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SunHerald



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Kameca Locks of Gulfport, right, sits with one of her attorneys, Matthew Quinlivan of Gulfport. Locks contends in a lawsuit that she was wrongly jailed for 25 days after State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. put her auto policy under the wrong name and she was indicted in 2021 in Tennessee for identity theft. The charge was eventually dismissed and expunged.

Gulfport woman wrongly jailed for 25 days, lawsuit says

BY ANITA LEE
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Kameca Locks, a mother of two who works in health care and lives in Gulfport, spent 25 days in jail without knowing why.

She was scared. And she was exhausted. It's hard to sleep in jail. The 39-year-old spent Thanksgiving 2021 in the Harrison County jail, missing her stepfather's smoked turkey, her mom's miniature pecan pies and, most of all, her two pre-teen children.

After 16 days in the Harrison County jail, she was hauled to jail in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She rode with other inmates in a van that was pitch dark inside, a belly chain wrapped around her waist and hands cuffed behind her back. The trip seemed to last forever.



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The insurance office of Bryan Jacobs on 25th Avenue in downtown Gulfport. Jacobs is an independent contractor who sells State Farm insurance policies.

Her mom, a retired teacher's aide, borrowed money to hire an attorney. Her boyfriend arranged her bond. Free after nine days in the Tennessee jail, she finally found out from the

Tennessee lawyer why she had been charged with felony identity theft.

Except Locks hadn't stolen anyone's identity, court records show. Instead, she had signed up for auto insurance with State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. Today, Locks is suing State Farm, the agent whose office sold her the policy and the woman whose identify she was accused of stealing.

Gulfport attorneys Michael Crosby and Matt Quinlivan are representing her in the Harrison County Circuit Court case. Her lawsuit accuses State Farm, the insurance office agent and the woman who filed identify theft charges in Tennessee of negligence and malicious prosecution.

Locks was indicted in July 2021 in Tennessee for identify

SEE LAWSUIT, 4A

South Mississippi sex offender is back in custody

BY MARGARET BAKER
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A convicted sex offender from South Mississippi is back in custody, this time facing a federal charge for distributing more than 1,100 sexually explicit images and videos of child sexual abuse, according to a Homeland Security Investigations agent.

Kevin A. Martin was arrested in September after HSI agents



Kevin A. Martin

in Louisiana and Mississippi linked his Moss Point address to files showing the sexual assaults of child victims as young as 1 to 3 years old.

The investigation began when HSI agents in New Orleans discovered an internet address tied to the illegal files. That information was passed to Mississippi in-

vestigators, who traced the activity back to Martin. Authorities allege Martin started downloading and sharing the material as early as October 2024.

After his arrest, Martin went to federal court in Gulfport for his initial appearance before Judge Bradley Rath.

Martin waived his right to a preliminary hearing and admitted there was enough evidence to hold him pending trial. Agents said Martin confessed to downloading and sharing the

files.

In addition, he told investigators he used a Nokia phone to access and distribute some of the material before deleting it in an attempt to avoid detection.

Martin also admitted to resetting another device to factory settings to cover his tracks, though investigators were able to recover the files. He described one of the videos he shared with investigators, acknowledging it involved a 15-year-old girl who identified her age on a sign in the recording.

Before his arrest in this case, Martin had been convicted of child exploitation in October 2020 in Jackson, according to the Mississippi Sex Offender Registry.

SEE GAZA, 5A

Deputies kill man during domestic violence call, MBI says

BY MARGARET BAKER
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An independent investigation is underway after Hancock County sheriff's deputies shot and killed a man during a domestic violence call in the Pearl-ington community early Sunday morning, according to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation.

The shooting happened in the area of Old Gainesville Road near Highway 604, a release said. Deputies were responding to a 911 call from a woman who was handcuffed and held against her will by an armed man.

When deputies arrived, they freed the woman from a car where she was being held. During a brief encounter, the man pulled out a gun, and deputies fatally shot him, officials said.

Hancock County Coroner Jeff Hair said the identification of the deceased is pending notification of next of kin.

MBI is handling the independent investigation.

Israel launches ground offensive in Gaza City

BY LARA JAKES, GABBY SOBELMAN, ISABEL KERSHNER AND NATAN ODENHEIMER
NYT News Service

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it had launched a ground incursion into Gaza City overnight, embarking on a risky operation to take control of a key urban area even as hundreds of thousands of Palestinian residents remain there.

The ground operation and intensifying Israeli bombardment risks deepening the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, in a nearly two-year-long war that has already killed tens of thousands of people. Windows were felt shaking in buildings as far as 25 miles away in Israel.

"We are all terrified," said Montaser Bahja, a former schoolteacher sheltering in an apartment in western Gaza City near the coast. "Death would be more merciful than what we're living through."

The operation has been building for weeks, with Israel saying that a takeover of the city was necessary to prevent Hamas from regrouping and planning future attacks. The plans for the ground assault drew fierce international criticism and dimmed hopes for a ceasefire agreement with Hamas that many foreign officials and Israelis had pushed.

After intensifying airstrikes in recent days, on Tuesday morning the Israeli military said that three divisions of active duty and reserve troops had begun "expanded ground operations in



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