



Don't forget... Fall Back!

Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Be mindful of conduct at polls Nov. 8

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Less than a week remains before Election Day. Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann is asking voters to follow laws governing conduct in precincts, thereby ensuring ballots are cast in an efficient and order-



ly manner on Nov. 8. "Our statutes are designed to

balance preventing interference with the voting process with protecting the integrity of the election. The ultimate goal is safeguarding all Mississippians' right to vote in a free and fair election," Hosemann said. "Our local election officials and poll work-

ers are trained and ready. There are always minor interruptions on Election Day, but I am hopeful each and every citizen will do his or her part in following the

Voting
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JSU's time of transition

Paige to serve as interim president for several months

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Jackson State University alumnus and former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige has been chosen to serve as interim president of Jackson State University effective Nov. 7.

The announcement was made by Glenn Boyce, commissioner of Higher Education, Nov. 1 following a morning emergency Institutions of Higher Learning Board meeting in Jackson in which members voted unanimously to select Paige.

Before making the announcement Boyce said, "Jackson State University is an absolutely wonderful university with tremendous faculty, staff, students and administration. We are absolutely in a time of transition ... but the leadership that sits in this room will take the university forward."

Several JSU officials attended the meeting including Evelyn J. Leggett, provost and senior vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, who will serve as acting president until Paige begins his role.

"Dr. Paige absolutely has been an educator for a lifetime," Boyce said. "I think that Dr. Paige played an incredible role throughout his history in taking and making education better for young people across this nation. To have a man of Dr. Paige's stature to serve as interim presi-



Rod Paige answered media questions via conference call after being named Jackson State University's interim president following an IHL emergency Board meeting Nov. 1 in Jackson. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

dent for Jackson State University speaks volumes about his love for the university."

The College Board will begin the process of searching for a permanent JSU president at its next meeting this month. Boyce said generally the process takes five to seven months and will include online listening sessions.

A campus search advisory

committee will be established, and JSU students, alumni, faculty and administration officials will have the opportunity to serve on committees for input on who will be the next president.

While Boyce promised expediency, he also said, "We will not do it so fast that we won't get great candidates."

Per College Board policy, in-

terim presidents cannot apply for the permanent president position.

Carolyn Meyers, who served as JSU's president since 2011 turned in her letter of resignation effective Nov. 1 last week.

Paige, who is currently retired and living in Houston, Texas, was not present for the announcement

JSU

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This is what remains of Hopewell M.B. Church in Greenville after a fire Nov. 1. PHOTO COURTESY GOFUNDME.COM

Greenville church burning considered a hate crime

Staff, wire reports

The burning of a black church on Nov. 1, in Greenville that was also spray-painted with a "Vote Trump" message is making national news and being investigated as a hate crime.

Greenville Mayor Errick Simmons described the burning of Hopewell M.B. Church as a "hateful and cowardly act."

Simmons said local officials consider the fire a hate crime because of the political message he believes was intended to interfere with worship and intimidate voters.

"We have contacted local, state and federal authorities of this hateful and cowardly act," Simmons said. "This matter is being investigated as a hate crime. This act is a direct as-

sault of people's right to freely worship. Moreover, this matter is being investigated with all deliberate speed, and we will not rest until the culprit is found and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

During a briefing the afternoon of Nov. 2 Fire Chief Ruben Brown told the media, "It has been concluded ... the fire was intentionally set."

Brown reported the fire caused heavy damage to the sanctuary and water and heat damage to the kitchen and pastor's study.

Greenville Police Chief Delando Wilson said investigators were speaking with a person of interest as of Nov. 2.

The 111-year-old church congregation will rebuild the

Church

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Poll reveals profile of black American voters for 2016

The Mississippi Link Newswire

WASHINGTON, D.C. - With the election only days away, a new national poll shows that black American voters overwhelmingly plan to vote for Hillary Clinton as their choice for president of the United States. Their choice is influenced by concerns about high quality, affordable education, income inequality, jobs, the economy, race relations and racial justice.

The National Black Voter Poll found a high degree of engagement by registered black voters in the election, with 96 percent of respondents saying they will cast ballots. The same number said their friends also intend to vote. Nearly all respondents in the survey said they voted in both the 2008 and 2012

elections. Taken together, the data predict a high voter turnout among black American voters in the Nov. 8 election and a strong preference for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump.

A substantial majority (89 percent) indicated they will vote for Clinton, and two-thirds (67 percent) said they strongly favor Clinton. Another 23 percent declared "moderate support" for her. A slightly higher percent (74 percent) said they have "overall favorable feelings" for Clinton, compared to 2 percent who said they had favorable feelings for Trump.

When asked, "Do you think Donald Trump is a racist?" - 84 percent responded, "Yes."

In contrast to feelings toward the

current election year's candidates, 90 percent of respondents said they have "overall favorable feelings" toward President Barack Obama.

Findings are based on a national random sample of more than 900 voters from 22,000 telephone calls made between Oct. 21 and Oct. 30, by researchers in a joint National Newspaper Publishers Association - Howard University poll. This was the first national-level scientific study focused exclusively on voters who identify as African American, Afro-Hispanic or other black identity.

The goal of the research was to develop a profile of black American

Poll

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Gray resigns from JPS

From staff reports

Jackson Public School District Superintendent Cedrick Gray turned his resignation at the district's school Board meeting Nov. 1.

His last day on the job will be Nov. 17. Frederick Murray, chief academic officer for JPS, will serve as interim superintendent until the school Board selects a new leader.

Last week, Gray announced his intent to resign from the state's second-largest school district following JPS receiving an F in the Mississippi Department of Education's accountability ratings which were results from the Mississippi Assessment Program.

In a statement to the media School Board President Beneta Burt said, "To go from a district with only 3.5 percent of its schools labeled F to 36.2 percent, is indeed significant and a number that is not acceptable. We are still analyzing the data to pinpoint what happened, but we know that 24 per-



Gray

cent of our schools increased at least one letter grade from last year. We also know that 40 percent of our schools dropped at least one letter grade." Burt also noted there was still reason for optimism in the district. "For example, 27.4 percent of our schools are rated C or above. This is a clear illustration that our students are capable of excelling on the new assessments. We are very proud of those 16 schools. We congratulate Baker Elementary, Davis Magnet IB Elementary, Power APAC Elementary and Bailey APAC Middle School for exemplifying academic excellence as A schools," Burt said. "We will build on their success and share their best practices among our schools. The administration is working closely with all of our schools to identify areas that we can improve and

Gray

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Jackson Public Schools accepting applications for magnet programs
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2016 New Orleans Film Festival offered gumbo of quality films
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