

Dialogue held on Boys and Girls Club efforts

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill



Community leaders, educators, law enforcement agents and ministers met early Saturday morning, June 8, for a Community Prayer Breakfast on the campus of Holmes County Central High School. The community and Boys and Girls Clubs of the MS Delta-Lexington Unit partnered together to rally for the safety and well-being of Holmes County youth, especially during the summer months with school being out. Guest panelists discussed bullying, pipeline school to prison, Brother's Keeper and youth mental health. Boys and Girls Club staff, advisory board members, club members and parent had the opportunity to share during the breakfast. Pictured above (seated from left): Tonia Russell, Unit Director Kawanna Horton, Helen Teague, Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory, Veronica Rand, Winnie Noel and Christian Williams; Pictured standing (from left): William Edwards, Dorris Russell, Joel Pate, Christopher Horton, Christy Teague-Jones, Willie Cobbins, Rev. Nathaniel Christian, Holmes County Supervisor Debra Mabry, Leroy Riley, Advisory Board President Dr. Percy Washington and Holmes County Sheriff Willie March. (Photo submitted)

Friends and family of Wanda Ingram are glad she seems to be feeling some better after a recent heart attack and spending time in the hospital but unable to return to work. May God bless and give healing and comfort to her and the family.

We are glad Mrs. C.H. (Dot) Blanton is home again and feeling better after a visit with her family. We missed her.

Love and prayers are for Joe and Mary Evelyn Crowder. They are pretty much house bound because of illness. We sure miss them in church and around town, also out and about. May God bless and give healing to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Scot Binegar recently received a visit from Marjorie's dad. Wish I could have met him. She's such a lady and joy to be with. We are thankful they are home again.

It's good to hear, that Mrs. Lucy Howell and Mrs. Katherine Cagle are adjusting to assisted living in the Jackson area. We sure miss them, knowing they aren't here any more.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Irby and Mr. and Mrs. David Green, of West, made a nice trip out west. Prayers are for a safe return to home, family, and friends. They are missed.

We are without a cafe restaurant during the week since the Ritz building burned down a few weeks ago. Sure

I received a welcomed and unexpected call from James Farmer and family during the week. I asked him when he was moving his family back to Mississippi. He didn't seem too interested. The last time he was here was when Frankie died two years ago. I still miss her a lots.

All are thankful Mrs. Cynthia Bratcher is feeling pretty well after a recent heart attack and hospital stay. We are thankful she is now teaching her Sunday school class again.

AG Hood files suit to block T-Mobile, Sprint Megamerger

Attorney General Jim Hood joined nine states Tuesday, June 11, in filing a multi-state lawsuit to halt the proposed merger of telecom giants T-Mobile and Sprint. The complaint, which was filed in New York federal court, alleges that the merger

of two of the four national mobile network operators would deprive consumers of the benefits of competition and drive up prices for cellphone services.

"We're trying to stop this merger because Mississippi customers would not benefit from the merger, but it would likely increase prices in the long run for them," General Hood said. "Competition creates a healthy market, and a merger like this one would reduce options for consumers."

T-Mobile US Inc. and Sprint Corp. are the third and fourth largest mobile wireless networks in the U.S., respectively, and are the lowest-cost carriers among the "Big Four." Verizon Wireless and AT&T — the two largest wireless networks — round out the market. Intense competition, spurred in particular

by T-Mobile and Sprint, has meant declining prices, increased coverage, and better quality for all mobile phone subscribers. Since 2009, the average cost of mobile service has fallen by roughly 28 percent, according to the Labor Department, while mobile data consumption has grown rapidly. However, the merger would put an end to that fierce competition, which has delivered so many benefits to consumers.

Currently, the average U.S. household spends approximately \$1,100 annually on cellphone services. For many families, especially those with lower incomes,

even a small price increase can result in suspension or cancellation of cellphone service. While T-Mobile and Sprint have made promises that their merger would offer lightning-fast speeds and increased capacity, the attorneys' general investigation found that many of the claimed benefits were not verifiable. Before filing suit, the states gave significant consideration to T-Mobile and Sprint's claims of increased coverage in rural areas. However, T-Mobile has yet to provide plans to build any new cell sites in areas that would not otherwise be served by either T-Mobile

or Sprint. As stated in the complaint, the U.S. previously won the "race to LTE" as a direct result of vigorous competition among wireless carriers. Continued competition, not concentration, is most likely to spur rapid development of a nationwide 5G network and other innovations.

Additionally, the merger would harm thousands of hard-working mobile wireless independent dealers across the nation. The nine states and DC are concerned that further consolidation at the carrier level would lead to a substantial loss of retail

jobs, as well as lower pay for these workers in the near future.

T-Mobile currently has more than 79 million subscribers and is a majority-owned subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG. Sprint Corp. currently has more than 54 million subscribers and is a majority-owned subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp.

The following states joined Mississippi in filing the complaint: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin.

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Out-Of-This-World Learning



Durant Public Library opened its summer library programs with Singing Bob Swanson. Children were delighted with learning about space through song, dance and hand motions. Swanson will be teaching astronomy at Mississippi State starting this fall. Names of the children pictured were not available. (Photo submitted)

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