

# Alcorn’s Miss Sophomore Visits Business Students



Alcorn State University’s Miss Sophomore spent time in the morning of April 10, with the Holmes County Career and Technical Center’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) student organization. Alexandra Johnson, former CTE student and Holmes County Central High graduate conducted a leadership workshop with the FBLA students. Johnson shared her experiences as a Student Government Association leader and preparation for college tips and strategies on balancing college life as a young adult. Johnson encouraged students to apply for scholarships and seek additional sources of funds to pay for college. Johnson also shared the importance of exemplifying professionalism at all times, serving in the community, respecting other’s opinion in order to accomplish the task at hand and being approachable with a listening ear. Pictured above (from left): Johnson, Shirley Vaughn, Krista’lana Johnson, Keyun Jones, Charles Young, Takira Kirklin and Exavier Pate. (Photo submitted)

## IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Mrs. Thelma Washington has been in one of the hospitals in Jackson recently. Now she is at home recuperating. Mrs. Leola Montgomery is in or has been in the hospital lately.

Mr. William Wright is at home.

Concerning Mrs. Mertis Anderson (deceased), I made a mistake about one of her jobs. She did not work at the central office, she worked at the vo-tech center. After retiring from the school system she volunteered at the learning center.

Thursday, April 11, the seniors at the Senior Citizens’ Feeding Center in Lexington had a combined birthday

party for three people, Ms. Beatrice Hoover, Ms. Mary Patrick and Ms. Nobbie Garrett.

Mrs. Coraine Torry is still in a nursing home in Greenwood. Her brother, R.C. Rucker, passed in New Orleans, Louisiana. He will not be brought back to Lexington for burial. Let’s keep Mrs. Coraine in our prayers.

Mrs. Ethel Cobbins is able to get around away from her house since she had knee surgery. She some to the Senior Citizens’ Feeding Center some days. God blessed her to be able to continue to drive.

To get your news in this column call 662-834-1489.



Pictured above (from left): Johnson, Miss ASU Sophomore, and Takira Kirklin, student. (Photo submitted)

# \*Living

(Continued from page 7.) before some hotel manager has no choice...that or risk a lawsuit from a gamer who becomes dehydrated and suffers a cardiac episode.

Ms. Jargon seems loathe to call a spade a spade. After relating two horror stories that clearly describe addiction, she refers to psychologists who advise parents to stop worrying about whether their kids are addicted and figure out instead if they’re using video games to cope with depression, anxiety or stress. She cites a study finding that teens who played video games four or more hours a day on average showed more signs of depression than kids who played less than four hours a day.

Note that the psychologists in question (unidentified) posit that depression and oth-

er mental health issues cause obsession with/addiction to video games as opposed to the other way around. That’s a clever means of covering ineptitude while at the same time claiming rights to treatment (keep in mind, dear reader, I am a psychologist). Besides, it’s so much easier to tell parents their child needs a daily dose of a drug than it is to get them to do something that will cause their child to hate them and act deranged until cured, not to mention something that may cause them to never make another appointment.

I once persuaded parents to “disappear” their 15-year-old son’s console while he was at school. He was so “into” video games he would not come down to dinner or participate in any family activity and was usually up well past midnight every night. When he discovered that his supply of videopioid had been terminated, he went nuts. He all-but destroyed his room, for example. Two weeks of silence and self-imposed seclusion later, he

admitted to his parents that he felt much, much better and was going to try and help other boys conquer their addictions.

To prevent an addiction from developing, Ms. Jargon passes along such hackneyed tips as creating rules around playing and following them consistently. Okay, but that assumes parents who have no difficulty establishing limits that cause their kids distress. The problem is that all too many of today’s parents have an abundance of said difficulty, meaning Jargon’s advice is moot out of the gate.

Thankfully, there are still parents who will stand up to child-rearing challenges and face them head-on; parents who are not trying to be their kids’ friends; parents who understand that children, including most teens, know only what they want, which is precisely why they require adults in their lives who know what they need.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: [johnrosemond.com](http://johnrosemond.com), [parentguru.com](http://parentguru.com).

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in Odd Fellows Cemetery, 3-28; 4-4,11,18p  
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606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for transfer of Trust Receipt and warranty deed for Lot 606. \$1500 total. 2-1ftfn

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of Jackson.

But other board members said they had previously agreed to move forward and said the state has to try to do something to improve its poorest-performing schools. Yazoo City was the second-worst and Humphreys County was the fourth-worst among traditional public school districts on the state’s accreditation system last year.

“We have not had any real opportunity to experience whether this is going to work for us or not,” said board member John Kelly of Gulfport. “I just believe we have to try something different.” Kelly expressed hope that a long period of state control would change the culture of the districts. The state has historically taken over a district because it’s financially broke, riven by political conflict, or violating state accrediting standards, often handing control back over to locals after a few years. State Superintendent Carey Wright has worked to push academic improvement to the forefront of the traditional takeover process.

“I hope teachers would let him come and give him a chance before they make that decision,” Carey Wright said.

# Mississippi school board votes to take over two neighboring districts

Associated Press

Two school districts in Mississippi’s Delta region will be the first to be folded into a new statewide district aimed at improving academic performance.

Mississippi’s state Board of Education voted Thursday to take control of the Humphreys County and Yazoo City school districts. The board hired Jermall Wright, currently the chief academic and accountability officer for the Birmingham, Alabama, school district to be the achievement district’s first superintendent.

Officials in the two districts did not respond to repeated phone calls seeking comment.

Lawmakers created the achievement school district in 2016, expressing dissatisfaction with the state’s previous efforts to turn around academically struggling schools. It can take over school districts rated F by the state for two straight years, or any district rated F for two of three years. The board previously decided only to take over districts with half or more F-rated schools or half or more students at-

tending F-rated schools. All five districts considered met all those criteria.

The districts will remain under state control until the state Board of Education decides to return them to the control of a local board and superintendent. Still, they must stay under achievement district supervision at least until the district scores a C rating or better for five years.

Under the arrangement, local school boards will be dissolved and current superintendents will lose their jobs by June 1. Wright, who will make \$175,000 a year, will report directly to the state Board of Education. He was hired to run statewide turnaround efforts in Alabama in 2017, but shifted to the Birmingham job after the state superintendent who hired him was fired. Board Chair Jason Dean said Jermall Wright would report directly to the state Board of Education and not to state Superintendent Carey Wright. The two are not related.

Mississippi’s achievement district was originally sup-