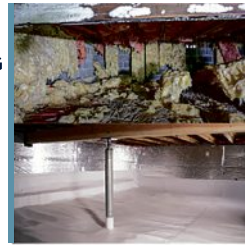


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# Clarion Ledger

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## OPEN SKIES



## The stars are returning to Jackson's planetarium after 9 years

Charlie Drape  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK



**TOP:** Philip Groce laughs while giving a tour of the McNair-Davis Planetarium in Downtown Jackson on May 29.

**LOWER RIGHT:** A display of the planets is seen inside the planetarium, which will open in the fall.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN WITTE/CLARION LEDGER

**F**or most of the tour, Philip Groce pointed to things that weren't there yet. • A giant space station exhibit that will allow visitors to look out the windows at the moon. Meteorites visitors will be able to touch. A space art wall that will eventually showcase work from students and professional space artists. An "infinite zoom" exhibit that will take visitors from Earth to the edge of the universe. An exhibit dedicated to the night sky. A pair of projectors stuck in customs somewhere between Japan and Jackson. • During a recent tour granted to the Clarion Ledger, Groce offered one of the clearest looks yet at what Jackson residents can expect when the McNair-Davis Planetarium reopens later this year.

See **PLANETARIUM**, Page 2A

## Jackson mayor cheers judge's ruling on water authority

Charlie Drape  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jackson Mayor John Horhn claimed victory in the city's legal fight against Mississippi's new Metro Jackson Water Authority, arguing a federal judge's latest ruling validates Jackson's concerns about state lawmakers trying to influence the future of the city's water system.

During a press conference at City Hall Tuesday, June 2, Horhn pointed to U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate's decision to block the authority from naming a president, entering lease agreements or taking other substantive actions while Jackson's water and sewer systems remain under federal oversight.

"What we're thankful of is that the judge seems to agree with us," Horhn said. "House Bill 1677 appeared to try to subvert the authority of the federal court."

The comments come one day after Wingate issued a split ruling on the controversial law. While the judge declined to block House Bill 1677 outright, he also barred the Metro Jackson Water Authority from taking operational action beyond seating board members while the federal court continues overseeing Jackson's water and sewer systems.

But Wingate's ruling did not strike down House Bill 1677. It was more of a split ruling.

The judge agreed with arguments made by the state, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and JXN Water that the law itself does not automatically transfer control of

See **WATER**, Page 3A

## Nearly 60 people arrested in cockfighting ring bust

Pam Dankins  
Mississippi Clarion Ledger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Authorities said the landowner of a property linked to a game rooster fight turned himself in June 1 after officers and deputies arrested 59 people during a large-scale cockfighting operation in a Mississippi county over the weekend.

The Chickasaw County Sheriff's Department, in coordination with numerous local, state and federal law enforcement and animal welfare agencies, conducted the raid Sunday, May 31, in the 1700 block of County Road 406 in the Buena Vista community.

A press release from the sheriff's department states, investigators and deputies seized "approximately 164 fighting

roosters, \$84,000 in cash, 14 firearms, suspected Schedule I narcotics, 13 trailers, multiple vehicles and a substantial amount of evidence associated with organized cockfighting activities."

Officers also seized equipment and materials used to facilitate cockfighting activities, including "transport trailers, fighting implements, training devices, medications, performance-enhancing

substances, scales, tethering equipment, breeding records and other items commonly associated with organized cockfighting enterprises."

The sheriff's department said the investigation revealed that "participants and spectators" traveled from multiple states, including Louisiana, Tennessee,

See **ARRESTS**, Page 2A



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