



Jackson events to attend over the Labor Day long weekend

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This is a rendering that shows the new ALDI that is part of a multi-step development plan, called the Community Power Center that is anchored by Costco. Along with ALDI, it will include new sites for T.J. Maxx, Old Navy, Petsmart and La-Z-Boy. THE MATTIACE COMPANY

See when ALDI, TJ Maxx, others set for openings

Ross Reily
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Crews have been furiously working on a new development in Ridgeland ever since it was announced that a new ALDI grocery is officially coming to Ridgeland.

Now, there is an official opening date for everyone to look forward to as well as a grand opening date set for the rest of the development.

Andrew Mattiace, who is developing the property adjacent to Costco told the Clarion Ledger on Aug. 15 that the new ALDI will be opening on Aug. 28.

The new ALDI is part of a multi-step development plan, called a community power center that is anchored by Costco, is also part of a broader development down the street at Renaissance at Colony Park. Along with ALDI, the community power center will include new

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Work on the Aldi on Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland continues Aug. 11. Aldi is a discount grocery store that operates in over 10 countries with over 2400 stores in the United States. BARBARA GAUNTT/CLARION LEDGER

Mississippi welcomes new Cyber Technology Center

Lici Beveridge
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mississippi is a leader in innovation, Gov. Tate Reeves said Tuesday morning, Aug. 19, during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center, which will house the Mississippi State University-led Mississippi Cyber Initiative.

“Mississippi’s future is already here,” Reeves said. “On top of the enormously important role the cyber center will have in keeping America and Mississippi safe, we know it’s going to be incredibly important in training Mississippians, not for the jobs of the last 50 years, but for the jobs of the next 50 years.”

The 100,000-square-foot center will be located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

Just hours earlier, Reeves announced a \$6 billion digital data center by AVAIO Digital, which will be coming soon to Brandon. It is the state’s third-largest investment in economic development, the governor said.

In January, Compass Data Centers announced it would be investing in Mississippi. The company later announced it was building eight data centers in Lauderdale County, eventually investing \$10 billion in the state.

In January 2024, Amazon Web Services announced it was investing \$10 billion in the state for data centers in Madison County.

Julie Jordan, vice president of research and economic development at MSU, said the Cyber and Technology Center was five years in the making.

“It has been a long time coming and a lot of people have been involved in making the new Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center a reality,” she said. “This is a step forward for the state of Mississippi, for our national defense and innovation along the Gulf Coast.”

Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum said the university is already leading the way in technology innovation. The university has a digital forensics lab that serves more than 50 Mississippi law enforcement

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UMMC School of Nursing receives \$2 million grant for scholarships

Mary Boyte
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nursing students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center will get the chance to receive a need-based scholarship after the program received a \$2 million grant from the Bedford Falls Foundation, officials announced Tuesday, Aug. 18.

The Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship creates 167 scholarships to be distributed over the next three years at the Jackson and Oxford School of Nursing campuses. The scholarships cov-

er both traditional and accelerated tracks.

Bill Conway, co-founder of Bedford Falls Foundation, said the scholarship was created to combat the nationwide nurse shortage by making education programs more accessible.

“Our principal mission is to facilitate greater access to high-quality nursing education by removing the financial barrier, so students can focus on entering the nursing workforce with less stress,” Conway said in a press release announcing the scholarship.

The Conways established the Bedford Falls Foundation — a nod to the town name in “A Wonderful Life” — in 1997 to

support nursing education and health and human services, according to the foundation’s website.

Dr. Tina Martin, dean of the UMMC School of Nursing, called the scholarships “life-changing.”

“Because they’re need-based, they will open the door for students who might not otherwise be able to pursue a nursing degree without taking on student loan debt,” Martin said in the Tuesday, Aug. 18, press release. “These scholarships will not only lead to nursing careers for our students, but they will ensure that nurses are there when care is needed.”

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancel-

lor of health affairs, emphasized the need for nurses in Mississippi.

“Nurses are the heart of every health care team,” Woodward said in the press release. “Their expertise, compassion and dedication not only save lives but also shape the future of health care. We cannot achieve our vision of a healthier Mississippi without increasing the number of nurses in our state.”

The School of Nursing will contact eligible students with more details on the scholarship.

Got a news tip? Contact Mary Boyte at mboyte@jackson.gannett.com

