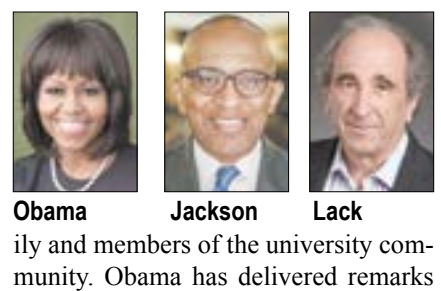




Michelle Obama to speak at Jackson State commencement

The Mississippi Link Newswire
 As part of her Reach Higher initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver Jackson State University's commencement address April 23, at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.
 The event will mark JSU's 139th Spring Commencement Ceremony. Obama will address more than 1,000 graduates as well as their friends, fam-

Tougaloo also announces graduation speaker



Obama Jackson Lack
 Obama has delivered remarks to the university community. Obama has delivered remarks

on an HBCU campus each year she has served as First Lady.
 Echoing the call of the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative, Jackson State University and the Jackson Public School District collaborated to form the first laboratory school in the Jackson area. Since 2013, Blackburn Laboratory Middle School has partnered with JSU in an effort to transform Blackburn into a highly successful middle school for replication and study of successful practices in the district, state and nation.
 Jackson State University was founded in 1877 as a four-year public university; it is one of the largest institutions of higher learning in Mississippi and a

Historically Black University originally established to educate newly freed African Americans to become ministers and teachers.
 Tougaloo College will celebrate its 2016 Commencement Ceremony May 1, which will take place on the campus lawn of the historic Woodworth Chapel. The commencement speaker will be

Graduations
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Religious freedom law draws ire

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor
 From local and national levels, responses are pouring in since Gov. Phil Bryant signed the religious freedom bill on Tuesday.
 HB1523, authored by House Speaker Philip Gunn, is known as the Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act, and allows people and organizations to use their religious beliefs as reason to deny services such as marriage, adoption or foster care services to LGBT people and would also not grant employment protection to LGBT individuals. The law could also allow denial of services to unwed couples and single mothers.
 In signing the law, Bryant said on his Twitter account, "I am signing HB 1523 into law to protect sincerely held religious beliefs and moral convictions."



Bryant

Law
 Continued on page 3

Praying for state leaders

Mission Mississippi event tackles race relations



Cynthia Cooper (from left) and Elayne Hayes Anthony served as moderators for the Governors Leadership Prayer Luncheon and Summit. University presidents were panelists for the luncheon. They are Roger Parrott, Belhaven University; (from left), Alfred Rankins Jr., Alcorn State; William LaForge, Delta State; William Bynum, Mississippi Valley and Mark Keenum, Mississippi State University. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor
 Lots of prayers went up for state leaders Tuesday during Mission Mississippi's second annual Governor's Leadership Prayer Luncheon and Summit at the Jackson Convention Complex.
 Gov. Phil Bryant and university presidents were among the more than 2,000 people from across the state who attended the event which

explored race relations. The summit was held from 8:30-11 a.m. and the luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Tuesday's luncheon marked a slight change in agenda for the annual event.
 Neddie Winters, president of Mission Mississippi, explained this was the first time the audience participated in the summit and offered feedback through recorded table

discussions. Previously, audience members just listened to selected speakers respond to questions.
 Winters is awaiting evaluation results from the summit, but said, "based on what I heard from the debriefing it comes down to love, prayer and forgiveness."
 He also plans to push an initiative on creating intentional relationships through mentorship, discipleship and partnership.

Five university presidents served as panelists during the luncheon and answered questions on race relations in the state.
 On hand were President Alfred Rankins Jr., Alcorn State University; President Roger Parrott, Belhaven University; President William LaForge, Delta State

Prayer
 Continued on page 3

Nissan donates \$250K to six HBCUs in state

The Mississippi Link Newswire
 Today Nissan announced the donation of \$250,000 to six local Historically Black Colleges and Universities to promote science, technology engineering and mathematics initiatives at each school to inspire and develop talent. To date, Nissan has invested more than \$1 million in local HBCUs - half of which supports STEM-specific curriculums.
 "Mississippi's HBCUs are hard at work each day developing and delivering the curriculum and experiences that will shape today's students into tomorrow's leaders," said U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS). "I commend Nissan's continued commitment to our students, our universities and our communities."



Thompson

Clopton reflects on mother at literary luncheon



Clopton PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer
 Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, Inc., the oldest active club in the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., held its 14th Annual Literary Luncheon April 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson.
 The noon affair is an annual occurrence in conjunction with National Library Week, April 10-16. The organization adhered to the national theme, "Libraries Transform."

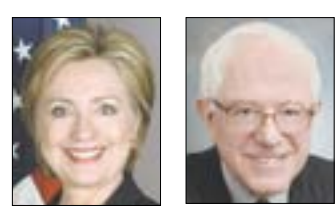
Wilma E. Mosely Clopton, president and CEO of NMHS Unlimited Film Productions, was the featured speaker. The soft-spoken local author fondly recounted stories from her latest book, *Jessie: One Woman, One Vision*. The treatise is a biography of her mother Jessie Bryant Mosley who was a well-known community activist and founder/first director of the Smith Robertson Museum, 529 Bloom Street in Jackson.
 "Jessie Mosley was a woman in her 40s in Texas at Jarvis Christian

College who believed she could be whatever she wanted to be. When she came to Mississippi, she thought the black people she saw walking around were in college but discovered that they weren't." Discoveries such as this caused Mosley to notice race relations in the state. "So Vernon Lane Wharton's *The Negro in Mississippi* became her first book," Clopton said of her mother.

Luncheon
 Continued on page 3

Clinton blasts Sanders on gun control, sharpens attacks

By Lisa Lerer and Ken Thomas
Associated Press
 PHILADELPHIA - Armed with a blistering tabloid cover, Hillary Clinton is pitting Bernie Sanders against the parents of children murdered in Sandy Hook, part of an effort to punch her way into the critical New



Clinton Sanders
 Clinton and Sanders are competing for the New York primary. The inflammatory rhetoric

underscores the importance of the New York contest on April 19 to her campaign and the mounting frustration of Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, with the lingering primary battle.
 That irritation spilled out in public arena on Wednesday, when Clinton released a flurry of attacks on Sanders, questioning his truthfulness, preparedness for the presidency and loyalty to Democratic party principles.
 During an appearance on MSNBC Wednesday morning, Clinton pointed to the cover of

the *New York Daily News* criticizing Sanders for saying he did not think victims of a gun crime should be able to sue the manufacturer. His comments came when the newspaper's editorial board asked him about a wrongful death lawsuit against a rifle maker over the Sandy Hook El-

ementary School massacre.
 "That he would place gun manufacturers' rights and immunity from liability against the parents of the children killed at Sandy Hook is just unimaginable."

Election
 Continued on page 3

Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors will meet in Jackson April 13
 Page 7

Jackson State's Robert Braddy inducted into National College Baseball Hall of Fame
 Page 16

Actress Tatyana Ali is engaged and expecting first child
 Page 19

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