



3 reasons Rebels should be optimistic this season

SPORTS, 1B

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Fall is almost here and it's one of the best times to go camping in Mississippi and there are plenty of camping opportunities in and near Jackson. LEIGH GUIDRY/USA TODAY NETWORK

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Five places to go camping in, near Jackson this fall

Brian Broom
Mississippi Clarion Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK

With temperatures pushing the 100-degree mark on an almost daily basis in Mississippi, it may seem difficult to believe that fall is just around the corner, but it is. Fall officially begins on Sept. 22 in the Northern Hemisphere and typically that coincides with the first cold front in Mississippi that actually seems cool since spring. It also signals the start of some of the best

weather Mississippi offers to get outdoors and go camping. Temperatures during the days will be pleasant and evenings will be cool, so sitting by a campfire will be welcome. Fall is also drier than other parts of the year, so the chances of rain spoiling your outing will be lower. Fortunately, if you live in the Jackson area, there are plenty of places to camp that are only a short

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MS AG urges Supreme Court to deny death row petition

Lici Beveridge
Mississippi Clarion Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK

Terry Pitchford, who has been on Mississippi's death row for nearly 20 years, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review his case in April, after a federal appellate court returned him to death row. On Friday, Aug. 1, Attorney General Lynn Fitch filed a response to Pitchford's petition, saying his arguments for relief from the court has no merit and should not be considered.



Pitchford

"None of those questions raises a circuit conflict, none satisfies any of the other traditional certiorari criteria, and none of his arguments has merit," Fitch wrote in her response. "The court of appeals soundly rejected an egregiously wrong grant of habeas relief ... The petition should be denied."

Pitchford has for years contended that the jury selection for his initial trial was flawed. Fitch in her response said Pitchford does not raise any valid legal challenges that would warrant review by the nation's highest court.

Regardless, Pitchford is asking the Supreme Court to review his Batson claim, which refers to jury selection in which race, ethnicity or gender played a role in excluding potential jurors. During jury selection at Pitchford's trial, then-District Attorney Doug Evans "used four of his allotted 12 peremptory strikes to remove four of the five Black venirepersons (potential jurors) provisionally seated in the jury's empaneling," court records show.

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Thalia Mara still closed a year later

Charlie Drape
Mississippi Clarion Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK

Thalia Mara Hall has officially been closed for a year — and while former Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba declared it reopened on his last day in office, current Mayor John Horhn said that's not the case. "On the final days of the previous administration, it was announced that Thalia Mara was opened for business," Horhn said. "Unfortunately, that's not the case. There (are) still some things that have to be done to get us there. We're expecting in the next 30 to 60 days we'll have the improvements that are needed to get it fully opened." The improvements include bringing the historic theater into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by certifying its elevator — something that still hasn't been completed, Horhn said Friday, Aug. 1. The issue with the current elevator is that it is too small to meet ADA standards.

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