



Debra Mays-Jackson named Distinguished College Administrator

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Debra Mays-Jackson (Ph.D.), Hinds Community College vice president

for the Utica and Vicksburg-Warren campuses since July 2013, is headed to Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention in Nash-

ville which is slated for April 6-8. There she shall receive The Distinguished
Mays-Jackson
Continued on page 3



Ammons pledges to unify Ward 7

Mississippi College School of Law student seeks to serve



Business owner T. Dennis walks Farrish Street with LaDarion Ammons.

By Othor Cain
Editor

LaDarion Ammons is a lifelong resident of Jackson and currently lives in the Battlefield Park community. A graduate of Jim Hill High School, Mississippi State University and soon to be graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, he was raised to value hard work and ingenuity. Watching his parents, Charles (Chuk) and Carolyn, two successful business owners in Jackson, deal with the never-ending issues of being small business owners, Ammons developed a deep appreciation for the devotion they [his parents] have for Jackson. This devotion would lead to him getting involved and investing in Jackson. While at Mississippi State, Ammons was active in leadership roles, serving as the vice president of the College Democrats and serving on the Honor Code Council. Here he developed his passion, earned a degree in political science and is now ready to take on public office. "I think Ward Seven has seen continuous growth and development, which is great. This is in spite of the actions within city hall," Ammons said at a press conference announcing his candidacy for city councilman Ward 7. "There are also parts of Ward 7 that are underdeveloped and forgotten by current representation, this is unacceptable. We need representation within city hall that can work for all

of Ward 7, leaving no area left behind." To some, the part of town [Battlefield Park] where Ammons calls home is seemingly a 'left behind' part of Ward 7. "My neighborhood, the Mid-Town area and portions of South Jackson are areas where some residents feel under-represented," he said. "At the end of the day, I am just a guy from Jackson who loves this city and wants this city to be successful. I know that its success depends on Ward Seven being able to fully engage in the problems plaguing all of the city. I want to work for all of Ward 7, and in turn all of Jackson." Ammons has listed as his top priorities:

- Economic development
- Encourage business development on Terry Rd/University Blvd.
- Continue to support and encourage businesses in Belhaven and Fondren
- Develop Ward 7 Business Coalition to foster year round communication with the city
- Beautification of parks, parkways and neighborhoods
- Ensure Ward 7 is a priority in the 1 percent infrastructure projects
- Revitalize parks and create green spaces
- Adopt-a-Park (business and non-profits)
- Strengthen relationships and community involvement
- Engage Ward 7 in school

Ammons
Continued on page 3

SCR 591 recognizes St. Paul's historic marker and museum

COGIC origin misunderstood by some now further clarified



St. Paul Church of God in Christ, 17214 MS-Hwy 17, Lexington, Miss., the birthplace of the COGIC.

By Gail M. Brown
Contributing Writer

Tuesday March 14, 2017, was a great day for the leaders, congregation and friends of the St. Paul Church of God In Christ of Lexington, Miss. Many traveled for at least an hour to the Mississippi State Capitol to be a part of a special recognition. Led by Bishop Timothy Titus Scott and Superintendent William Dean Jr., pastor, the group was afforded the privilege, via Senator David Jordan of Greenwood, to enter onto the Senate floor for the reading of Senate Concurrent Resolution 591.

Sponsored by Jordan, the resolution recognized "the dedication of the St. Paul Church of God In Christ historical marker and museum in Lexington Mississippi, and the spiritual legacy of this structure." During the reading, Jordan verbally painted a picture of Lexington as a small hamlet when Bishop Charles H. Mason came and established the church in 1897. "There was no public transportation, no train station, no bus station, not even a taxi stand," he said. Jordan said the church began in Lexington with 48 members but now has more than eight mil-

lion members with churches in every state of the U.S. and in more than 85 foreign countries. "I don't know of anyone else who has done what Bishop Mason did," Jordan said in a prior press release. When asked how Tuesday's Senate resolution and the dedication service of the historical marker and museum on January 29, 2017, speak to any misunderstanding some people may have had about the birthplace of the COGIC, Superintendent William Dean Jr., pastor, responded: "Many people think the Church of God in Christ

(COGIC) started in Memphis because that is our headquarters. Many think it started in Jackson, Miss., because Reverend Charles Harrison Mason (who later became Bishop and founder of the Church of God in Christ) used to pastor Mount Helm Baptist Church in Jackson. So, this [Senate Resolution] lets people know that Lexington, Miss. is the birthplace of the COGIC. The COGIC was born out of the fact that other denominations did not understand and accept Mason's message of sanctifica-

St. Paul
Continued on page 3

"Tinker" a Crossroads Film Festival Review

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

"Charity begins at home and spreads abroad" is a familiar expression. When you watch the 2016 movie "Tinker," written by Casey Dillard and directed by Glenn Payne, what you find is love. The story places Leonard in a dilemma to find financial security in what he loves to do: invent. Leonard falls short of pursuing his goal of invention and wrestles with uneasiness. He is rejected in the midst of obstructing justice. He resents a Girl Scout's cookie sales success. He languishes on thoughts of a deceased father who was blind sighted to his craft. He fails to visit his dying mother. Leonard strives to impress a sister and brother-in-law with the knowledge that he created good projects for sale. The film's storytelling, backed with excellent, moving sound ef-



fects and visual effects, captures the mind and moves it into the direction of responsibility and accountability. This comes clearly through outward places such as parking lots, a shop for inventions,

Tinker
Continued on page 3

AARP Mississippi opposes American Health Care Act

AARP
Real Possibilities

Age tax threatens access to health care for thousands of Mississippians

By Ronda Gooden
AARP

AARP Mississippi is opposing the American Health Care Act because it will increase costs and risks for older Mississippians and adults across the country. The bill, which is currently being considered by Congress, would introduce an age rating that will increase health care costs by thousands of dollars a year for Americans ages 50 to 64. "This 'age tax' threatens to cut people's access to care at a time of life when it is essential for their living," said

AARP
Continued on page 3

Inside

Women for Progress "Salute to Women 2017"

Page 19



Book Review: My Brown Baby

Page 18

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