

# LOU observes MLK Day of Service

BY ERROL CASTENS  
OXFORD CITIZEN

Residents, students and other community members turned out on Monday, dedicating their Martin Luther King birthday observance to volunteer efforts and encouragements.

The kickoff was a volunteer fair and awards ceremony at Oxford Activity Center. More than a dozen organizations from the American Red Cross and Retired & Senior Volunteers Program to North Mississippi Regional Center and Boys & Girls Club shared community service opportunities.

"Events like this make our city the special place that it is," said Mayor George "Pat" Patterson. "Can you even imagine all of us sitting here together in this room 50 years ago? That's one of Dr. King's legacies."

Lafayette County Board of Supervisors President Jeff Busby noted, "Dr. King dedicated his life to changing the perception that anyone should be treated differently based on the color of his skin."

He urged the crowd toward volunteerism, offering a quote from MLK: "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

University of Mississippi Dean of Students Mindy Sutton added, "Dr. King was



JON RAWL | OXFORD CITIZEN  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. - Nu Upsilon Chapter at the University of Mississippi participated in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Monday at Oxford Health and Rehab. Thaddeus Moss (center) and David Motton, Jr. are pictured leading residents in a game of bingo. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. became an APA member while studying at Morehouse College in the 1940s.

Dr. Marvin King, associate professor of political science and African-American studies at Ole Miss, was the event's keynote speaker. As senior faculty fellow at UM's Residential College South, he instituted a community service component that has yielded more than 1,500 volunteer hours.

"When people spend time here, they recognize that this is a community that cares about ensuring a strong quality of life for all its residents," King said. "People recognize that Oxford is a city that cares about its schools, its parks, its

community service opportunities."

does more than identify a problem."

King also suggested organizing neighborhood activities from art shows and picnics to book exchanges and tree-planting efforts — or just getting to know neighbors.

"There are so many things we can do together, but I believe that bringing a people together, creating a sense of community, is service, too," he said. "Serving asks us not to be free riders. Instead of resting on the efforts of others, be the person that inspires others to serve."

## SERVICE AWARDS

Several people were presented community service awards during Monday's gathering.

Victoria Burgos won the Student Award. An Ole Miss junior studying recreation administration and environmental studies, she overcomes an environmental education program at Camp Lake Stephens and works with Habitat for Humanity. Students for a Green Campus, the UM Food Action Team, Gamma Phi Beta Honor Society, Recreation Administration Majors and Minors Association. She also started a composting program on campus.

Three local residents were presented MLK Day of Service Community Member Awards.

The United Way staff's nomination letter said, "Matt and Susan are willing to help with just about anything. They are excited

acy Council's adult basic education literacy program as well as her work with Oxford Pantry and as a volunteer literacy tutor for both children and adult education classes.

"Barbara is an invaluable resource to the community, because she strives to make educational opportunities available to those to whom they are least accessible," said Literacy Council Executive Director Meredith Wulff.

Community Member Award recipients Susan Massey and Matt Gaw are human resources manager and facility manager, respectively, for Caterpillar in Oxford. For 15 years, Massey has been lead campaign coordinator for United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County; she has also served Excel By 5, the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, LeBonheur Children's Hospital, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Anchor Baptist Church.

Gaw has served United Way, the Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation, the Ole Miss MBA board and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, as well as organizing tours of the Caterpillar plant for local schools and the university.

The United Way staff's nomination letter said, "Matt and Susan are willing to help with just about anything. They are excited

# Volunteers honored during MLK Day

## Residents urged to serve their community

By ALYSSA SCHNUGG  
Staff Writer

Barbara Mathis Wortham doesn't volunteer countless hours with the Lafayette County Literacy Council, The Pantry and her church in hopes of getting a plaque or some award for her efforts.

"I do it because I truly love people," she said Monday after receiving an Outstanding LOU Volunteer Award at the annual MLK Day of Service at the Oxford Activity Center.

Getting her award on Martin Luther King Jr. Day made it even more special, however.

"Dr. King is one of my heroes," she said. "I'm so honored and to have my family here with me; well, it's just a beautiful day and it gives me the motivation to keep going."

The morning's events began at 9:30 with welcome speeches from local city, county and university leaders as well as Sarah Ball, the director of Volunteer Oxford that spearheads the event along with a committee made up of the University of Mississippi Volunteer Services/Office of the Dean of Students, the United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County, the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, AmeriCorps/VISTA and



BRUCE NEWMAN

Victoria Burgos (from l.), Matt Gaw, Susan Massey and Barbara Wortham received LOU MLK Day of Service Awards during the program.

College Corps programs, the UM Department of Athletics and University Communications.

Wortham was one of four award recipients honored during the ceremony. The other three recipients were Victoria Rose Burgos, an Ole Miss student who volunteers at Camp Lake Stephens, Habitat for Humanity and several other organizations; Susan Massey, who has volunteered with the United Way for 20 years and also the American Heart Association, March of Dimes and other organizations; and Matt Gaw, who has volunteered with United Way, Economic Development Foundation, Big Brother Big Sisters and other organizations.

Before the award cere-

mony, Marvin King, associate professor of political science and African-American studies at Ole Miss, gave the keynote address, inviting all area citizens to be "servant" leaders in their own neighborhoods and live MLK's dream by finding solutions to problems, rather than just complaining about what needs to change.

"How many of us drive by our neighbors every day and don't know their names?" he asked. "How many of us know the old man on the corner needs help taking out his garbage or the young couple next door with the baby could use help mowing their lawn once in a while? Service doesn't have to be a huge project. It's little things you can do every day in

your own neighborhood. Service lets us be better versions of our selves. It's up to us — you, friends, neighbors, students — and me to make Oxford the best it can be. It's up to us to make Oxford work for everyone."

After the ceremony, a service fair was held inside the Oxford Activity Center at which representatives from local nonprofits set up booths to show the community what they do and why they do it. Cora Booker was working at a table representing TRIAD and RSVP. She said she volunteers at least 14 hours a week and was one of the founding members of the Oxford Park Commission Leisure Lifestyle's program.

"I like to help people, and I like to talk," said Booker, who is known to most as "Miss Cora." "Everyone is 'honey' or 'boo' to me. I love people, that's why I help."

While area students had the day off from school, some chose to make the holiday a "day on" and serve the community, like Alex Johnson and Aubrey Best, who are both 12 years old. The two planned to clean up their neighborhood after spending some time at the service fair.

"I love Martin Luther King Jr.," Best said. "Like, he's my hero."

Johnson said she needed community service hours for her confirmation process and thought MLK Day was a good day to get her necessary hours.

"He did a lot to help and serve," Johnson said.

—alyssa.schnugg  
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— Marjorie Hester  
— Welfare check

**University Police**

Officers responded to one service call.

**Sheriff's Department**

Deputies investigated the following reports:

- Alarm
- Two animal complaints
- Three disturbances
- Two harassment complaints
- Six service calls
- Four suspicious activities
- Three welfare checks
- Three transports
- Three follow-up reports

**EMERGENCIES**

**Oxford Fire Department**

Firefighters responded at 12:37 p.m. to 1608 E. Jackson Ave. after construction workers accidentally activated a smoke detector.

**Lafayette County Fire**

Firefighters responded to the following calls:

- Fire alarm at 9:20 a.m. at 629 Grove Forest Way; canceled en route.
- Fire alarm at 4:58 p.m. at 1011 Scarlet Drive; no fire

**County EMS**

Nine EMS calls were reported in the county.

**Animal Report**

The Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society reported the following activity for Wednesday and Thursday:

- Twenty-one animals were surrendered by their owners.
- One animal was moved to a foster home, 12 were adopted to new families,

Survivors include her husband, Robert Earl Slack of Oxford; one daughter, Rachel Jones of Oxford; one son, Robert C. Slack of Oxford; her mother, Earline Payton of Oxford; one sister, Earline Smith of Water Valley; three brothers, Fred Joiner, James Joiner Jr. and J.D. Joiner, all of Oxford; and one grandchild.

**Floyd Junior White**

TOCCOPOLA — Floyd Junior White, 82, died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, at Sanctuary Hospice House

He was an Army veteran of Company F 155th Infantry Regiment. He attended Antioch Freewill Baptist Church. He was a retired carpenter, loving father, grandfather and uncle. He enjoyed spending time with his family, working in his yard and watching westerns. He was preceded in death by a son, Anthony Reed White.

Survivors include two brothers, Early White and Billy White; children, Steve White, Samantha Sides Lopez and Joyce Awee; eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

**Hero:**

Continued from Page 1

Burgos said she and another student came up with the idea during a Students for a Green Campus meeting during the 2012-2013 school year.

"When I ultimately applied to the Green Fund for support, I was awarded \$3,000 to bring this idea into fruition — one of the first grants allotted through the fund since its passage," Burgos said.

"I am compelled to do it because pushing for sustainability is my passion."

Burgos said she is grateful to be a part of the MLK Day of Service.

"I feel it is vital for the community to engage in, and an excellent way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," she said.

**Nourishing mind, body**

Wortham volunteers with a food pantry, and coordinates an after-school tutoring program for children

**Everyday Heroes sought**

Do you know an everyday hero we can profile? If so, email us a suggestion and brief note as to why you think someone is deserving of some attention for his or her service to others. Please include contact information for your nominee in an email to [news@oxfordeagle.com](mailto:news@oxfordeagle.com). Also, while Volunteer Oxford is not an official partner with The EAGLE in this regular feature, this center has assisted us with previous articles as well as on-going projects such as this one. More importantly, it serves as a valuable resource center for volunteers and nonprofits in our area. For more information on Volunteer Oxford, visit <http://volunteeroxford.org/> or call 662-236-6662.

pack shelves and help pantry clients shop.

Wortham has been involved with the charity for 15 years and has been a member of its board of directors since 2012.

"The Pantry has helped provide food for hundreds of families in Lafayette County," she said. "When people are in need due to a change in employment or family circumstance, the Pantry has always been a beacon in the community."

She also coordinates an after-school tutoring program for school-age children and teaches adult edu-

and the Children's Book Festival.

"Burns UMC has always been a church that believed in the power of education," she said. "We have provided assistance to youth and adults from all walks of life."

In May 2014, the council began working on an Adult Literacy Program, and last September, she became coordinator of the Adult Basic Literacy Education program, also known as ABLE.

"I believe MLK Day of Service is a wonderful way to remember Dr. King's leg-

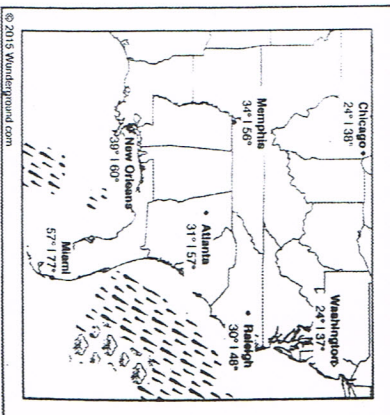
mid 50s.

Wednesday night: Partly cloudy in the evening, then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 40s.

**REGIONAL Weather**

Saturday, Jan. 17  
Wunderground.com forecast for daytime conditions. Low / High temps



Shower Rain Tornadoes Hail Snow Sunny Pt. Cloudy Dewy  
Weather Underground - App

**Mississippi Reservoirs**

	Flood	Yest	Change
Arkabutla	238	210.9	-0.3
End	268	235.2	0.0
Grenada	231	201.2	-0.2
Sardis	281	240.6	0.0



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## SHOW US YOUR 'EAGLE EYE'

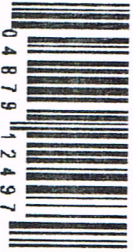
The Oxford EAGLE is looking for input from its readers, and we have several ways you can help with content for your daily newspaper.

One way is to submit pictures for what we're calling our "Eagle Eye" photo of the day. Send us your pictures — your choice of subject, you're the photographer — and we'll try to run one a day. We reserve the right to reject those not in good taste and those not of suitable quality to reproduce in a newspaper. They should be photos you take, and we need information for a cutline — who, what, when, where, et cetera. We also reserve the right to crop them.

You can send your pictures (we prefer them in jpeg format) to us at eagle.eyeye@oxfordeagle.com or photos@oxfordeagle.com. Include your name and phone number.

### INDEX

Comics 9  
Editorial 4  
Local 2-3  
Obituaries 3  
Sports 6-7  
Weather 3



0 4 8 7 9 1 2 4 9 7

In 1983, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday became a federal holiday held annually on the third Monday in January. Eleven years later, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service.

MLK Day of Service, set for Jan. 19 this year, calls for Americans to make the world a better place through service projects.

A family-friendly event will be held Monday that includes a MLK Day of Service ceremony beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Oxford Activity Center. It will feature keynote speaker Marvin P. King Jr., associate profes-

sor of political science and African American studies at the University of Mississippi.

Awards will be presented to our standing Oxford-Lafayette County volunteers Barbara Wortham, an adult literacy volunteer; Matt Gaw and Susan Massey, United Way volunteers; and Victoria Burgos, a UM student volunteer.

**Service fair scheduled**

A service fair will follow with organizations that include Doors of Hope Transition Ministries, United Way of

Oxford and Lafayette County, Oxford City Market, Camp Lake Stephens, the Lafayette County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and Southern Care Hospice.

Many people in Oxford and Lafayette County will participate in projects that lead up to the day.

Sarah Ball, director of Volunteer Oxford, said the MLK Day of Volunteer is important because it brings people across the county together to participate in a "day on, not a day off" to help strengthen communities.

See SERVICE on Page 3

See POOL on Page 2

# Honorees find ways to help their neighbors

By LARECCA RUCKER  
Staff Writer

Four individuals will be honored during the MLK Day of Service on Monday in Oxford for their volunteer work in the community.

Two of those will be Victoria Burgos and Barbara Wortham, two women who have chosen different ways to serve their communities.

Burgos helped create the University of Mississippi Composting Program. "Composting is the

## EVERYDAY HEROES

intentional combining of carbonaceous and nitrogenous materials, such as food and lawn waste, to create soil after a period of decomposition," Burgos said.

"Every day this past semester, our team of four Green Student Program interns, including myself, drove to the Rebel Market and the Residential College to pick up 5-gallon buckets filled with

their food waste, averaging about 13 a day," she said.

"From there, we drove to the Medicinal Plant Garden on campus to add it to our pile system. (We added) about a wheelbarrow's worth of leaves dropped off by the city of Oxford on top, then rinsed and returned the buckets to their respective cafeteria. This is how the physical process of our composting is carried out."

See HERO on Page 3

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BRUCE NEWMAN

Victoria Burgos will be one of four individuals honored during the MLK Day of Service on Monday in Oxford for her volunteer work in the community.