



# MSU completes \$9M upgrades to stadium

SPORTS, 1C

# Clarion Ledger

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 | CLARIONLEDGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

HURRICANE KATRINA 20 YEARS LATER

# ‘YOU ALL DON’T UNDERSTAND WHAT’S COMING’



Lt. Col. Sean Cross, chief of safety for the 403rd Wing, speaks about the Hurricane Hunters and hurricane safety awareness during a media day at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi on May 6, 2025. The Hurricane Hunters fly WC-130J Super Hercules, background, a weather data collection platform for the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Cross is one of the few people still in active service who flew inside Hurricane Katrina. BARBARA GAUNTT/CLARION LEDGER

## Mississippi Hurricane Hunter feared devastation in days before Katrina

**Lici Beveridge**  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Lt. Col. Sean Cross conducted a reconnaissance mission over the Atlantic to monitor a brewing storm in 2005, he knew it was going to be a bad one. “All I could think of was the people

down below and how their lives would be changed,” he said. Cross is a Hurricane Hunter, a member of the 403rd Wing of the U.S. Air Force Reserves at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. The New Orleans native has been in the Air Force Reserves for 36 years, 25 of those with the Hurricane Hunters. He has flown hundreds of re-

### INSIDE

Hurricane Katrina devastated the Lower Ninth Ward. It’s still fighting its way back. **3A**

connaissance missions, so his eyes and his gut were telling him what to expect. “I have 176 penetrations of major hurricanes,” he said. That was in late August 2005, in the

See **HURRICANE**, Page 2A

### Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Monday, Sept. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

## City, county could join forces on key projects and services

**Charlie Drape**  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The city has the cash but not the crew. The county has the crew but not the cash. Jackson Mayor John Horhn said the two are about to swap notes — and start tackling Jackson’s infrastructure problems together. Jackson’s public works department has seen better days. The city hasn’t had a permanent public works director in years — the last one was hired, resigned, returned briefly, then resigned again — leaving a revolving door at the top while potholes and infrastructure needs piled up. It’s also one of the city’s largest operations, with a budget of \$19,028,992 last year. That lack of stability is part of what’s driving a new city-county partnership. The governments are working out a deal that Horhn said would be a memorandum of understanding, or MOU. Horhn said he hopes it will be completed by the end of the week. The deal would allow the two governments to share manpower and resources on public works and other joint

See **PROJECTS**, Page 7A

## Mud Monsters are set to return for another season

**Ross Reilly**  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It started with more than 5,000 people packing Trustmark Park back and in April. On Thursday, August, 28, another 2,000 came and enjoyed the Mississippi Mud Monsters last home game of the

2025 season. It was their first season, and officials are pleased with the results and promise more winning and more fun for the team in the years to come. “There is no doubt, we will be back, and with a lot more to offer next year,” Andrew Seymour, general manager for the Mud Monsters said. “The Jackson area has been so good to us and can’t

thank everyone enough for the support they have given us in this first year.”

### How the Mud Monsters got here

The Mud Monsters of the Frontier League have taken over at Trustmark Park since the Mississippi Braves closed out their 20th and final season in 2024 and moved to Columbus, Georgia, after

the team’s lease at 8,480-seat Trustmark Park was up. Now, Joe Eng has brought the independent Frontier League team that has played in Pearl. Eng is also the owner of the Gary Southshore RailCats baseball team based in Gary, Indiana, in a separate

See **MONSTERS**, Page 7A

## Ready for a real estate search with real results?

Search beyond the usual suspects and find the homes that truly fit.

The next move is yours.

Discover more at  
addressUSA.com

address**USA**



**Subscriber-only eNewspaper**  
The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to clarionledger.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 178 | No. 155  
Subscribe 877-850-5343.  
©2025 **\$4.49**

