



DA Smith calls Hood's actions 'outrageous'



Smith



Hood

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith is calling the actions of Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood "outrageous" following Smith's arrest and indictment on Sept. 7.

After learning about Hood's plan to have him arrested on Sept. 7, Smith went to the Hinds County Circuit Court to be served and turn himself in.

The arrest came one day after six misdemeanor charges brought by the AG's office against him were dropped. Smith has now been indicted by a Hinds County grand jury on two felony charges accusing him of conspiring with an assistant DA to hinder prosecution of a criminal defendant.

In an exclusive interview with *The Mississippi Link*, Smith said what's taking place is "traditional Mississippi politics in the criminal justice system."

"This has been happening. The misconduct of Jim Hood is out-

rageous, and he should not hold office. The conduct is something every citizen should be concerned about."

Hinds County Assistant District Attorney Jamie K. McBride was also indicted and arrested Sept. 7, according to Smith. McBride faces charges of conspiring to commit the crime of hindering prosecution, conviction and punishment of a criminal defendant.

The defendant is Christopher Butler.

Smith described McBride's career reputation as "stellar" and said his colleague's arrest was retaliation for McBride giving an affidavit in Smith's favor.

"The numerous investigations I've been conducting for citizens have been race neutral," said Smith, noting that not all individuals in elected positions appreciate that type of work.

As for the indictment and moving forward, Smith said the plan is "to continue to get the truth out and expose the behavior of Jim Hood

and Stanley Alexander. This started some time ago, and it's just pure hatred. The evidence is filled with the cooperation of like-minded individuals that know that these charges are retaliatory." Alexander is the director of the Public Integrity Division of the AG's office.

On Sept. 6, Hood filed papers to dismiss six misdemeanor charges against Smith in which he was accused of violating state law by advising, counseling, consulting or defending criminals. All along, Smith's stance was that he was never formally indicted and his case should have been brought to a grand jury.

Smith, 45, of Jackson, is charged with two counts of conspiring to hinder prosecution in the first degree, felony charges punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000 on each count.

Additionally, the grand jury indicted Smith on a misdemeanor count of violating Mississippi Code Section 97-11-3, which states that a DA shall not "consult, ad-

vised, counsel or defend" a person charged with a crime. If convicted of that charge, Smith faces removal from office and a fine of up to \$500.

In a press release statement, Hood said, "As a former district attorney, I have the utmost respect for the work our district attorneys do every day to make Mississippi a safer place to live. They are my colleagues in the fight against crime," Hood said. "So it brings me no pleasure to prosecute one of our own. But a Hinds County grand jury has indicted Mr. Smith for serious violations of the law that hamper the ability of our criminal justice system to do its job. My hope is that this case is resolved fairly and expeditiously for the sake of the citizens of Hinds County."

The three-count indictment alleges that Smith conspired with former Assistant DA Ivo Johnson and with unnamed co-conspirators to hinder the prosecution of Butler in four different Hinds County

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Alzheimer's Mississippi plans Saturday walk



Mississippi Link Newswire

Alzheimer's Mississippi Walk4ALZ will take place at 10 a.m. Sept. 10, at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

Walk4ALZ is a celebration of life and memories where attendees walk for family, friends, future and fun. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Nearly 100 people from the metro area are expected at this year's event to raise awareness and funds to stop Alzheimer's disease and support family caregivers. Walk4ALZ participants will walk and will learn about Alzheimer's disease, advocacy and support programs and services in Mississippi. They will also join in a meaningful tribute for those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

"The support we receive from you stays in Mississippi - for programs, services and research advocacy," said Patty Dunn, executive director of Alzheimer's Mississippi. "We have been committed to creating a world without Alzheimer's disease for more than 25

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Water bill payment plan offered for eligible customers

Mississippi Link Newswire

On Sept. 6, the city of Jackson announced a temporary payment plan program for customers of the city's water system. The program's aim is to assist customers whose bills have accumulated over the months due to nonpayment.

When the city of Jackson initiated a comprehensive water billing system upgrade in August 2015, a number of issues occurred during the implementation. Among those issues was delayed or infrequent billing. The system is part of the Siemens contract approved in 2012.

Though the city has addressed those issues, city officials recognize some customers have had difficulty paying bills they've received that are an ac-

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Presidential Hills neighbors come out for a day of fun

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Presidential Hills-Natchez Trace Community Development Association celebrated its annual Family and Community Day Aug. 27, to bring positive awareness to the neighborhood and the families who call "The Hills" home.

The theme of the event was "Family-Community Spirit Day 2016: Catch the Spirit!"

Neighborhood kids were all in the spirit with their bags to grab candy they knew would be tossed during the parade.

The parade, which started on Presidential Drive and headed down John F. Kennedy Drive



Powell Middle School drummers "Petey" and Cashion participate in the parade. PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE R. JONES

onto Lyndon B. Johnson Drive to Flag Chapel Road, featured bands from schools neighborhood children attend - North-

west Jackson Middle School, Powell Middle School and Provine High School. Also lined up in the parade

Timed passes available for African-American museum

Trice Edney Newswire

The dedication of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture will take place Sept. 24, on the National Mall.

Following the dedication ceremony, the museum will be open to the public from 1-6 p.m. Sept. 24, and from 10 a.m. to midnight Sept. 25.

Due to the size, nature and high level of interest in the dedication ceremony, the museum is distributing timed-entry passes to serve as many visitors as possible while maintaining a smooth flow of people into the museum.

Timed passes are required for entrance into the museum and will continue indefinitely. The passes are available through

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FESTIVAL PLANNED

WASHINGTON - A festival featuring workshops, storytelling and performances including concerts with bands such as Public Enemy and The Roots will celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture this month.

The Smithsonian announced Sept. 7, that the three-day festival, "Freedom Sounds: A Community Celebration," on the Washington Monument grounds kicks off Sept. 23.

There will be music and dance performances, spoken word, oral-history activities and two evening concerts. The festival will highlight music traditions such as jazz, R&B, gospel, folk, classical, New Orleans brass band, Afro-Latin jazz and hip-hop.

The lineup for the Sept. 24 concert includes Living Colour, Public Enemy and The Roots. On Sept. 25, the lineup includes singer-songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello and Washington, D.C.-based go-go band Experience Unlimited.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Book signing planned for Hollis Watkins' new work

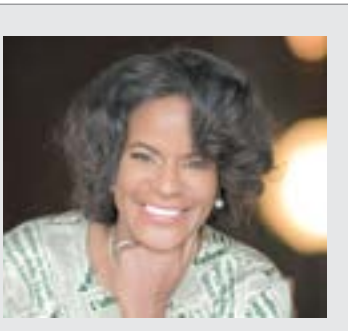
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