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Chase of shoplifter leads to lockdown at LCS

By Mark Thornton
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A shoplifter who ran from police while parents were waiting to pick up their children at school caused a brief panic on Monday afternoon.

While parents who were in the car line at Laurel Christian School at 12th Street and 16th Avenue saw a man being chased and arrested by Laurel police outside the school, there was high drama inside the high school — until it was learned what was going on.

"Students and teachers were stacking desks against the doors of classrooms," said one parent who asked not to be identified.

Another parent, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that some students were "hiding in a closet" until they found out why the police cars were there and a K9 unit was out.

"My daughter was freaking out," she said. "I can't believe the police didn't let the school know."

Calls from parents in the car line to the school office, telling that police were outside chasing a man, led to the lockdown.

"No one knew what was going on," the parents said.

Capt. Tommy Cox of the Laurel Police Department said that the incident developed too fast to let the school know what was happening. Police got a report of a man who stole items from Walmart and left on foot. When a suspect fitting the description was seen by Lt. Mark Evans at CSpire — across the highway from LCS — Evans approached

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CITIZENS AGAINST CORRUPTION Parrish and publisher to speak at CAC meeting

IF YOU GO
 6:30 tonight (Thursday) at Quality Inn, the newly formed Citizens Against Corruption will meet. Former Assistant District Attorney J. Ronald Parrish and Leader-Call Publisher Jim Cegielski will be the guest speakers.

By Mark Thornton
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After Belinda Harrison started the "Justice For Katherine" Facebook page, she began hearing more and more stories of special treatment for certain people.

"We all know what's going on," she said, "but there's just been lots of talk, no action."

That's why Harrison helped form a group called Citizens Against Corruption and organize a meeting at Quality Inn (the old Ramada) tonight (Thursday) to find out if people want to take the fight beyond social media.

She decided to stop the cackling on Facebook and to start CAC, along with former law enforcement officers Mike Sims and Greg Wyckoff and agriculture

"This meeting is to find out if people are serious about standing up to corruption."
 — Belinda Harrison

teacher Justin Pitts.

"This meeting is to find out if people are serious about standing up to corruption," Harrison said. "We are looking for people that may want to run for office but just don't know how."

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McDaniel falls short in senate bid

Circuit Clerk Concetta Brooks, right, reads election results at the courthouse while members of her staff and election commissioners count ballots behind her. Below, Chris McDaniel gets a hug from his mother Charlotte after he lost in his bid for the U.S. Senate. (Top photo by Mark Thornton. Bottom photo by Sean Murphy)



Republican Hyde-Smith to face Democrat Espy in Nov. 27 runoff

By Sean Murphy
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This time, Chris McDaniel was beaten "fair and square."

The state senator from Ellisville conceded the special U.S. Senate election to about 200 supporters at an election night gathering in Laurel, urging Mississippi Republicans to galvanize around Cindy Hyde-Smith in her runoff with Democrat Mike Espy.

McDaniel, who lost a bruising senate fight in 2014 to Thad Cochran, finished a distant third in the race to fill the remaining two years of Cochran's term. Unofficial results had Espy and Hyde-Smith locked in a tough race with both tallying 41 percent of the vote.

In unofficial results Wednesday morning, with 98 percent of precincts reporting, Hyde-Smith received 367,036 votes to Espy's 359,752. McDaniel finished third with 145,239 votes and political newcomer Tobey Bartee tallied fewer than 12,870 votes.

McDaniel easily won his home county with 10,474 votes to Espy's 5,921 and Hyde-Smith's 4,554.

"This was not like 2014,"

McDaniel said. "When President Donald Trump endorsed Cindy Hyde-Smith, we knew we had a full plate. We knew that. He is the president of the United States and he is worthy of our respect."

"But now, we have to unite. Mr. Espy cannot be allowed to win this seat. The president wants us to unite — and we will unite. We will get behind Cindy Hyde-Smith."

McDaniel, four years ago as a relative political newcomer, came within percentage points of toppling the six-term incumbent Cochran before losing in the Republican runoff with thousands of Democrats crossing over and casting ballots against McDaniel.

Since then, McDaniel has been a political outsider in the Republican party and has said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Gov. Phil Bryant, "anyone but McDaniel."

Bryant in April appointed Hyde-Smith, the former Secretary of Agriculture, to fill Cochran's seat in the interim. Bryant and McDaniel were once friends, but the governor lashed out at

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SEAN MURPHY

McDaniel is still on 'The Right Side'

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OLD FOES TO COLLIDE

History-rich Laurel, Wayne Co. to tangle in playoffs Friday

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- Herman Sherrill Blackwell
- Frank Wyatt Butler
- Vonnie Cox
- John Earl Crosby
- Terrell D. Ducksworth
- Eddie Randall Evans
- Dewayne Keith Hosey
- Lucy Claudette Lightsey
- Sadie Leather Ainsworth Smith
- Vaughn Dale Strickland

