



The Freedom Bench

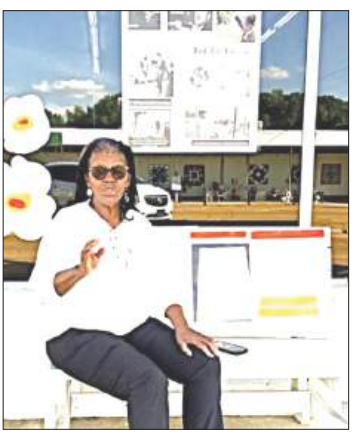
Has justice been served in the 74% African American Town of Mt. Olive or are we still waiting?

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

On Main Street - what locals call "The Boulevard" - in Mt Olive, Mississippi, there is a decorative display of chairs in front of a long vacant building. Chairs decorated by a long list of Chair Artists - community members and businesses - working with the Town of Mt. Olive's City Beautiful initiative. Each chair has a different theme relating to Spring; graduation, cold drinks, Penelope Potts (assembled with flower-pots), beach gear, the Patriotic Uncle Sam, and flowers of all types and colors. Once you spot the display, it draws you in. It's charming, beautiful, and demonstrates real effort on the part of so many.



Spring displays as part of Mt. Olive's City Beautiful initiative. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.



Ms. June Sullivan.



Mrs. Katherine Sims (former Mt. Olive Alderwoman).

COMMENTARY

Directly across the street, outside The Railroad Grill, things are much different - truth and the sacrifice for justice - are embodied at The Freedom Bench. Displayed behind the bench are photographs of Vernon Dahmer, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, Schwerner-Chaney-Goodman, Robert F. Kennedy's visit to the Mississippi Delta in 1967, and the Ocoee Massacre - where on election day in Ocoee, Florida, in 1920, when one African American man, Mose Norman, attempted to vote, he was denied then assaulted, then fled, triggering an armed white mob that burned the Black com-

munity and murdered at least fifty African Americans.

On the backrest of The Freedom Bench are copies of documents relating to the June 3, 2025, election in Mt. Olive, where the white incumbent Mayor James Kelly lost by two votes (120-118) to African American Alderwoman Marcia Craft Hull on election day, but

was declared the winner after the 58 absentee ballots were added to the totals. Suspiciously, 88 percent of absentee votes went to Kelly in the 74 percent African American town.

Hull challenged the election results. How often does that happen? How many times have African Americans challenged election results in Mississippi;

with its numbing history of white supremacy? She focused on a lengthy list of irregularities, and the case was heard at the Covington County Circuit Courthouse November 25th and 26th and December 1, 2025, by Senior Status Judge Lamar Pickard. Counsel was given a deadline of December 15, 2025, to provide the court with any additional information. Pickard's six-page Final Order was dated January 20, 2026, dismissing Hull's case with prejudice and adjudging that James Kelly is the duly elected Mayor of Mt. Olive.

Hull's counsel, Scherrie L. Prince, has appealed the decision to the Supreme Court of Mississippi. A Hearing date has not yet been set.

Back to those documents affixed to the backrest of The Freedom Bench - they demonstrate that all of the Black candidates outperformed the White candidates on election day. Yet on the absentee ballots, the White candidates, James Kelly (Mayor) and Perry Murphy (Alderman) outperformed the Black candidates, Marcia Hull (Mayor) and Willie Dampier (Alderman). A portion of the bench trial transcript highlights that Town Clerk, Breyon Magee, admitted photocopying voted absentee ballots on election night. There is also a portion of the transcript with her admission that the absentee

*Freedom
Continued on pages 3*

Transparency is the Oxygen of Accountability

In Partnership with American Community Media - National Briefing Series

By Ayesha K. Mustafaa
Contributing Writer

"You Have the Right": Utilizing and Preserving the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution Protections for Citizens and Journalists

The American Community Media's (ACoM) weekly briefing for April 24, 2026, focused on "Tracking ICE-Police Collaboration: Tools for Journalists, Lawsuits and What Authorities Don't Want You to See." Moderator was Acom's representative Pilar Marreror.

It was a "teach in" for journalists, which can be a valuable briefing before going out into the field to cover these highly charged events with interaction with ICE agents and local law enforcements.

ACoM opened this session focusing on "local police departments and sheriff's offices playing a growing role in immigration enforcement." However, much of this activity remains difficult to track.

It is found that "records are often incomplete, delayed, or withheld, leaving journalists and communities without a clear picture of how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operates at the local level."

The participating panelists discussed efforts to obtain records on ICE-police collaboration, including recent litigation in California, the example on how to share tools and strategies for accessing public data nationwide; how to connect with the researchers and organizations doing this work.

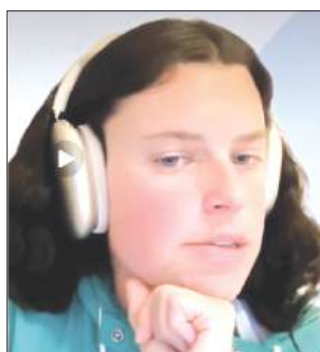
ACoM noted that as enforcement expands and becomes more decentralized, accountability depends on local reporting. "Knowing how to access records, identify collaboration between agencies, interpret incomplete data, and tap into existing expertise is essential to informing the public and documenting the impact on communities."

The presenters were: David Loy, Legal Director, First Amendment Coalition; Thadeus Greenson, Press Education Specialist, FAC; Elizabeth Clemons, Director of Training and Enablement, Muck Rock; and Austin Kocher, Assistant Research Professor, Syracuse University; Research Fellow, American University.

"Transparency is the oxygen of accountability," noted David Loy, Legal Director, First Amendment Coalition (FAC). Loy set the bar of importance as he expressed that his organization does



David Loy



Elizabeth Clemons



Muck Rock



Austin Kocher

not lean toward establishing "blame" on any given case but to assure that there is transparency for others to be able to make informed decisions."

FAC's working mantra: "Free speech, a free press, and the public's right to know are essential to engaged and informed communities" - an affirmation of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment that among seven other freedoms secures the right to have a "free press" uninhibited by government.

The FOIA federal law is also called the Sunshine Law as noted on the FAC website - firstamendment-coalition.org. This was a working session for media operatives, where Thadeus Greenson, also from FAC Press as its Education Specialist, gave more insights on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He walked through how to access records using this federal law

*Transparency
Continued on page 3*

The City of Jackson's Water Takeover



By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

The creation of a regional water authority in Jackson, Mississippi marks one of the most significant governance changes to

the capital city's infrastructure in decades. The effort grew out of years of system failures, political conflict, and federal intervention, culminating in sweeping state legislation in 2026 that stands to reshape control over water and sewer services.

The push for a new governing structure can be traced to longstanding infrastructure problems that reached a breaking point during the 2022 water crisis. Severe flooding and equipment failures left roughly 150,000 residents without reliable drinking water, exposing decades of underinvest-

ment and operational challenges.

In response, the federal government intervened. A U.S. District Court placed Jackson's water system under a third-party manager (JXN Water), removing day-to-day control from the city and signaling that a long-term governance solution would eventually be required.

During the 2026 Mississippi legislative session, state lawmakers advanced House Bill 1677, known as the Metro Jackson Water Authority Act. The legislation was authored by Rep. Shanda Yates (District 64), who

had pushed for structural reform of the system amid ongoing concerns about management and sustainability.

Governor Tate Reeves signed the bill into law April 18, 2026, and it took effect immediately.

Reeves and other state leaders argued that the change was necessary because Jackson had demonstrated an inability to manage its own system effectively. During and after the crisis, Reeves repeatedly criticized the city's performance, framing the takeover

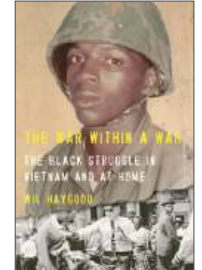
*Water
Continued on page 3*

Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Inside
Meredith Coleman McGee Releases Groundbreaking Book on Mississippi Blues



War Within a War



Meredith Coleman McGee releases groundbreaking book on Mississippi Blues

West Africa to Diddley bows – the music we know all comes from the foundation of The Blues

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

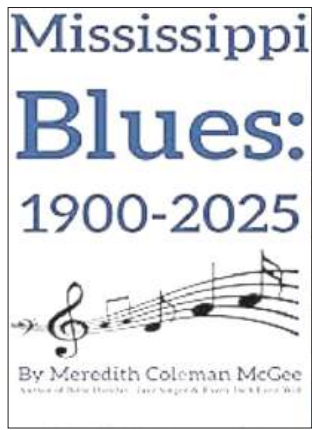
What Meredith Coleman McGee starts, she finishes - period. Sitting in the living room of her beautiful home in the Wingfield Place neighborhood of South Jackson, that point and many more are made crystal clear. It seems like we were just celebrating the release of her 13th book, a biography - Billy Holiday: Jazz Singer, and here we are again to discuss her just released, 382 page groundbreaker - Mississippi Blues: 1900-2025. Her 14th release in 14 years. Astounding!

Even knowing Meredith to be an avid Blues fan, I asked about her inspiration for a book on The Blues. "For the Billy Holiday book it was more personal, she was a historic figure, her place in music was larger than life. After I released that book, I was talking with my friend, Savina (Savina Schoenhofer), and she said - you ought to do a book about the blues now. That was it, the original inspiration."

She conveyed that the research was exhaustive. "I often worked on it from 9AM to 9PM



Author Meredith Coleman McGee at her home April 27, 2026. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG.



Cover of her just released book - Mississippi Blues: 1900-2025.

for days on end. The book contains 62 pages of notes and references. It was the most research I had ever done." She owns her own publishing house - Meredith Etc. - which currently has twenty-three authors and forty-one offerings. Her books are available through any online bookseller or through her own site - <https://meredithetc.com>. Amazon has been taking preorders of the hardcover version. Barnes & Noble started taking orders on the release date of April 22nd and Barnes & Noble at Renaissance will stock the new release and is scheduling an

authors book signing event.

The forward for Mississippi Blues: 1900-2025, was written by Mr. Alphonzo "AL" White, the director of ACER (Action Communication Education and Reform), organizer of the Grassroots Blues Festival - which has been active since 2001, and Mayor of Duck Hill, Mississippi.

Mississippi Blues: 1900-2025 provides a vivid exposure of generations of musicians who have dedicated their lives to keeping the Blues tradition alive and thriving. It chronicles the Bluesmen of the early 20th century -

Charlie Patton, regarded as the "The Grandfather of the Blues," Son House, and Robert Johnson. An entire chapter of the book is devoted to Jackson Mississippi's elder Bluesmen of today - Three-time Grammy Winner Big Bad Bobby Rush, 2023 Governor's Arts Award for Music Excellence and Peavey Award recipient King Edward Antoine and 2026 Governor's Arts Award (Lifetime Achievement) for lasting impact on Mississippi's music heritage, and his own Mississippi Blues Trail Marker at Iron Horse Grill, Jesse "Guitar" Robinson. There are stories about well-known artists like David "Honeyboy" Edwards (Shaw, MS), Muddy Waters (Issaquena County, MS), Howlin Wolf (Whites, MS), and Jimmy "Duck" Holmes (Benton, MS). The narrative also introduces dozens of lesser known and aspiring artists and musicians and explores blues roots as the evolution of American music.

Meredith Coleman McGee was born in Los Angeles to parents who had fled Mississippi. She came to Mississippi at age 5 and has never left. Her family lived on Pearl Street, across from

the old Summers Hotel - the second Black-owned hotel in Jackson. Two decades after opening the hotel, W.L. Summers created the Subway Lounge in the basement - an epicenter of Jazz and Blues in Jackson for well over thirty years. A few streets away in The Farish Street District, legendary Mississippi-Son James Meredith, Meredith's uncle, owned a lounge, and Meredith managed it for some time. Really, is it any wonder that she wound up writing a book about Mississippi Blues?

Meredith is truly one of a kind, always thinking of others, a true historian of Mississippi, thoroughly connected throughout the state, yet so unassuming. She is a thinker, and so I had to ask what she discovered about herself on the journey of writing Mississippi Blues. True to form she responded, "I learned a lot about my family. I interviewed a man named Smitty that cut my dad's hair, the first Afro in the state of Mississippi, setting a trend. My daddy was also a chef at my uncle's club."

After doing some grinning and smirking, I reminded her that I'd

asked about her, what she had learned about herself while writing the book. She grudgingly shared, "I'm highly productive. Much more efficient now. My first textbook took three years; this one took one year and eight months. It was an enormous sacrifice - often 14 hour days. I'm very focused, determined to complete my tasks, while trying to create a great product." From her lips to the ears of every young girl in Mississippi!

Scheduling her Book Tour is still a work in progress. On May 9th she will be in Hernando at First Regional Library, 370 West Commerce Street, for the Hernando Author Expo. On May 16th she will be at the annual May Fest in Greenville - the Book Gallery on Theobald Street from 11AM to 3PM. On June 20th she will be at the Jackson Book Festival. She is working on getting all three of Jackson's elder Bluesmen: Bobby Rush, King Edward, and Jesse Robinson together for an event to discuss the book. Mississippi Blues: 1900-2025 is available for order now at <https://meredithetc.com>.

At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi,

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

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

It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



Freedom

Continued from page 1



Ms. Annette Powell. PHOTOS: MARCIA CRAFT HULL.



Mr. Billy Chisolm.



Mrs. Marcia Craft Hull. Photos: Marcia Craft Hull.

proached by the City Beautiful folks and asked if she wanted to participate in the chair displays, she decided that instead of Spring blossoms, she would stick with the truth, with her already existing bench. "All these people (gesturing to the Civil Rights icons) were trying to achieve justice, and especially the right to register, vote, and have their vote counted and recorded legally. Most of them were killed because of their efforts. My purpose in doing this is to remind people that we had our people die so we could have the right to vote. Now we're going to run around and disrespect them by cheating? That's unacceptable. Despite Judge Pickard's ruling, this town has not moved on from that election, and now more and more people are aware of what really happened. They have been exposed now. We know this is Mississippi."

Driving back to Jackson after visiting The Freedom Bench Saturday, April 25, 2026, there was one simple question lingering. What has to happen for a Judge to order a new election? Despite all the irregularities listed above, questions if all the ballots were legal, questions as to whether the will of the people was held sacred, Judge Pickard ruled that there was no evidence of fraud or intentional wrongdoing in the election. We'll have to wait to see if the Supreme Court of Mississippi agrees.

voter list disappeared on the last day of absentee voting (May 31, 2025) and so she made it up from memory.

At that trial there was evidence that ballots had been comingled, that ballots were received through U.S. Mail without a postmark, that ballots were photocopied, that some ballots had

no signature. There was a reported ransomware attack one hour before absentee voting closed. Just imagine, a town with an estimated 895 residents, getting a ransomware attack on its City Hall computers. Was it a coincidence it happened when it did? Yet, there was no evidence of any ransom demand. There was evidence that the

previous election for Mayor had two absentee ballots. What would cause the Clerk to order 75 this time around? What changed so drastically in four years that 58 absentee ballots were cast in 2025, but only 2 in 2021?

When Marcia Hull, the owner of The Railroad Grill and other businesses in Mt. Olive, was ap-

Transparency

Continued from page 1

that mandates that public information be accessible – especially to journalists.

Elizabeth Clemons, Director of Training and Enablement for the media organization MuckRock, gave in-depth information on how to get the best results when filing a FOIA request. Some red flags, for example, is NOT TO ASK for "ANY AND ALL" – that makes the request so expansive that it will be resigned to the desk unattended. She noted there are about nine exemptions to releasing information.

This information is important to track ICE and police collaborations when subsequent lawsuits may be warranted. Some commonly sought out information may already be available through MuckRock posted searches at MuckRock.com – their objective again "to keep the government honest."

Thadeus Greenson closed out the session noting particular forms to request like EOIR-59 which can be used to acquire "a detainee's immigration court file, which may have materials critical in whether the laws were properly followed and due process

provided. This pertinent form is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1380121/dl?inline>

ICE Detention Reports can be accessed at Detentionreports.com and Enforcementdashboard.com

The closing focus remained on the need for transparency in government and the value in documenting the many cases of detainees by ICE, some documentation from neighbors and "Rapid Response" groups – a lead to what type of requests to place with FOIA.

Water

Continued from page 1

effort as a response to failures in staffing, billing, and infrastructure maintenance.

The final version of the law created a nine-member governing board for the new authority. After intense debate, it was decided that the makeup would be:

- 3 appointments by the Jackson mayor
- 2 appointments by the governor
- 1 appointment by the lieutenant governor
- 1 appointment each by the mayors of Ridgeland and Byram
- 1 jointly selected member by the governor and Jackson mayor

This final version (despite the push against it) explicitly allowed Ridgeland and Byram to determine their own appointees, reflecting their reliance on Jackson's water system and their demand for representation.

Jackson Mayor John Horhn strongly opposed earlier versions of the bill, arguing that the city, which owns the infrastructure and bears the financial burden, should retain majority control of the board.

Horhn lobbied lawmakers throughout the session to increase Jackson's representation but ultimately did not secure a majority. The final structure left Jackson with three of nine voting members, plus Horhn himself as a non-voting participant.

Appointment of Board Members

Following passage of the law, each jurisdiction moved to appoint its representatives:

- Jackson named its three appointees, Shirley Tucker, an extension specialist and business counselor with the Mississippi Small Business Development Center, Austin Barbour, managing partner of The Clearwater Group and Daniel L. Walker, president and CEO of Adonai Environmental Development and Power.
- Ridgeland named Paul Forster who serves as the city's engineer and Byram selected Tramone Smith who also serve as its city's engineer.

The governor and other state officials also began naming their members. In an unexpected turn of events, the City of Jackson filed legal action just days after making its appointments, underscoring the ongoing dispute.

Among other things, the city argues that:

- The legislation conflicts with existing federal court orders governing the system
- It violates the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution
- Only the federal court—not the state—has authority to determine when and how control transitions away from the current receiver

City attorneys emphasized that the system remains under federal oversight, and any attempt by the state to preempt that authority is unlawful.

This isn't a done deal. While the state has created a new governing body, the courts and ongoing negotiations between Jackson and state leaders will ultimately determine whether and how that authority takes control.

we must vote
April 1, 2026

Contact: Toni Johnson
601.208.0983 / Toni@WeMust.Vote

STATEMENT ON SHIELD ACT

JACKSON, MS – Toni Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of We Must Vote, released the following statement regarding Gov. Tate Reeves signing the SHIELD Act into law.

"We must be clear: this law is based on debunked conspiracy theories but will have the very real result of disenfranchising thousands of eligible Mississippi voters – stripping them of their right to register and vote. It will disproportionately hurt women - whose names no longer match their birth certificate as well as rural voters and college students - who have a harder time accessing services to get government documents.

"Our lawmakers should be working to expand access to voting for all Mississippians, not trying to deny them this most basic and fundamental right. Every eligible voter must be assured they have the right to register and to vote. And, we will continue to stand up for that right and work to ensure they are able to access the ballot box."

– Toni Johnson, Executive Director

WWW.WEMUST.VOTE

WE MUST VOTE, INC. | 317 E. CAPITOL STREET-SUITE 229 | JACKSON, MS 39201

HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEEKLY UPDATE

UTICA TRACK AND FIELD HONORED AT STATE CAPITOL

Utica Elementary/Middle School (UEMS) Boys and Girls Track and Field teams, along with their coaches, were recently invited to the Mississippi State Capitol for special recognition following their outstanding performance at the 2026 CMAC Track Championships.

The UEMS Girls Track Team continues its legacy of excellence, capturing the championship title for the first time since 2019. Meanwhile, the Boys Track Team has solidified its dominance by achieving an impressive three consecutive championships—earning the title of back-to-back-to-back champions.

This remarkable success reflects the hard work, discipline, and commitment of the student-athletes, as well as the leadership of Head Coach Bridget Jones and Assistant Coach Allyson Holmes. Their dedication to developing scholar-athletes both on and off the field continues to make a lasting impact.

Special appreciation is extended to Stephanie McKenzie Foster for her consistent efforts in providing opportunities for exposure and recognition for the Utica community. Her unwavering commitment to service has been instrumental in highlighting the achievements of these young athletes.

The teams also expressed gratitude for the continued support of community leaders, including Mayor Calvin B. Williams, Supervisor Bobby McGowan, Alderman Kenneth Broome, and supporters Don and Cassandra Lee.

The Utica community takes great pride in these accomplishments, celebrating not only championship victories but also the spirit of unity, perseverance, and excellence demonstrated by its student-athletes.



Healthcare with us,
FMOLHealth.org

LOCAL CARE, BIG-TIME MEDICINE

This is how we healthcare.™



FMOL Health is one connected health system, where excellence meets empathy, and you always feel seen and understood. We healthcare with purpose, compassion and great love. Wherever you meet us, you'll find the same promise: the best care possible.

The Piney Woods a community deserves to know

By Dawn Montgomery
Black Press USA



A memoir, a re-consideration, and an argument for what school choice actually requires

COMMENTARY

In the Pine Belt area where I grew up, when an elder mentioned Piney Woods to a child, it was often used as a threat. Teachers especially would say, "If you don't stop talking in class, you'll get sent to Piney Woods." The students who kept hearing it were usually the ones who looked like me.

I accepted those warnings at face value. I didn't know exactly where Piney Woods was. I don't think I even knew for sure that it was a school. I grew up thinking it was a place where unwanted Black kids got sent, and I knew that I didn't want to end up there.

After I graduated from South Jones High School in Ellisville,

I met a young woman by chance who talked about learning to ride horses and how to farm while in school. She was so composed and grounded. There was nothing on her face or in her voice but satisfaction as she spoke. I couldn't relate, so I listened silently. When she told me she was a Piney Woods graduate, I went from feeling incredulous to confused. In my ignorance, I asked, "Isn't that a school for bad kids?" She said, "No. It can be that for some, but for most of us, it's home."

A child sent somewhere against their will doesn't casually mention learning to ride horses. At that moment, it was clear that I had been sold a lie my whole childhood.

The Piney Woods School sits on roughly 800 acres in rural Rankin County, about twenty-one miles southeast of Jackson. It serves grades 8 through 12. It was founded in 1909 by educator Laurence C. Jones, a Black man, and is one of only four his-

torically Black boarding schools still operating in the United States.

Dr. Will Crossley, who initially arrived at the school as an eighth-grade student from Chicago's South Side, now leads it. As Jason L. Riley reported in The Wall Street Journal in October, Crossley went on to the University of Chicago, earned a master's from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Virginia, and served in the Obama-era Education Department before returning to Mississippi as the school's first alumnus president.

Crossley told the Journal that people sometimes assume an all-Black school must be a reform school. I was raised by those assumptions. The same article reports that Piney Woods has a 100 percent graduation rate and that its graduates complete four-year college degrees at roughly twice the national rate for students from high-poverty backgrounds. Those are not the outcomes of a school for

troubled kids.

A school that a community has been taught to mock is also one the community is less likely to apply to, donate to, or advocate for. The misinformation didn't only cost families a choice. It costs the institution.

Mississippi has been moving in a direction few predicted. The state has the highest percentage of Black residents of any state in the country, and its public education numbers reflect real change. A decade ago, Mississippi ranked 49th on the fourth-grade NAEP reading assessment. In 2024, it ranked ninth, without any adjustment for demographics. When the Urban Institute adjusted for demographics, Mississippi ranked first. Black fourth graders in the state now rank third in the nation in reading and math. Low-income fourth graders rank first in reading.

Those gains are real, and they have arrived alongside a policy debate. Mississippi has expanded

school choice options in recent years. The Education Scholarship Account program is a key example, allowing families of students with specific disabilities to direct state funds to private schools. Supporters argue that families deserve choices beyond the designated school based on their zone. Critics say dollars diverted to private options leave public schools with less.

People I respect fall on both sides. I don't want to settle that argument here. What I want to say is that choice, whatever you consider it to be policy, is only real if families know what is actually out there. My mother never had the information to consider Piney Woods. Neither did the mothers of most of the kids around me. What we had instead was a running punchline that made the school sound like a punishment. A voucher or a scholarship account can only do so much when the information a family receives about a school is wrong.

Piney Woods might not be for everyone. No school is. Some kids thrive in a rural boarding setting with farm work and structure, while others don't. But every family in Mississippi deserves to hear about the school the way that young woman years ago described it to me, with pride and gratitude, not the way it was invoked by my teachers when I was a child.

What if my teachers had described Piney Woods as a home? What if my mother had heard its name and thought of a school instead of a threat? What if, when we talk about what school choice means in Mississippi, we started with the families who never got to choose because no one told them the choices existed?

Mississippi has proved that the bar can move. The information families receive has to move with it.

Dawn Montgomery is a parent advocate, journalist, and culture critic contributor at BlackPressUSA

Statement from Mississippi Senate Minority Leader Senator Derrick T. Simmons on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision regarding Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

The decision this week by the United States Supreme Court in Louisiana v. Callais represents a profound shift in how our nation interprets and protects the voting rights of minority communities. By striking down Louisiana's congressional map and limiting the application of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the Court has narrowed long-standing safeguards that were designed to ensure

fair representation for all Americans.

For decades, the Voting Rights Act has stood as one of the most important civil rights laws in our nation's history, ensuring that communities of color have a meaningful opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. This ruling raises serious concerns about whether those protections will continue to be fully realized, particularly in states across the

South where representation has long been contested.

This decision is not just about Louisiana, it has national implications. It may open the door for states to redraw congressional districts in ways that may dilute minority voting strength and reshape political power ahead of future elections.

As Senate Minority Leader, I remain committed to protecting the

fundamental right to vote and to ensuring that every voice—especially those historically marginalized—is heard and respected. We must continue to pursue legislative, legal, and civic pathways to uphold fairness, equity, and transparency in our electoral process.

The fight for equal representation did not end today, and it will not end tomorrow.



Simmons

FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

www.TCLFinancialTaxServices.com

We Don't Just Do Taxes... WE KNOW TAXES

FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

"Before you call anybody about your Business, Finances, Money, or Taxes...CALL US"

- ✓ Budgeting Techniques
- ✓ Business Bookkeeping
- ✓ Business Start-Up and Development
- ✓ Credit Restoration
- ✓ Debt Elimination Techniques
- ✓ Estate Planning
- ✓ Identity Theft Insurance
- ✓ Life Insurance
- ✓ Notary Public
- ✓ Pre-Paid Legal Protection
- ✓ Saving for Retirement
- ✓ Tax Preparation (Individual and Business)

Tim C. Lee
CEO & Founder

BYRAM
(601) 371-8580

CANTON
(601) 859-5554

HIGHWAY 18
(601) 922-2TCL (2825)

MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD
(601) 982-5880

Tune in to "The TCL Show," hosted by CEO & Founder, Tim C. Lee, every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST on WMPR 90.1 FM in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the show that is about You, Life, and Money!

FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES

"Before you call anybody about your Business, Finances, Money, or Taxes...CALL US"

JOIN OUR TEXTALERTS TO WIN A FREE TCL ROKU SMART TV

Text **TCL2004** to **(855) 624-0706** or scan our QR Code

The TCL Show

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

Hosted by CEO & Founder
of TCL Financial & Tax Services

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

In Harm's Way

"It's me as a doctor, and I do take care of people" - 997 days to go

By Christopher Young
Contributing Writer

The saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Viewing the images embedded in this story we can see plainly that our country is in harm's way with Trump at the helm. He is no doctor or healer of any kind. He is a harmer. When asked outside the White House, while he was receiving a McDonald's delivery April 13th, he claimed he took down the post because people were confused. He indicated that he did not see himself as Jesus, but "as a doctor or a Red Cross worker...and I do take care of people."

The real reason the Jesus-like post was taken down was because of the global outrage to his post, including his MAGA base with many critical of the post - on Facebook many called it blasphemy. One prominent Trump supporter, Riley Gaines said "God shall not be mocked." New York Magazine said of the photos, "What should you do when you offend a lot of people? The simplest answer is to apologize, then stop doing the thing that got everyone so upset. Obviously, Donald Trump can't do the first part. Being an extremely powerful world-class narcissist means never having to say you're sorry..." One exception to the outrage was Franklin Graham, son of the late Billy



Posts by President Trump on his Truth Social on April 12, 2026, and April 15, 2026, respectively.

COMMENTARY

Graham - revered by many the world over. He said the post was "a lot to do about nothing." On his X (formerly Twitter) page he said that Trump was "the most pro-Christian president in his lifetime and a staunch defender of religious liberty." Do you suppose Franklin Graham owns a gold-lined signature edition of Trump's "God Bless The USA Bible."

And the posts by the U.S. President came while he was insulting the Pope, who had spoken out against the war with Iran, and called for peace. In response Trump called Pope Leo "weak on crime and terrible for

Foreign policy," as reported by PBS. Not new behavior though for Trump. After Pope Leo's predecessor Francis questioned Trump's Christian faith over the border wall, Trump had called him disgraceful. Can he go lower? Let's recall, Trump was convicted criminally on 34 charges of falsifying business records - the whole hush money thing with porn star Stormy Daniels. In just one of many civil cases, he was found liable for the sexual abuse and defamation of E. Jean Carroll. He has pardoned and/or commuted the sentences of over 1,600 criminals, 1,500 being January 6th insurrectionists. The list goes on. He mocks Judges who don't agree with

him. He has no regard for the rule of law yet calls the Pope weak on crime. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black.

America and Americans are in harm's way. He has done his best to remove or ignore any checks and balances to his executive powers. Instead of preserving independence, he has fired inspectors general, agency head's responsible for audits, and brought the Department of Justice under his complete control. USA Today reporting on Office of Personnel Management data shows that over 3,300 lawyers have resigned or retired from DOJ since Trump took office again, and over 230 have been fired.

Last Summer he directed the bombing of Iran and reported their nuclear capabilities "obliterated," yet keeps telling us we are at war with Iran now to ensure they don't develop a nuclear weapon. We are told by the Fox News personality turned Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, that Iran's Navy, Air Force, and missile capability have been "functionally destroyed and decimated." Then two American tactical aircraft, an F-15 Strike Eagle and an A-10 Warthog were shot down, five weeks into the war. During the rescue mission, which was successful, we destroyed several of our own aircraft to prevent them from being captured. At Pentagon press briefings Hegseth has repeatedly invoked Jesus and The Messiah as watching over the "crusade" or "Holy War" against Iran and referred to journalists covering the war as "Pharisees," per reporting by Reuters. Falsehoods and contradictions by those in harm's way.

Last July, the President signed the One Big Beautiful Bill into law - an extension of the tax cuts for the wealthy from Trump's first term. Who will suffer as a result? The poor - 8 to 12 million will lose Medicaid coverage, more than two million families will lose SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

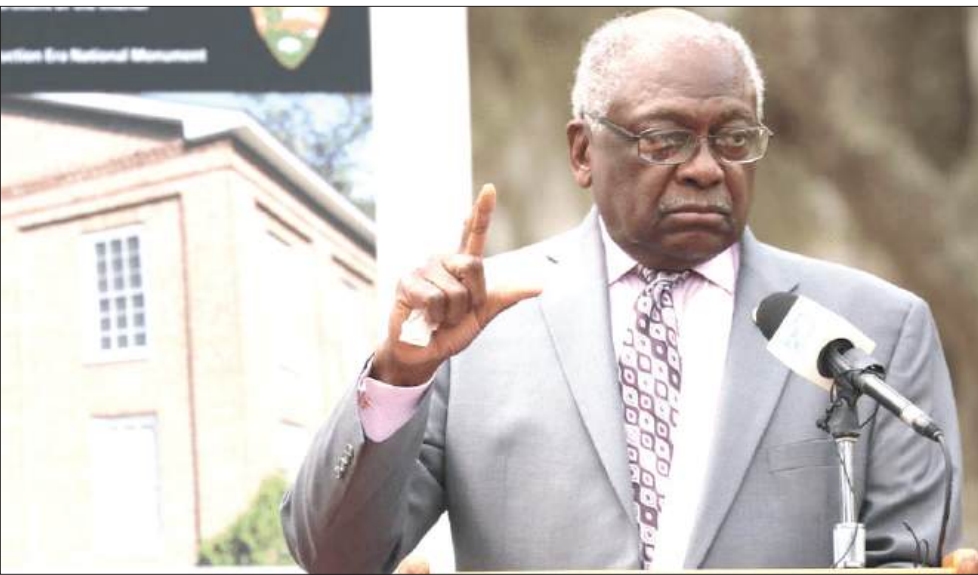
Program) benefits. It removes the enhanced subsidies which made Affordable Care Act premiums affordable for up to 10 million low-income families, all per the Congressional Budget Office and Kaiser Family Foundation.

The American ideal of "liberty and justice for all" has taken flight. True freedom and equal treatment under the law are now hostages. Authoritarianism has come to roost in America. Day 1 Executive Orders to end birthright citizenship, eliminate diversity-equity-inclusion programs from the federal government, and withdraw from the World Health Organization are just a few more examples.

Bloomberg now reports that the approval rating for Congress - those entrusted to represent "we the people" as a co-equal branch of government - is at 10% - the lowest rating ever recorded. On April 23, 2026, the New York Times Polling Average indicated that 58% of American's disapprove of Trump's job performance, while 39% approve.

Looking at the image Trump posted with Jesus wrapping his arms around him, we can see why we are in harm's way. What Trump is incapable of understanding is that Jesus puts his arm around all of us, not just some of us. Trump does the ex-

'Slavery was a good thing,' Black leader says MAGA told Him



U.S. Congressman James Clyburn (SC-06) received a standing ovation for his role in establishing Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. PHOTO: U.S. PARK SERVICE

By Aisha Winfrey
Los Angeles WAVE

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, one of America's most influential Black political leaders, says that some MAGA Republicans told him directly that slavery was a good thing, according to a clip from a political news show that's gaining renewed attention online.

The South Carolina congressman also warned that some Make America Great Again loyalists would bring back Jim Crow-style systems in the U.S., if given the chance, according to the news clip.

Clyburn made the comments during an interview on PBS's "Firing Line with Margaret Hoover." According to Atlanta Black Star, a clip from the show that's garnered recent attention online shows Clyburn detailing interactions he's had with MAGA loyalists, some of whom want the country to return to a segregated state.

When asked whether he thought MAGA Republicans were explicitly racist, Clyburn said he doesn't liberally apply the term to the entire group.

"I'm very circumspect about using the term. There are racists," Clyburn said. "There are white supremacists. There are

people who are supporters of this president who admit to me that they are white supremacists. I've had people who support this president tell me that they thought slavery was a good thing."

Clyburn said he believes the MAGA Republicans "wish to get us back as close to slavery as they can possibly get us" without violating the Constitution and would attempt to reinstate Jim Crow-like "separate but equal" policies with the help of the Supreme Court.

"Anything that's happened before can happen again," Clyburn said. "All it takes is a rogue Supreme Court."

In the same discussion, Clyburn spoke about his book "The First Eight," which looks at South Carolina's first Black members of Congress after the Civil War and how they shaped political progress.

Clyburn wrote the book following the deadly U.S. Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, which he believes was inspired by the Antebellum era and came to pass as a result of reactionary politics.

He also referenced earlier polling of Trump supporters that showed differing views on emancipation and Civil War history.

Dance Theatre of Harlem Gala to support vision for the future



A performer from the Dance Theatre of Harlem is captured mid-dance, showcasing the elegance and athleticism of ballet. Photo courtesy New York Carib News

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Dance Theatre of Harlem drew a powerful mix of artists, cultural leaders, and industry tastemakers for its annual Vision Gala, an evening that seamlessly blended performance, tribute, and forward-looking purpose.

Held in tandem with the company's New York season opening at New York City Center, the gala unfolded as both a celebration of the institution's cultural legacy and a strategic investment in its future. The night culminated in an elegant dinner program at the Ziegfeld Ballroom, led by Executive Director Anna Glass and cultural curator Kenny Burns.

Beyond the glamour, the evening delivered tangible impact. A live fundraising appeal generated an additional \$160,000, bringing the total raised to \$1,386,047 in support of the company's mission to expand access to ballet and nurture diverse talent. The event was supported by GEICO.

At the emotional core of the night

was a tribute to acclaimed choreographer Fatima Robinson, recipient of the Arthur Mitchell Vision Award. Actress Rosie Perez delivered heartfelt remarks, framing Robinson's journey as one that redefined the intersections of hip-hop, film, and visual storytelling.

That legacy was brought vividly to life through an original ballet by Artistic Director Robert Garland. Performed by the company, the piece fused classical ballet with contemporary sounds from artists such as Aaliyah and Michael Jackson, a fitting tribute to Robinson's influence across genres.

The award was presented by director Kenny Leon, with Robinson delivering a deeply resonant acceptance speech centered on the importance of "trusting your own knowing," drawing a standing ovation from the audience.

The evening also recognized media executive Scott Mills with the Virtuoso Award, honoring his contributions to advancing Black storytelling. The award was pre-

sented by Stephen Hill and singer Chanté Moore.

Among the notable attendees was ballet icon Misty Copeland, fresh from her appearance at the Academy Awards, alongside a distinguished guest list that included Jordan Cooper, Adrienne Warren, Abby Phillip, Bevy Smith, and S. Epatha Merkerson.

The Host Committee, featuring figures such as Antwaun Sargent, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, and Mickalene Thomas, reflected the expansive cultural reach and influence of the organization.

The night concluded on an energetic note as DJ D-Nice transformed the ballroom into a lively dance floor, closing out the evening with celebration and community.

More than a glamorous affair, the Vision Gala underscored Dance Theatre of Harlem's enduring mission: to challenge the boundaries of classical ballet while championing the diverse voices shaping its future.

One political party's best days are now turning into their worst days

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



What started out with loud voices has morphed into quite whispers. Crowds chanting it's a new day are now almost silent. Bluster has now turned into being barely noticeable.

Sometimes talking too much and too loudly will backfire on you. Those supporters once taking front seats are now sheepishly taking back seats. Some don't even bother to show up. Maybe they have lost hope.

At one point, some elected officials were holding meetings

with their constituents when they were home from Washington DC. Their central theme was everything is fine and the country is doing great. They signed autographs and took pictures with everyone.

It was what I would call one big political lovefest. If you were in this party, it didn't matter if you were at the local, state or federal level. Everything was coming up roses and aces.

I hear this expression among young people, and it is, "what had happened was". It is said in both a funny and a sarcastic way.

Well, what had happened was the Republican Party lost its way. It is a classic case of going from fame to shame. The Grand

Old Party has splintered leadership and is divided among itself.

Some are asking how can that be? It can be because philosophically they don't know who they are. Do they want less government interference or don't they? Do they want the war in Iran or don't they?

These are just two of the many questions facing the Republican Party. For example, every poll they see is against them. More than half of the American people don't want us at war.

Let's get right down to the real nitty gritty, lyrics made popular years ago by Shirley Ellis. Last year at this time, the price of gas was about \$2.78 per gallon. We could go to the

gas station and not feel overwhelmed by the price. Now the price is over \$4.00 per gallon and over \$5.00 per gallon in some parts of California.

Food prices at grocery stores are out of line with our pocketbooks. We are having to pinch pennies more each day. Shelia Fields, a retired nurse in Galveston Texas said, Like yesterday, we went to three different stores here in town. And we bought only what was a really good sale. So we got no meat at all. Because it's just too high."

Republicans are going down a dead-end road. They are being met with pause and pessimism. Many Republicans are lukewarm when it comes to policies coming from 1600

Pennsylvania Avenue.

Citizens are seeing top federal officials being fired. They are political pawns on a chess board, and they are being swept away. Kind of like, here today and gone tomorrow.

Most recently, Attorney General Pam Bondi was fired just a few weeks ago. It didn't matter how many times she shouted out his name. Don't forget about Susan Monarez, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who was terminated in August of last year.

Financial donors to the administration's campaign aren't immune from facing termination. Billionaire John Phelan was fired as Secretary of the Navy. The reason given was

over a new class of battleships. I guess they couldn't agree.

Strangely, being fired in this administration is like wearing a badge of honor. You wear it proudly. Isn't that funny? You will never hear from these people again.

Republicans who want to see America great again are gearing up for the midterm elections in November. They are a nervous group right now because they can see the handwriting on the wall. It's in big bold letters and it simply says, "I'm cooked. Just stick a fork in me because I'm done."

Some GOP folks spout out make America Great Again. It begs the question, make America great for who?

Vital journalism is under stress

By Bill Crawford
Syndicated Columnist



The Mississippi Press Association, celebrating its 160th anniversary, held a forum highlighting local journalism last week at History Is Lunch in the Two Museums. MPA vice president Peter Imes, publisher of the Commercial Dispatch in Columbus, spoke of the vital role local journalism "plays at the grassroots level in our democracy" as he welcomed the panel.

Charles Overby, chair of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism at Ole Miss moderated. Panelists included professional journalists Natalie Perkins from the Deer Creek Pilot in Rolling Fork, Jamie Patterson from the Yazoo Herald in Yazoo City, and Anita Lee from the Sun Herald in Biloxi.

Discussion focused on local journalism's importance as a community storyteller, watchdog, and public-information source.

All three speakers agreed local journalists provide es-

sential benefits other media sources do not: preserving and documenting community stories with context and history; serving as watchdogs over local elected officials and government operations; covering routine civic life (city councils, school boards, etc.), and producing community-focused features that resonate locally.

Perkins noted the critical role her small newspaper played in communicating with local people after an E4 tornado struck. "We continue to tell the story," she said, and "we're the only ones that give a rip about Sharkey County."

"Being a person that they go to church with or see in the grocery store or at the Little League field," Patterson said lets local people "know that I have just as much stake in the community as they do."

The panelists also agreed on the persistent threats to local journalism from social media misinformation, ad revenue losses to online media, and audience shifts, particularly among young people, to free online platforms.

"I've been very concerned about that for a while now,"

said Lee, "and I try to do my little part, which is like spitting in the ocean, to assure people that I'm a real journalist. This is what I do and this is how I do it....So I just hope people are discerning and careful about what media they consume."

Panelists expressed concern that local journalism is "in trouble" as staffing shrinks. But they remain optimistic if dedicated professional journalism persists and communities support local news outlets. Lee stressed the latter, lamenting that people don't realize their local news source is going to go away one day if local support dries up. They will have to depend upon social media alternatives that lack professional standards and commitments to fairness and transparency.

"I feel so horrible for those communities that are kind of in news deserts that don't have those newspapers and don't have those watchdogs. That's scary," concluded Patterson.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"— Hosea 4:6.

Crawford is an author and syndicated columnist from North Jackson.

Communication: Open Up

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



I know about the fairytale marriages you observe on social media, but many married couples are struggling to stay married. Married couples face many challenges in marriage. For instance, some married couples struggle with the following: adjusting to living as one, some have unhealthy sleep patterns due to the sounds of train wrecks snoring, many are unable to agree on how to manage finances, parenting styles may differ, halitosis is a nightmare, division over house chores and responsibilities.

Additionally, some struggle with intimacy issues – many spouses (both males and females) are failing to quench their spouse thirst (it is understandable if a spouse is unable to be intimate due to major health issues and it is also understandable if a spouse is not intimate due to failing to nurture their spouse as needed; foreplay begins before the bedroom it starts with how you love, respect, honor, support, and help each other. In other words, don't expect your spouse to be in the mood if you are not properly wooing them. However, intimacy should not be withheld as punishment and if there are underlying issues like health issues that can be mitigated with life alterations like proper dieting, exercise, and medication— seek medical care ASAP (I know a good primary doctor) or if you experienced abuse, trauma that hasn't been resolved – please seek immediate help as it is unfair to withhold the intimacy that God intended for married couples to share with each other. Please, don't forget, where there is no touch, the marriage will eventually perish. Although I have identified several struggles many married couples face today there is another major struggle that is causing havoc in marriage for newlyweds and even seasoned couples. One of the biggest challenges that many married couples struggle

with is poor communication.

Why is it so hard to communicate, open up with bae, your good thing, your soulmate, the woman or man you took vows with? The following are reasons that there is poor communication in your marriage:

- Previously ineffective communication has led to mistrust, intimidation, and invalidation
- Tone – sometimes hurts and offenses isn't triggered by the content it often involves how you say it – this can make a big difference
- Fear judgment
- Fear being misunderstood
- Want to avoid confrontation
- Fear things will worsen
- Fear that it will be used against them -anything you say will be used against you in the court of this marriage
- Time consuming
- Fear that it is a waste of time – nothing will change

What Should You Communicate About?

- Everything – be transparent and come clean about everything down from religion, parenting, groceries, date nights, finances, and intimacy.

How Do You Create a Comfortable Space for Communication?

- Pray before you speak especially for tough conversations
- Pray together before discussing something seriously like finances, children, halitosis, etc.
- Listen
- Think before you speak
- Tone – utilize the proper tone – Proverbs 15:1 states: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
- Create a free judgmental zone
- Don't use it against the person – marriage is not a courtroom

What Are the Benefits of Communicating with Each Other?

- Promotes oneness
- Increase trust
- Increase bonding
- Friendship with each other grows
- Feel heard and validated
- Help reduce conflict, anxiety, and stress

- Intimacy improves
- Improves overall communication

- Improves the overall health of marriage
- Can make for a happier and loving marriage

I know this may be cliché because many if not all married couples have been told at least a dozen times that communication is vital. Nevertheless, effective communication in marriage is essential for having a happy, healthy, and loving marriage. If little to no effective communication transpires in your marriage it can lead to arguments, contention, division, affairs, separation, and divorce.

In conclusion, my husband and I initially struggled with poor communication in the early phases of our twenty-year marriage. But thank God it has improved and is improving. Also, we have counseled many couples who struggled with poor communication too. Therefore, my husband created an app called Open Up: Ritual. You can find this app in the App Store like on an Apple Device. Yes, it is another technological "thingy" yet it helps fosters communication, tool for journaling, reconnects/restores you and your spouse, fun way to communicate with your spouse throughout the day, can use it with your children, family, and friends, and it helps trigger deeper and meaningful conversations when you see each other face to face. The Open Up:Ritual App was developed to help you communicate and Open Up with your spouse TODAY!

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

Subscribe TODAY 2659 Livingston Road • Jackson MS, 39213
601-896-0084 • www.mississippilink.com

The Mississippi Link

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

e-Mail _____

CHECK ONE 1 year 2 year 3 year

\$50
1 year
subscription

\$100
2 year
subscription

\$150
3 year
subscription

Thank you for your order. Order a subscription for a friend!

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING JAMES KING A REZONING FROM C80-RE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE SUBDISTRICT TO C80-MU (MIXED-USE) SUBDISTRICT WITH CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL CENTER/EVENT VENUE & A VENDOR PARK FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT PARCELS 821-620-2 & 821-620-3 ON HIGHWAY 80 W. CASE NO. 4318.

WHEREAS, James King has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at Parcels 821-620-2 & 821-620-3 on Highway 80 W., in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from C80-RE Residential Estate Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with Use Permits to allow for the construction of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the properties from C80-RE Residential Estate Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2026 to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on February 5, 2026 and February 19, 2026 that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on February 25, 2026, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described properties from C80-RE Residential Estate Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with Conditional Use Permits to allow for the construction of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion

that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the properties and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council, after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that the proposed uses would not be detrimental to the continued use, value, or development of properties in the vicinity is compatible with the character of development in the vicinity and that Conditional Use Permits be granted to allow for the construction of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park within a C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict of the properties located at Parcels 821-620-2 & 821-620-3 on Highway 80 W.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

section 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

Parcel 821-620-2

Commencing from the intersection of the South ROW line of U.S. Highway 80 and the North line of Lot 8, Nelson Place, Part 1, as recorded in the Plat Book 8 at Page 50 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, and run thence along the South line of

U.S. Highway 80 Nmh 60 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds W 856.03 feet to the point of beginning;

thence S 29 degrees 43 minutes 45 seconds W 475.72 feet; thence N 89 degrees 30 minutes 59

seconds W 421.0 feet; thence N 28 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds East 581.63 feet; thence S 60 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds East 385.0 feet to the Point of the Beginning. Being situated in the S- 1/2 of the SW- 1/4 of the Section 35; T6N, R1 W, Hinds Co., MS., containing 5.0 acres more or less.

Parcel 821-620-3

Commencing from the intersection of the South ROW line of U.S. Highway 80 and the North line of Lot 8, Nelson Place, Pmi 1, as recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 50 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, and run thence along the South line of U.S. Highway 80 North 60 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds W 1241.03 feet to the point of Beginning; thence S 28 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds W 681.63 feet; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 59

seconds West 220.0 feet; thence N 14 degrees 46 minutes 30 seconds East 816.54 feet; thence South 60 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds East 385.0 feet to the Point of the Beginning. Being situated in the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 35; T6N, R1 W, Hinds County, Mississippi, containing

5.0 acres, more or less.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the properties located at Parcels 821-620-2 & 821-620-3 on Highway 80 W. from C80-RE Residential Estate Subdistrict to C80-MU (Mixed-Use) Subdistrict with Use Permits to allow for the construction of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park. The Conditions of the Use Permit shall be that they be granted on an annual basis; that they be granted to James King, the owner/operator of the community recreational center/event venue & vendor park; and that subsequent owners or operators of a community recreational center/event venue & a vendor park at this location must apply for and receive new Use Permits and that compliance with adopted Property Maintenance, Building, Fire, Law Enforcement and Zoning Codes be maintained at all times. However, that before for any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective th(1y) (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Brown-Thomas oved adoption; Vice President Hartley seconded. Yeas - Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, G1zzell, Hmiley and Parkinson. Nays-None. Absent - Stokes.

ATTEST:
Angela Harris Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting March 16, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1275-1277".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 24th day of April 2026

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

4/30/2026

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARLIN BENNETT KING SR., DECEASED CAUSE NO.: P2025-00089 M/4

PETITIONERS: APRIL KING

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Executrix upon the Estate of Marlin Bennett King Sr., Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probaton and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 26th day of April, 2026.

April King
April King

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, April King, Administrator for the Estate of Marlin Bennett King Sr., deceased, who having been by me first duly sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.

Ann James
NOTARY



MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

Frank C. Jones, MSB 10700
Frank Jones Law Office
1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Tel: (769) 251-0207
Fax: (601) 608-7872

4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026

LEGAL

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
NETA COOPER, DECEASED

CAUSE NO: P2025-430 G/2

GABRIELLE COOPER, ADMINISTRATOR

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted by the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi to the undersigned Administrator upon the Estate of Netra Cooper, Deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probaton and registration according to the law, within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 24th day of April, 2026.

Gabrielle Cooper, Administrator
Gabrielle Cooper

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named, Gabrielle Cooper, Administrator for the Estate of Netra Cooper deceased, who having been by me first duly

sworn, states that the above Notice to Creditors is true and correct as therein stated.



Ann James

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

Frank C. Jones, III Attorney at Law
Frank C. Jones Law Office
1010 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Tel: (769) 251-0207
Facsimile: (601) 608-7872

4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026

LEGAL

Legal Advertisement Notice:

RFP#2026-01

The City of Jackson is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to provide comprehensive landscaping and grounds maintenance services for its transit facilities. Proposals must be received by 3:30 PM on June 2, 2026.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope or via the City's electronic procurement system at www.jacksonsbids.com and clearly marked with RFP Number #2026-01.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM CST at JTRAN Administrative and Maintenance Facility (JAMF) located at 1785 Highway 80W, Jackson, MS 39209.

Documents can be viewed and obtained by visiting www.jacksonsbids.com. Documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website. For questions regarding website registration or the bid process, please contact PH Bidding Group at 662-407-0193.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities or irregularities, and award the contract in the best interest of the City.

This notice was published in accordance with the City of Jackson's professional service procurement policy. Shape

4/30/2026, 5/7/2026, 5/14/2026 5/14/2026 5/28/2026

LEGAL

Cooperative Energy

Is currently identifying vendors for the following services during an emergency:

- Lodging Facilities
- Catering Services
- Laundry Services
- Debris Services
- Transmission Line Construction

Please contact akeene@cooperativeenergy.com by no later than May 14, 2026, if you wish to be considered as a potential vendor.

4/30/2026

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**CITY OF JACKSON
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Jackson will receive written sealed bids until the hour of 3:30 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Municipal Clerk's Office for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the construction of the following project:

**DESIGN-BUILD BID PACKAGE
Jackson Fire Department – HVAC Replacement Project**

Bid Documents are available for viewing and obtaining at the following site: www.jacksonsbids.com. Documents are non-refundable and must be obtained through the website.

The project consists of providing design-build services for the replacement, installation, and startup of HVAC systems at multiple fire stations in Jackson, MS.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on May 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Fire Station, located at 555 S West St, Jackson, MS 39201.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises/woman business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The award will be made to the contractor with the best-value evaluation, and the City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Monica Oliver,
Purchasing Manager

4/30/2026, 5/7/2026

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 219 S. PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201. IT IS HEREBY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE RENAMING OF W OAKLEY STREET FROM N MILL STREET TO N FARISH STREET TO DORCUS RUTH CURRY THIGPEN DRIVE.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI HONORARY RENAMING W OAKLEY STREET FROM N MILL STREET TO N FARISH STREET TO DORCUS RUTH CURRY THIGPEN DRIVE

4/30/2026

**U-RENTAL
Van Company**



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



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

**End your tax
worries today.**



Let us make your tax problem our priority.

Scared, stuck with high tax amounts?
Our A+ tax professionals can help!

CALL NOW FOR
FREE CONSULTATION! **877.433.7430**



CALL NOW!
877.433.7430

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

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING MT. NEBO M. B. CHURCH A REZONING FROM R-4 (LIMITED MULTI-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NMU-1 NEIGHBORHOOD (MIXED USE) DISTRICT, PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED TO ALLOW FOR THE ADDITION OF A CHURCH PARKING LOT AND OTHER CHURCH COMMUNITY ORIENTED SERVICES FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT PARCEL NUMBERS: 159-113, 159-133, 159-121-1, & 159-109 ON TUNICA ST, 159-103, 159-104, 159-122-1, 159-122, 159-142 & 159-143 ON JR LYNCH ST. AND PARCEL 159-126 ON ABERDEEN ST. CASE NO. 4319.

WHEREAS, Mt. Nebo M. B. Church has filed a petition to rezone the properties located at Parcel Numbers: 159-113, 159-133, 159-121-1, & 159-109 on Tunica St, 159-103, 159-104, 159-122-1, 159-122, 159-142 & 159-143 on JR Lynch St. and Parcel 159-126 on Aberdeen St, in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the addition of a church parking lot and other church community oriented services; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has offered the recommendation to rezone the property from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the addition of a church parking lot and other church community-oriented services; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2026, to consider said change based upon the record of the case as developed before the Jackson City Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the Jackson City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on February 5, 2026 and February 19, 2026 that a hearing would be held by the Jackson City Planning Board on February 25, 2026, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board has offered the recommendation to rezone the above described property from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the addition of a church parking lot and other church community oriented services; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practices and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the request in said application since any previous Jackson City Council action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

1245 Tunica St. (Parcel 159-113)

Lot 6, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 7, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 8, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi,

recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lots 10 & 12, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 11, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 13, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 15, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 17, Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

A STRIP OF LAND LYING IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF AND ADJOINING LOT 17 IN BLOCK 13, COLLEGE SUBURB SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ACCORDING TO RECORDED PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY CLERK, IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SAID STRIP OF LAND BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BEING SOUTH OF LOT 17 FRONTING THIRTY-FIVE FEET, MORE OR LESS, ON TUPELO STREET AND EXTENDING SOUTH TO THE NORTH LINE OF UTICA STREET AND EASTWARDLY 140 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A TEN FOOT ALLEY; SAID STRIP OF LAND BEING THE STRIP OF LAND LYING SOUTH AND ADJOINING SAID LOT 17, BLOCK 13, DESCRIBED IN DEED DATED JULY 29, 1955, FROM MISSISSIPPI INVESTMENT COMPANY, GRANTOR, TO WILLIE ROBINSON, GRANTEE, RECORDED IN BOOK 921 AT. PAGE 460, OF THE AFORESAID RECORDS.

Parcel 159-133

Lot 2, Block 14, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 12, Block 14, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 14, Block 14, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot 16, Block 14, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Lot Eighteen (18), Block Fourteen (14), College Suburb Survey, and a strip of land south and adjacent to less 55' north side, a subdivision of record and on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, MS in plat book 1, page 66, and 55 feet on north side of Lot Eighteen, Block Fourteen of College Suburb, a subdivision of record and on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, MS, in plat book 1, page 66.

Parcel 159-121-1

A parcel of land in college suburb survey adj & South of Lot 18 Block 13 bounded on South by Utica Street East by Tunica Street & Extending West to an alley.

Parcels 159-103, 159-104 & 159-109

Lots 1, 2 and 5 Block 13, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description

Parcels 159-126, 159-122 & 159-121-1

Lots 1 & 5, Block 14, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 159-142

Lot 3, Block 15, College Suburb, a subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, at Jackson, Mississippi, recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 66, and in subsequent recording in Book 3536, page 030, and in references to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Parcel 159-143

LOT 4, LESS 40 FT S/S BLK 15 COLLEGE SUB SY & LESS TRI NE COR TO ST is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the of the properties located at Parcels: 159-113, 159-133, 159-121-1, & 159-109 on Tunica St, 159-103, 159-104, 159-122-1, 159-122, 159-142 & 159-143 on JR Lynch St. and Parcel 159-126 on Aberdeen St from R-4 (Limited Multi-family) Residential District to NMU-1 Neighborhood (Mixed Use) District, Pedestrian Oriented to allow for the addition of a church parking lot and other church community oriented services. However, that before any structure is erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Brown-Thomas moved adoption; Council Member Parkinson seconded.

Yeas – Brown-Thomas, Clay, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley and Parkinson.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Zoning Council Meeting March 16, 2026 and recorded in Minute Book "7C, Pgs. 1277-1280".

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 24th day of April 2026.



Angela Harris
Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

4/30/2026

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free
1-855-532-0066

safestep

*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1062165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC NOTICES. ONE CONVENIENT WEBSITE.

Search thousands of public notices from each county in Mississippi — government proceedings, requests for bids, foreclosures, probates, and more — all in one convenient location online and absolutely free.

Professional smart search subscriptions available
MSPUBLICNOTICES.ORG
A free service of the Mississippi Press Association and your local newspaper

MCAN
Mississippi Classified Advertising Network
To place your statewide classified ad order, call MS Press Services at 601-981-3060

FOR SALE

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-316-8630 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-764-2473

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-855-685-0052

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-264-5115

SAFE STEP. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-532-0066

INSURANCE

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-584-8517 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/mspress)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-852-2087

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-833-641-4206

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-428-0305 today!

REAL ESTATE

WE BUY HOUSES for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-601-273-8545.

SERVICES

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143

SERVICES

END YOUR TAX WORRIES TODAY. Let us make your tax problem our priority. Scared, stuck with high tax amounts? Our A+ tax professionals can help. Call for a FREE consultation. Call Priority Tax now 1- 877-433-7430

TRAVEL

YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-906-2201

P R E S E R V E D

Transitions are a Christian's best friend

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



A few years ago, what started as a brief conversation in a church bookstore between me and two church members turned into an encouraging discussion and prayer about how to handle transition. We each shared how the transitions that we were going through stirred up so many expected and unexpected emotions like relief, confidence, joy, fear, guilt, and anxiety.

At the end of our prayer, we agreed that even though our transitions were different, we had to learn how to do the same thing: Trust God in the transition. Because it's human nature to fight change (and the one who allows change to happen), sometimes we end up fighting God

and his plan for our lives. By the end of that week, I'd had similar conversations with at least three other friends about dealing with similar transitions. The one thing that connected each of these conversations was the fact that the true nature of the person came out during the transition. The optimist stayed hopeful during the transition and the negative person became more negative during the transition.

It's been said that money or the lack of money often brings out the "true" you. Transitions do the same thing. For example, those of us who are fearful before a transition are just as fearful (if not more fearful) afterwards. Some of us get stuck halfway through the transition and want to go back to where we started. We may even try to mask that fear by trying to control every aspect of the change.

One thing I've had to

learn as I've dealt with various transitions in my life is to not ask God "why?" - "Why me Lord?" Instead, ask God "how?" - How do I continue to praise you through this? How do I continue to trust you? How do I stay encouraged? How much more strength will I need?

Romans 8:28 is a familiar passage of scripture that reminds us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." It's 10 verses later in verses 38-39 that we find out why: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will

be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." No matter what the transition, we

will always be loved by God. It's just that simple.

Sometimes we think that the hardest part of a transition is just accepting the change itself. I also think the hard part might be trusting God as we continue through the transition. Some of us start off looking forward to change, but when it gets too hard, we change our minds. Like Peter who wavered when walking on the water in Matthew 14:22-31, we lose faith and focus on the circumstances that surround us. God allows transitions because he wants to build our character and increase our faith.

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

Atlanta church's "Environmental Justice Sunday" puts spotlight on health gaps in communities of color



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is a renowned civil rights leader, theologian, and activist who coined the term "environmental racism" in 1982.

By Zachary Bynum
CBS Atlanta

On Auburn Avenue, where Atlanta's Black history runs deep, a Sunday service turned into a call for survival.

At Big Bethel AME Church, faith leaders, activists, and residents gathered for "Environmental Justice Sunday," urging Atlanta to confront a stark reality: environmental inequality is shaping who gets to live healthier, longer lives.

Timed with Earth Day weekend, the service reframed climate and environmental issues as both a moral and public health crisis — one disproportionately impacting Black communities.

"Environmental justice is about making sure all communities are not exposed to environmental hazards," said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., a pioneer of the movement.

The disparities, close to home. Speakers pointed to challenges already playing out across Metro Atlanta:

Flooding and mold tied to aging infrastructure in the Proctor Creek watershed

Higher exposure to air pollution and asthma in majority-Black neighborhoods

Rising extreme heat risks impacting homeowners

All are part of a broader pattern where environmental burdens fall unevenly — and predictably.

Faith meets policy

Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine framed the issue as a responsibility that extends beyond the church.

Leaders called for greater investment in public health and stronger environmental protections, arguing that solutions will require action at every level — from local infrastructure to federal policy.

Why it matters now

Organizers said the goal isn't just awareness; it's mobilization.

Because for many communities, environmental justice isn't theoretical. It's immediate:

The air they breathe

The heat they endure

The flooding they can't escape

And increasingly, it's shaping long-term health outcomes and economic stability.

The bottom line

At one of Atlanta's most historic Black churches, the message was clear:

The fight for justice is expanding with the environment now at its center.

Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master

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

www.collegehillchurch.org
Chmbo@collegehillchurch.org

COLLEGE HILL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Pastor
Chauncy L. Jordan

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

New Horizon Church
INTERNATIONAL
A place of love and victory.

Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
1750 Ellis Avenue • Jackson, MS 39204
OFFICE: 601-371-1427 • FAX: 601-371-8282
www.nhcms.org

SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services

WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class

TV BROADCAST
8:00 a.m. - Channel 14 (Comcast)

Prayer Everyday: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir

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



"A Church Preparing for a Home Not Built by Man"

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

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

THE Light Line PRAYER

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

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



REV. MARCUS E. CHEEKS, PASTOR

Crossroads Church of God
Sharing The Love Of Christ With Others



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

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

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

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Louis Edward Armstrong

August 31, 1950 – April 25, 2026

Louis Edward Armstrong was born on August 31, 1950, in Bude, Mississippi located in Franklin County. He was the sixth child born among eight siblings to the late Mr. Charlie Armstrong and the late Mrs. Lucille Campbell Armstrong. At the early age of ten, his father died and because he was so eager to lend a helping hand when needed, he earned the nickname "The Rock." He was known as "The Man of the House" because of the way he accepted his calling for leadership. Knowing that his mother had a very high expectation of him, he was motivated to help his family and anyone else in need. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Betty A. Taylor, Charlestine A. Blakely, Bobby Nell A. Henry, Lutricia Ann A. Triplett, Mildred A. Robinson, and Chuck Armstrong.

Louis received his early education in the Franklin County Public School District. He was an avid baseball player where he served as pitcher. If not playing in the school band you could find him practicing on his trumpet. After all, he had to live up to his name sake. As an honor student, he was well respected by his peers. This may have been the time that he developed his passion for collaborating and fostering a strong community. In the small rural community of Bude everybody was somebody, neighbors helped neighbors, and no one looked down on another person, honors.

Louis was taught at an early age to live up to his mother's expectations. After high school graduation, his mother drove to Jackson State University and dropped him off at Dixon Hall. She gave him a hug, some money, told him to do his best and keep on being a good leader. He joined the Sonic Boom of the South for a brief period of time. They were looking for the real Louis Armstrong, so he was allowed to seek other activities on the campus. He then decided it was time to spend quality time with his high school sweetheart, Daisy Mae Davis. They married and moved to Chicago where he enrolled in Malcolm X College. During this time, he acquired a strong value system for human rights, equality, justice, and fairness for all. Louis and Daisy became the proud parents of three loving children, which they adored.

Louis returned to Jackson and completed his sophomore year. Soon Uncle Sam welcomed his leadership skills in the United States Army. After a tour of duty serving in Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Riley, Kansas, he returned to Jackson State University. There he reentered and was a member of the Career Opportunities Program (COP), created to support veterans and other paraprofessionals. This opportunity provided employment in a public school setting while earning a four - degree. He served in Key Elementary and Whitten Junior High in the Jackson Public Schools District. He was a founding member of the Veteran's Club. He completed his Bachelor of



Armstrong

Science degree in History and graduated with honors. After many years he returned to THEE I Love, Jackson State University and earned a Master of Arts Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He soon joined the distinguished brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, Mu Sigma Chapter.

Louis, unbelievably, became one of Mississippi's movie stars! He was featured in Mississippi Burning and The Ghost of Mississippi. After his fame on the big screen while attending a neighborhood meeting he was attracted to the lovely, Dr. Cynthia Johnson. After a lengthy courtship they joined in holy matrimony on December 30, 2005. Together, they enjoyed traveling, Jackson State football games, and quality time with the children and grandchildren. He was a true foodie. A favorite pastime was exploring new cuisine at local, regional, and national restaurants.

Louis was a born leader. His mother's early expectations, lead-

ership skills, and passion to serve in the community empowered his career as a compassionate community servant. He wore many hats throughout his decades of service. He was known for his passion to serve and always cherished positions that impacted the quality of life for mankind. As Director of Hinds County Human Resource Agency, he developed the Meals on Wheels Program which is still in existence today. After many years in this role, he moved on to share his leadership at the Mississippi Legal Service Coalition ensuring that citizens receive justice. When the City of Jackson implemented council form of government, Louis served as the first Councilman for Ward 2 and was elected as President. As a skilled grant writer and Special Project Officer for Hinds County Board of Supervisors, he wrote and obtained grants for the homeless. In this role, he also served as the Director of the Reentry Program. This was his last position for service before retirement.

Louis was a very active member of Morning Star Baptist Church. He faithfully served in the Brotherhood Ministry, Male Choir, Former Co-Teacher of The Couples Sunday School Class, and a devoted Deacon. On Saturday morning, April 25, 2025, he heard the voice of his heavenly Father say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things...Enter into your rest!"

Louis will long be remembered by many for his servant leadership, love for community and strong family bond. Those left to cherish his rich memories and legacy include loving wife : Dr. Cynthia Johnson Armstrong, Jackson, MS; sons: Artie (Vanessa) Armstrong, Jr.; Jackson, MS and Cedric (Lawanda) Armstrong, Fresno, TX; daughters: Kwanza Armstrong, Ridgeland, MS ; Dr. Catherine (Dr. Emmanuel) Kuada, Hammond, LA; sister: Shelly Ann Winder, Chicago, IL., brother : Jerry Armstrong, grandchildren: Kacey Bradford, Courtney Bradford, Ridgeland, MS, Artie Jordan Armstrong Jr. ;Jackson, MS, Cedric Armstrong, J.;Devin Armstrong, Dylan Armstrong, Clinton, MS; Sehonam Kuada, Lafayette, LA, Mikael Kuada, Hammond, LA ; Brother- in law: Jerry (Patricia) Johnson, Jackson, MS, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, friends and colleagues.

Homegoing services for Louis will be held Friday, May 1, 2026, at Morning Star M.B. Church, 3420 Albermarle Road in Jackson, MS at 11:00 AM. Viewing will begin at 10:00 AM. Interment will be at Garden Memorial Park, 8001 Highway 49, Jackson at 1:00 PM.

Public visitation will be on Thursday, April 30 at Westhaven Funeral Home, 3580 Robinson Street in Jackson from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Family and Friends Hour will be from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the Westhaven Funeral Home Chapel.

New report finds most Americans don't know how to protect brain health

StatePoint

Americans overwhelmingly say brain health matters deeply as they age, ranking it on par with — or even above — physical health. Yet despite this concern, most adults acknowledge they do not know how to protect or maintain their cognitive health, according to the 2026 "Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures" report and a new nationwide survey released by the Alzheimer's Association.

Eighty-eight percent of U.S. adults say maintaining brain health is very important, and almost all adults ages 40 and older surveyed (99%) say it is at least as important as physical health. However, only 9% say they know "a lot" about how to maintain their brain health. More than two-thirds say they worry about their brain health and about developing Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

"Americans care deeply about their brain health and say that midlife is the key time to start taking steps to support it," said Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D., senior vice president of Medical and Scientific Relations for the Alzheimer's Association. "But many don't know where to start and are looking for clear guidance on actions they can take."

The report comes as the impact of Alzheimer's disease



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) MARIJA VITKOVSKA / ISTOCK

continues to expand nationwide. An estimated 7.4 million Americans age 65 and older are currently living with clinical Alzheimer's dementia. Total annual costs of caring for people living with dementia nationwide — excluding un-

paid care — are projected to reach \$409 billion this year, an increase of \$25 billion from 2025. Since 2000, deaths from Alzheimer's disease in the United States have increased 134%.

Despite broad awareness

that lifestyle behaviors influence brain health, the survey reveals a significant disconnect between belief and action — and between brain health and dementia risk. While 75% of respondents say lifestyle behaviors such as diet, physical

activity and sleep are very important for maintaining brain health, only 46% say those same behaviors are very important for reducing the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Only 50% report getting at least seven hours of sleep daily or most days, 39% say they eat a healthy, balanced diet regularly, 42% engage in mentally stimulating activities such as reading or puzzles, and just 34% report regular physical activity. Nearly one-third say they exercise less than weekly or not at all.

At the same time, Americans express strong interest in programs designed to support brain health. Seventy-three percent say they would consider participating in such programs, particularly those focused on cognitive exercises (57%), health monitoring (46%), nutrition (36%) and physical activity (26%).

Many adults view midlife — ages 35 to 64 — as a critical window for protecting brain health. Nearly two in five (38%) believe people should begin taking steps during midlife, and 46% say formal brain health programs are most appropriate during this stage. At the same time, about one-third view brain health as a lifelong priority.

Health care providers are

seen as trusted sources of guidance, but conversations about brain health rarely occur. Eighty-six percent of adults would welcome these discussions during routine visits. Yet only 14% report ever discussing how to maintain brain health with their provider, and just 11% say they have talked about reducing dementia risk.

"These findings highlight an opportunity to better integrate brain health into routine health care," Snyder said. "People are motivated to protect their brain health, and actionable guidance can support those efforts."

To address these gaps, the Alzheimer's Association is working with partners across communities, workplaces and health care systems to deliver research-backed resources and programs. These efforts are informed by the landmark U.S. POINTER study, which found that combining multiple healthy lifestyle habits can help protect cognitive function.

Learn more at alz.org/facts.

"The takeaway from this report is clear: brain health is a lifelong priority, not an issue limited to older age," Snyder said. "By connecting individuals, communities, workplaces and health care, we can build a more equitable framework to support cognitive health and help reduce dementia risk for everyone."

For information about advertising in

The Mississippi Link

Please call: 601-896-0084

Or e-mail jlinkads@bellsouth.net

www.mississippilink.com

Announcing the First Group of Artists Performing at the 83rd National Folk Festival

Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Folk Festival revealed today the first eight artists who will be performing at the 83rd National Folk Festival in Downtown Jackson, November 13-15, 2026. This will be the second year of the festival's three-year residency in Jackson, and it occupies a momentous place in observances of the country's 250th anniversary. The 83rd National Folk Festival is an official event of Mississippi's America250 celebration.

"Hosting the National Folk Festival for a second year is a tremendous honor for Jackson," said Mayor John Horhn. "This celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, and of the artists who keep our stories alive, reflects the spirit, talent, and creativity that define our city."

"There are no repeats at the National Folk festival, so audiences can expect an entirely new program at this year's festival," said Blaine Waide, executive director of the National

Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA). "As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, the 83rd National Folk Festival will feature a special program honoring the best of the best in the traditional arts—from legendary blues, soul, and gospel performers with deep roots in Mississippi, to musicians and dancers that reflect the endless wellspring of artistic excellence and creativity from across the country. Best of all, it's free!"

Artists performing include:



Rahzel (beatboxing), New York, NY



Capoeira Luanda (Brazilian capoeira) – New York, NY



Mississippi Mass Choir (gospel) – Jackson, MS



Rondalla Club of Los Angeles (Filipino rondalla)



Eddie Cotton, Jr. (soul blues) – Clinton, MS



The Jerry Douglas Band (bluegrass) Nashville, TN



Rebolú (Colombian) -Queens, NY, and Tampa, FL



Raiatea Helm (Hawaiian falsetto singing), Honolulu, Hawaii

Institute and AKA Sorority supports Black Maternal Health Week

The Mississippi Link Newswire

In observance of Black Maternal Health Week, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Rho Lambda Omega Chapter to support more than 40 families during the Healthy Moms, Healthy Futures community event held Saturday, April 18, at Cade Chapel M.B. Church.

Families received valuable information on diaper insecurity, breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, maternal mental health, infant CPR and services that promote healthy pregnancies and early childhood wellness. The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health also distributed Mom on the Go Bundles to new and expectant mothers. The bundles, which included diapers, wipes, breast pumps and formula, were made possible through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). The Institute also distributed information regarding the Baby Depot. Baby Depot provides infant essentials for Medicaid-eligible mothers.

Through partnerships with Alpha Kappa Alpha and WKKF, the Institute continues its commitment to reducing maternal and infant health disparities by connecting families with the tools, knowledge and support they need to thrive.

For more information regarding Black Maternal Health or the Institute's Baby Depot, contact lrice@advancingminority-health.org.



Latasha Rice, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager with the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health, shares information with attendees.



New mom Shariya Johnson receives a Mom on the Go Bundle from Institute volunteer and AKA member Maya Thompson.



Baby Depot clients were all smiles at Healthy Moms Healthy Future.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in Mississippi through the development

of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

Farish Street Baptist Church will observe its' 133rd Anniversary, May 3, 2026,

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Farish Street Baptist Church located in a historical part of the Farish Street community will observe its' 133rd church anniversary Sunday, May 3, 2026. The public is invited to attend. The pastor is Rev. Eric D. Williams.

The guest preacher for the anniversary service will be Dr. David E. Goatley, who was inaugurated as the sixth president of Fuller Seminary on January 21, 2023. Prior to his appointment, he served as the associate dean for academic and vocational formation, Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Research Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. For nearly four decades he has served in leadership roles in organizations dedicated to justice advocacy, Christian mission, and global ecumenism. He earned his BS in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Louisville and holds two degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: an MDiv with an emphasis in pastoral care and counseling, and a PhD in Theology.

A constructive theologian and globally recognized missiologist with a background in pastoral counseling, Goatley brings a unique blend of experience and expertise that aligns with Fuller's major disciplines of theology, mis-



Pastor Eric D. Williams, Farish Street Baptist Church



Dr. David E. Goatley, president Fuller Seminary

sionology, and the psychological sciences. Having studied or worked in more than 35 countries, he brings a global perspective to his leadership and vision for Fuller, believing the gospel of the kingdom is truly good news and hope for all of the world, transcending politics, denominations, and single nations.

For more than 20 years (1997–2018), he served as CEO of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, where he led the organiza-

tion's efforts to sustain mission partnerships in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America. He is passionate about justice and advocacy as reflections of God's desire to offer flourishing to the whole creation. As such, he has been both a thought leader and an activist in addressing the issues of genocide, poverty, racism, hunger, and inequality, serving in leadership capacities for organizations including Kids Against Hunger, the Save Darfur Coalition, and the NAACP. Ordained in the National Baptist Convention, USA, he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Campbellsville, Kentucky, for nine years (1986–1995). In addition to his articles, essays, and book chapters, Goatley is the author of *Were You There? Godforsakenness in Slave Religion and A Divine Assignment: The Missiology of Wendell Clay Somerville*, as well as the editor of *Black Religion, Black Theology: Collected Essays of J. Deotis Roberts*. His current research focuses on flourishing in ministry and thriving congregations, most recently working on projects funded by the Lilly Endowment and the Duke Endowment.

Farish Street Baptist Church is located at 619 North Farish Street.

Contact Info: 601 355-0636/email info@farish-streetbaptistchurch.org



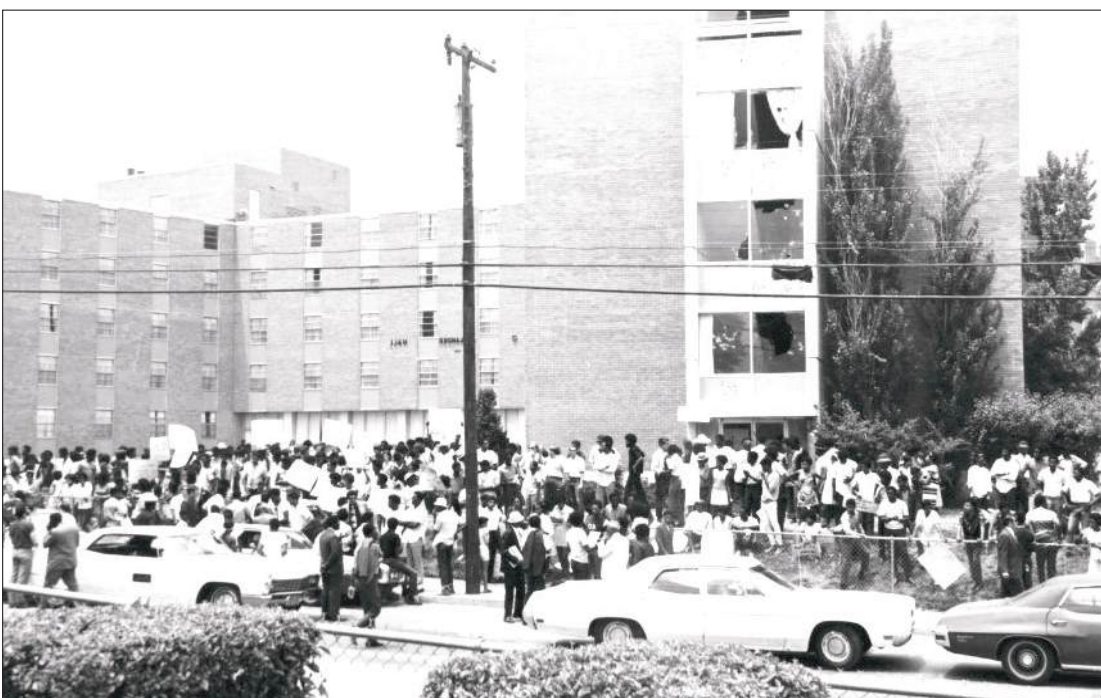
Nissan believes in the power of education.



Celebrating 20 years of service in the Greater Jackson Area.

nissan-canton.com

JSU honors activists, pioneers and dean emerita of libraries in new series



Students and activists gather in front of Alexander Hall dormitory following the shootings on campus in May 1970. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JSU'S DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By William H. Kelly III & Ashley F.G. Norwood
Jackson State University News

The first installment of Jackson State University's (JSU) "History in Conversation," assembled students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members for a new discussion-based series that explores institutional milestones, honors pioneers and prepares the next generation of leaders through shared wisdom.

On March 31, the series' launch "An Ode to Women's History Month and the Trailblazer Who Documented the Institution's First Century," highlighted the late Lelia G. Rhodes, Ph.D., JSU's dean emerita of libraries and the author of "Jackson State University: The First Hundred Years, 1877-1977." The conversation, led by a panel of historians and alumni eyewitnesses, also featured an immersive exhibition of original photos and artifacts from the university's first hundred-year history.

"As she wrote our institution's first official history, Dr. Rhodes fought breast cancer, unsure she would live to finish it. She did—and today, that history continues to educate and inspire in print,

online and now sustained through digital storytelling and programming such as this," said Ashley F. G. Norwood, director of Digital Storytelling in JSU's Division of University Communications and founder of the new series.

Among those seated in the audience was Marilyn Rhodes Latson, daughter of Rhodes. With tears in her eyes and joy in her heart, she says she remembers growing up on campus and spending time with her mother in the library. "I can spot her handwriting from a mile away," said Latson as she approached a display case of the book's manuscript.

According to panelists like Hilliard Lackey, Ph.D., a longtime professor of urban higher education and lifelong learning at Jackson State, Rhodes' love for the institution ran deep, and her impact deeper. Lackey says when he met Rhodes as a student she became an inspiration and blueprint of success for the 1965 graduate's endeavors as an educator and dedicated alumni.

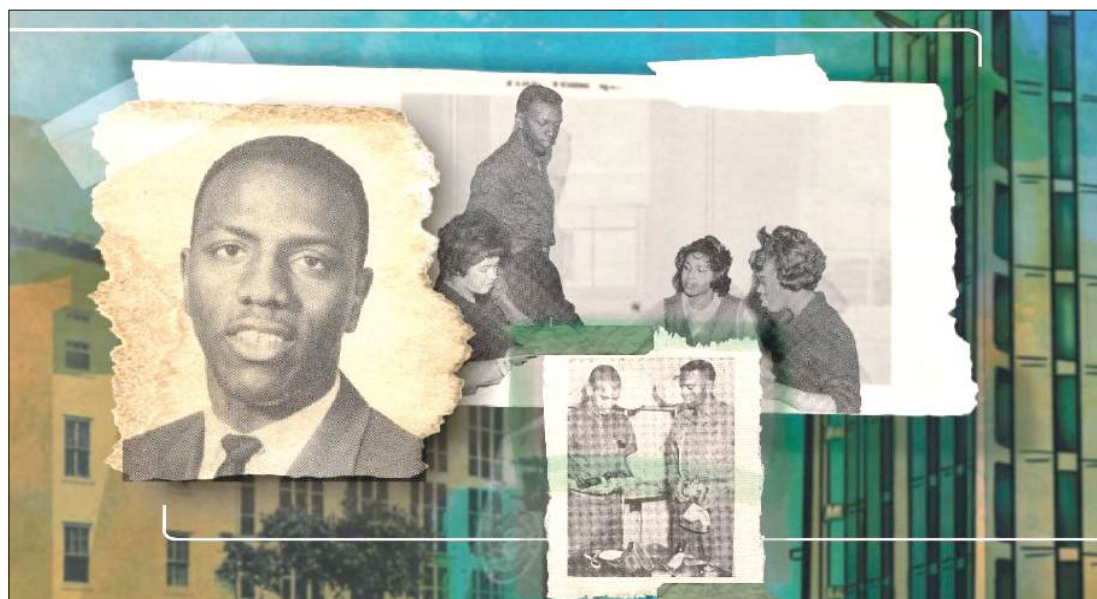
"She laid out the groundwork that this love [for the university] is continuous. It has perpetuity. It is endless love. That's the way

I feel about this university and that's what I feel when I read this book—endless love."

Originally published in 1979, the book traces the institution's evolution from its founding as Natchez Seminary through its first century. Drawing on original documentation, research and archival images, it offers an in-depth look into the educational, social and institutional forces that shaped JSU's early development.

But while the book captures this history in detail, its weight was most deeply felt in the voices of those who experienced it firsthand. Gailya Porter, a 1971 graduate and survivor of the fatal shooting on campus in May of 1970 drew the audience in—moving from the memory of rolling her hair in soup cans to the harrowing moments of gunfire that left her injured. The room was silent as she shared her story of survival and the activism that came afterwards.

"Young people are always the vanguard of activism. They still are the vanguard of activism," explains Robert Luckett, Ph.D., professor of history and director of JSU's Margaret Walker Center



A collage of archival images shows Hilliard Lackey, Ph.D., a 1965 graduate of Jackson State, during his time as a student at the college. Lackey spoke on his interactions with Lelia G. Rhodes, Ph.D., as a member of the student newspaper and yearbook staff and how that shaped the professional he is today. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JSU'S DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



A collage of archival images shows Gailya Porter, a 1971 graduate and survivor of the fatal Gibbs-Green shooting in May of 1970, as a student cheerleader at Jackson State. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JSU'S DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

and COFO Civil Rights Education Center.

Addressing students in the room as images from the Gibbs-Green tragedy were displayed, Luckett challenged them to continue using their voices today.

Angela Stewart, archivist at the Margaret Walker Center, said she knew Rhodes personally and described her influence as one that reached deep into local communities and extended far beyond campus.

"She was an educator, a lover of Jackson State, a graduate of Jackson State, and somebody who kept us on our toes and made sure we were doing what we were supposed to do as Jacksonians, as employees of Jackson State, as people living in the city of Jackson," said Stewart. "She was always making sure we were doing what we were supposed to do."

Rhodes made history as the first woman and Black person to

graduate with a Ph.D. in library science administration in the state of Mississippi.

The "History in Conversation" series is an initiative led by the Division of University Communications. The March event is in thanks to JSU's College of Liberal Arts, the Margaret Walker Center, COFO Civil Rights Education Center and the Department of University Archives & Special Collections in the H.T. Sampson Library.



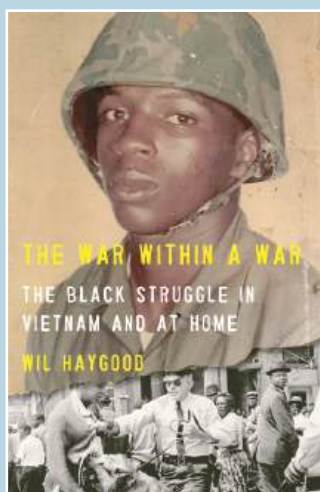
2026
Baccalaureate
CEREMONY
MAY 3, 2026
8:00 AM
HISTORIC WOODWORTH CHAPEL

The Reverend Reginald Buckley
Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Jackson, MS



2026
Commencement
CEREMONY
MAY 3, 2026
10:00 AM
CAMPUS GREEN
IN FRONT OF THE
HISTORIC WOODWORTH CHAPEL

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER:
Demond Martin
CEO WellWithAll



BOOK REVIEW: THE WAR WITHIN A WAR: THE BLACK STRUGGLE IN VIETNAM AND AT HOME BY WIL HAYGOOD C.2026, KNOFF \$35.00 • 362 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Uncle Sam needs you. He has work for you, a steady job that may be the most difficult thing you'll ever do but you'll gain pride in your accomplishments and decent pay for the work, plus three hots and a cot. Hey, it's a great opportunity to gain on-the-job experience – even if, as in the new book “The War Within a War” by Wil Haygood, you once might’ve experienced racism, too.

Dan Bullock was a boy who'd always dreamed of be-

coming a Marine.

And so he did, and after graduating from basic training, he was sent to Vietnam to fight. Sadly, Dan was asleep one night in May of 1969, when a Vietcong soldier threw a grenade into the tent where he lay. Dan Bullock was killed instantly.

Wallace Terry knew about Bullock, and he couldn't stop thinking about him.

Terry was one of a handful of Black journalists in Vietnam, and he'd heard bitter talk and hot anger from Black troops - talk of discrimination,

of terrible assignments, of seeing greater danger than white soldiers saw. Black young men enlisted in the military because opportunities for them were scarce at home. Once in Vietnam, they'd become politically savvy and smart about current events, hoping things might get better in America but knowing, down-deep, that nothing would.

Though the American military had been officially integrated for years, what Terry heard was that Black soldiers felt like Vietnam was a “war within a war.” Many said that

race didn't seem to matter in combat. At base camp and from their superiors, there was the problem. In the meantime, President Lyndon Johnson signed bills to help the poor but his policies didn't stop racism or the war itself.

By wars' end, more than 58,000 American soldiers died in Vietnam.

One of them was Dan Bullock, who wasn't sixteen, as he'd told the Marine recruiter. As Terry learned, Dan was fourteen when he enlisted, fifteen when he died, the youngest American soldier to perish



in Vietnam...

It's not on there, but “The War Within a War” should have a Trigger Warning sticker on the cover. If you're a veteran of combat, you should know that before proceeding.

Using the stories of dozens of people who went to Vietnam in various ways and for myriad reasons, author Wil Haygood offers tiny stories and a window to American warfare that often goes unknown. Here, you'll meet the Common Man and those who were quite uncommon, brave women who played parts in history, and entertain-

ers who raised consciousness through music. You can smell the jungle here. You'll feel the heat and hear the sudden, terrifying silence as you read this must-read, highly relevant, heartbreak of a book.

Just beware: it's sometimes very graphic and certain readers might want to skip it, even though it's one of the better books you'll find on the subject. Absolutely, if you're unfamiliar with or want to know more about this part of American history, “The War Within a War” is a book you need.

ZACK WALLACE
Hinds County Circuit Clerk

SERVICES OF THE CLERK:

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

VOTER INFORMATION

Verify/Update your Registration Today

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

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
 - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
 - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

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


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

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

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

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

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



Cool And Current

WJTSU 88.5
your source for cool jazz and current news
www.wjtsu.org

JTSU

WRTM
SMOOTH 100.5 FM

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

“The British invades soccer: USA vs. England”

By Brittany Sanford-Dillard
Guest Writer



The British are coming! The British have come! But this time, they came for soccer. An “All Hail USA” chant filled the air along with a swarm of waving handheld US flags April 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM as the outreach program, “TOPSoccer”, played hardball against a group of players from Britain. At a home game located at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland, Mississippi, TOPSoccer put on a first time ever special exhibition style game. It featured TOPSoccer adult players against a group of players from England.

They called it “The British Invasion: USA versus England.” Players on both teams came to do nothing short of win.

But first, who are these players?

TOPSoccer is a community-based outreach program for children and adults with mental or physical disabilities. Cameron Arcemont is the Director of the TOPSoccer program in Hinds and Rankin County Mississippi. Arcemont started the program in the spring of 2005, 22 years ago. Arcemont Says this is his true calling.

“TOPSoccer is a way to help children and adults with special needs be truly valued- Not because of their disability, but because they are made in the image of God. And for that reason, everyone deserves to feel special.”



Director Cameron Arcemont (lt) and Belhaven Head Men's Soccer Coach James Gledhill (rt.) talk to a youth player before the game

Arcemont has a great relationship with his players. “I love them and they love me and most importantly, we share a love for Jesus.”

Many of the players are also members of the same church as Arcemont. He teaches the Sunday school class once a month and they are attendees. “It’s one of the most rewarding things I get to do,” Says Arcemont.

Sunday school was actually where the idea of team USA versus England was born. A TOPSoccer player named Jana asked Arcemont if he knew of any British players. His response was that he knew a few. A week later Jana followed up on the question, proving that this was more than just a random thought. “All right.... I gotta do something” responded Arcemont.

Arcemont quickly pulled his sources so that preparation could begin. One of those connections being a friend of his, Belhaven University’s Head

Men’s soccer coach James Gledhill. Gledhill jumped right in on the action, gathering his team. Since January, they have been practicing and training for the great British invasion soccer game.

The British team had a total of 12 players from Britain. The players were from Cornwell, Otisfield, Green Bay, and Manchester, to name a few, and they were ready to play.

“January 10 we begin training two times a week, then three times a week, then four times a week building up to tonight’s match. Our last finishing session was this morning. We are ready to go,” stated Arcemont.

This special exhibition style game came short of nothing, not even classic trash talk. Team USA delivered the first friendly but daring highlight video and the British followed up with their own. “We are going to kick your butt” said Kyron B., a dedicated player on



Two youth TOPSoccer players getting ready to enjoy the big game.

team USA with special needs.

“Kyron loves TOPSoccer. He is a hard worker, respectful, he has a job. He is awesome. He’s autistic. He’s very athletic.” said Dorothy Bale, Director of 11 years at SON Valley. “People don’t always look at us as equals. I’m their biggest Cheerleader” says Bale.

It was 90 minutes of high energy and raging team spirit on the soccer field. Support showed the players from USA teammates on the sidelines. The TOPSoccer players who didn’t play waved their USA flags in full support while others continued on in the regular Thursday TOPSoccer practice.

Among the supportive crowd was Tancey Burroughs, a TOPSoccer mom. Her son, is on the children’s team and has been a part of the program since the age of 4. He is now 7. Burroughs saw the confidence in the players and it made her proud knowing her son will carry that same confi-



dence when its time for ‘the big leagues.’ “You have some (right now) that think they are professionals. Lol. And there are others that are just thrilled to be out here with friends. Whether they know it or not, they are all building confidence without even realizing it. Its definitely a community I love to be around and is grateful for.” Says Burroughs.

The game ended in a nail biting score of 7-7 making it a promise for a tie breaking game for Spring season 2027. Exhausted yet exuberated, the players celebrated what still felt like a victory. After water

breaks, they paused for photos and fellowship. Arcemont says, the next game may be scheduled in a year, but these players will be talking about ‘The British Invasion’ for a Lifetime.

TOPSoccer is always welcoming players and volunteers. To learn more or get involved, please contact www.topsoccerms.org or Brittany Sanford-Dillard Email: Brittany.SDillard@gmail.com

Brittany Dillard, a native of New Orleans, is a graduate of Belhaven University. She has a degree in Mass Communications and currently lives in Mississippi.

Delta State’s women’s basketball legacy endures even as national spotlight has faded

By Alanis Thames
AP Sports Writer

A sparse crowd drifted into Walter Sillers Coliseum for Delta State’s first women’s basketball game in 1973.

It was a 4 p.m. tipoff against Holmes Community College, announced only in the local paper in rural Cleveland, Mississippi. There were no tickets, no concessions or buzz. Just a handful of curious women’s basketball fans with no clue what this team led by a former high school coach named Margaret Wade could be.

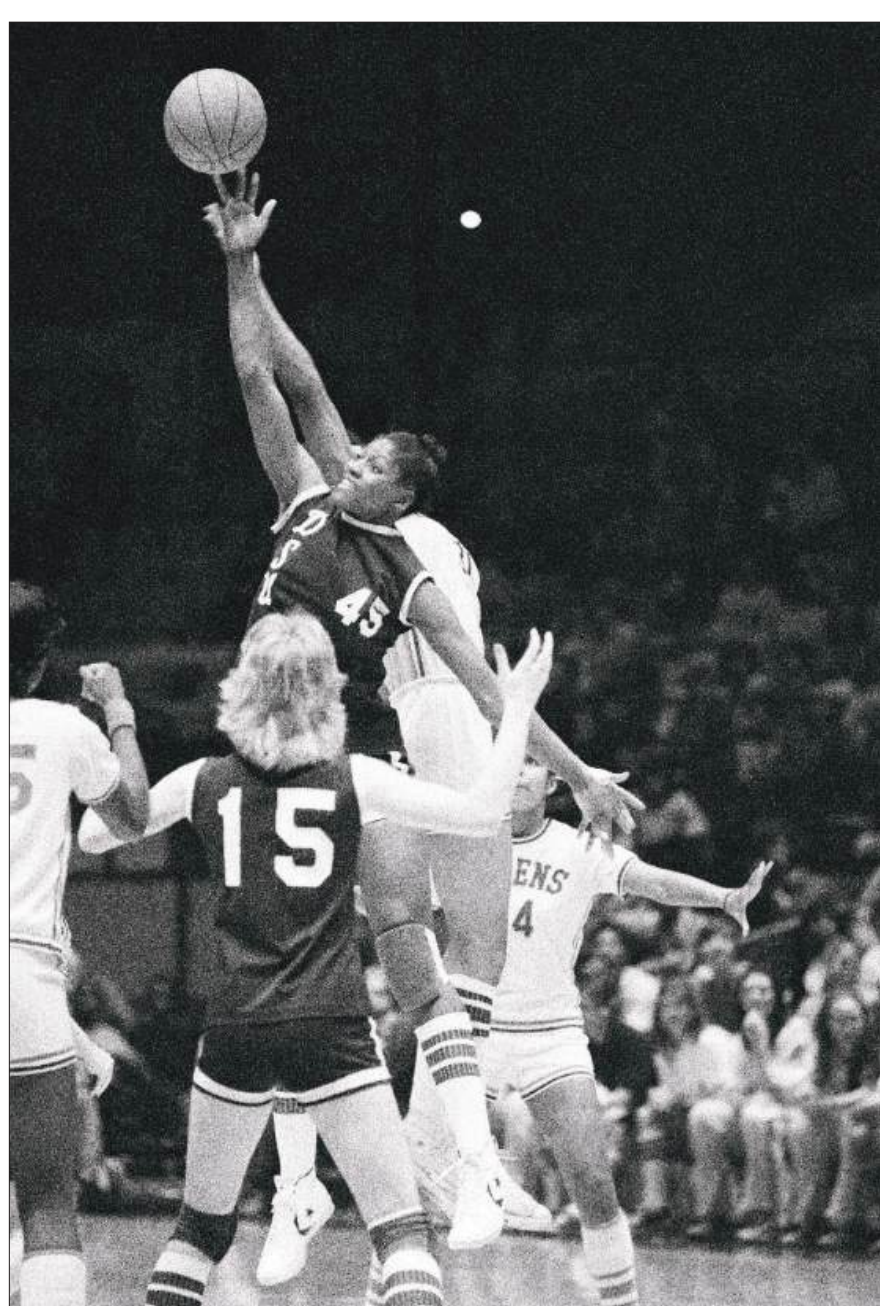
“We had no expectations because, see, the coach came from the high school, and she had never coached college ball,” said Dot Bright, a 1962 Delta State graduate who still lives just a few blocks from the school. “So we thought, ‘Oh, OK. It’s all in the family. We thought it was just little hometown people.’”

What Bright and a few others saw that day was the beginning of something bigger. Within a couple of years, Delta State became one of women’s basketball’s early powerhouses. The Lady Statesmen were the first No. 1 team when the women’s college basketball poll debuted 50 years ago and won three straight national championships in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) from 1975-1977.

The women’s basketball spotlight has since shifted elsewhere as money reshaped the sports landscape and large programs with big budgets — like the powerhouses in this weekend’s Final Four including UConn and South Carolina — began to dominate.

In Cleveland, Delta State’s rich legacy still resonates.

“People still support it,” Delta State athletic director Mike Kinnison said. “While we’ve had some ups and downs with it, it’s still a good program. That’s still very important to me that we keep that tradition and



Delta State University’s Lusia Harris (45) gets off a shot against Queens College during a women’s college basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Feb. 23, 1976. AP PHOTO/RON FREHM, FILE

keep that history and heritage out front.”

Legacy lives across Delta State’s campus

Reminders of that history are scattered across Delta State’s campus.

basketball pioneer Lusia Harris are hanging in the gym. A “Hall of Fame” room of photos and trophies is set up in the athletic building chronicling those dominant days.

Current Delta State coach Tracy Stewart-Lange makes sure prospective players are aware of the program’s legacy when they arrive on campus.

Stewart-Lange, who just led the Lady Statesmen to an 18-11 record in her fourth season, stops recruits by the stadium’s concourse to see a replica of the Wade Trophy given each year to the best player in women’s basketball, which is encased near the front door, as well as a display of Delta State’s national championship trophies under Wade and Clark.

Even Delta State football coaches bring up Wade, Clark and Harris when selling recruits on the school.

“You try to give them little snippets of, ‘Guys, this is where you are now,’” Stewart-Lange said. “Don’t take it for granted. Step into those shoes and shine and push it forward. Get it back to the top.”

Wade, who had coached at nearby Cleveland High School years before taking over at Delta State ahead of the 1973 season, had a roster that included the future Hall of Famer, Harris, who became one of the greatest women’s players ever.

But publicity was scarce that first year. Former sports information director Langston Rogers recalled that many local and regional papers mostly ran box scores — until the wins and crowds became impossible to ignore.

From packed crowds to quieter times

The Lady Statesmen went undefeated in 1974, upsetting Philadelphia powerhouse Immaculata to win the IAIW national title and quickly building national credibility with wins over teams like Ole Miss and Auburn. They eventually drew thou-

sands to venues like Madison Square Garden and UCLA’s Pauley Pavilion, a rarity in women’s hoops during that time.

Demand at home far exceeded the 3,000-seat Walter Sillers Coliseum, so portable bleachers were brought in and students sat along stage railings to squeeze inside.

“Everybody in Cleveland knew us and knew our names,” said Debbie Brock, starting point guard from 1974-78. “You would drive up to the Sonic — and we didn’t have many restaurants or anything then — but I’d go to the Sonic, and the man would say, ‘Great game tonight.’”

Kinnison, athletic director since 2019, is trying to recapture those times.

After the NCAA replaced the AIAW as the governing body for women’s college sports, Delta State and other small colleges faced a major challenge to stay competitive on a national scale.

Recruiting advantages and national media attention have since dwindled, and for a while it was hard to bring in the same caliber of coaches.

“People don’t jump up and down when they find out they’re moving to the Mississippi Delta,” Bright said. “It’s hard to recruit here. I think the coach we have now, Coach Lange, she is doing an awesome job ... We have a very good record this year, some of the best since Lloyd Clark.”

Bright, 82, still never misses a game though they’re much quieter than they were 50 years ago.

Stewart-Lange runs into people around the Cleveland area who talk of their memories from those days. That gives her hope that local support can still remain even as the national spotlight has faded.

“I do feel like the undercurrent is there within the community,” Stewart-Lange said. “It’s been done before. And it can be done again.”

20TH YEAR PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HONORING DR. M. EDWARD CHEEKS & FIRST LADY DEVONDA CHEEKS

BANQUET & WORSHIP SERVICE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS BY JAY JOHNSON

Dr. M. Edward Cheeks, pastor of True Light Baptist Church and First Lady Devonda Cheeks celebrated their 20th year pastoral Anniversary Sunday, April 26, 2026. The Anniversary theme was "Faithful Over a Few, Trusted with Much." (Matthew 25:21) The worship service was held in the church sanctuary located at 224 East Bell Street, Jackson, MS at 10:30 A.M. The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. Kevin Thomas, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church in Florence, MS.

A banquet was held honoring Dr. Cheeks and First Lady Cheeks, Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Georgetown Event Center, 800 W. Woodrow Wilson Avenue in Jackson at 5:00 P.M.

