



Hinds County Supt. responds to petition to remove her

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

An online petition seeking the removal of Hinds County School District Superintendent Dr. Delescia Martin was posted on Change.org Wednesday.

The petition was created by Parents 4 A Better HCSD, a group



Martin

of individuals with children in the district, which according to its Facebook page, has 41 members.

To read the petition in its entirety search for "Remove Dr. Martin as Superin-

tendent of Hinds County School District" on Change.org.

Donna Wilson of Byram is the administrator of the Parents 4 A Better HCSD page.

Wilson was among a group of parents who met with Martin Tuesday evening to discuss concerns of more than 100 teachers

and administrators leaving the district this year.

"I have never been an activist. I consider myself an active parent. When issues affect my child then I request answers," Wilson said. "I and other parents who attended the meeting felt change needed to happen at the superin-

tendent level, so I made the decision to create this change.org petition. Our school district is now ranked 101 in the state. We need a superintendent who not only listens to the parents, but cares for our children's education. Not just about state test scores," Wilson continued.

The petition specifically cited five areas of concern: the number of teachers and administrators leaving the district, students being tested without proper instruction, the removal of students from Algebra classes who were not per-

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Bully's food earns praise



Mississippi legislators presented resolutions to Bully's soul food restaurant Tuesday. PHOTOS BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

In honor of its recent designation as one of America's Classic Restaurants by the James Beard Foundation, Bully's, a soul food restaurant located at 3118 Livingston Road in Jackson, was presented with Senate Concurrent Resolution 612 by the Mississippi Legislature Tuesday.

"We want to show our appreciation for Bully's restaurant because we all know that America is getting ready to find out that Bully's is one of the best places you can eat in America," said Sen. John Horhn, D-26, who along with several other legislators presented the resolution to Tyrone and Greta Bully in front of the eatery.

Rep. Chris Bell, D-65 presented Bully's a Resolution 80 for offering up great food and service.

"The hard work has paid off," said Tyrone Bully.

"It's an awesome feeling not just for us but for the community as well," said Greta Bully. "We couldn't have done it without our staff. I'm so proud of my husband.

He works very hard. He has a passion for it. The people in the neighborhood, politicians and those from far and near have always supported us."

The James Beard Foundation Awards are annual awards present-

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Judge Wise discusses child custody issues

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Women for Progress welcomed Chancery Court Judge Patricia D. Wise as its guest speaker March 8, for a luncheon at Koinonia Coffee House, 136 S. Adams St., in West Jackson.

Dorothy Stewart, founder of Women for Progress, introduced Wise to those who gathered for the event and explained the organization played a role in Wise getting sworn in.

Wise recalled making her first campaign speech in Stewart's home

27 or 28 years ago.

As she spoke on the topic "Child Custody Issues," she explained when she first took the bench, there were no custody issues with children because of the tender years doctrine which states that children nourish and flourish when they're with their mother, but in the 1980s and 1990s fathers were granted the right to have custody.

Wise explained how grandparents



(L to R) Attendee with Dorothy Stewart, Women For Progress; Dist. 4 Chancery Court Judge Patricia D. Wise, guest speaker PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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Jackson music festival plans move indoors

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

When the Jackson Rhythm & Blues Festival returns for its fourth annual run Aug. 19-20, the main difference will be the location of the event.

The festival is moving from its home for the past three years at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum to the Jackson Convention Center, organizers announced last week. They say the move will attract more attendees.

"The move will allow us more opportunity for growth and help give a different approach to the festival," said Yolanda Clay-Moore of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Past festivals have drawn approximately 5,000 to 10,000 people said Alex Thomas, festival coordinator. He said moving to an indoor venue will provide more stability than the outdoor areas at the Ag Museum. The weather – whether extreme August heat or rain – has been a variable in attendance.

"This way people will be able to sit and be indoors

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Obama nominates moderate jurist Garland to court

By Kathleen Hennessey
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama nominated appeals court judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, thrusting a respected moderate jurist and former prosecutor into the center of an election-year clash over the future of the nation's highest court.

Obama cast the 63-year-old Garland as "a serious man and an exemplary judge" deserving of a full hearing and a Senate confirmation vote, despite Republican vows to deny him both. Standing in the White House Rose Garden with Garland, Obama argued the integrity of the court was at stake and appealed to the Senate to "play it straight" in filling the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

"It's supposed to be above politics," Obama said of the high court. "It has to be. And it should stay that way."



Garland

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Judge Reeves sets deadline in Confederate flag lawsuit

By Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves has ordered attorneys to file arguments over whether courts have standing to decide if Mississippi should remove the Confederate battle emblem that has been on the state flag since 1894.

Reeves set a deadline of next Mon-

day for briefs by Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, who's defending the state, and Carlos Moore, a private attorney from Grenada who sued the state seeking to have the flag declared an unconstitutional vestige of slavery.

In his scheduling order filed late Monday, Reeves also told Moore to stop making "false or misleading public state-

ments," such as saying African Americans could be entitled to reparations if the flag is found unconstitutional or that Reeves will change the flag because he is African-American. Moore said both things during a change-the-flag rally last week outside the state Capitol.

At the rally, Moore said he believes the flag will come down because, "God

has set it up in his own perfect plan" by having the U.S. elect its first black president in 2008 and by having President Barack Obama nominate Reeves, a graduate of historically black Jackson State University, to the federal bench. Moore also said it was part of a divine plan that Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the Supreme Court's staunchest conser-

vatives, had died.

"When we get that fifth liberal progressive on the court, after Judge Reeves takes it down, it's going to stay down," Moore said of the flag during the March 8 rally.

Reeves said such statements "impugn

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