



Council members grill administration over budget

By Othor Cain
Contributing Writer

It took less than 30 minutes for some Jackson City Council members to determine that they had had enough excuses as to why they haven't been presented with information concerning the city's budget during the May 9 City Council meeting.



meeting with a question that set the stage for the balance of the meeting; "I'm going to cut through the chase, Mr. Crisler, is it true that the city has spent all of its encumbered general fund balance and has spent more than \$4 million of its emergency fund?" Priester asked.

Priester, who has publicly dis-

played his frustrations with the administration's lack of transparency via his Facebook page didn't stop with that question. "It's my understanding that the mayor has known for at least several weeks at this point that we have used up all of our fund balance. We have zero fund balance left, and we have a re-

serve deficit of approximately \$4,187,367," said Priester. "If the mayor wants to continue to ostrich, that's on him. We need to know how much money we have in our reserve. We need to be able to have good information that the council has been requesting for months at this point."

Mayor Tony Yarber did not at-

tend the special-called city council meeting – a meeting that he requested – because of a previously scheduled meeting with the Rankin-Hinds County Flood Control Group.

Instead, Yarber allowed Marshand Crisler to sit in for him

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AT&T donates to 2 museums

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Several key persons met at the famous Woodworth Chapel at Tougaloo College the morning of May 6, to announce a \$250,000 donation from AT&T to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History.

The event acknowledged long-standing contributions of Judge Reuben Anderson, Mississippi Civil Rights Movement Chair and honoree with the naming of the Black Empowerment Gallery inside the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Anderson is a Tougaloo alumn.

AT&T Mississippi President Mayo Flynt stated, "It is fitting to Judge Anderson, a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, a trailblazer of many firsts in Mississippi, and a living example of this gallery's story."

Flynt challenged the gatherers to remember those who labored for racial progress in Mississippi and to celebrate their achievements by thrusting forth racial reconciliation in succeeding generations.

Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan referred to the two Mississippi Museums' project as important to the state socially, culturally and economically. Hence, she said, "This project will offer learning opportunities that will expand the historical and civic knowledge so important to the full separation of our children as functioning and contributing

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Honoring slain officers

Special week pays tribute to Tate, Deen, others



Hattiesburg police officers Liquori Tate and Benjamin Deen will be honored this week in Washington, D.C. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

A year has passed since Hattiesburg police officers Liquori Tate and Benjamin Deen were killed in the line of duty, and multiple events have taken place to honor the men.

Their families have participated in several events honoring the officers, and this week they are planning to join hundreds of other individuals across the national to

attend National Police Week activities in Washington D.C.

"I have mixed feelings about attending the event, but I definitely look forward to going. I hear that it's a very good experience," said Mary Deen, mother of Officer Deen. "I just hate the reason for going."

Deen said many in her immediate and

Officers
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Slain Mississippi officers to be recognized

- Benjamin Deen, died 5/9/2015, Hattiesburg Police Department
- Johnny Gatson, died 3/10/2015, Warren County Sheriff's Office
- John Gorman, died 1/21/2015, Mississippi Gaming Commission
- Iris Smith, died 5/25/2015, Mississippi Department of Corrections
- Liquori Tate, died 5/9/2015, Hattiesburg Police Department

Scholarship named in Holmes' honor

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Supporters of a scholarship named in honor of Charles Holmes, retired chair and professor of the Political Science Department at Jackson State University, met with him at the Dollye M. E. Robinson Building in the College of Liberal Arts at 3 p.m. May 6. Holmes was referred to as an innovator who had the university and students at heart. Those who spoke of his ingenuity gave him high marks.

Mario Azevedo, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, likened Holmes to a man who always likes to explore things. "He is very active in preparing stu-



Displaying JSU Development Foundation \$25,000 Holmes Endowed Gift are (from left) Sandra Hodge, Mario Azevedo, Charles Holmes, Evelyn Leggett, Byron Orey; (back row) Ricky Hill, Chair, Department of Political Science. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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Islamic Heritage Festival celebrates culture

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

In celebration of its 15th year anniversary, the International Museum of Muslim Cultures culminated its month-long festivities with the Islamic Heritage Festival.

The event which was held at the Mississippi Museum of Art/Art Garden prompted excitement and promoted wellness on April 30. Sprightly speaking was Khalid Abdullah Hudson, IMMC staff/festival coordinator. "This is an opportunity to share the rest of our selves with the greater community," he said.

While numerous Islamic exhibits were on display inside the Mississippi Museum of Art, informed sessions and entertainment occurred on the grounds

of the art garden.

Various professionals addressed individual and community improvement. Mississippi Move Program Director Mack Epps placed heavy emphasis on mental health and behavioral health. He made it clear that individuals should be good stewards over their minds and bodies.

"Sometimes it's a spiritual move and sometimes you have to separate yourself from others to obtain your goals," Epps said. The speaker then pressed the need to vote in the upcoming election and reminded the crowd to know their heritage and history and wok outside their comfort zones.

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Abdul Rasheed, local Mississippi Blues artist, performs Lou Rawls' "Tobacco Row" at Islamic Heritage Festival. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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