



PONDER TAKES REINS!

Wildfire Threatens Home Of Fed Judge Many Evacuated From Area That's Part of Quadrant

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

The home of Chief Federal District Judge Vicki Miles LaGrange was among those threatened by the wildfire that besieged a portion of northeast Oklahoma City earlier this week.

The judge's home was not burned, the *Black Chronicle* was told, but some parts of her acreage was burned.

Judge LaGrange once housed horses on the property, but does not now.

The *Black Chronicle* had been told that on Tuesday, the judge and others who lived in her vicinity had been waiting at a nearby Braum's Restaurant while firefighters fought the massive blaze, which seemed to have been fueled by strong winds in northeast Oklahoma City.

Dick Breashear, president of First Security Bank, who lives in the area, was reported to have been kept from his home, as well, as the wildfire did its damage.

Firefighters allowed no one to pass certain points, especially Tuesday, as strong winds blew smoke from the blaze as it spread.

Long yellow grass had caught fire, and "lit up large cedar trees that burned like giant torches," *The Oklahoman* reported.



The wildfire set tall cedar trees ablaze, burning down a number of homes and other structures, and causing the evacuation of residents and livestock. (Photo/Paul Hellstern/The Oklahoman)

"The flames spread quickly, burning at least 12 houses, knocking out power to more than 7,000 homes and businesses,

forcing the evacuation of hundreds of houses just north of NE 50th Street to Britton Road and Air Depot Boulevard.

"[Judge LaGrange's] yard was burned in several areas," a

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Former President Of Fisk Is Acting Leader at LU

Regents To Decide On An Interim National Search Set to Begin To Replace Haysbert

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

LANGSTON—The highly-revered former president of Fisk University who once led a national organization of educators will assume the reins as acting president of Langston University.

Dr. Henry R. Ponder, an alumnus of the state's only predominantly Black school of higher education, will take on the title of acting president of Langston tomorrow.

The Oklahoma State University and A&M Board of Regents is expected to decide Sept. 9 on the naming of an interim president.

Dr. JoAnn Haysbert, president of Langston the past six years, announced her resignation a few weeks ago.

Her resignation is effective at the end of this semester, but, starting tomorrow, she will be taking "some much needed leave time," she said in a letter on Langston's Website.



Dr. Henry R. Ponder

Dr. Haysbert told friends that regents had asked her recommendation for an acting president and she had suggested Dr. Ponder.

A source told the *Black Chronicle* that four national executive search organizations will be used by the regents to select Dr. Haysbert's successor.

A native of Wewoka, Dr. Ponder is retired, and lives in Langston.

He served 12 years as president of Fisk, and also served as president of Benedict College for 11 years and was president of Talladega College.

For a time, he was president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

He was once listed among the "One-Hundred Most Effective"

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Declaring 'No-Fry Zones'

Churches Preaching Healthy Diet in the Deep-Fried Delta

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON
New York Times

HERNANDO, Miss.—Not much seems out of place in the Mississippi Delta, where everything appears to be as it always has been, only more so as the years go by.

But here in the fellowship hall of a little Baptist church on a

country road is an astonishing sight: a plate of fresh fruit.

"You get used to it," said Arelia Robertson, who has been attending the church for almost eight decades.

Despite a dirge of grim health statistics, an epidemic of diabetes and heart disease and campaigns by health agencies and organizations, the Delta diet, a heavenly

smorgasbord of things fried, salted and boiled with pork, has persisted.

It has persisted because it tastes good, but also because it has been passed down through generations and sustained through such cultural mainstays as the church fellowship dinner.

But if the church helped get everybody into this mess, it may be the church that helps get everybody out.

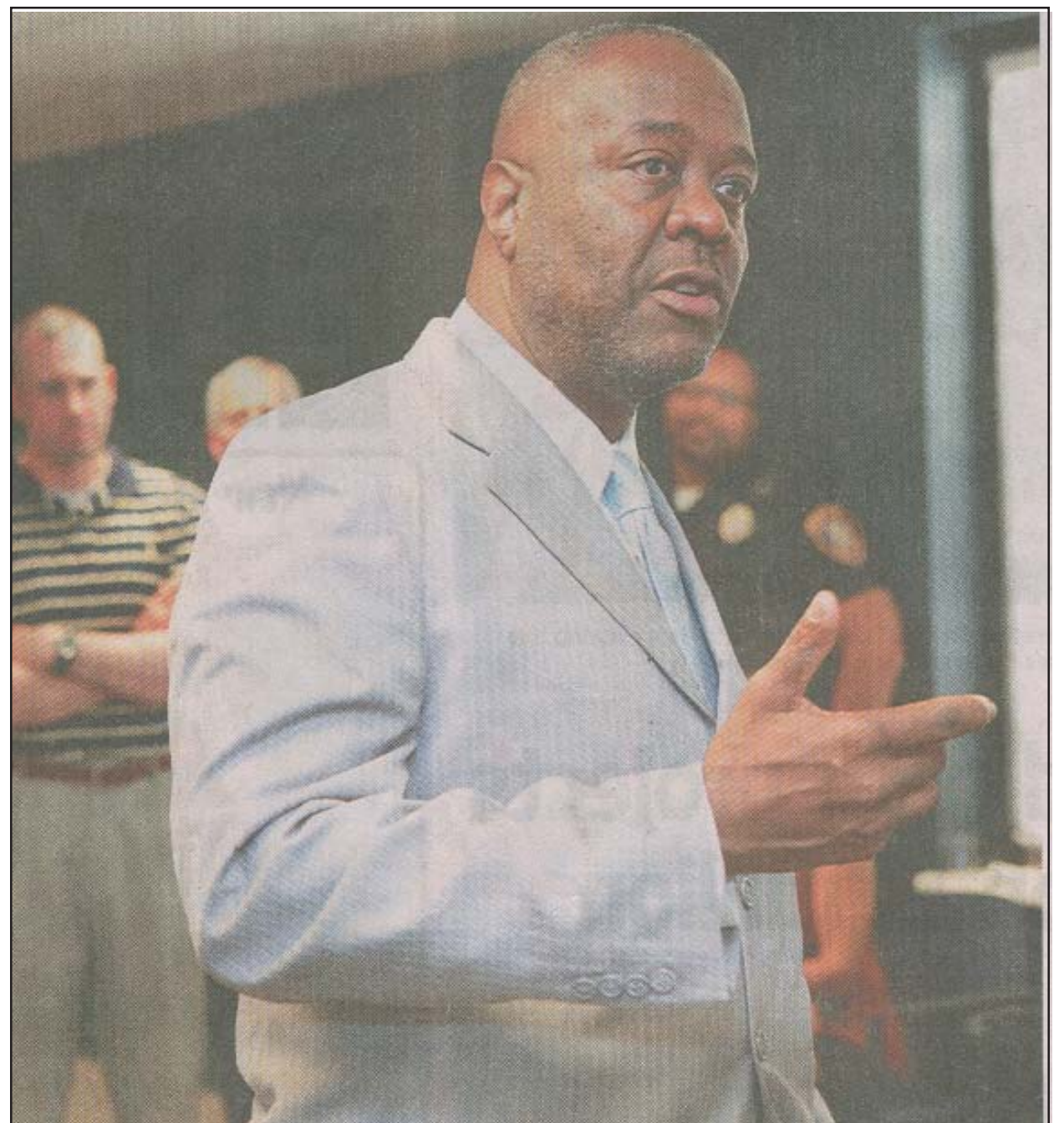
For over a decade from his pulpit here at the Oak Hill Baptist in North Mississippi, Rev. Michael O. Minor has waged war against obesity and bad health.

In the Delta this may seem akin to waging war against humidity, but Mr. Minor has the air of the salesman he once was, and the animated persistence to match.

Years into his war, he is beginning to claim victories.

The National Baptist Convention, which represents some 7 million in nearly 10,000 churches, is ramping up a far-reaching health campaign devised by Mr. Minor, which aims to have a "health am-

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Top Cop

Chief Keith Humphrey of Norman makes a point at a reception held in his honor Monday at City Hall. Chief Humphrey only recently became Norman's top cop. (Photo/John Clanton/The Oklahoman)



Rev. Michael O. Minor promotes eating a healthful diet.

