



Pictured are Rep. Bennie Thompson (from left), Eddie Fair, Jim Evans, Terry Johnson, William Dilday and Latrice Westbrook. PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

Thompson kicks off re-election campaign

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

Congressman Bennie Thompson held an open house Sept. 25, at his Jackson campaign headquarters, 3607 Medgar Evers Blvd.

Sandra McCall, Friends of Bennie Thompson Jackson coordinator, said that the open

house was the official kickoff for Thompson's 2016 General Election campaign for re-election to the 2nd Congressional District in Mississippi. Thompson, a seasoned incumbent, was first elected in 1993.

"I am happy to be here to support my congressman and my friend. He has truly been a cham-

panion for the people of the 2nd Congressional District as well as for the state of Mississippi," said Eddie J. Fair, Hinds County Tax Collector. "We want to continue to have him fight for us all."

McCall, who seemed pleased with the open house, said it was a great time of fellowship with friends and neighbors.

"The open house was an excellent opportunity for us to energize our base. As our most populous county, we understand how important it is for us to work well with the community," she said. McCall also said being located in the heart of Jackson, she

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Gala to honor 5 native Mississippians

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

With plans to celebrate the accomplishments of five African-American women celebrities native to Mississippi, the first Boss Lady Diamond Gala is set for 6 p.m. Oct. 8, at the Mississippi Grammy Museum in Cleveland.

The women to be honored are Actress Cassie Davis, American Idol first-runnerup LaPorsha Renea, Mary Parker, a multimillionaire CEO; Mablean Ephriam, reality TV judge; and Monica Parker, a producer for Steve Harvey.

Having the gala was the brainchild of Pam Chatman, the first African-American woman to become a news director for a television station in Mississippi when she worked for WABG-TV in Greenville starting in 1998. Chatman is the founder of Boss Lady and now works as a motivational speaker, community advocate and business consultant. Through her business, she offers self-worth programs for girls titled "I Am a Diamond" and programs for women titled "Diamond in the Rough."

"I felt it was important to try to bring back women from Mississippi, particularly African-American women, to share their stories to empower and educate others," Chatman said. "Who better to bring back than these black ladies."

Chatman began thinking about having the event some two years ago. At the time she was in the midst of back and forth travel between the Delta and Los Angeles exploring all sorts of Hollywood opportunities.

She was also working on a reality show called "Breaking Greenville," which was filmed in Greenville. Since then she has made appearances on "The Today Show" and "The Talk."

Being from the South, she says she faced some judgment on exactly what she could offer. But when people heard her speak, she said they told her, "You speak with

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Local watch party attendees favor Clinton



Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton will face off in the next presidential debate Oct. 9 at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBCNEWS.COM

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

At a presidential debate watch event Sept. 26, in Jackson, it was clear the crowd was pro Hillary Clinton.

About 100 people gathered for a viewing of the historic debate at the Mississippi Roadmap to Health Equity, Inc. as Secretary of State Clinton squared off against businessman Donald Trump.



Stamps Griffith Bridges
The candidates were questioned by moderator Lester Holt on issues ranging from national security to race relations

in the country to their plans to grow the U.S. economy.

There were lots of sighs and grunts as Trump stated his case without actually replying to questions asked and continually interrupted Clinton and the moderator during the debate.

Reactions from attendees were generally that Clinton was the stronger, more prepared candidate in the debate.

Sharon Bridges, of Rho Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., which co-sponsored the watch party along with Women for Progress, Jackson Professional Group and S.T.A.N.D., said what stood out for her was Trump's failure to "provide one iota of evidence of what he will do to

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Despite harsh reviews, Trump resists new debate approach

By Steve Peoples and Lisa Lerer
The Associated Press

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa – Unmoved by harsh debate reviews, a defiant Donald Trump showed no sign Sept. 28, of embracing any big changes before his second faceoff with Hillary Clinton, pressing ahead with a strategy

focused on speaking directly to his white working-class loyalists across the Midwest.

Democrat Clinton, meanwhile, pushed to improve her standing among younger voters with the help of the president, Sen. Bernie Sanders and other key allies, 48 hours after her debate performance that

seemed to spark badly needed enthusiasm.

Those closest to Trump insisted the Republican presidential nominee was satisfied with the Sept. 26 debate, even as prominent voices within his own party called for more serious preparation next time following an opening con-

frontation marked by missed opportunities and missteps.

"Why would we change if we won the debate?" former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a key Trump ally and traveling partner this week, told The Associated Press. "Donald Trump is going to prepare for debates the way

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Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton looks on as a resident registers to vote Sept. 25 in Jackson. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY



Mississippi Link offers voter registration

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

There are literally only days left for Mississippians to register to vote in order to cast their ballots in the Nov. 8 presidential election, and *The Mississippi Link* is doing its part to ensure as many people as possible get registered.

During the Cure Sickle Cell Foundation's 5K Walk, Run, Ride Sept. 25 at Thalia Mara Hall, *The Link's* vendor table also served as a voter registration table.

While most individuals who stopped by the table were registered voters, a few people did update their information on the

forms, while others actually registered.

"*The Mississippi Link* wanted to get involved in voter registration because we feel it is our responsibility to remind every eligible voter that their voice needs to be heard, especially in this election," said Jackie Hampton, publisher. "We can-

not sit back and complain on issues that affect us. We need to have a voice in who will represent our best interests. Too many people have fought for the rights of every person to be able to vote regardless of race or gender or religious beliefs

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