



Congressman
BENNIE THOMPSON
REPRESENTING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



The Thompson Report

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MISSISSIPPI
AGRICULTURE
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PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEWS FOR MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

The much anticipated prescription drug cards are coming soon! The new prescription drug cards will give much needed immediate relief for expensive prescription drug costs incurred by Mississippi's Medicare beneficiaries.

Mississippi Medicare beneficiaries who lack outpatient drug coverage pay among the highest prices for prescription drugs. In fact, they pay as much as 20 percent more than people with drug coverage according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card Program, I expect beneficiaries to save an estimated 10 to 15 percent off the retail price on their overall prescription drug costs, and up to 25 percent on some drugs. I wasn't

particularly happy about the passage of the Medicare Modernization Act in December of 2003 because of its many shortcomings. One of the promises made was that there would be a prescription drug plan to combat the outrageous costs of

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prescriptions drugs for our seniors until the Medicare Modernization Act goes into effect in 2006. This drug card is long overdue. While this is not a drug benefit, the voluntary drug card program is an important first step in providing Medicare beneficiaries with the tools they need to better afford the cost of prescription drugs.

If you have Medicare and do not have outpatient prescription drug coverage through Medicaid, you can get a Medicare-approved

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Foresight is Good

One trait of a good leader is the ability to lead his followers into the future. When Congressman Thompson along with Robert Walker, George Smith, Leroy Brooks and Carl Banks co-founded the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Minority Caucus (MAS-MC) in 1982, they knew the need for an organization that

would be strong and proactive in efforts over time to continue to improve life for all Mississippians.

Congressman Thompson was the keynote speaker at the MAS-MC 2004 Economic Development Through Regional Collaboration banquet where he was delighted to see the fruit of good fore-

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Fitting A Square Into A Rectangle

Two years ago, Ann McVaugh and Aaron Moore of the Department of Mental Health never thought they would fit *Washington Square* into their new rectangular building. Through hard work, thinking outside the box and dedication to see their project through, their dream became a reality. "This is a good indica-

tion of what good collaboration efforts will produce", said Congressman Thompson. Washington Square, formerly known as Crossroads Clubhouse, officially opened on Thursday, April 8, 2004. Congressman Thompson, along with other elected officials, and well wishers came together to

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Serving: Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Montgomery, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, Yazoo

The Joke Is On The U.S.



It has been said that humor is the best medicine for those things that trouble us. The question is, "Is humor always

the best medicine for what troubles the U.S.?" President Bush seems to think so. In fact, the President seems to believe that his brand of humor is acceptable for the troubles American military forces are experiencing in Iraq. In his "black and white," "good and evil" world, there is no doubt that "humor" should always be employed — even when that humor is dark and insensitive. His inappropriate brand of humor was on display during last month's annual Radio and Televisions Correspondents Dinner, a gathering for White House officials and media figures to immerse themselves in humor related to current events.

During the dinner, President Bush made a series of jokes about the failure to find the weapon of mass destruction that had been the central justification

of his invasion of Iraq. Part of Bush's comedy routine included slides showing administration officials searching the White House for something. "Those weapons of mass destruction must be somewhere," Bush explained while showing one of the images. The arguments and actions behind Bush's humor have led to a pre-emptive war that has cost the lives of Americans and Iraqi. The joke is on U.S.

The Bush Administration has savagely attacked anyone who argued against its decision to go to war. President Bush

and his subordinates have constantly attacked any opposing view as being unpatriotic and as giving "aid and comfort" to the enemy. While this President ques-

tions the patriotism of individuals who cautioned him against a preemptive war, he finds the time to make fun of an argument that has cost the lives of hundreds of brave Americans. Weapons of mass destruction are the reason President Bush decided to go to war. President Bush assured the American people that Saddam Hussein's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction. The country has spend much blood and treasure in following the leadership of President Bush, yet the only thing he can find is time for dark and

insensitive humor. This was a callous and arrogant display. For Bush, the disinformation he peddled before his pre-emptive war was nothing more than material for laughs. As the

audience laughed along, he smiled. The false statements used to propel our nation to war had become merely another

punch line in the nation's capital.

As fathers and mothers lose sons and daughters, as sons and daughters lose fathers and mothers, and as the President's weapons of mass destruction argument fades away, our nation should start to wonder...maybe the Joke is on the U.S.

For more information, please contact Curtis Austin in my Washington, D.C., office.

"Is humor always the best medicine for what troubles the U.S.?"

Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at www.house.gov/thompson.

Foresight Is Good!

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sight ability. "When we first organized the caucus, we could have met in a closet and we were called the Association of Black Supervisors," said Thompson as he reflected back on the early years.

I am sure that in 1982, no one would have guessed that the delta today would have lost hundreds of jobs to overseas sweatshops or that education would be the poorest funded budget in the state. Congressman Thompson contends, "education paves the way for economic development and wealth building." Being the poor-



Left to Right: Mr. Robert Moore, Congressman Bennie Thompson, and Mr. Robert Avant, Sr. at the MAS-MC Banquet

est district in the state has its disad-

vantages but with elected leaders and strong organizations like MAS-MC, it just means we are better prepared for anything coming our way. Foresight is good, but in some cases, hindsight is just as good. Current members were commended for all of their undertakings but challenged by Congressman Thompson by saying, "the job is not complete and you too have a generation ahead of you for which to prepare to take over."

For more information, please contact Trina George in my Greenwood office.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEWS FOR MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

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drug discount card. You can enroll as early as June 2004. The discount cards will be good until December 31, 2005, as Medicare's new prescription drug benefit starts on January 1, 2006. For an annual enrollment fee of \$30 or less, these cards can help you save on your outpatient prescription costs. There are a few stipulations to obtaining the discount card. You can only get one Medicare-approved drug discount card at a time and you have to make sure your prescription drugs will be covered by the card. You may qualify for a \$600 credit if your annual income in 2004 is no more than \$12,569 if you are single and \$16,862 if you are married (this includes both you and your spouse).

See chart for a list of national Medicare approved prescription card providers.

For more information, please contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, D.C. office.

| SPONSORS (16) | CARDS* (26) | ENROLLMENT |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| AdvancePCS Health, L.P. | Rx Savings distributed by Reader's Digest Rx Savings Rx Savings distributed by Mennonite Mutual Aid Association | \$29.95 \$29.95 \$29.95 |
| Aetna Health Management, LLC | Aetna Rx Savings Card (SM) | \$30.00 |
| Argus Health Systems, Inc. | Argus RX | \$20.00 |
| Caremark Advantage, Inc. | Advantra X-tra Drug Discount Card Program Caremark Advantage All Rx Drug Discount Card Program BD Advantage Drug Discount Card | \$10.00 \$20.00 \$10.00 |
| Catalyst RX | Catalyst Rx Drug Discount Card | \$20.00 |
| Computer Science | Community Care Rx | \$30.00 |
| Express Scripts, Inc. | Express Scripts (Option A) | \$19.00 |
| Medco Health Solutions, Inc. | Preferred Prescription Discount Card | \$25.00 |
| PBM Plus, Inc. | PBM Plus Senior Care | \$30.00 |
| PharmaCare Management Ser- | myPharmaCare | \$30.00 |
| Pharmacy Care Alliance, Inc. | Pharmacy Care Alliance (Option A) | \$19.00 |
| Scrip Solutions, LLC | Freedom Choice | \$14.95 |
| SXC Health Solutions, Inc. | SXC Health Solutions, Inc. | \$30.00 |
| United Healthcare Insurance Co. | AARP Prescription Discount Card | \$19.95 |
| WellPoint Pharmacy | Precision Discounts | |
| WHP Health Initiative, Inc. | WHI Prescription Discount Card | \$20.00 |
| * Name as it appears on the drug card _____ | | |

Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at www.house.gov/thompson.

Fitting A Square Into A Rectangle

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support an endeavor that would allow members of the Transitional Employment Program (TEP) to seek part time employment with businesses throughout Washington County and surrounding counties. These workers have

"This is a good indication of what good collaboration efforts will produce."

part-time hours, but they put in full-time commitments, an incentive which urged some employers to hire them permanently. According to Mr. Moore, Program Director, if the TEP worker cannot report to work, then an employee of the Department of Mental Health works in their place.

So, in actuality, they never miss a day of work! Thomas in my Greenville office.

TEP workers are employed with the City of Greenville, retail businesses, and TV stations just to name a few. In addition to them working in various areas in the facility such as the state-of-the-art kitchen, a store and computer room. Hats off to Ann McVaugh, Dr. Gilbert McVaugh, Aaron Moore, the staff of Mental Health and especially the TEP workers.

For more information, please contact Juliet



Congressman Thompson and TEP workers at Washington Square grand opening

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Email: ThompsonMS2nd@mail.house.gov



Come out and join me at the Second Congressional District Artistic Discovery Art Competition for high school students. We will be looking at the best and the brightest that our district has to undiscovered hidden talent. The first place winner will receive round trip accommodation to Washington, D.C. to the national awards ceremony, where they will see their art work display along with students all across the country in the nations capitol during the summer of 2004.

This year, Savannah College of Art and Design has offered the first place winner of each congressional district the Artist Merit Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 per year.

As always, I look forward seeing the best talent Mississippi has to offer from my District, on May 3, 2004 at Greenville-Weston High School's Greenville High campus. For further information or to showcase your art, please contact Juliet Thomas, in my Greenville office, at (662) 335-9003.



2003 Art Competition
Artist: Haleigh Eubanks

★ **Washington, D.C.**
 2432 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 (202) 225-5876
 (202) 225-5898 (Fax)

★ **Bolton**
 107 West Madison Street
 Bolton, Mississippi 39041
 (601) 866-9003
 (601) 866-9036 (Fax)
 (800) 355-9003 (In State)

★ **Greenville**
 910 Courthouse Lane
 Greenville, Mississippi 38701
 (662) 335-9003
 (662) 334-1304 (Fax)

★ **Greenwood**
 509 Highway 82 West
 Greenwood, Mississippi 38930
 (662) 455-9003
 (662) 453-0118 (Fax)

★ **Marks**
 Quitman County Court House
 335 Peach Street
 Marks, Mississippi 38646
 (662) 326-9003

★ **Mound Bayou**
 Mound Bayou City Hall
 Room 134
 106 West Green Street
 Mound Bayou, Mississippi 38762
 (662) 741-9003
 (662) 741-9002 (Fax)