



## Canton courtroom honors Brown-Wright



Flonzie Brown-Wright discusses the experience blacks had in the 1960s attempting to register to vote. Blacks had to pull a random question out of a cigar box in Canton. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEB

**By Shanderia K. Posey**  
Editor

Flonzie Brown-Wright, 73, a Mississippi civil rights icon who fearlessly worked to get blacks registered to vote in the 1960s, has been recognized numerous times for her work. She was the first African-American woman to be elected to public office in Mississippi since Reconstruction. But this Friday's event – the dedication of a Canton City Hall courtroom in her honor – may surpass previous recognitions. The courtroom in City Hall is also the same place where her father – Frank Brown Sr. – was



denied his plumber's and electrician's license about 60 years ago. Her father took the test to receive the license three times in the room, and though he passed every time, the superintendent

failed him every time. Brown-Wright says that on his death bed, the superintendent called for her father and apologized for what he had done, telling her dad, "Will you forgive me 'cause every time you took that test, you passed, but we were not ready to allow a black man, a colored man to unstop a toilet with a license." Eventually, her dad did receive his license. Around 1965, Brown-Wright was Canton's NAACP branch manager. Typically, she brought groups to the Madison County Court-

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## Murray addresses youth

**By Stephanie R. Jones**  
Contributing Writer

Jasmine Murray, Miss Mississippi 2014, is continuing the platform she focused on during her reign. Speaking at New Hope Baptist Church's third series of Black History Month programs Feb. 18, her message was designed to encourage girls and young women to think positively about themselves and to make good life choices.



Murray

The theme of the program was "Youth Heritage Night: Committed to Moving Forward." She told the audience honoring the past and people who came before us is necessary. "Without your past you wouldn't be the person you are today," Murray said. "Even though I tell you to honor your past, don't dwell on it either. Take advantage of the day you have right now. Focus on everything to prepare for your future," the Columbus native said. She said finding one's gift is key. "God gave me a passion for music," said Murray, who was the first Mississippian to become a finalist on the TV show "American Idol." "Whatever your passion, it's from

**New Hope**  
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## Historic Colored Women's Club still growing

**By Natalie Bell**  
Contributing Writer

Like their "colored," educated and middle-class forerunners, who saw that they were no better than anyone else until the whole race of black people worked together to pull one another up, new inductees of the National Association of Colored Women Clubs continue to pick up and proclaim the club's motto: "Lifting as we climb." Established in 1896, NACWC is the nation's oldest African-American civic organization and in 2010 still reigned among the country's top 10 non-profit organizations, according to Ebony magazine. On Feb. 20, the Eureka Arts Federated Club,

**Club**  
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## AHA chooses Tougaloo College students for scholars program

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association has chosen four Tougaloo College students to 2016 class of the AHA's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Scholars Program.

Tougaloo College is the first HBCU in Mississippi to be chosen for the program and only the third in the nation since the launch of the program last fall with students from Fisk University and Tennessee State University, both in Nashville.

We are so pleased that four of our high achieving students



Pictured are RaChard Brown (from left), Dr. Mario Sims, Dr. Delores Bolden-Stamps, vice president of Institutional Advancement; Dr. Asoka Srinivasan, interim provost; Dr. Donna Antoine-Lavigne, Dr. Mario Sims, Alexis Martin, Dr. Clifton Addison, Kendrique Morgan, Dr. Ervin Fox, Dr. Beverly Hogan, Tougaloo president; and Dr. Wendy White. Caitlyn Beasley is not pictured because she was unable to attend the event.

have been selected as scholars to participate in the American Heart Association's program," said Dr. Beverly W. Hogan, president of Tougaloo Col-

lege. "Tougaloo College has an established history of pro-

**Tougaloo**  
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## City, state issue water warnings

*From Staff Reports*

The city of Jackson addressed concerns about lead in the city's water system Wednesday.

In a press release, the city reported that Jackson's water has not been deemed unsafe. However, pregnant women and small children should follow the Mississippi Department of Health's recommendations for prevention of lead exposure from drinking water.

The city was notified by the MSDH Jan. 28, that random water samples from 13 out of 58 homes showed lead above the actionable levels of 0.015. The agency retrieved the samples in June 2015 and received the results in July 2015.

The city is taking additional compliance measures, including more frequent sampling and taking measures to mitigate the reaction of the finished water with piping, plumbing and service lines. Mitigation measures typically include implementation of flushing programs and optimizing corrosion control during the treatment process. Jackson's source water and finished drinking water leaving the plant do not contain lead, according to the release.

Lead enters the water from the corrosion of ma-

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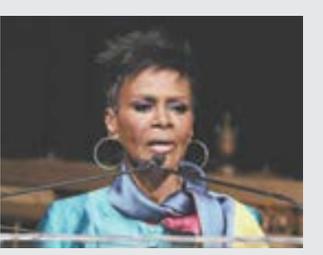
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