

MSU's Lebby won't consider coaching staff changes until after season

SPORTS, 1B

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Colom blames Secretary of State for delay

Candidate for U.S. Senate cites the use of Experian to verify voter rolls

Justin Marville
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

At this point, Scott Colom might want to pick another Secretary of State too.

Calling the situation chaotic, Mississippi's would-be Democratic senator is blaming Republican Secretary of Secretary of State Michael Watson for the U.S. Senate race dragging into a full week after using Experian to verify the voter rolls.

"He created this problem," said Colom of Watson in a Nov. 10 press conference at the Hinds County Sheriff's Department.

"He needs to be doing a press conference and apologizing to the people of Mississippi because folks in Rankin County, folks in Leake County are all confused."

Colom took full aim at Watson, with his U.S. Senate race against Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith still too close to call a full week after the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

How was credit-reporting agency Experian used?

At the heart of the issue is Watson's decision to use consumer credit-reporting agency Experian to certify the state's voter rolls, which ultimately resulted in more than 230,000 names being placed on the state's inactive list.

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U.S. Senate Democratic challenger Scott Colom blasts Secretary of State Michael Watson for Mississippi's election results dragging into a full week. JUSTIN MARVILLE/CLARION LEDGER

City Council meets over Kenneth Stokes' outburst

Councilman doesn't attend special meeting

Charlie Drape
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jackson City Council leaders promised to hold Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes accountable. On Tuesday, Nov. 10, they called a special meeting to discuss rules and conduct in their chambers.

Stokes was the only member who did not show up.

What comes next for Stokes remains unclear, but Council President Vernon Hartley told the Clarion Ledger after the meeting that residents should expect an announcement by Friday, Nov. 13.

Here's how the meeting went:

For roughly the first 15 minutes of Tuesday's special meeting, Hartley walked his five colleagues through a PowerPoint on the council's rules. They sat and listened.

Afterward, Ward 2 Councilwoman Tina Clay broke into the discussion with a more direct assessment: The council knew the problem. It had allowed it to continue.

"We all know where the problem is, and we know what the problem is, and we know how we handled the problem in the past, and we let the problem slip through the cracks," Clay said, referring to Stokes.

Members later went behind closed doors to discuss potential litigation related to Stokes' Nov. 3 outburst.

The special meeting stemmed from Stokes' outburst a week earlier, when he called a woman a "bitch" and told Muslim protesters to "take the rags off your heads. Y'all are not Muslim." Residents stood and chanted "Kick him out!" Police Chief RaShall Brackney rushed to the front of the chambers and warned she would clear the room if disruptions continued.

The council recessed for an hour, then postponed its remaining business until Nov. 5. After the Nov. 3 meeting, Hartley promised a review

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Marcy Petrini, a fellow with the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, speaks to the Clarion Ledger about weaving at the Waller Craft Center in Ridgeland on Nov. 11. The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi will demonstrate weaving at the National Folk Festival, Nov. 13-15. LAUREN WITTE/CLARION LEDGER

Fabric of the festival

Weaving expert will be demonstrating her craft at National Folk Festival

Charlie Drape
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before you can weave, you have to do a little math.

How many threads? How far apart? What colors will cross, and what will they look like when they do?

Then comes the part people tend to recognize: sitting at a loom, passing yarn back and forth, watching fabric take shape. It's a craft with thousands of years behind it.

Marcy Petrini has been doing it since 1976. Fifty years later, weaving still gives her a way to tune everything else out.

"It's meditative for me," Petrini said. "You do have to pay attention. When I'm sitting there, especially in a complicated pattern, I forget the world."

And if watching someone weave makes you want to pull up a seat, Petrini is a good place to start.

This weekend, members of the Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild will demonstrate weaving and spinning at the National Folk Festival in downtown Jackson. The free festival runs Nov. 13-15, bringing music, dance, food and traditional crafts to the capital city.

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> **Marcy Petrini**, weaver

For visitors, it's a chance to stop between performances, watch yarn become cloth and ask how any of it works.

There's another chance to meet the makers, too. The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, where Petrini is a fellow and weaving instructor, will hold its separate Chimneyville Arts Festival Nov. 12-14 at the William Lowe Waller Craft Center in Ridgeland. Celebrating its 50th year, the festival features handmade work by guild members, including handwoven pieces and other craftwork.

For Petrini, who teaches beginning and advanced weavers, it's an introduction to something that can hold your attention long after the weekend ends.

"So I think that the best thing is to try it," she said, adding that at first it can be intimidating. But if you stick around, the results are worth it.

"There's a joke among weavers that we say, 'We're not going to die of dementia,'" Petrini joked. "There's just too many steps to remember, too many steps that we repeat to keep our mind sharp."

From yarn to cloth

First, a distinction: Spinning makes the yarn. Weaving turns it into fabric. At the Folk Festival, you'll have a chance to

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