be lowered, is growing. My first thought upon hearing the news was to wonder how many African Americans in Mississippi – especially folks receiving taxpayer-funded paychecks – ever get the privilege of house arrest.

One case is former Hinds County Election Commissioner Toni Johnson. Numerous reports, including from the State Auditor, indicate that she embezzled tens of thousands (not tens of millions), pled guilty, and was sentenced on January 9, 2023, to 20 years in prison by Special Judge Jess Dickinson.

Judge Dickinson then suspended 15 years and ordered the other five years be served under house arrest – or what is referred to as Electronic Monitoring or Intensive Supervised Probation – and she must pay some amount of restitution.

There is no question that she is not the only African American to receive house arrest, but against a backdrop of so much corruption and discrimination in Mississippi, it stands to reason that African Americans receive far less grace than the European Americans do.

Just like the New's, others have plead guilty in the TANF scandal, and they all sit at home, awaiting federal sentencing. The New's are each home on an unsecured $10,000 bond. Judge Adrienne Wooten went a step farther than Judge Faye Peterson and is signaling she will go – at least it seems like a step farther. On September 22, 2022, Wooten sentenced former MSDS Executive Director John Davis – a Phil Bryant appointee – to 32 years on state charges.

However, he then said he would serve the time concurrently with his federal sentence, once that takes place – so until then, he sits at home on house arrest and has paid a $150,000 bail, per WLBT.

Two of the most high-profile names implied in the embezzlement are former Governor Phil Bryant and former football great Brett Farve. As Governor of Mississippi, Bryant was the captain of the ship – the scandal happened on his watch – yet no charges have been filed against him.

Despite publicly available text messages between him and Farve, Bryant denies any involvement and has even filed suit against the Pulitzer Prize winning investigative journalist – Anna Wolfe - who broke the story. Numerous outlets have also reported on the long personal and political closeness between Bryant and Nancy New.

Similarly, Farve has denied knowing where the money came from for the $5 million dollar volleyball and wellness center at the University of Southern Mississippi and for his $1.1 million in speaking engagement fees.

Farve accepted the fees despite never speaking at the engagements. Then once it was brought to light, he returned the principal $1.1 million – over the course of eighteen months – but does not appear to have repaid the demand interest owed, per both NBC Sports and ESPN.

The whole thing gets you thinking about the concepts of law and of justice – which are not always complementary. This writer has spoken to a dozen people, including in the fields of law, clergy, higher education, medical, and public office – just two claimed that there may be more going on with Judge Peterson's expected ruling than meets the eye.

All the rest voiced disappointment with the whole situation, and the majority said Peterson's decision may meet the letter of the law but is morally wrong and sends the wrong signal when considering the gravity of what the New's did – what they pleaded guilty to.

Several asked out loud: Is that all she can do at the state level, really?

'Get out the Vote Live Remote' at Congressman Thompson's Jackson Headquarters: Every Vote Matters

Submitted by: Rasheda Bell, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer



"Free Food!" shouts Ashley Shelby using her voice, enthusiasm, and megaphone to motivate others to stop by, engage, and most importantly, vote.



Jackson City Council Representative Brian Grizzell and Dejay Verbia 'Lady Vee' Harden show their support at the "Get Out the Vote" Live Remote event.



Friends of Bennie Thompson volunteers and staff serving hot plates to community members.



There was plenty of food for everyone's taste bud.

Congressman Bennie Thompson is known for his steadfast commitment to civil liberties, his courage in standing up for Mississippians' progress, and his local fish fries that bring constituents and families together.

The "Get Out the Vote" event held Saturday at Congressman Thompson's Jackson Campaign Office, was one of at least four events organized in communities across Jackson and the Mississippi Delta.

Hosted by Friends of Bennie Thompson, the live and virtual event encouraged residents not only to exercise their right to vote on November 3rd, but also to support the "Blue" ticket.

Amongst good food, fellowship, and music, conversations focused on practical ways to help young neighbors and seniors without transportation get to the polls. The sense of urgency was palpable, underscoring the high stakes of this midterm election and the importance of making every vote count.

Brian Grizzell, Jackson City Council Representative for Ward 4, shared his thoughts on these efforts and explained why every vote matters. Representative Grizzell believes we are at a crossroads.

He emphasized that families from all walks of life, whether Democrats or Republicans, and people of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and other faith traditions, are working hard to maintain stability and survive these challenging times.

He acknowledged what he sees as a struggle where there should not be one. Grizzell pointed to inflation and rising gas prices, which he described as the highest he has seen in his lifetime, as major financial challenges facing families.

Amid these economic pressures, he remarked, "We're being asked to choose another protein. That's not so easy in a family who needs a pack of ground beef to stretch a meal across three or four days."

He also cited federal funding cuts affecting school districts, colleges, universities, and educational centers, contributing to layoffs and increased diesel costs for school buses. These challenges, he suggested, make civic participation more important than ever. He reiterated that not voting is, in fact, a vote, but one that can work against the very progress people hope to protect.

The choice before Mississippi voters is much more than a political party or a campaign ad. It is about families putting food on the table, children receiving a quality education, seniors maintaining their independence, and communities having the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. It is about ensuring that the next generation inherits more possibilities, not fewer.

As the conversations at the Jackson campaign office made clear, getting out the vote is about more than simply showing up at the polls. It is about showing up for one another. It means giving a young person a ride, helping a senior make it to the voting booth, encouraging a neighbor to become informed, and reminding those who may feel overlooked that their voices still matter.

Mississippi's future will not be shaped by those who sit on the sidelines, but by those who choose to participate. A fish fry may bring neighbors together, a conversation may inspire someone to act, and a single vote may help determine the direction of an entire community.

The message is simple: Our voices are our power, our votes are our opportunity, and our future is our responsibility. Don't surrender that power by staying home. Make your voice heard. Vote, because every vote matters, and Mississippi's future is counting on it.

"Lost in the System": What it's like to be stuck for months in a Mississippi jail

This article published in partnership with The Marshall Project, a non-profit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system



Kayla Salisbury for The Marshall Project illustrates man holding the bars of a jail cell that turns into a window looking out on the sky, representing freedom

Mississippi is one of only a handful of states that has no limit on how long someone accused of a felony can sit in jail while waiting for a prosecutor to formally charge them.

Cases can be delayed for many reasons. Judges have crowded dockets. Retrieving evidence from the police can take months. But before all that, a district attorney must decide whether to move forward with a case once an arrest has been made. In Hinds County, prosecutors routinely take months – or sometimes years – to do so.

Altogether, these conditions leave people waiting in jail, unsure what's taking so long or when there will be an update in their case.

At the end of June 2026, the county's jails had 131 people who were waiting more than six months without a charging decision from a prosecutor, including 56 who had been held over a year, according to an analysis by The Marshall Project.

Public defenders say the people who end up stuck in jail typically fall into one of three categories: people who can't afford their bail, people denied bail by the judge, and people with mental health challenges that need to be addressed before they can be released.

The Marshall Project spoke to three men who have waited for months at the Raymond Detention Center without formal charges – known as an indictment – after they were arrested for nonviolent offenses.

During this period, their lives have been in limbo: losing jobs, time with family, and their health, all while sitting without answers inside a notoriously dangerous jail currently under the control of a federal court-appointed administrator.

When you can't afford your freedom: Depaul Davis, 412 days

September 2026 marked one year that Depaul Davis has been waiting on an indictment. Davis, who has long struggled with homelessness, said he was working day labor jobs to try to scrape together enough money to secure permanent housing when he was arrested last year.

A judge set Davis' bail at $75,000. Bail bondsmen typically take $7,500 upfront, but that was far beyond his ability to pay. Without any family to turn to for help, his only choice was to remain in jail, waiting to see if prosecutors would take his case to a grand jury.

In Mississippi, the district attorney's office cannot pursue felony charges without an indictment from a grand jury.

"I was staying on the streets, trying to keep labor jobs, waiting to get on a Section 8 housing program," Davis said. "I couldn't afford a lawyer, couldn't afford anything."

Davis said he only expected to be in jail for about two weeks after making his first court appearance last year.

Twelve months later, what's most frustrating isn't the roaches, or the countless nights spent sleeping on the floor of an overcrowded cell – it's that behind bars, his life is frozen, unable to pick up work or continue his search for a real home.

"I was looking at apartments on Highway 80, trying to get housed so I could get stable," he said. "It can get old, staying at a hotel just one or two days until you run out of money."

He knows the first step is finding a steady job, maybe something in the service industry. Then, he said, he wants to go back to school for business or hospitality management. He dreams of one day running the hotels he used to sleep at just to get one night of clean sheets and a shower.

More than anything, he said, he wants to get out so he can begin taking steps toward turning his life around. "Life can tear at you in so many different ways," Davis said, and he's tried his best to endure the wait gracefully. But at times, it can be hard to comprehend how a whole year has gone by without any movement on his case.

"I can get a little impatient, trying to understand. It's just frustrating because I can't make progress," he said in September. "I'm 29 now, and I don't want to be found in this same situation at 30 years old."

In October, Davis turned 30. Still in jail.

When the judge won't set your bond: Malik Sterling, 254 days

On his 29th birthday, Malik Sterling found himself in jail and only able to see out of one eye.

Roughly two weeks earlier, Sterling was riding a dirt bike for the first time when he flew off the bike, severely injuring his left eye. He had surgery scheduled with an eye doctor to try to save it. But days before his appointment, he was arrested.

An arrest on a nonviolent charge would typically mean the possibility of release on bail, but a judge gets the final say. In Sterling's case, the judge disqualified him from bail because of a prior felony charge.

If the previous case was still open, it would make Sterling ineligible for bail in Mississippi. His lawyer, however, argued in a July motion that the court closed the old case months ago.

But Sterling was still denied bail and has been sitting in jail since February, waiting for prosecutors to decide what to do with his case.

Jail officials wouldn't let Sterling go to his scheduled medical procedure, he said, delaying treatment another two months before he was finally allowed to see an outside doctor. By then, it was too late to save his eye.

"The only thing they said they could do for me was remove it," said Sterling, whose left eyelid now droops over a milky surface. "I done lost everything, including the eye."

Neither the county sheriff nor the court-appointed receiver responded to multiple requests for comment about Sterling's access to medical care. The receiver, Wendell France, is barred by a federal judge from making public comments.

In addition to his vision, Sterling said he's felt the loss of the past seven months in nearly every area of his life, from finances to family to his sense of stability.

"Everything I had going before I came here, I lost. All I'll be coming home to is the pair of clothes [I came in with]. I can't go to school, can't go to work," he said. "I ain't got nothing to go back to. I just hope my loved ones are there for me when I get home."

Sterling used to see his 5-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter – whose nickname is tattooed above his right eyebrow – every weekend. But without any way to load money into his account on the jail's phone, Sterling rarely speaks to them anymore.

"I liked to buy them things, like if they do good on their report cards, but I can't now because I can't fend for myself financially," he said. Last time they spoke, Sterling said, his son wanted a Paw Patrol truck, while his daughter hoped for a Barbie doll. "But I can't do nothing for them," he sighed. "I got nothing."

Before his arrest, Sterling mainly worked odd jobs: cutting grass and landscaping or washing cars. He'd planned to start school online and pursue a business degree, but he can't continue his education until he gets out of jail. In the meantime, he said, the connections and repeat customers he built up while working have fallen away.

"I'm basically just like a dead body to the world," Sterling said, adding that the hardest part has been waiting without a clear end date. He asked his attorney for a timeline – any sense of when the district attorney's office might decide whether to pursue his case – but he knew that nothing was certain in a court system rife with lag and delay.

Most frustrating is not knowing: how long it'll be, when I can go to court. I'm just sitting here," he said. "I don't got no court date, I don't know nothing … As of now, I'm just lost in the system."

When your mental health leaves you stuck in the system: Kahari Thicklen, indicted after 135 days

Kahari Thicklen didn't know his symptoms – erratic behavior, mood swings – had a name when he entered jail in April 2026.

Thicklen now realizes he has a mental health condition and described the coping mechanisms he plans to rely on to rebuild his life once he's out of jail: mainly, seeking quiet environments where he can better manage his thoughts and emotions.

But even though his mood and behavior stabilized, 24-year-old Thicklen continued to sit in jail waiting on an indictment.

"Because of my mental health, it's taken time to figure out a good solution," Thicklen said in September, adding that he was nevertheless surprised to still be sitting in jail after nearly 5 months.

"I did think it would take a little shorter time, maybe more like 2 months… but I know [in this legal system], anything can happen."

While in jail, Thicklen missed his only child's first birthday in August. He said he tries to call his sister, who has custody of the baby, daily to speak to his son – but it's not the same as holding him or looking into his eyes, watching him develop from an infant to a toddler.

Equally challenging, Thicklen hasn't been able to work while in jail; he spoke of the debts he imagines piling up while he sits in his cell, from medical bills to car insurance.

"It'll take a toll on you," he said. "Some days you might wake up depressed, some days you might wake up mad, and some days you'll be okay."

Before his arrest, Thicklen worked warehouse jobs and most recently drove forklifts for an auto manufacturer. Eventually, he plans to go back to school, ideally in a hands-on trade like culinary school or welding.

But he said his first step will be getting a job in a familiar industry and trying to make enough money to clear the hundreds of dollars in debt that's likely accumulated while he's been stuck behind bars.

In August, the district attorney's office indicted Thicklen on only one of the three charges he was initially arrested for, and declined to act on the remaining allegations. Because prosecutors are not legally required to dismiss them, those charges could linger on his record forever.

"In their minds, it's not their problem to clean up his record," Thicklen's attorney said in September. "But a kid who had a mental health episode does not need to be here, sitting in one of the most dangerous jails in the state."

Thicklen has since been moved to another facility, with a trial date scheduled for March 2027, according to his lawyer and court records.

When asked about the first thing he'll do whenever he gets out, Thicklen said: "Call my job and try to get back on the schedule." But he acknowledged there was no guarantee his old employer would take him back after so many months off the job.

"If I can't go back there, I'll go somewhere else," he said resolutely, before pausing. "I just hope it doesn't take too long."

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Helping African American Children to Be Prideful and Purposeful During These Times

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



I am an African American man who was born, raised and nurtured a long time ago. The sand in my hourglass is running out. That is simply the passing of life. It happens for all of us.

Let's just say I am a proud member of the old school. When I am in the public square, I am called Pops or OG by complete strangers. For men like me, those are considered terms of pride and admiration

Thankfully, I've been around long enough to understand and appreciate those compliments. You see, many of us have gone on to glory. Being in my right mind with a portion of health and strength aren't taken lightly.

During my career in public and higher education, I offered advice to students about deportment and it was well received. Some former students who I have run into over the years have thanked me again for that sage wisdom.

Now, I still give success tips to this current generation of future leaders. I believe it has also been well received.

As the years have gone by, I realize how fortunate I was to have been raised in the East Winston section of Winston-Salem, NC. In that community, I received the start of my behavioral standards that have remained with me.

My home training began with my parents. They provided me with the foundation for successful living. And I have not wavered from the script that they gave me. It was layered in self-respect.

There is a song by The Staple Singers titled "Respect Yourself." When you have a chance, listen to it as it has an encouraging message.

Back in the day, we had great respect for adults. Being polite and courteous were attributes that all of us as children had. We spoke in a respectful tone and acted like we had some sense.

We represented our families well wherever we went. That was the standard and the expectation. Being contrary wasn't in the cards. For example, while at school, parents were rarely called about an unruly child.

Teachers were well respected and classrooms were places where learning took place. Dreams of what we could be were shaped and molded there.

I realize more now that my environment was different than today's environment. Overall, it's still my strong belief that parents want what is best for their children. I think all of us would agree with that assertion.

Yet there are some differences in our neighborhoods today. Technology has played a major role in keeping children inside and playing games on their computers instead of being outside with their friends.

Life for parents now is fast paced. Before you know it, the day has come and gone. Schedules and appointments keep them busy and sometimes a bit anxious. Trying to get dinner prepared and homework completed can be challenging. Kudos to parents for handling these tasks well. If you are old school, you have been there and you know how that works.

There is a generation of young African American children that needs our help as they grow and mature. It really does take a village to raise a child. These are some interesting times so we must provide intervention and positive engagement when we can. We can't let them fall through the cracks because of apathy and indifference.

As African American parents and grandparents, we have a moral obligation to help our children with character development. We are their role models for this development. Children as they mature will emulate what they see and hear.

Home training (HT) starts with us. We can't leave it to others to have a plan because we must have The Plan. If you haven't started some HT lessons, you should begin today and not delay.

Don't wait until it's too late, and then wonder what happened.

I Am Tired of Leftovers

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



Consuming leftovers is convenient when you have a very busy schedule, a hungry family, and a limited budget. Although leftovers are convenient, it is not the healthiest choice, especially if improperly handled.

According to the Mayo Clinic, improper cooling – leaving cooked food at room temperature for more than two hours – allows bacteria to grow rapidly in the "temperature danger zone."

Additionally, after about three days germs, also called bacteria like Salmonella or Listeria, can multiply in refrigerated leftovers. This growth increases the risk of food poisoning, also called foodborne illness.

The Mayo Clinic also makes it clear that bacteria typically don't change the taste, smell, or look of food, so you can't tell whether food is dangerous to eat. Therefore, we should not settle for leftovers, especially after so many days, as spouses should not settle for each other's leftovers in marriage.

How do you know if you are settling for leftovers? Leftovers in marriage can include the following: spouse prioritizes everything/everyone above God, family and friends above your marriage, jobs and businesses over your spouse (spend more time with your work spouse than your God given spouse – what is a work spouse anyway?? – I missed this bible verse) …,

Always cancel dates/plans, don't help with chores or the children, have little to no time for intimacy, spouse interact and touch their phone/technology more than you do you, everything is rushed, little to no communication and if there is communication, it is very basic like, "Did you pay the light bill?" …,

And your spouse spends little to no quality time with you because their energy is drained from helping and interacting with everyone and everything else but you!

What happens when a spouse settles for their spouse's leftovers day after day, week after week, month after month, and God forbid, year after year?

In other words, what happens when a spouse realizes that they are tired of settling for your leftovers, tired of being put on the backburner, tired of being neglected, tired of loneliness, tired of abandonment, and tired of feeling invaluable and unappreciated?

Spouses can easily become physically and mentally sick, bitter, angry, distant, resentful, vengeful, which can eventually lead to emotional and physical Affairs, substance abuse, addictions, a turn away from God, separation and divorce.

Please don't get me wrong, you will be tired and unable to give 100% every day but this shouldn't occur every day? And it is nothing wrong with spending time with family, pursuing good hobbies, working especially for the income, but it becomes wrong when those things are consistently elevated above your spouse.

Those jobs will be here, but your spouse will not always be here. God specifies to wives to submit to their own husband, not someone else's husband, not your children, not a work spouse, boss, family, another man, best friends, etc.

And husbands, God tells you to cherish your wife, not a work spouse, supervisor, best friend, not another woman like Sister Cheeks, family, your church if you are pastoring, etc. You don't want your spouse to declare, "I am tired of leftovers ," because by that point – it could be too late to save your marriage!

Spouses dedicate at least one day a week to spend quality time with each other – plan a date night, getaway, etc. And inform your family and friends that you are silencing or turning off your phone for a designated time to spend quality time with your boo.

And if it's an absolute emergency (some of those calls they claim to be an emergency is not always an emergency) and if it is sweetie as Wyclef Jean sang in the 90s', please call 911 (just playing) or provide another contact they can reach out to.

Be honest, think about it! Would you want to eat leftovers every day, month after month and year after year? Wouldn't you get weary eating leftovers every day? Do you not think that your spouse is tired of your leftovers?

Concluding, when spouses fail to put God first and their spouses second, marriages fail! If you know that you are giving your spouse leftovers – pray and ask God to forgive you, ask your spouse to forgive you and become intentional about serving your spouse a rejuvenated you – no more leftovers!

What if God gave you leftovers? Lastly, what are you and your spouse having today, tonight, and until death do you part – are you having leftovers? No, I am tired of leftovers!

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (Motivational, Ministering, Marriage Counseling, Marriage Workshops, Marriage Seminars, Marriage Conferences, etc.) Marriage Ministry: The Restoration Church, 3931 Hanging Moss Road, Suite H, Jackson, MS. 39206, on: Instagram: letsstay2gether4ever (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: Dr. LaShunda Calvert Email:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com Contact # 601-596-2528

Dolores Huerta Taught Me What It Means to Never Stop

By Ben Jealous
People For the American Way



When I was a boy, Martin Luther King Jr. was in our history books. Dolores Huerta was in the fields of our county.

She and the United Farm Workers were organizing the people who picked our food. Our family stood with them. I cannot remember eating grapes or strawberries for much of my childhood. Boycotts were how we helped the farmworkers fight for fair wages and the dignity they deserved. Dolores was one of my heroes long before I met her.

Later, as I found my way into leadership in the civil rights movement, I came to know her personally. We marched, organized and campaigned together. I learned she was even more remarkable up close. A few years ago, I was walking past the U.S. Capitol when I almost missed her.

Dozens of teenagers and college students from Texas were sitting together on the cement steps. In the middle of them was Dolores, 92 years old, sitting just like everybody else. No special chair. No fuss. You would have thought she was another student.

I called out to her, smiling. We caught up. There was one thing I knew better than to do. I did not ask how she managed to look so young. I had made that mistake before. We were campaigning together. She was 91. For nearly two weeks she had been putting in 12-hour days, traveling, talking to voters, and rising the next morning to do it all again.

Over breakfast, I asked her how she did it. She looked at me and said, "It's easy, Ben. You just live every day like you did the day before, and you never stop." That was it. No secret. No lecture. Just keep going.

A friend told me he had seen Dolores dancing with the rapper Common at two in the morning. I believed him. Of course I did. The last time I saw her, Dolores was 94. I was hosting Dr. Jane Goodall at an event celebrating Jane's 91st birthday.

Jane asked the room if anybody there was older than she was. It was clearly supposed to be a rhetorical question. Dolores answered that she was. For a moment, Jane looked stunned. Then she gathered herself and took back command of the room. I had to laugh.

Dolores had surprised one of the most extraordinary women alive just by being herself. Once, over another meal, Dolores told me how far back her family went in New Mexico. More than a dozen generations, as I remember it. I asked for the stories.

Well, there were plenty. One ancestor, she said, may have ridden with Geronimo's band. Another was kidnapped by members of the band as a child, only to escape into a town crying, "Soy una cristiana!" Another had a wagon break down on the way west. Another was a circuit-riding pastor.

By the time she finished, I was pretty sure she had covered every character in every Western movie I had ever seen. I remember thinking: No wonder she is so tough. No wonder she is so brave. Courage had been passed down in her family for generations, along with stories of surviving hard times.

That was also what Dolores spent her life doing for the rest of us. She helped build the farmworkers' movement and carried its lessons to each new generation. She fought for workers, for immigrants, for women, for the right to vote. "Sí, se puede" (it can be done) was not just something she said. It was how she lived.

When Dolores died at 96, I thought again about those young Texans on the Capitol steps. They were sitting beside someone who had helped change their grandparents' world. And she was sitting among them like she belonged there. And she did.

Dolores understood something that every movement must learn. You do not hand the work to the next generation from a distance. You sit with them. You listen. You show up.

I will miss her laughter, her stories, and the wonderful surprise of finding her wherever people were organizing. But I will keep hearing her voice over breakfast. You live every day like you did the day before. And you never stop.

Now it is our turn.

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.

Editorials and Letters to the Editor may be e-mailed to editor@mississippilink.com or mailed to 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. The views and opinions expressed on the Op/Ed pages are not necessarily the views and opinions of *The Mississippi Link*. *The Mississippi Link* also reserves the right to edit all material for length and accuracy.

LEGAL

City of Jackson, Mississippi

Bid Specifications for Legal Publications 2027

Scope

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson"), seeks competitive bids for the City's annual contract for legal publication.

Bidder Requirements

Sealed bids will be received in the Department of Municipal Clerk at City Hall in the City of Jackson, until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 1, 2026. Each bidder shall submit an original and two (2) copies of the bid using the bid form supplied by the City of Jackson. Additionally, each bidder must submit documentation that shows its qualifications and compliance with all criteria set forth in Section 13-3-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. All bids must be sealed and plainly marked "Bid for Publication" on the outside of the envelope.

The bidder must use the bid form provided by the City of Jackson. The bid form must be signed by an authorized representative. Failure to submit the signed bid form and failure to submit documentation that shows qualifications and compliance with all criteria set forth in Section

13-3-31 will result in rejection of the bid.

Bid Price

Bidder shall quote a per word rate advertisement to the nearest dollar, e.g. 0.999999. The quoted per word rate will be for a first, second, and third publication. Bidders shall also include a flat rate for supplying a proof of publication.

All prices quoted shall be firm and fixed for the specified term period. The bid will be used for a period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

Term of the Agreement

The term of the agreement is for a one-year period: January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Publications will be made on an as needed basis. The method of requesting ads shall be by email.

Award

The determination of the low bidder will be used on a "per word" rate advertisement, published three (3) times and a single proof of publication. The quoted per word rate will be for a first, second, and third publication, and evaluated to the nearest one millionth of a dollar (e.g., $0.999999).

Order of Communications

Questions regarding this bid shall be in written format. Written responses to the questions submitted shall be issued. Bidder questions and responses will be made a part of the bid file.

All questions regarding the Specifications for Legal Publications 2027 should be forwarded, by U.S. mail, to Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk, City of Jackson, P.O. Box 17, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205, or to https://www.jacksonmsbids.com.

11/5/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Timekeeping Hardware for UKG Pro Workforce
City of Jackson, Mississippi
RFP No. 19567-121526

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi, acting through its Department of Administration—Purchasing Division, will receive proposals from qualified vendors to provide Timekeeping Hardware for UKG PRO WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT(KRONOS)

The requested includes timekeeping hardware, implementation & Support for the City's Existing UKG Pro Workforce Management. The selected vendor will provide related implementation, installation, configuration, integration, training, warranty, maintenance, and Techical support services.

Sealed Proposals shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205, or hand-delivered to the City Clerk's Office, 219 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201, no later than 3:30 PM Central Time on December 15, 2026. Electronic bids may be submitted through the City of Jackson's official procurement portal at www.jacksonmsbids.com. Late proposals will not be accepted. The technical proposal and cost proposal must be uploaded as separate files, and all required forms, certifications, references, functional-requirements responses, and addendum acknowledgments must be included.

This RFP does not commit the City to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in the preparation of proposals, or procure or contract for services. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities or irregularities, request clarifications, conduct interviews or demonstrations, negotiate with one or more proposers, cancel or reissue the RFP, and make an award in the manner deemed most advantageous to the City and consistent with applicable law.

This procurement is subject to the laws of the State of Mississippi, the City of Jackson Code of Ordinances, and applicable federal regulations. Minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are encouraged to participate.

CITY OF JACKSON

Monica Oliver, Purchasing Manager

11/5/2026, 11/12/2026

LEGAL

SECTION 901

ADVERTISEMENT

City of Jackson
Hinds County, Mississippi

Federal Aid Project No. STP-7287-00(001) LPA / 109860-701000

The City of Jackson will receive bids for the reconstruction of the McClure Road Bridge at Cany Creek Tributary, Federal Aid Project No. STP-7287-00(001)LPA / 109860-701000 no later than 3:30 PM local time on December 15, 2026, at the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

Replace the bridge on McCluer Road at Cany Creek Tributary, and all other related items of work required to complete the project as shown and specified in the Contract Documents.

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein.

The attention of bidders is directed to the Contract Provisions governing selection and employment of labor. Minimum wage rates for Federal-Aid projects have been predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and are subject to Public Law 87-581 Work Hours Act of 1962, as set forth in the Contract Provisions.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged and women's business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

City of Jackson Engineering Division, 200 S President Street, Suite 424, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

Pickering Firm, Inc., 2001 Airport Road, Suite 201, Flowood, Mississippi 39232

All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from Pickering Firm, Inc. located at 2001 Airport Road, Suite 201, Flowood, Mississippi 39232 upon payment of $100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded. These documents can also be obtained through PH Bidding at www.jacksonmsbid.com upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's check, Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's

Bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five

percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount.

The proposal and contract documents in their entirety shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and deposited with the Chancery Clerk, 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date above designated. No stripped bids will be accepted. Bidders choosing to submit electronically shall submit their bids at www.jacksonmsbid.com. For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call PH Bidding at 662-407-0195.

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

The attention of Bidders is directed to the provisions of Subsection 102.07 pertaining to irregular proposals and rejection of bids.

Published by order of the Jackson City Council.

Henry Chia, Project Manager
City of Jackson

11/5/2026, 11/12/2026

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.

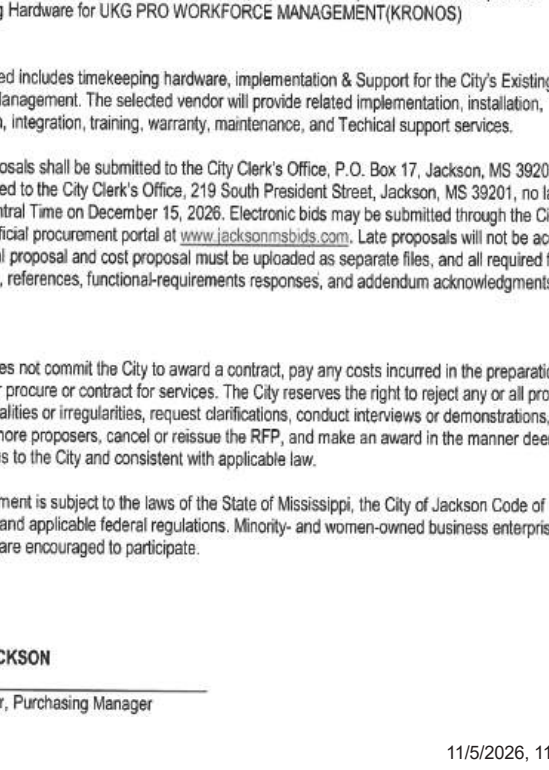
Full RFI and submission instructions: https://jacksonms.gov/business/business-procurement-and-contract/ and www.jacksonmsbids.com Contact via Mail: Municipal Clerk, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39201,

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

10/29/2026, 11/05/2026

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WEEK OF NOV 1, 2026

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

To all interested parties, known and unknown,Pursuant to the MS State Code of 1972, Section 21-39-21, the City of Jackson, Mississippi, will sell at Public Auction, the impounded, abandoned, lost, stolen, or misplaced motor vehicles and equipment listed on the attached schedule. Unclaimed motor vehicles and equipment may be sold after the expiration of ninety (90) days from their receipt or recovery by the City of Jackson. The auction will be held online at https://marketplace.autura.com/auctions/jac-ms/ on November 24th at 10:00 am

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

Hinds County Court House
Hinds Country Chancery Court Building
Jackson City Hall/City Clerk's Office (11/3/2026)

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8840443 • 2022/CHRYSLER/PACIFICA/BLUE • 2C4RC1BG4NR218020

****

8847337 • 2001/YAMAHA/YZF-R1/SILVER • JYARN05EX1A008384

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11/5/2026, 11/12/2026

PRESERVED

Google, God, and Prayer

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"I can't find anything!" was the response from one of my English Composition students a few weeks ago when I asked if anyone had questions about their research projects.

Other students nodded their heads in agreement and complained that they were having the same problems. "Why can't we use Google or CHATGPT? I can't find any information on the library databases!" exclaimed another.

I responded that they would not be able to use Google because it wasn't effective academic research. I then offered tips on how to find information in the library databases. I also told them that CHATGPT often gives incorrect information as well.

One tip I shared was that Google is "matching," but the databases are for "research." Since its introduction in the late 1990s, Google has simplified information gathering. We can find just about anything, good or bad, legal, or illegal, moral, and immoral on it within seconds.

For example, when you look for something or someone on Google, you are most likely going to effortlessly find an exact match. Research, on the other hand, might require repeatedly looking at more than one database and comparing results to find something that is useful.

They were not persuaded by what I said. Despite my explanation, students continued to say that the databases didn't have any information about their research topics (even though the databases have thousands of articles).

Because the information they found on the databases didn't match exactly what they were looking for, students concluded it didn't work. Trying to help them get past their frustration while learning a new research technique, I shared with them that they had to change their mindset about what the databases could do.

After going into the databases and showing students how to change their search terms and find information in the databases, they realized that not only was the information there, in most cases, it was more accurate and helpful than what they found on Google or CHATGPT.

Not only has Google and artificial intelligence like CHATGPT exposed us to more information, I think it has also made us more impatient and less willing to accept things, people or situations that aren't exactly what we want.

After all, Google generally gives exact (or very close) search results. With these kinds of results, I think Google and AI have trained us to believe that we will always get what we want or something close to it, when we ask for it.

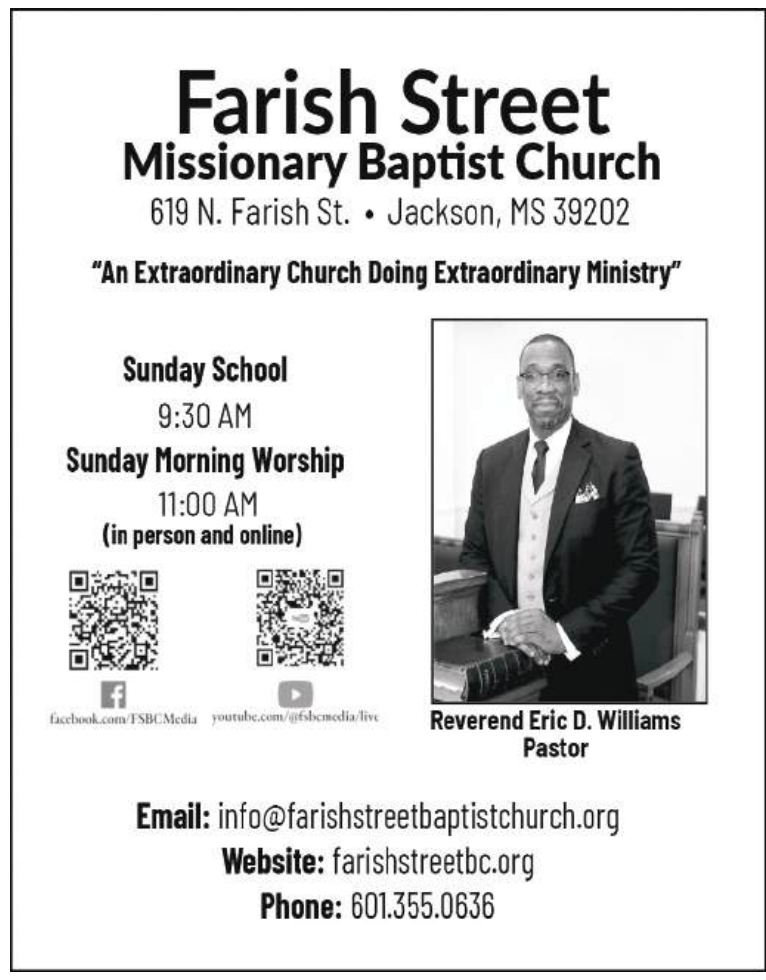
And for some of us (me included!), we go to God with a similar attitude. In that past, I've written about how dangerous it is to think this way because we end up treating God like Google!

If I pray this specific kind of prayer, then I'm going to get these specific results. When we don't, we have the nerve to get mad at God! However, James 4:3 explains, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."

Sometimes, it's not what you pray, but the attitude you have when you pray (in other words, HOW you pray) that determines your results.

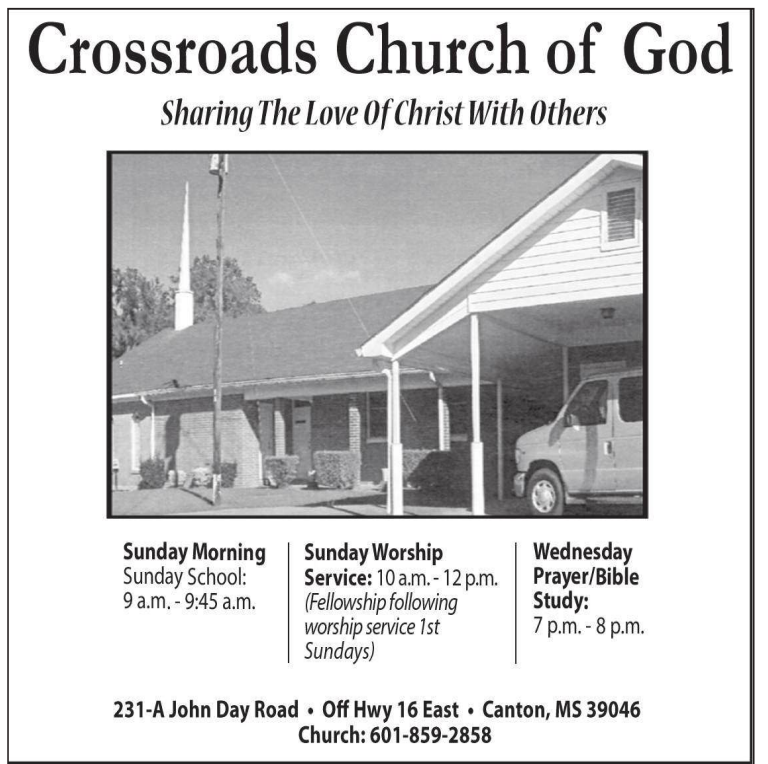
Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda











CO_2 vs. CO: What is the Difference? Why it matters and how we protect ourselves

By Vince Faust
Health Educator and Motivational Writer

People are always asking me where I get the ideas for my articles. Most come from people who ask questions. Others come from my personal experience. This article was from personal experience. This experience almost cost me my life, even though I had all the safeguards in place.

Most people have heard of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and carbon monoxide (CO). The names sound almost the same and both gases can be dangerous. But they behave very differently in the body, and the health risks are not the same.

Understanding these differences can help families stay safe at home, at work and in the community. It can also help us respond quickly if an exposure happens. This article explains the difference between CO_2 and CO, what symptoms to watch for, what to do if you are exposed, and how to prevent dangerous situations before they occur.

Carbon dioxide is a natural part of the air we breathe. We exhale CO_2 every time we breathe out. Plants use CO_2 to grow. Outdoors, CO_2 is usually harmless because it spreads out into the atmosphere.

The danger comes when CO_2 builds up in enclosed spaces. This can happen in basements, storage rooms, industrial sites or anywhere ventilation is poor. High levels of CO_2 push oxygen out of the air. When oxygen drops, the body struggles to function.

When CO_2 levels rise too high, people may experience:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Shortness of breath
- Rapid breathing
- Confusion or trouble thinking
- Fatigue or weakness
- In very high levels: loss of consciousness

CO_2 does not bind to the blood or poison the body directly. Instead, it changes the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the bloodstream. This can lead to respiratory acidosis, a condition where the blood becomes too acidic.

Most people recover once they are removed from the environment and given fresh air or oxygen.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas created when fuels do not burn completely. This includes gas stoves, furnaces, cars, generators and fireplaces. Unlike CO_2, carbon monoxide is directly poisonous.

CO binds to hemoglobin the part of the blood that carries oxygen with about 200 times the strength of oxygen. When CO attaches to hemoglobin, oxygen cannot. This starves the brain, heart, and other organs.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness
- Loss of consciousness

Even after treatment, some people develop Delayed Neurological Sequelae (DNS) symptoms that appear days or weeks later. These can include memory problems, mood changes, trouble concentrating, sleep issues or balance problems.

CO poisoning is a medical emergency. It requires immediate removal from the environment and treatment with oxygen, sometimes in a hyperbaric chamber.

Although both gases can be dangerous, their effects are not the same.

- CO_2 is a suffocation hazard. It displaces oxygen in the air.
- CO is a chemical poison. It prevents oxygen from reaching the organs.
- CO_2 symptoms usually improve quickly once breathing fresh air.
- CO symptoms can return later, even after treatment.
- CO_2 exposure is usually caused by poor ventilation or industrial accidents.
- CO exposure is usually caused by malfunctioning appliances or engines.

If you suspect high CO_2 levels:

1. Leave the area immediately and get to fresh air.
2. Call 911 if someone is confused, fainting, or having trouble breathing.
3. Get medical evaluation if symptoms are severe or do not improve quickly.
4. Do not return to the area until ventilation is restored and the source is identified.

Most people recover fully, but it is important to monitor symptoms for 24–48 hours.

Carbon monoxide exposure is more serious and requires faster action.

1. Get outside into fresh air right away.
2. Call 911 – CO poisoning is a medical emergency.
3. Do not try to ventilate the building yourself. Firefighters have equipment to measure CO safely.
4. Follow medical advice, which may include oxygen therapy or hyperbaric oxygen.
5. Schedule a followup appointment within one to two weeks.

If symptoms return especially headaches, confusion, memory problems or mood changes you should seek medical care immediately.

After CO_2 exposure most symptoms fade quickly, but watch for:

- Persistent headache
- Ongoing dizziness
- Trouble breathing• Unusual fatigue• Confusion

These may signal that the body is still recovering from respiratory acidosis.

After CO exposure: because CO affects the brain and heart, watch for:

- Memory problems
- Difficulty concentrating
- Mood changes
- Sleep disturbances
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Severe fatigue

These symptoms can appear days or weeks later. Any return of symptoms should be taken seriously.

Preventing CO_2 dangers:

- Ensure good ventilation in basements, storage rooms and workspaces.
- Keep vents and air returns clear.
- Avoid overcrowded indoor spaces with poor airflow.• Use CO_2 monitors in workplaces where gas buildup is possible.
- Report unusual odors, stuffiness or breathing problems immediately.

Preventing CO dangers: Carbon monoxide prevention requires more specific steps:

- Install CO detectors on every floor of your home.
- Test detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
- Have furnaces, water heaters, and gas appliances inspected annually.
- Never run a car or generator in a garage, even with the door open.
- Keep chimneys and fireplaces clean.• Do not use gas stoves to heat your home.
- Make sure outdoor grills are used outdoors only.

These simple steps save lives.

Communities can reduce risk by:

- Offering free or lowcost CO detectors to families in need.
- Educating residents about appliance maintenance.
- Training workers in ventilation safety.
- Ensuring schools, senior centers and public buildings have working detectors.
- Encouraging landlords to follow safety codes.
- Supporting emergency responders with equipment to detect both gases.

Public awareness is one of the strongest tools we have.

Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide may sound similar, but they pose very different risks. CO_2 becomes dangerous when it crowds out oxygen in enclosed spaces. CO is a deadly poison that prevents oxygen from reaching the organs.

Both exposures require quick action, but CO poisoning is especially serious and can cause delayed health problems.

With good ventilation, working detectors, regular appliance maintenance and strong community education, most exposures can be prevented. Protecting ourselves starts with understanding the risks and taking simple steps to keep our homes and workplaces safe.



Women's Day Celebration includes sisterhood recharge event to renew, refresh and restore

By Gail Gettis
Contributing Writer

"Every woman in this room knows one important truth: you are more than the roles you fulfill, more than the responsibilities you carry, more than what others expect you to be," said DeaconessLenita Knight, as she greeted attendees after fellowship over a hearty meal.

Held October 30 - November 1, 2026, the mini conference was the first of the weekend events on Friday night, leading into a Saturday morning Golf tournament and culminating with the Sunday worship service in celebration of College Hill M.B. Baptist Church's 76th Annual Women's Day.

Even without the data from Pew Research Center in an article from October 2026, Home, Work and Caregiving Through the Arc of Family Life, the disproportionate burden of balancing family caregiving and work responsibilities still falls on women – even if they work full time.

This is no surprise to most women, but more dynamic is the fact that Christian women additionally commit to a considerable amount of work in service to their churches.

On Saturday night, all were treated to food for their physical wellbeing before receiving spiritual food. Keeping with the theme for the occasion, "Sisterhood Recharge: Renew, Refresh, Restore," Knight in her greetings said, "There is strength in sisterhood, healing, honesty and restoration when we allow God and our sisters in Christ to pour back into our lives."

Serving as presider, Vera Collins guided attendees through the dinner and entire program, which included a praise and worship selection led by Rosie Davis, a mini skit titled, "More Than a Woman." The all-College Hill cast included First Lady Lashanda Jordan.



Women's Day Chair and Co-Chair Yvette Mitchell (lt) & Denise Griffin Whittington (rt) with Friday night speaker Dr. Patrice Jenkins (center) PHOTO BY TAYLOR HARDY



Women's Day Speaker, Dr. Mona Arnole-McBride (lt) with Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr. and Lady LaShanda Jordan, PH.D, Sunday November 1, 2026

Additionally on the agenda was "Prayer and Reflection," which was split into three categories designed to enhance the theme through creative audience engagement and participation.

First was the "Prayer for Love, Forgiveness and Relationships," which was led by Noel Bogan. The core of the message provided several specific scriptures to reinforce each of the key words, as well as help women navigate and incorporate the scripture into life circumstances.

The second prayer, a "Prayer for Relief from Stress and Worry and for Finding Peace," was led by Deaconess Sandra Jenkins. Her presentation included a petition for times when women go through emotional strain in trying circumstances.

Attendees each had a rock at the table and were given the opportunity to release that rock, which was symbolic of burdens being thrown into a basket. They were encouraged not to go back to pick it up again. In releasing that rock, it provided the opportunity to select another stone engraved with an inspirational message, which could be kept and carried every day to use as a reminder in times of weakness or distress.

Prior to introduction of the event's dynamic speaker, the third prayer segment was an impassioned "Prayer for Spiritual Renewal and Restoration," by Shirley Johnson. This prayer focused on petitioning God to renew a righteous spirit within individuals, so they might build a closer relationship with Him, which was a poignant lead into the guest speaker's message.

The speaker for the occasion was Dr. Patrice R. Jenkins, a native of Coffeeville, Mississippi, and member of True Vine Baptist Church, where she serves as an associate minister, having been ordained for over 20 years.

"Good evening, women of God!" Dr. Jenkins began her message with enthusiasm. She went on to acknowledge the opportunity for women to worship and encourage each other, to be reminded not only of who we are, but whose we are.

Jenkins pointed out the importance of women uplifting each other and not making other women's personal circumstances open to parking lot discussion. "We cannot talk about sisterhood without talking about how we treat each other," she said.

Jenkins believes that on this journey, it is imperative to stay vigilant and avoid distractions at all costs – because distraction destroys dreams, destiny, and divine time with God.

Dr. Jenkins did not disappoint in her delivery to the College Hill audience and guests. Her desire was to speak to the woman quietly running on empty; the woman dressed to the nines but is broken; the woman who appears to have it all together but is hiding her turmoil; and the woman who is tired and overwhelmed.

She went on to say that being tired and overwhelmed does not mean that God has forgotten you: "God is not finished with you, nor should you be finished with yourself. When you allow God to renew your spirit and your mind, something wonderful happens."

College Hill continued to celebrate Women's Day on Sunday beginning with a breakfast in the family life center followed by Sunday School led by the women of College Hill. The lesson review was given by LaRenda Franklin.

Women's Day worship service began at 10 AM. Presiding over the service was Beverly Barnes, with the theme: "Women of Faith, Standing Strong in Trying Times." The Women's Day Choir provided music. The Visions of Praise Dance Ministry performed at the service.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Mona Arnold-McBride. She was introduced by Audrey Wiley. Sister Wiley described her as a woman whose life is a testimony of excellence, faith, service, and transformational leadership."

Dr. McBride is currently employed as the Executive Director for the Mississippi Pharmacist Association. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas where she majored in biology and minored in math. After graduation, she was accepted into the University of Arkansas' Medical Science College of Pharmacy doctoral program. While there, she was the first African American female class president in the College of Pharmacy's history and is currently employed as the Executive Director for the Mississippi Pharmacist Association.

She spoke on the subject "Don't Quit and Don't Throw in the Towel." Throughout her message, she received several standing ovations.

A special presentation was given to Speaker Dr. McBride by Yvette Mitchell, Chair of the Women's Day Celebration and Co-Chair Denise Griffin-Whittington. Mitchell introduced her entire committee and enthusiastically thanked everyone for their presence and participation.

Closing remarks were made by Pastor Chauncy L. Jordan.

PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON AND CHRISTIANE WILLIAMS





Ridgeland High School Titans Robotics Team Celebrates Outstanding Achievement

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The Ridgeland High School Titans participated in the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (RECF) Germantown High School ACHIEVE Tournament, Friday, October 30, 2026. The team is a newly formed participant of the Nissan Centers of Excellence (COE) classroom Robotics team.

The team entered three VEX robots into the competition and received the prestigious Judges Award.

Viera Roseburgh, Center of Excellence, senior trainer, Nissan North American Canton, Mississippi stated: "This recognition was an outstanding achievement for our students highlighting their hard work, dedication, teamwork, and growing knowledge of robotics and engineering.

"The excitement was tremendous as our students competed against other schools from the Madison County area. The students had an incredible time demonstrating their skills, learning from other teams, and building confidence through friendly competition."

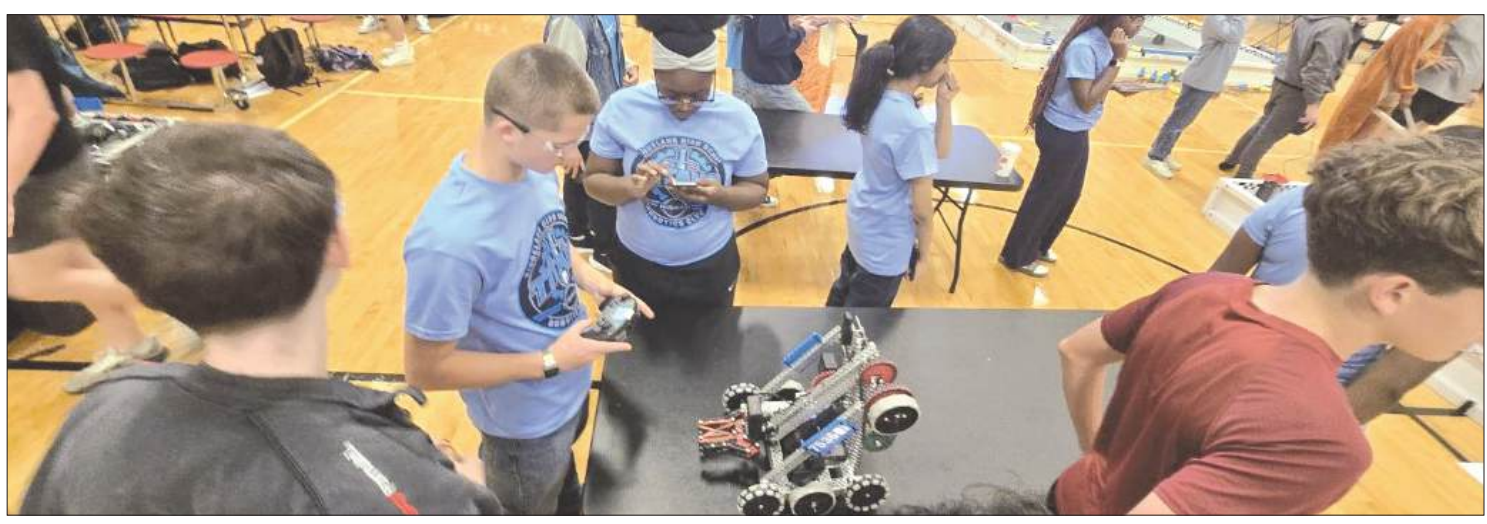
RECF is a global non-profit organization focused on boosting student engagement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math), as well Computer Science. This is accomplished through hands-on curriculum-based student robotics competition.

Nissan invests in the COE initiative because it helps to prepare tomorrow's workforce today by developing local talent years before students enter the hiring process. Mississippi school participants include Yazoo County Schools, Jackson Public Schools, Canton Public Schools, and Ridgeland High School.

Rosenburgh stated " We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to even greater success as we continue developing our robotics program through our partnership with Nissan. This is just the beginning for the Ridgeland Titans Robotics Team."



Ridgeland High School Titans and Sr. Trainer, Viera Roseburgh, Nissan North America, Canton, MS (2nd Row, Rt.) received the Judges Award. .
PHOTOS, COURTESY OF NISSAN NORTH AMERICA.



Ridgeland High School Titans participated in the RECF Germantown High School ACHIEVEMENT Tournament.

JPS Celebrates Summer Reading Achievements, Recognizes Top Scholars and Schools

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools (JPS) celebrated scholars who demonstrated a strong commitment to reading and literacy during the summer of 2026 at its Summer Reading Celebration on Thursday, September 24, at Kirksey Middle School.

The celebration recognized scholars who participated in the District's Summer Reading initiative and highlighted their accomplishments in developing strong reading habits and a lifelong love of literacy.

During the 2026 Summer Reading program, JPS scholars collectively read 18,846 books, with 2,231 scholars participating. Of those participants, 451 scholars achieved Gold Reader status, the highest level of recognition in the district's summer reading program.

As part of the celebration, JPS recognized the top three individual readers in each school network based on the number of books read, as well as the top-performing schools in each network.

Each top-performing school received a plaque recognizing its achievement.

The Summer Reading initiative reflects JPS's continued commitment to literacy and academic growth by encouraging scholars to read consistently beyond the school year.

The participation and accomplishments of scholars, along with the support of their families, educators and school communities, contributed to the success of the 2026 program.

JPS congratulates all participating scholars, individual winners and top-performing schools for their commitment to reading and literacy.

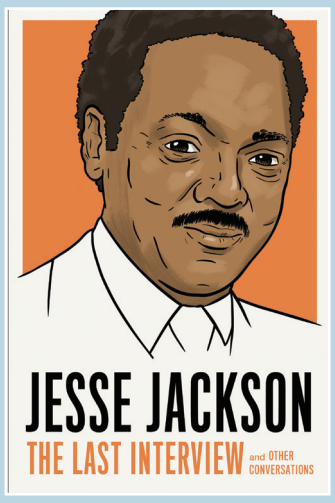












BOOK REVIEW:
JESSE JACKSON: THE LAST INTERVIEW AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY AL SHARPTON
C.2026, MELVILLE HOUSE PUBLISHING
$20.99 • 175 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Business as usual.

Nothing new here. Same old, same old. Yeah, sometimes, the status quo is good: an even-keel feels safe, even relaxing, smooth as glass. Ten again, there's no forward movement on a calm river.

You need a little shaking-up, as in the new book "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview" with an introduction by Al Sharpton, or nothing ever changes.

Even as a young man, Jesse Jackson was "a force of nature."

He was a speaker at a young age, and could command crowds with his voice alone. He built Operation Breadbasket for Dr. Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to organize funds and volunteers. Later, he took Operation PUSH to Chicago and held rallies on Saturday mornings to mobilize the Black community there.

He was a mentor, a man of God, and he was willing to take on any injustice he saw.

He was also an in-demand interviewee in the years after Dr. King's assassination.

In November 1969, he spoke to Arthur Kretchmer for Playboy magazine. He said then that there was a "war" between Black America and White America, and that this country seemed to be under a "police state" for Black men.

He spoke against the elimination of Black studies in colleges and universities, and he railed against a governmental "lack of understanding" of problems facing Black businesses.

"The perverted idea of manhood coming from the barrel of a gun," Jackson said, "is what keeps people from understanding nonviolence."

In an interview with Tony Brown and Diahann Carroll for Black Journal in January 1975, Jackson blamed America's economic woes on "the superrich not being taxes properly" and the "monopolies" created by it.

In 1983, he told Ronald Smothers of The New York Times that "the Justice Department is not committed to justice."

In 1989's Eyes on the Prize II, he talked about the real possibility that we "will have an African American as nominee of a party, indeed, as president of the United States of America…"

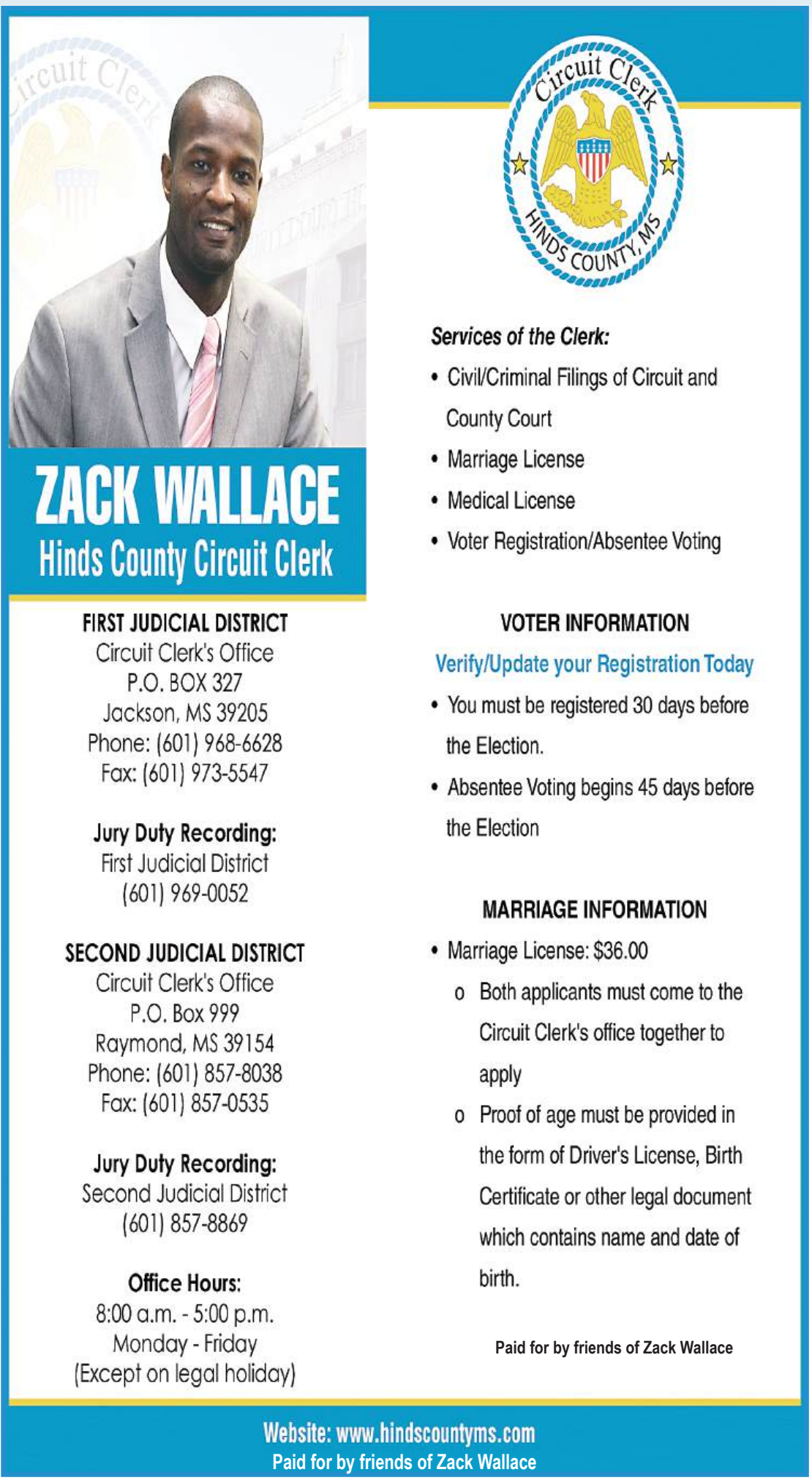
Do all these things sound familiar, like they were torn from the headlines just yesterday? That deja vu feeling will hit again and again as you read "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview."

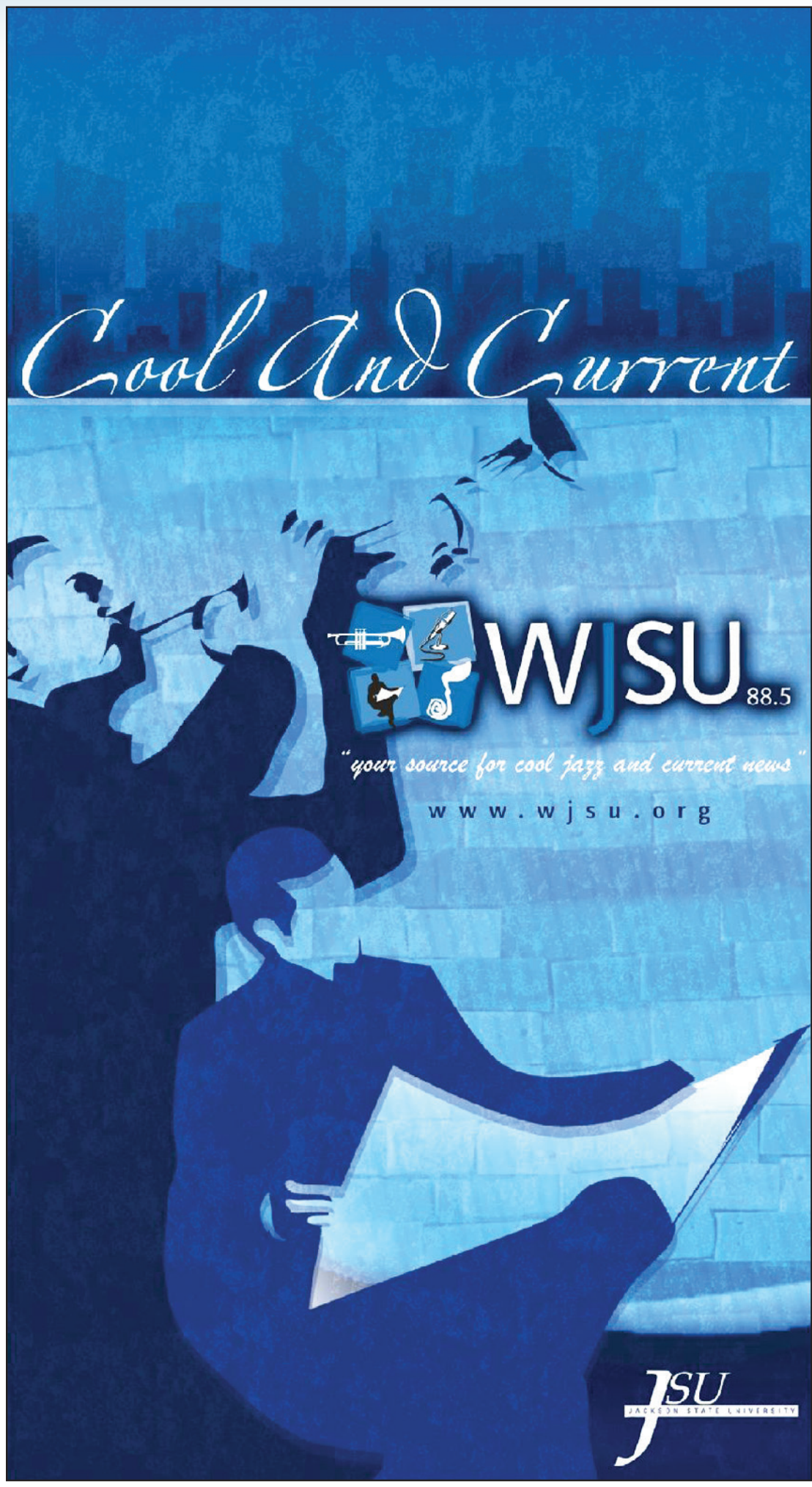
It helps, for further clarification and framing, to refer to the introduction by the Reverend Al Sharpton. There, Sharpton writes about the day he met Jackson, and the many times their lives and work intersected.

He underscores the importance of Jackson's activism and his work for Civil Rights over the years – and that's where this book becomes amazing.

Jackson's words, as gathered here, make him seem like a man with a crystal ball, peering at the problems of the future, to offer guidelines for them. Readers may be astounded that the old saw is correct: the more things change, the more they stay the same.

This slender collection may make you look for more of Jackson's interviews, so hone your search skills and get to work. In the meantime, "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview" is a most unusual book.





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HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

HCSD HISPANIC HERTIAGE CULTURAL FAIR

Unidos Somos Más | Together, We Are More! What an incredible evening of culture and community at the HCSD Hispanic Heritage Cultural Fair!

From vibrant cultural dances and student performances to meaningful recognition of our English Learners, the evening was a beautiful celebration of Hispanic heritage and the diversity that strengthens our district.

Thank you to our students, families, educators and community partners who helped make this celebration memorable! Take a look at some of our favorite moments from the evening, then visit our website to learn more about the celebration!































AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE

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