



Living Legends

Program honors icons of Black History in state



New Hope Baptist Church honored Black History living legends Feb. 11, at the church. They are Rep. Robert Clark (from left), Ellie Dahmer, Ineva Pittman and Dr. Robert Smith. Rev. C.J. Rhodes (far right) joined the honorees on the stage. PHOTO BY GEORGE BROOKS

By Natalie Bell
Contributing Writer

For one amazing evening Feb. 11, family and friends, distinguished guests and members of the public joined New Hope Baptist Church in celebrating the enduring achievements of four mentors and role models while also paying tribute to the long tradition of African-American accomplishment.

The honorees: Rep. Robert Clark, who in 1967 became the first African American elected to the state Legislature since Reconstruction; Ineva Pittman, Jackson educator and community activist; Ellie Dahmer, widow of the Forrest County NAACP president Vernon Dahmer, who was murdered for encouraging people to register to vote; and Dr. Robert Smith, a college professor

who has devoted much of his life to providing educational opportunities for students. New Hope's Pastor Dr. Jerry Young took time from his many demands as president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., to share his love and praise for the guests of honor. In response, these black history "living legends" offered inspired

reflections, then issued a call to today's youth to walk through the doors that they had opened. "Thousands of African Americans growing up today are not taking advantage of opportunities that are out there," Clark said. "That's what we have been about, taking

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Reflecting on Ayers case, Atty. Madison

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Isaiah Madison's name might not be one that readily comes to mind but his impact on higher education in Mississippi is as remarkable as the red clay soil that covers the state. The late Rev. Dr. Madison was among attorneys who spent years working on the Ayers lawsuit against the state to gain better funding for historically black universities in the state. A symposium Tuesday at COFO on the Jackson State University campus shed light on his efforts in the case and the impact it has had on higher education at majority black institutions. The Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO (Council of Federated Organizations) along with Institute for Social Justice and Race Relations, the College of Liberal Arts, The College of Education and Human Development and the Department of Political Sci-

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Carol Ann Madison, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Isaiah Madison, is shown with her mother, Helen Miller. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE R. JONES

Obama chides senators to vote on court pick

By Darlene Supervise and Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama is challenging Republicans to live up to their avowed adherence to the Constitution and agree to vote on his nominee to replace the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. A key Republican is leaving the door open to taking the first step. Despite widespread GOP insistence that he leave the decision to the next president, Obama said Tuesday he had no intention of abdicating his responsibilities before leaving office early next year. He chidingly told the Senate he expects "them to do their job as well."

"The Constitution is pretty clear about what's supposed to happen now," Obama said before returning to Washington from California. Fallout from Scalia's unexpected death overshadowed Obama's two days of summitry

with Southeast Asian leaders. Obama pledged to nominate a candidate "indisputably" qualified, but Republican leaders have threatened to refuse to hold hearings or a vote on his pick to replace the conservative Scalia.

Yet there were hints that at least some Republicans might come around. Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he would wait "until the nominee is made before I would make any decision" about holding hearings, boosting White House hopes for getting a third justice confirmed on Obama's watch.

With the looming nomination



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Chicago to release police shooting videos in a quicker manner

By Don Babwin
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) -- The city of Chicago promised Tuesday to start more quickly releasing footage after police shootings, while activists critical of how authorities handled the videotaped fatal shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald sought to have a special prosecutor take over the case. They're the latest reactions to the shattered public trust in police officers, prosecutors and City Hall: One by attorneys, clergymen and some elected officials who say they've lost faith in Cook County's top prosecutor, and the other by a mayor trying to restore people's confidence in his office and police department. Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who has heard repeated calls to step down, said he supported the new video policy recommended by the task force he created after the McDonald footage was released. His spokesman, Adam Collins, said the recommendations would be implemented immediately. The Independent Police Review Authority, which investigates officer-

involved shootings, plans to release videos and other evidence in all new cases as well as current investigations. The videos and other evidence would be released within 60 days, but law enforcement agencies can seek to delay that by another 30 days. "Restoring trust between our police and the communities they're sworn to serve is an essential part of our city's public safety efforts," Emanuel said. Trust was a clear factor in the petition for a special prosecutor. The civil rights attorneys and others say they want an outside prosecutor for the McDonald case and any further investigation into the shooting because of what they see as Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's close ties to the officers union. They say they don't trust her to aggressively investigate and prosecute Officer Jason Van Dyke, who is charged with first-degree murder. Alvarez's "track record has undermined her credibility, created a crisis

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2nd escaped inmate now in custody

From staff reports

As of Wednesday afternoon, one of three Hinds County escaped inmates who walked away from a work detail Feb. 10, remained at large. Hinds County Sheriff Victor Mason held a press conference Wednesday morning to announce that Gary Chambers, 31, is in custody. Jeremy Jordan, 24, turned himself in Feb. 12, and revealed to authorities that the escape was planned. Deundre Pinkston, 20, has not been apprehended. The men, who are nonviolent offenders, were picking up trash on I-220 near Forest Avenue when they were permitted to walk into the woods to use the restroom. They never returned. Jordan was serving time for more than \$6,000 in fines and had traffic and contempt of court violations. Pinkston owed fines of about \$1,000 and was serving time for speeding, public profanity and misdemeanor domestic assault. Chambers was serving time for drug possession, false pretense, contempt of court, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Pinkston and Chambers only had 24 days left to serve. Escaping from their work detail could result in an additional one to five years to serve, according

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