



Lumumba: "Jackson is pregnant with possibilities"

Mayoral candidate responds to fake websites
By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

The 2017 Jackson mayoral election season is officially underway and the campaign trickery has begun. Some candidates

found themselves earlier this week involved with fake websites or what is being billed as 'cyber deception.'

The deception
When visitors clicked on the web addresses www.johnhorhnmayor.com and www.robertgrahamformayor.com in hopes of

viewing information relative to the mayoral campaigns of State Senator John Horhn or Hinds County Supervisor Robert Graham, they were automatically routed to the campaign website for Attorney Choke Antar Lumumba, who is also seeking the city's top job. Both domains are registered

with the popular website designer GoDaddy.com and were purchased anonymously.

The action
Lumumba quickly separated himself from the deception. In a telephone interview, he said, "I am a man of principle and believe that our campaign and the work

that we are doing is strong enough to stand on its on merit and we would never stoop to this level."

Lumumba's team shortly after the telephone interview released a statement on Facebook that said

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Lumumba

JSU's Interim President Rod Paige delivers solid message at forum

'JSU must improve its image'



JSU Interim President Rod Paige speaks to guests at coffee forum, Dec. 2. PHOTOS BY KEVIN BRADLEY

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

With a standing room only crowd at Koinonia Coffeehouse in Jackson last Friday, Jackson State University's interim president and former U.S. Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush, Rod Paige, took to the mic to explain his vision for JSU, even though its

[his vision] only temporary. Paige shared his belief that JSU must get beyond the financial controversy it finds itself in and position itself to attract a top quality leader. "We must improve the image of our university and I believe that we can do that, Paige told the crowd. "We must put this financial issue to bed, that's the only

way we will get a good leader and good faculty members... we must fix our image." Paige began his tenure as president of JSU in November, after the resignation of Carolyn Meyers in late October amid alleged unauthorized spending and other budgetary concerns. At the time of her resignation, it was revealed that JSU's cash

reserves had plummeted by 89 percent in the last five years, landing at \$4.2 million for the 2016 fiscal year that ended in the fall. Meyers' time at JSU has been riddled with compliments and complaints. To the criticism end, Meyers had been questioned heavily about the number of people who resigned or

was terminated under her leadership and the large number of lawsuits leveled against the university, particularly those that included Vivian Fuller, a close friend of hers and former athletic director. To the accolades during Meyers time at JSU, the university

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Gray's exit from JPS cost taxpayers \$195K

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

Based on district records, Jackson Public Schools paid former Superintendent Cedrick Gray \$195,000 at the time he resigned. An itemized list of accounts payable claims provided by the district showed Gray was paid \$195,000 between Oct. 22 and Nov. 4. The school board approved the document at its Nov. 15 meeting.

The Mississippi Link received a copy of Gray's last contract. It was effective July 1, 2015 and was set to expire June 30, 2019. In this contract, Gray earned \$205,000 per year with the option of an annual increase of \$5,000 based on meeting basic requirements set forth by the board. Additional perks of the contract: Gray was reimbursed up to \$1,500 monthly for travel and the district covered his professional membership with educational organizations up to \$10,000 with the American Association of School Administrators and the Mississippi Association of School Administrators.

Under Gray's leadership the Jackson Public Schools District received an "F" grade and was placed on probation after an audit conducted by the state found JPS in violation of sev-



Gray

Gray
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Prosecutor: Killer at black church had cold, hateful heart

By Bruce Smith and Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Dylann Roof had a "cold and hateful heart" when he pulled a pistol from his fanny pack during a Bible study last year and killed nine black church members as they closed their eyes for a final prayer, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

As the 22-year-old white man's death penalty trial began, his lawyer conceded that Roof committed the slayings. But the defense suggested that he should be spared the death penalty.

Prosecutors said Roof sat in the church basement for about a half-hour with 12 parishioners of the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church before opening fire in an attempt to start a race war. One



Roof



Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

of the victims, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was also a state senator at the time, had handed Roof a Bible to study during their session. "He pulled the trigger on that Glock .45 more than 70 times

that night. More than 60 times he hit parishioners," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay Richardson told jurors during his opening statement. "He seemed to them to be harmless. Little did they know

what a cold and hateful heart he had," Richardson said. Roof faces 33 federal counts, including hate crimes, in the June 17, 2015 slayings. After the racially mixed jury determines Roof's guilt, the federal

trial will move to the penalty phase, where Roof plans to act as his own lawyer to apparently fight for his life.

Three people survived the shooting, including Polly Shepard. As Roof approached her, he said "he would leave her alive to tell his story," Richardson said.

Jurors will hear Roof's confession and a manifesto in which he urged a race war, the prosecutor said. He hurled racial insults during the massacre, telling the parishioners he was killing them because he wanted a war between whites and blacks because blacks were raping white women and taking over the country.

Roof's "racism, his violence, his assault on a house of worship won't prevail in this courtroom," the prosecutor said.

Roof, wearing a gray striped prison jumpsuit, stared down at the table in front of him. Defense attorney David Bruck said the facts of the case are largely undisputed and that he would likely ask few questions of the government witnesses. He may not call any witnesses of his own.

The defense has said repeatedly in both federal court and state court — where Roof faces another death penalty trial next year — that Roof is willing to plead guilty if capital punishment is taken off the table. Prosecutors have refused.

Bruck urged jurors to pay attention to the little things and use their common sense to try and figure out what made Roof

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Three-time JSU alum lands \$2.8 million grant for South Louisiana Community College
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