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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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## LeMoyne-Owen College eliminates staff to address shortfall.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Memphis' only historically black college has eliminated seven staff positions in recent weeks to help address a \$1 million budget shortfall.

The Commercial Appeal reports LeMoyne-Owen College had hoped to enroll 900 this year but enrollment fell short at 836.

The eliminated positions included three executives and four positions in human resources, finance and IT.

Interim President Carol Johnson-Dean began in August. She told the paper it was important to make changes early on to stabilize the college financially.

LeMoyne-Owen has also begun a national fundraising campaign. The goal is for 30% of alumni to give to the college annually. Currently fewer than 10% of alumni make annual gifts.

In addition, Memphis accountant and former TVA chairwoman V. Lynn Evans began as a financial consultant.

## Federal charges link New Jersey man to synagogue vandalism

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) - A New Jersey man faces allegations he conspired to carry out spray paint vandalism attacks two months ago against synagogues in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported 18-year-old Richard Tobin allegedly recruited people on a neo-Nazi social network.

Court records indicate Tobin told investigators he considered suicide attacks and once sat with a machete in the parking lot of a New Jersey mall, considering an attack on black shoppers.

An email message for his public defender wasn't returned.

The paper says the synagogues that were vandalized with swastikas and other images on Sept. 21-22 were in Hancock, Michigan, and Racine, Wisconsin.



Scenes from the NCCU 2019 Homecoming Parade. See pages 8 and 9.

## In rare move, North Carolina county removes Confederate statue

PITTSBORO (AP) - A North Carolina county removed a Confederate statue from a historic courthouse early Nov. 20, joining the handful of places around the state where such monuments have come down in recent years despite a law protecting them.

News outlets reported that a subdued crowd of several dozen people watched as the statue of a soldier was taken down overnight outside the historic Chatham County courthouse, where it had stood since 1907. By dawn, even the base was gone.

The removal comes months after Winston-Salem officials removed a Confederate statue from land there that had passed into private hands. Protesters have also torn down two such monuments in recent years, including one at a historic Durham courthouse and another on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

It has been rare for public officials to take down Confederate statues in North Carolina since the enactment of a 2015 state historic monuments law restricting the removal of public monuments.

But county officials argued in court that the monument was private property, owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and a judge hearing the group's challenge declined to block the removal.

Crews closed two highways that intersect at a traffic circle around the courthouse while they dismantled the statue, which stood about 27-feet (8-meters) high outside the courthouse's front doors.

A University of North Carolina catalog of monuments says the statue depicts an anonymous soldier holding a rifle with its butt resting on the ground. It was made of stamped copper, finished to resemble bronze, atop a pedestal of granite.

A county news release said the statue and pedestal were carefully dismantled and taken to a safe location until the United Daughters of the Confederacy comes up with a plan for what to do with them.

In past weeks, demonstrators for and against removal had gathered around the statue, leading to scuffles and some arrests.

"The last several months have been a painful time for Chatham County. We've experienced high emotions, division and even violence which have impacted residents, businesses and the overall feel of our community," Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chair Mike Dasher said in a statement. "What's clear now is that the overwhelming majority of our residents are eager to move forward."

North Carolina has been at the center of the debate over what to do with Confederate monuments as one of three southern states with the most statues, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

More than 90 Confederate monuments stand in public places other than cemeteries around the state. A state tally shows Confederate monuments are located at contemporary or historic courthouses in about half of the state's counties.

Onlookers to the Pittsboro removal Nov. 20 had mixed opinions.

"It's heartbreaking," Robert Butler, a supporter of the monument, told WRAL-TV. "A statue's never hurt a soul, just like a grave memorial. Do they hurt anybody?"

But Sandra Day of Moncure, who is black, told The News & Observer that she supported its removal. She said she got out of bed and put on a heavy coat to come to Pittsboro to watch the statue come down.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be standing here," she said. "I wanted to see it for myself."

## Democrat Mike Espy starts 2020 US Senate bid in Mississippi

By Emily Wagster Pettus and Jeff Amy

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - Mississippi Democrat Mike Espy announced that he's running again for U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith, setting up a 2020 rematch of a race that churned up the state's painful racist history.

"I can and will do a better job for the people of Mississippi and the United States," Espy told supporters by email, after telegraphing the move for months.

Espy is a former U.S. House member and former U.S. agriculture secretary. He lost the November 2018 special election to fill the last two years of retired Republican Sen. Thad Cochran's six-year term.

Hyde-Smith was Mississippi's agriculture commissioner when Republican Gov. Phil Bryant appointed her to temporarily take Cochran's place in the spring of 2018. She is the first woman to represent Mississippi in Congress.

The 2018 campaign was rocked by a video showing Hyde-Smith praising a supporter by saying she'd attend a "public hanging" if he invited her. She called it an "exaggerated expression of regard."

The comment made Mississippi's history of lynching a central theme in the campaign. Espy took a shot at that history in his announcement video, saying "Cindy Hyde-Smith is hurting Mississippi - our progress and our reputation - and we simply must replace her."

If elected, Espy would be Mississippi's first African American U.S. senator since Reconstruction. In his announcement video, he says his great-grandparents were slaves brought to Mississippi from Georgia and Virginia. Their son, his grandfather, founded Mississippi's first hospital for African Americans.

Espy says he wants to reduce poverty, make health care more affordable, increase well-paying jobs, improve schools and end President Donald Trump's trade war that's pressuring farmers financially.

Qualifying for next year's party primaries begins Jan. 2. They will be March 10, the same day Mississippians vote in presidential primaries. Party runoffs, if needed, will be March 31, leaving a long stretch for nominees to face off before the November general election.

No Republicans have made any public moves to challenge Hyde-Smith in the GOP primary. During her time in office, Hyde-Smith has often been focused on rural issues and has remained loyal to Trump.

Espy's announcement comes a week after Democrat Jim Hood lost the governor's race to Republican Tate Reeves, highlighting continuing weakness for Democrats in Mississippi. More voters turned out for the runoff between Espy and Hyde-Smith than for the 2019 general election, and other Democrats also lost badly in statewide races.

As he did in the 2018 campaign, Espy said he'll be independent and put Mississippi's needs over loyalty to a party.

"Cindy Hyde-Smith has done little to truly help the Magnolia State," Espy said in his statement. "It feels like a new crisis dominates the headlines every day but does nothing to create jobs or improve our communities. Too often, our current senator puts party over country instead of doing what's best for our state and even our national security."

A spokesman for Hyde-Smith didn't immediately respond to a request for a comment.



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