

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Event Demonstrates Safe Disposal of Unwanted Prescriptions

National Drug Take Back Day's Success Shows Path Forward

It is difficult to convey the scope and despair of the opioid crisis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 70,000 drug overdose deaths occurred last year in the United States, more than half of them involving opioids. That is more American deaths than in the entire Vietnam War. Nearly every day in 2018, one Mississippian died from a drug overdose. Further, a study by the American Enterprise Institute shows that this scourge costs our state \$2.2 billion

annually, or 2.1 percent of Mississippi's total gross domestic product.

This crisis demands a national response, and I have collaborated with the Administration to take action. Working with Congress, President Trump signed a thorough legislative package targeting the international shipment of opioids and providing grants to states, cities, and community organizations to promote treatment and rehabilitation and to prevent drug misuse.

The solution will not come entirely from Washington. In fact, it starts closer to home. In the medicine cabinet.

Get Pills Out of Our Cabinets

Opioid addiction began for many individuals in a medical setting. Drugs are often prescribed for real pain, but their addictive nature sometimes leads to abuse. Many of these pills have also been lost or stolen, ending up in unintended hands.

On April 19th, I led a drug take back event with U.S. Attorney Michael Hurst at the Canton Mart Walgreens in Jackson. It took place in advance of the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug

Take Back Day on April 27. These events provide opportunities for people to turn in – safely, anonymously, and with no questions asked – unneeded prescription drugs. Getting unused pills out of our cabinets and off the streets curbs potential opioid abuse.

I also met Sidney Smith at the Jackson event. He told his story about being addicted to drugs for 27 years and spending more than a decade behind bars. Thanks to a faith-based program called the Adult & Teen Challenge, Mr. Smith was able to turn his life around and get sober. He is now in graduate school studying social work to help those who struggle as he once did.

That this event happened on Good Friday made it all the more memorable. The story of grace that is Easter is a reminder of the power of redemption and the love we owe to our fellow man. As Mr. Hurst said, "The public is the first line of defense."

Ask Your Local Pharmacist

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day comes once a year. Since the fall of 2010, the DEA has collected almost 11,000,000 pounds of unwanted pills nationally that will not become parts of the cycle of drug abuse. That is almost four pounds of prescriptions per person in Mississippi.

Governments, social organizations, and individuals forming little platoons can turn the tide on the opioid

Youth group collects toiletries for Tchula flood victims



Holmes County youth and members of Rho Nu Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. collected toiletries items for the flood victims of Tchula recently. This effort part of the youth auxiliaries group Z-HOPE Project: Meeting Basic Needs. Pictured are (from left): Zula Patterson, former mayor of Tchula; Lasonja Hardy-Moore, youth advisor; Caitlyn Landfair; Pearlette; Madison Pickett, Achornette and Latonya Hardy. Not pictured are Zuri Wilson, Pearlette, Kiara Hardy and Jada Head, Amicettes. (Photo submitted)

Happy Anniversary

May 25 - Timmy and Glynda Boatner, Mark and Angelia Langford, Daniel and Laura Gottschalk, Buddy and Julie Hathcock, Roger and Linda Dishroom

May 26 - Billy and Sheila Russell, Tri and Brittany Nason, Bryan and Jamie

Ware, Stephan and Melinda Mathis

May 27 - Vendell and Ella Benson, Justin and Allison Langford, David and Anissa McGinnis

May 28 - Joe W. and Carolyn C. Smart

May 29 - Rufus and Belinda Waddell

tour, eight members along with three guests, Adielade Burge Chapman, Sara Starns and Louise McAllister, went to the Tracks for our installation of officers and our meal. While waiting for our meals, Mary Ann Stevens gave the oath of office to Carol Black, president, Jean Aldridge, vice-president, and Sara McLellan, secretary, Leca Dew, our treasurer, was not able to attend due to conflicts but, will be sworn in the near future. The outgoing treasurer, Ruth Aldridge, gave a very good report on the outcome of the school reunion. If anyone of you out there is interested in becoming a member of the West Civic Club you may contact any of the current ladies, and they will be more than glad to answer your questions.

Keep Fred Horton of Tchula, in your prayers. Health-wise, he has good days and bad days. My brother Raymond also has good days and bad days. On Friday before first Sunday, he had sinus surgery. That night he was carried to the emergency room. That Saturday evening he was carried to the emergency room. On Mother's Day night, he was carried back to the emergency room. Now he is doing pretty good. His skull surgery will be on Memorial Day, in Memphis.

To the Benson family, I'm sorry for reporting your dad passed when he is still alive. But honestly somebody told me that a few years ago. I don't remember who told me.

Friday, Robert Randle went to Jackson for his check-up. His sister Deborah carried him. His sister Alice said he is doing okay.

WEST REPORT

by West Civic Club

On Wednesday, March 15, West Civic members made their annual trip. This year we went to Mr. Joby Jackson's home in Winona. Mr. Jackson is a landscaper, has a nursery on Highway 51 in Winona, and in his spare time he works on this own home. The back yard is beautiful, he has taken a hillside and terraced into three levels. The upper level is grass and Joby has put bistro lights along with azaleas, hydrangeas, some smaller trees, hedges on all three terraces along

with seasonal flowers. They also have a waterfall going from one side of the lot to the other along with some water fountains on the back patio. There are pots of succulents that use less water and less sun. Other than his first grandson, his pride and joy is a baby grand piano that he was able to acquire by landscaping a neighbor's yard. Mr. Joby is a very talented pianist as well. We were very lucky to have him play a couple of songs. Thank you Mr. Joby. After our

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS




Mrs. Senora Williams passed sometime between Thursday night and early Friday morning, May 3. Keep the Williams family uplifted in prayer. For those of you that don't know Mrs. Senora, her husband Walter (Snow/Snowball) Williams came to (woke up) in a body bag at Porter and Sons Funeral Home a few years ago. Mrs. Senora was one of the pillars of Union AME Church and later she joined Greater Union Outreach Ministry.

Joe Morgan and his son was doing some work with a tractor. Somehow by accident he got some of his toes messed up, but he is still able to drive around. Pray that his toes heal quickly. He's waiting on me to report this accident in the paper. I'm sorry Joe; I don't have any details

on the accident. But I do wish you a speedy recovery. Joe is the community helper. He helps any and everybody. One of my brothers had sinus surgery. Right now, he's stuffy and feeling awful. Pray that he will be alright. When the doctor did the surgery, he found out my brother has a skull leak. He will be sent to Memphis to correct this problem. Please pray for my brother's health. Pray for all the sick and shut-ins.

Intended for 5-16-19

For Mother's Day weekend, Mrs. Katie Horton of Tchula, had plenty company. Her sister Evelyn Jones and family from Chicago came by for a while. Her son Sammie Horton and his family from Texas came for the weekend. Her daughter Wendy cooked a fabulous dinner.



Bridal Registry

Jordan Pratt
Drew Trehern
June 15

Mackenzie McCleskey
Kirk Douglas
August 2

Howell & Heggie Drug Co.

389 N. W. Depot St.
Durant
662-653-6441



OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE MAY 2019



OVER 60 CELEBRATION

NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING + DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AREA AGENCY ON AGING

MAY 29, 2019

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLISEUM

10:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM



Connect

WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT PARTICIPATION.



CREATE

THROUGH ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTH AND PERSONAL ENRICHMENT.



Contribute

TIME, TALENT, AND LIFE EXPERIENCE TO BENEFIT OTHERS.



Medicare Minute

Health Fair

Food

Entertainment

Fun