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Black Heritage Celebration held in Collins

The 23rd annual Black Heritage Celebration of Covington County culminated with a parade on Saturday, February 22, 2020. The theme "Remember the Struggle" was highlighted throughout the day.

Grand Marshals for the parade were Pastor Tony Duckworth, B. Joyce Barron Fairley (unable to attend), Lee Edward Gilliam, Coach Jeremy Jones, Markel "M.J." McLaurin, Fenton Pope, Terry Price, and Peggy Weary. Other honorees were charitable, educa-



tional and service organization award recipients.

The Battle of the Bands took place Saturday afternoon at Collins High School.

Residents came out to enjoy the celebra-

tion which included touring the heritage museum, live entertainment and much more.

More photos from the Parade can be found on pages B-6 and B-7 of this newspaper.



Scenes from the Black Heritage Celebration Parade held Saturday, February 22, in downtown Collins.

Chamber Meeting features Rep. Michael Guest

A large crowd gathered in the Collins Civic Center to hear Representative Michael Guest, keynote speaker for the annual general membership meeting of the Covington County Chamber of Commerce, on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Everyone enjoyed a dinner provided by Shady Acres followed by recognition of guests by Chamber President Tommy Morgan.

Speaker Michael Guest, U.S. Congressman representing Mississippi's Third Congressional District, was introduced by State Representative Noah Sanford. Congressman Guest spoke about the low unemployment rate, the growth of lower and middle-income jobs, the strength of the stock market, and how Mississippi's economy has benefited from a strong national economy. He concentrated on 3 main areas of strength in Mississippi.

First he discussed the value of private business-



Representative Michael Guest (left) and Collins Mayor Hope Magee Jones

es such as C-Spire, Sanderson Farms Poultry, and the Nissan and Toyota automobile manufacturing plants, which provide thousands of jobs to Mississippi workers and millions of dollars of revenue flowing through the hands of consumers, investors, and government. He also told listeners that Amazon plans to build two distributions centers

in Mississippi. Second, he spoke about the benefits of having a strong National Guard presence in the state. He informed Chamber members that Mississippi Guardsmen provided assistance in locating terrorist Al Baghdadi in Iraq, they are involved in helping protect U.S. airspace over Washington, D.C. and that Camp Shelby provides world-class training to military and National Guardsmen from all over the United States.

Third, he discussed the military suppliers located in Mississippi such as Raytheon Corporation in Forrest and Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula. Raytheon serves as a hub for production and testing S-Band radar equipment, employs more than 800 people and produces radar for U.S. fighter jets, air-defense radar and other electronic warfare technology - some of which will be used by U.S. warships built at Ingalls' Shipyard. Ingalls builds some of the



From left, Superintendent of Education Babette Duty, Representative Noah Sanford, and Chamber Executive Director Marie Shoemake

world's most modern and sophisticated warships in the world. It employs 11,500 employees, is the largest supplier of U.S. Navy surface combatants, and has built nearly 70 percent of the U.S. Navy fleet of warships.

He concluded by saying that, "In the United States, all men and

women have the opportunity to work hard and achieve success", and that we need to continue to strive to preserve our Republic. The greatest threat to our Republic, he said, is the growing rise of socialism.

Rep. Noah Sanford in his legislative report updated the crowd on

events which have transpired so far in the 2020 legislative session, and said his focus was going to be on legislation to propose more funds to the Dept. of Corrections and for criminal justice reform, specifically legislation to require prisons to separate dangerous inmates from non-dangerous inmates. He also said legislation has been proposed which would fund pay raises for State Employees and teachers.

Executive Director Marie Shoemake introduced Covington County's Miss Hospitality for 2019, Larsen Sanford and Little Miss Hospitality Emma Grace Massey. Larsen Sanford then presented Covington County's Miss Hospitality for 2020, Laka Till to the members. Chamber President Tommy Morgan presented closing remarks, thanked the members and guests for their help and participation and closed the meeting.



From left, 2019 Little Miss Hospitality Emma Grace Massey, 2020 Miss Hospitality Laka Till, and 2019 Miss Hospitality Larsen Sanford



Collins Rotary Club Paul Harris Recipients

The Collins Rotary Club recently recognized Paul Harris Fellowship recipients (pictured from left) Melinda Lott, Danny Frank McDonald and Patricia Speed. This is a special honor for those Rotarians that chose to contribute to the Rotary Foundation and help international projects such as literacy, world hunger and other humanitarian efforts. Pictured (far right) with the recipients is the newly elected club president-elect Josh Clayton.

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