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In today's paper
YOUR LIFE: Biloxi among best cities in US for boating, ranking says. **1C**

SunHerald

State audit finds major lapses in South MS police operations

BY MARGARET BAKER
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The Mississippi Department of Public Safety's assessment of Moss Point police operations before the departure of Police Chief Brandon Ashley and over half of its officers revealed some key deficiencies within the police department that need addressing.

Josh Broman, director of the MDPS's Office of Public Safety

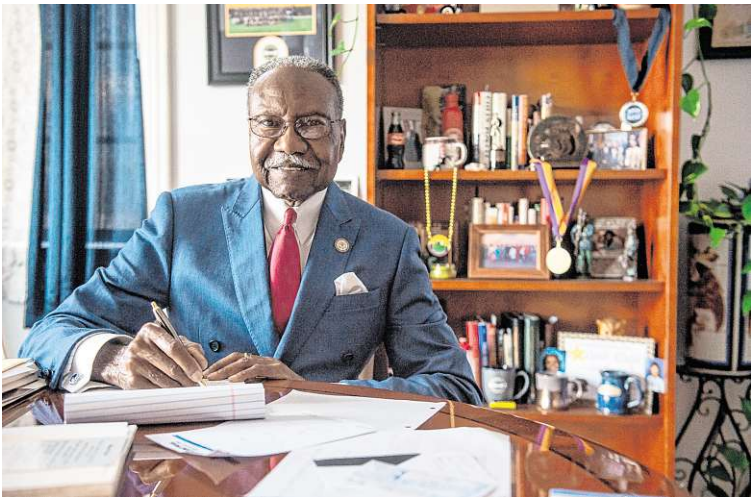
and Planning, headed up the review at the request of Mayor Billy Knight after months of turmoil over police operations in the city after a former officer's arrest for domestic violence assault went unreported to city leaders.

"I will tell you the police department as a whole demonstrates the foundation of professional practices, but significant modernization and organizational restructuring are required to restore operational effectiveness, accountability, and public

confidence," Broman said.

Broman's assessment included interviews, a review of investigative files and evidence management, and an evaluation of command structure and fiscal accountability. Among those interviewed were Ashley and most of the officers who resigned alongside him.

On average, Moss Point police respond to about 1,700 calls per month, resulting in roughly 315 reports that require follow-up investigations. To meet those



HANNAH RUHOFF Sun Herald

Moss Point Mayor Billy Knight, 83, is a "workaholic," according to wife Lois Knight. He's pictured here in his office at City Hall, where he is working on recovery from a recent tornado, waterfront redevelopment plans and many other projects.

demands, Broman said the department should operate with at least 31 positions — 25 sworn officers and six civilian employ-

ees — and include a deputy police chief position.

SEE AUDIT, 3A



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Interior damage at Aztecas Restaurant & Cantina after a tornado in Gautier.

Popular MS Coast restaurant, Aztecas, rebuilds after tornado

BY MARTHA SANCHEZ
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The roof of his restaurant is gone, and so are its booths and tables.

But Orlando Godoy strode through the rubble this week, feeling hopeful.

"Everything was material," he said of the damages from a tornado that pounded Aztecas Restaurant & Cantina in Gautier, but injured no one. "Even if it takes a year," he said, "we can rebuild."

The challenge is tough. Little looks the same after 95-mph winds wrecked the building on

a Sunday morning last month as staff were preparing for the usual lunch rush. Now a crew of workers is digging up what was once the lively patio. Wires are dangling from what was once the ceiling. In some parts of the kitchen, sunlight is shining down through empty space that used to be a roof.

But Godoy, the owner, is overseeing a determined rebuilding effort that he hopes will let the restaurant open again in four months.

It could take longer — Godoy knows construction often confronts unforeseen setbacks and

SEE AZTECAS, 4A

Airbnb sues Biloxi over short-term rental restrictions

BY ANITA LEE
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Airbnb has filed a lawsuit in federal court that accuses the city of Biloxi of conspiring with the Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association to "severely restrict" short-term rentals, driving up hotel prices, and limiting flexibility for consumers and residents.

Airbnb, an online marketplace for short-term rentals, and Biloxi property owner Patrice Perillo filed the lawsuit. The lodging association is not being sued, although allegations of a conspiracy between the association and city are detailed.

"This conspiracy — an agreement between Biloxi and a private trade association to restrict competition — is illegal under the federal and Mississippi antitrust laws," says the lawsuit, filed by Gulfport attorneys Adam Harris and John P. McMackin.

Perillo bought a home in the city to use all or part as short-term rental, the lawsuit says, but the city's ordinances have prevented her from doing so. The lawsuit does not say where the home is located. A city ordinance now prohibits short-term rentals in residential areas.

The lawsuit represents only one side of the case. The city had not yet received a copy of the lawsuit or had time to file a response. When the Sun Herald notified the city about the law-

SEE AIRBNB, 6A

Trump turns to affordability message amid economic anguish

BY ALAN RAPPEPORT
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

Lower prices for coffee and fruit. A 50-year mortgage to reduce monthly home pay-

ments. Direct checks of \$2,000 to many Americans. And a new willingness to welcome skilled foreign labor into the United States.

The Trump administration has begun floating a series of ideas over the past several

weeks as it confronts the reality that its economic policies are not helping many Americans who continue to struggle with elevated prices and a sense of economic pessimism.

The elections earlier this month made clear that afforda-

bility was top of mind for many Americans. Voters in New York propelled Zohran Mamdani, the democratic socialist with an ambitious agenda to lower the cost of living, to victory in the mayoral race. Democratic wins in New Jersey and Virginia were built on promises to address the high cost of living in those states.

Only 30% of voters believe President Donald Trump has lived up to their expectations for tackling inflation and the cost of

living, according to a recent NBC News poll. That was his lowest mark for any issue respondents were asked about. And a meager 27% of voters in a CNN poll in late October said Trump's policies had improved the country's economic conditions — less than half of those who thought he had made matters worse.

In the wake of those results, the administration has begun

SEE TRUMP, 4A



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