



HIV/AIDS experts address epidemic in state

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

To shed light on the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Mississippi, *The Mississippi Link* partnered with Mississippi Faith in Action to sponsor a breakfast Tuesday, World AIDS Day. *The Link* has been actively participating in HIV/AIDS seminars across the nation and has published important health articles regarding testing, prevention, treatment and counseling. Mississippi Faith in Action, founded in 2013, aims

to address Mississippi's HIV/AIDS epidemic by engaging in diverse activities to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, offer testing and treatment and fight stigma. The event held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Jackson brought together faith leaders, health officials, community leaders, and students from Jackson State University



and Tougaloo College. Experts in the field of HIV/AIDS research including Dr. Laura Beauchamps, assistant professor of infectious diseases at the University of Mississippi Medical Center; Mauda Monger, HIV director at UMMC; and Patricia Smith, a social worker with the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, were guest speakers. They each shared information of the disheartening data of Mississippians, particularly African-Americans ages 13-24, being diagnosed with

HIV. "It is sad what I'm seeing every week. I'm seeing a lot of adolescents," said Beauchamps, who treats patients at Open Arms Healthcare Center in Jackson. There is an epidemic in the Jackson area of young African-American men who sleep with men (MSM) getting infected with HIV, according to Beauchamps, who along with social workers, mental health providers, and patient navigators are constantly working to

make people more comfortable discussing sexual behavior and sexual orientation. "We actually have the highest case rates in the nation of children 13-24," said Monger, who stressed that most new cases are among young African Americans. To educate the audience, Monger talked about the difference between HIV and AIDS noting that HIV is the virus that

STATS

- Mississippi has the highest HIV diagnosis rate in the U.S. for males 13-24 years old.
- More than 9,000 Mississippians are living with HIV. 75 percent of them are African-Americans.
- African-American men are seven times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than white men.

Source: Mississippi State Department of Health

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Midwifery stories sought

Public invited to share information at event Dec. 19



A Chancery Clerk employee and city employee Von Anderson review paperwork for Scott Ford Properties. Looking on are Rep. Alyce Clarke, Scott Ford House Board President Dr. Alferdteen Harrison, Ruth Weir, granddaughter of midwife Virginia Scott Ford; and Scott Ford House Board member Dorothy Stewart. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT, PH.D.

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.
Contributing Writer

Friends of the Scott Ford Midwife Houses have set Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as "A Day of Sharing" at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center located at 528 Bloom St. in Jackson. The public is invited to attend and share their stories, artifacts and photographs in the Scott Ford Museum

and Interpretive Center to be established at 136 and 138 Cohea St. The collection will focus on midwifery – trusted women assisting young mothers with their birthing process. "A Day of Sharing" is hosted and sponsored in collaboration with Jackson State University's Margaret Walker Center, the Mississippi Humanities Council and Smith Robertson Museum. Included among pro-

gram presenters will be Jackie Dace, project manager for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum set to open in 2017; Dr. Helen Barnes, a retired obstetrician/gynecologist; Dr. Robert Smith, health care advocate and founder/director of the Central Mississippi Health Services Center; Dr. Ricco Chapman, chairman of the JSU History Department; Angela Stewart, the Margaret Walker Cen-

ter's archivist and Dr. Robert Luckett, director of the Margaret Walker Center. Some may question why "A Day of Sharing" is essential to the Jackson community. According to president and historian of the Scott Ford House Board, Dr. Alferdteen

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Harrington inducted into SWAC Hall of Fame

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Perry Harrington had no notion of playing football beyond his days on the field for Lanier High School. Then he found out his talents as a running back could pay for his college education. Harrington elected to attend Jackson State University where his skills surpassed those of other college players in the country. Tonight Harrington will be inducted to the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Houston, Texas. Harrington, who played at JSU from 1976-80, went on to play professionally with the Philadelphia Eagles for four years and St. Louis Cardinals for two years. He retired in 1985.



Harrington | PHOTO BY STEPHANIE R. JONES

He said he hasn't kept up with football much since leaving the NFL but said the SWAC Hall of Fame designation is important to him because it allows him to share his football history with his three children, who did not have a chance to follow his career. "They were not a part of my football career, so it's nice to be able to share this with them," he said Tuesday. "I never really thought about a career in football except that I got a scholarship and it just worked out that way," said Harrington, whose classmates at Lanier, from which he graduated in 1976, nicknamed called "Super P." "It was a combination of being in the right place at the right time." A highlight of his professional career, he said, was playing in Superbowl XV his first season in the NFL. At JSU Harrington was one of two running backs to gain more than 1,000 yards rushing in a season; the other was Jeffrey Moore, who was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame last year. Former head coach W.C. Gordon, who coached Harrington for part of his career at JSU, said Harrington's speed was what stood out. "He ran the 40-yard-dash – the standard used by NFL recruiters when judging running backs – in 4.4 seconds," Gordon said. "The best is 4.3."

"And Perry was a very physical player for his size. He could block as well," Gordon said. Something that worked in Harrington's favor was Gordon's decision to run the wishbone offense. "Some people criticized the change, but I knew I had a lot of strong running backs in Perry, Jeffrey and others and not as strong a quarterback for a passing game." Other strengths Gordon said he saw in Harrington, who majored in finance, were his commitment to

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Jones' Clout Music partners with Tyscot Records

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Multi-Award winning songwriter and producer Stan Jones' Clout Music Group has formed a joint-venture partnership with the legendary gospel music enterprise Tyscot Records to exclusively distribute future CMG albums and recordings. "Tyscot Records has proven longevity," says Jones, a Clarksdale Miss. native. "They were a pioneer in the past and they continue to break exciting new ground for new No. 1 acts such as

Anthony Brown and group theA-Py and Casey J." The union will marry Tyscot's promotional and marketing resources with Jones' handpicked vocalists, his songwriting skills and his production standards. "Stan Jones is a premiere producer who has established his brand in the gospel genre," says Tyscot COO Bryant Scott. "We are excited to partner with Stan as he launches Clout Music Group." CMG's first release will be the spring 2016 debut album by Dur-

ward Davis who appeared on season three of Black Entertainment Television's gospel music competition television series "Sunday Best." The singer came in third behind Elder Goldwire McClelland and Le'Andria Johnson who won the title of Sunday Best. Jones hails from a musical family and grew up on the sounds of gospel legends such as the band Commissioned and The Winans.



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