



Real men wear pink for breast cancer

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Jay Johnson has donned a lot of pink attire this month all for a good cause.

He is one of at least 24 men chosen to participate in the

American Cancer Society's local Real Men Wear Pink of Jackson campaign this October.

Real Men Wear Pink is a distinguished group of community leaders raising awareness and funds for this year's Making

Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk set for 9 a.m. Oct. 22, at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson. Registration for the walk begins at 8 a.m.

Each man was challenged to raise at least \$2,500 for breast

cancer awareness.

On Oct. 8, Johnson, who works as the professional photographer/multi-media coordinator for the city of Jackson,

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HOME FURNITURE

Grand reopening in Gulfport

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ACLU weighs in on teacher dragging student

From Staff Reports

Videos of a Greenville High School teacher dragging a special needs student across a gym floor by her hair and hitting the student have continued to go viral after they surfaced on social media last week.

The teacher has been identified as Linda Winters-Johnson.

Not long after the videos surfaced on Oct. 6, the Greenville Police Department and Greenville Public School District responded they were investigating the incident. Assistant Police Chief Michael Merchant confirmed that any charges Winters-Johnson faces will be made known to the public after the investigation.

On social media, viewers expressed complete outrage of how the teacher was treating the student. The incident reportedly took place Sept. 21.

Kesha Williams, who has three children at the school including a daughter with special needs, posted the videos on social media. One of her daughters recorded the video at school.

Greenville Mayor Errick D. Simmons issued a statement after the videos surfaced saying, "October 6, 2016, the Mayor's Office became aware of an incident that occurred between a teacher and a student at Greenville Public School District," the statement read. "The issue was one that raised concerns about



In this screen shot of a video a Greenville High School teacher can be seen dragging a student by her hair. PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

staff professionalism and the safety and treatment of our students. As a parent of a student who attends Greenville High, I am deeply concerned like many of you.

"Rest assured that all impacted individuals are aware of this situation and the School District has already begun to take appropriate actions to continue its efforts to guarantee the safety, protection, and integrity of our educational environment," he said in the statement. "No students have been expelled and personnel matters will be handled in accordance to the law to guarantee procedural due process."

Now the ACLU of Mississippi has weighed in on the issue with the following statement from Jennifer Riley-Collins, executive director:

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Next Level to offer upscale entertainment



Next Level Experience, located in the upper level of Metrocenter Mall, experienced a soft opening Oct. 8. The Next Level will officially open for business to the general public Oct. 29. PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADLEY

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

By Oct. 29, Jackson will have a new location for upscale, classy entertainment and dining.

Next Level Experience, located in the upper level of Metrocenter Mall, will open offering "good food in a safe, secure environment and top-notch entertainment," said Socrates Garrett, a member of the development team that brought Next Level to Jackson.

Garrett, along with fellow African-American business leaders in Jackson, Leroy Walker and Howard Catchings, are the owners of Retro Metro. Retro Metro has owned the space in the mall where Next Level is located since 2012.

Next Level Experience includes Eme's Restaurant, which offers Caribbean cuisine; Soul Sensation Lounge, an entertainment hall, banquet hall and a piano bar.

"Next Level is designed to give residents of South Jackson and

West Jackson a venue they've never had before," Garrett said. "It will be a catalyst in revitalization for South Jackson."

Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. depending on the day of the week. The family friendly venue will feature Sunday brunches and afternoon/evening events for mature adults.

The restaurant can seat more than 200 diners and more than 400 can occupy the banquet hall.

"Our goal has always been to bring South Jackson back and cre-

ate generators - reasons to bring people back to the area," Walker said. "South Jackson and West Jackson are growing, and we want to capitalize on that."

As business leaders, Walker said, they saw that Jackson had an appetite for a venue such as Next Level. Now, residents won't have to venture outside of Jackson to Rankin and Madison counties to enjoy a nice meal in this type of

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Jackson Medical Mall Foundation hosts Night Out community event

By Diamond Williams
Special to The Mississippi Link

The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation has been working diligently to restore its relationship with its surrounding communities, partner with local businesses and improve community involvement.

While celebrating its 20th anniversary, the foundation hosted its annual National Night Out at East Village Estates and Homestead Heights communities Oct. 11.

The National Night Out event was titled "A Going Away Party for Crime" and included live music from Sing Jackson, a youth choir directed by Hugh Davis; singer Richard Mack, free food, community vendors, free health screenings by Care for Me Services and children



Sing Jackson Youth Choir performed during the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation's National Night Out event. PHOTO BY DIAMOND WILLIAMS

activities.

The event was designed to encourage neighborhoods to engage in stronger relationships with each other

and with their local law enforcement partners. The Jackson Medical

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College Hill celebrates pastor's sixth year

By Daphne M. Higgins
Religion Editor

On Oct. 10, 2010, the congregation of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, officially welcomed its 14th pastor to the church's pulpit.

Rev. Michael Titus Williams, an experienced preacher, teacher and leader delivered his first sermon to the congregants and they agreed his words from the Lord were a blessing to all who were present.

Six years later, Oct. 9, the College Hill family honored Williams during his sixth anniversary celebration.

During the celebration, Williams was saluted by several ministries before being touted by the guest speaker of the day, the Rev. Lee Carson, pastor of First Baptist M.B. Church of Kosciusko. Carson used 1 Corin-

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College Hill church member Lenora Reed escorts Pastor Michael T. Williams into the sanctuary for the pastor's sixth anniversary celebration. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority donates more than 100 backpacks to JPS

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Jackson State planning to celebrate Founders' Week

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Time is running out for students to apply for Disney Dreamers Academy

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