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HEALTH



Clarion Ledger

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 | CLARIONLEDGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Bridges on shaky ground

Why MS infrastructure is some of the worst in the Southeast

Bea Anhuci
Mississippi Clarion Ledger

Every time Tamika Carter drives to work, she takes a moment to pray that she gets there safely. Carter, 47, travels more than 30 min-

utes each way for work around Indianola, driving on bumpy two-lane roads and bridges older than she is. “The worst one is less than 10 minutes from my house,” she said. “I can’t help but hold my breath every time I cross it. I get so scared that my little car is going to make it fall apart, and I’ll hit the water.” Carter’s commute takes her across one of Mississippi’s oldest bridges, a bayou crossing built in 1966. That bridge, like thousands of others in the

state, is in poor condition and urgent need of repairs, according to a federal database. The National Bridge Inventory, a branch of the Federal Highway Administration, tracks bridges throughout the nation and rates their condition. Bridges are rated as “good,” “fair” or “poor” based on the condition of the structure and surface. Nearly 6% of Mississippi bridges

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Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you’ll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

Was 2025 Ole Miss’ greatest season yet?

Sam Hutchens
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

OXFORD — Longtime Mississippi sportswriter Rick Cleveland can recall his first Ole Miss football memory in vivid detail. He was in Hattiesburg, where he grew up. Cleveland and his father sat in their kitchen, listening to a radio broadcast of the 1959 game between Ole Miss and LSU. Because the game was in Baton Rouge, their signal on WWL out of New Orleans was clear. “You could hear, ‘Cannon takes the punt on the bounce at the 11, he has a tackler at the 15,’ and then you can’t hear anything because of the crowd noise,” said Cleveland, a Mississippi Today columnist and a 2017 Mississippi Sports Hall of fame inductee. Cleveland has been in the business for 60 years, including serving as the Clarion Ledger’s sports editor until 2012. LSU running back Billy Cannon, the eventual Heisman Trophy winner, handed the Rebels their only loss that day with a late punt return to win 7-6. Ole Miss wound up dominating a rematch with LSU 21-0 in the Sugar Bowl

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Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, left, and running back Kewan Lacy pose with the Sugar Bowl trophy after the Sugar Bowl and College Football Playoff quarterfinals at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans on Jan. 1. Ole Miss defeated Georgia 39-34.
AYRTON BRECKENRIDGE/CLARION LEDGER

Mississippi College is located in Clinton. It was founded on Jan. 24, 1826. LAUREN WITTE/CLARION LEDGER

Mississippi College celebrates 200 years

University is oldest institution of higher learning in state

Mary Boyte Mississippi Clarion Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK

Mississippi College, the oldest institution of higher learning in the state and the second oldest Baptist university in the nation, will celebrate its 200th anniversary on Jan. 21, 2026. The institution has endured through 47 presidencies with 44 different presidents, Reconstruction, the Great Depression and multiple global pandemics, not to mention the Civil War, World War I and World War II. Now, the university, on the edge of new era and a new name, is reflecting on two centuries of changes and growth.

A brief history

Originally, the school was called Hampstead Academy, created after the Mississippi Legislature approved the charter on Jan. 24, 1826, just nine years after Mississippi officially became the 20th state. Hampstead Academy was built on 5 acres in what was known at the time as Mt. Salus, an early settlement in Hinds County. In 1828, the name changed to Clinton, and, in 1830, it became the first incorporated

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Volume 178 | No. 271
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