



Alcorn wins SWAC title again

Braves headed to inaugural Celebration Bowl



Alcorn Braves revel in their championship win last weekend over Grambling. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SWAC / JAMES POSEY

From SWAC.org. Special to The Mississippi Link

HOUSTON, Texas – A crowd of 40,352 witnessed a record-setting day by Alcorn State as the Braves prevailed 49-21 over Grambling State to claim the 2015 Southwestern Athletic Conference Football Championship, becoming the first repeat champion since the 2000-2002 Grambling State Tigers.

The Braves rewrote the record books offensively, setting new SWAC Championship Game all-time highs in total yards of offense (613), rushing yards (411) and points scored (49).

In past seasons, the SWAC Football Championship would mark the end of the season. But that's not the case this year. The



Alcorn State coach Jay Hopson congratulates players.

victory over Grambling punched Alcorn's ticket to Atlanta where the Braves will play in the inaugural Celebration Bowl. It's

a matchup pitting the SWAC champion versus the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion.

The 9-3 Braves will face 9-2 North Carolina A&T at noon Dec. 19 in the Georgia Dome.

In last Saturday's championship matchup both teams traded punts to open the game. The defending champions struck first as a 84-yard sprint to paydirt by SWAC Championship Game Offensive MVP Darryan Ragsdale opened the scoring. With the run – his third attempt of the game – Ragsdale broke the SWAC Championship Game record for most rushing yards as well as the longest rush in the game's history. He ended the day with 188 yards on the ground.

SWAC
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JSU student releases 9 books in one year

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Nakoreya Roberson, 22, has accomplished in one year what some people need a lifetime to do – become a best-selling author.

The Atlanta, Ga., native and Jackson State University student has wanted to be a writer since the age of 10. December marks the one-year anniversary of when she signed a contract to write for a publishing company.

That was 16 books ago, and nine books released in the past year have become Amazon best-sellers. Her book, *The Connect's Wife*, sold 50,000 copies within six months.

To add to her accomplishments, she is launching her own publishing company called NakoEXPO Publishing. Under NakoEXPO Publishing, she will groom other authors in the genres of African-American romance, mystery, and children's literature. Aspiring writers can submit their work for review at NakoEXPO.com. She suggests writers not submit their en-



Nakoreya Roberson released nine books in one year and has launched her own publishing company called NakoEXPO Publishing.

tire manuscript for review, but maybe only 15,000 words and a summary.

"I didn't know a lot before signing (my contract)," Roberson said. "I want to help other writers matriculate their literary

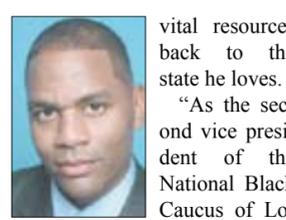
Author
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Stamps now second VP of national group

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials has selected City Councilman De'Keither Stamps as its second vice president. The organization selects individuals who have displayed outstanding leadership that has produced a positive and significant impact in local government and the African-American community.

Councilman De'Keither Stamps hopes to use his position as a way to streamline a voice for concerns and issues from citizens of the Capital City to Washington, D.C. and to create an avenue for bringing more



vital resources back to the state he loves. "As the second vice president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, my goal is to engage and communicate with national leaders in Washington, D.C., identify their best practices that will help create positive change here, and bring those practices back to implement across our city," said

Stamps
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Deadline nears to enroll in health plan

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Heading into the final days before the Dec. 15 deadline for Jan. 1, 2016 coverage, over 2.8 million consumers selected a plan in the HealthCare.gov platform as of Dec. 5, including 23,224 individuals in Mississippi. This includes both new consumers and consumers returning to shop for private health insurance plans sold on HealthCare.gov.

"I am pleased with the strong start to this year's open enrollment," Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said. "While we have more work to do, more than 1 million new consumers have signed up for affordable quality coverage in the 38 states that use HealthCare.gov. And existing marketplace customers who have returned and shopped for a more affordable plan are

Facts about open enrollment in Mississippi:

1. Since Open Enrollment began on Nov. 1, 23,224 Mississippi consumers have selected a plan in the federally facilitated marketplace.
2. Plans for 2016 are affordable, 82 percent of Mississippi enrollees can find plans for \$75 or less a month in premiums after tax credits. Nationwide, about 8 out of 10 people who enroll in health coverage through HealthCare.gov qualify for financial help to make their monthly premiums more affordable.
3. For 2016, 91 percent of returning Mississippi HealthCare.gov consumers could save an average of \$513 annually in premiums before tax credits for a plan in the same level of coverage by returning to shop.
4. When Mississippi customers visit HealthCare.gov they'll find a variety of quality health coverage options available. For 2016, Mississippi consumers can choose from three issuers and an average of 23 plans.
5. Free confidential enrollment help is available if people in Mississippi have questions or want to talk through their options with a trained professional.

paying less in premiums this year than they were paying last year. Time is running out to sign up for a health plan that begins on Jan. 1. With less than a week remaining before the Dec.

15, deadline, we urge consumers to visit HealthCare.gov and get enrolled."

Open enrollment for 2016 health coverage at HealthCare.gov began Nov. 1, and runs

through Jan. 31, 2016. However, individuals who need coverage starting Jan. 1, 2016 must sign up by the Dec. 15, 2015.

Having health insurance when you can afford it is now the law. If someone chooses not to buy health insurance and could afford to do so, they are at risk of paying a fee of \$695 or more.

Consumers should visit HealthCare.gov or CuidadodeSalud.gov to review their coverage options, learn about what financial assistance is available, or to sign up or re-enroll in a plan that best meets their needs.

Visit LocalHelp@HealthCare.gov to find a listing enrollment centers and events in your community where free, confidential enrollment help is offered.

Representatives at the 24-hour call center are available every day at 1-800-318-2596.

\$11,000 reward money offered in investigation

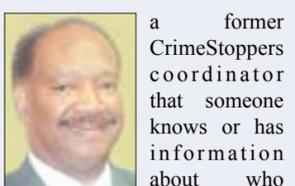
From staff reports

On Monday, Hinds County supervisors approved \$1,000 reward money for anyone with information about the armed robbery and murder of Broderick Smith.

Smith, 36, was shot and killed Nov. 19, at the O'Reilly's Auto Parts store on Livingston Road in Jackson where he worked.

District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham made the motion asking the supervisors to approve the reward bringing the total reward money offered to \$11,000. The city of Jackson and CrimeStoppers are offering \$2,500 each. O'Reilly's Auto Parts is offering \$5,000.

"It is my experience as



a former CrimeStoppers coordinator that someone knows or has information about who committed this heinous crime and they want to help," Graham said. "CrimeStoppers is an effective tool that should be utilized more to bring criminals in hiding to justice."

Graham believes the more resources are pooled to increase the reward amount, the more likely Jackson police are to receive credible information that could lead to a quicker arrest of the assailants.

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