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ELECTION 2026

‘It doesn’t have to be this way’

Former VP Harris campaigns with Colom in MS

Bea Anhuci
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Scott Colom and Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, opponents in one of the most competitive Senate races Mississippi has seen recently, are pulling out the big guns.

On Hyde-Smith’s side, that is a last-minute visit from President Donald Trump to an Oct. 26 rally in Corinth. It’ll mark another stop in his series of trips to typically Republican stronghold states leading to the midterm elections. For Colom, it meant former Vice President Kamala Harris, who was looking down the final stretch of her own major campaign this time two years ago. Harris stopped by Columbus High School, Colom’s alma mater, on Oct. 22 to help bring Colom across the finish line and into the Senate.

See **HARRIS**, Page 3A



Former Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a Scott Colom campaign event at Columbus High School in Columbus on Oct. 22. “Mississippi matters!” Harris said repeatedly as she stepped onto the stage.
LAUREN WITTE/
CLARION LEDGER



Innova Preparatory School, located at 1000 Broadway Drive in Hattiesburg, is the most expensive private school in the area. DAVIS WILSON/HATTIESBURG AMERICAN

What Hattiesburg private schools cost

Annual tuition ranges from \$4,600 to nearly \$13,000

Davis Wilson Hattiesburg American | USA TODAY NETWORK

Every year, families in the Hattiesburg area are faced with the same question: Where should the children go to school? Parents want the best for their children. Public schools are often the natural choice, because they are tuition-free and close to home. Others, however, look beyond district lines in search of alternatives they believe better fit their children’s needs. Private schools offer that option, though it

comes at a cost. Annual tuition in the Hattiesburg area ranges from about \$4,600 to nearly \$13,000, depending on the school. For many families, the expense is outweighed by benefits such as smaller class sizes, individualized attention and educational opportunities they believe will help their children succeed.

See **PRIVATE SCHOOLS**, Page 4A

Mississippi AG offers Cyber Crime Lab tour

‘We are always out there on the cutting edge’

Pam Dankins
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Attorney General Lynn Fitch opened the doors of the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office Cyber Crime Lab on Oct. 20 for a media tour, providing a glimpse into the digital realm where investigators confront evolving technological threats. From cyberattacks to the pursuit of predators exploiting children online, the Cyber Crime Division works in a lab to investigate and help law enforcement agencies collect digital evidence. The division, established in 2000, also manages the Mississippi Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Mississippi Cyber Fraud Task Force, which is a partnership with the United States Secret Service. Tuesday’s tour covered cryptocurrency, business email compromise, ATM jackpotting, skimmers, SMS phishing, AI and CyberTips, plus a demonstration of Technology Retrieval and Cyber Enforcement — the AGO’s electronic storage device K9 used to sniff out hidden digital evidence. Fitch called the division a “national-level, top-notch team” always working on initiatives to create solutions through partnerships. “People are always looking to our cyber division on how we’re doing innovative things, what we’re doing

See **LAB**, Page 6A

