

Hinds Youth Drug Court graduation is November 18

November 17, 2008

The Hinds County Youth Drug Treatment Court will hold its second graduation at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18. The graduation will be held on the second floor of the Hinds County Courthouse at 407 East Pascagoula Street in Jackson

Four teen participants are expected to graduate. Nine others are expected to be recognized for their advancement to another level of the program. After the graduation, 36 participants will remain in the program.

Hinds County Court Judge William Skinner will preside. The guest speaker will be Luke Epperson, youth minister at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Byram.

Reporters, photographers and editors are reminded that participants in the graduation are juveniles enrolled in a Youth Court program. **Because of the confidentiality required by law in Mississippi Youth Court matters, members of the media are asked not to photograph juvenile program participants. Members of the media are asked to refrain from publishing or broadcasting any information or photographs which would in any way identify any individual juvenile participant or family member.**

The Hinds County Youth Drug Treatment Court began operation in 2007. Three participants graduated from the program in May 2008.

Mississippi currently has 28 drug courts – eight juvenile programs and 20 adult programs. Drug courts now operate in Youth Courts in Adams, DeSoto, Forrest, Hinds, Jackson, Madison, Pike and Rankin counties; in Circuit Court Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21; in Municipal Courts in Columbia, Columbus and Jackson; and in Justice courts in Lee and Hinds counties.

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