



Why coach Charles Huff took blame in loss vs. Texas State

SPORTS, 1B

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

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LIGHTS OF THE WILD



The Hattiesburg Zoo's Lights of the Wild features hundres of colorful sculptured light displays during the holiday season.
CAM BONELLI/HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

Hattiesburg Zoo display returns for Christmas 2025

Harold Gater

Hattiesburg American
USA TODAY NETWORK

Is there a better way to ring in the holiday season than with "Lights of the Wild" at the Hattiesburg Zoo? Dazzling lighted displays will feature super-sized animals, larger than life flowers and plants as well as holiday themed decor. "Lights of the Wild" will take place

over 11 nights in December, according to a news release from the Hattiesburg Convention Commission.

Hattiesburg Zoo Lights of the Wild dates and hours

December 5 - 7
December 12 - 14
December 19 - 23
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Hattiesburg Zoo Lights of the Wild tickets

\$18 at the gate and \$16 online. Children under 2 are free, and season passes do not apply for this special event.

Tickets for Lights of the Wild can be purchased online. When purchasing

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MS agencies join Trump's renewed ICE program

Local officers will help with immigration enforcement

Charlie Drape

Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Several Mississippi law-enforcement agencies are partnering with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, joining a national program that allows local officers to help enforce federal immigration law.

The federal 287(g) program, created under a 1996 immigration law, allows ICE agents to train and collaborate with local, county and state officers to identify and detain people suspected of being in the nation illegally. As of Nov. 12, ICE has signed 1,155 agreements with law-enforcement agencies throughout 40 states, according to the program's website.

But critics and civil-rights groups have long argued the program blurs the line between local policing and federal immigration enforcement, leading to concerns about racial profiling and strained trust in immigrant communities.

Immigration advocates say 287(g) agreements have, in some cases, diverted local resources and discouraged victims and witnesses from cooperating with police. Supporters contend the partnerships help remove criminals from local jails.

What is the 287(g) program?

The 287(g) program offers three participation models for state and local law enforcement:

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When should Mississippians expect full SNAP benefits?

Bonnie Bolden

Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

All Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be fully funded for the 42 million Americans that rely on them for help affording healthy food.

Earlier in the month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Trump administration partially funded SNAP benefits during the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

Those disbursements had been sent in many states, and the legal battle over

whether the federal government had to fully fund the program was still being played out when the government reopened earlier this week.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services announced on Nov. 13 that the full amount will be available soon.

Here's what we know about when SNAP benefits could be issued, who gets them in Mississippi and how to find a food bank if you still need help before the rest of your benefits are disbursed.

When will I get my SNAP benefits?

According to MDHS, the state was

scheduled to start issuing the rest of the full amount for benefits as soon as possible for people with issue dates from Nov. 1-13.

The Nov. 14 and Nov. 21 issue dates were scheduled to get the full amounts on the regular date.

All December benefits are set to go out on time.

How many people in Mississippi get SNAP?

About 385,000 people or 13% of the

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An EBT sign is displayed on the window of a grocery store on Oct. 30, in New York. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits lapsed on Nov. 1 amid the federal government shutdown.
MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

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