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The overlooked ‘Little Rocky Mountain National Park’ is a 70,000-acre hidden gem.

In today's paper
SPORTS: First-year Southern Miss football coach calls for enforcement of tampering rules. **1B**

SunHerald

Biloxi rapper back in jail after new felony charge

BY MARGARET BAKER
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A Mississippi Coast rapper has landed back in jail after repeatedly using social media to criticize the courts, prosecutors and media coverage tied to her criminal cases. Just seven days after her

release from jail in January, Biloxi-based rapper Ayiesha Bowdry was taken back into custody, this time on a new felony charge for failure to register as a sex offender. Charging documents show Harrison County authorities jailed Bowdry, 29, on the offense, which carries a potential sentence of up to five years in

prison. Bowdry was previously convicted in Harrison County for failure to register as a sex offender and in Forrest County on a human trafficking charge. A Harrison County sheriff's investigator said the new charge stems from Bowdry's failure to list her social media accounts as required under Mississippi's sex offender regis-

tration law. In addition to a home address, registered sex offenders must disclose the usernames or handles for all social media platforms they use. Authorities confirmed that Bowdry maintained multiple social media accounts — in-

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Biloxi may borrow \$14 million or more for projects

BY MARY PEREZ
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Biloxi Council is still working to determine whether to borrow \$14 million or more to pay for projects throughout the city. The council on Tuesday tabled a resolution to start the borrowing process and will hold a workshop Feb. 10 to try to “whittle down” the list of projects that will be funded by a bond. “If we did everything on that list, why it's only going to cost about \$24 million — that's our best estimate,” said Councilman Paul Tisdale. Repairs and replacements will take a large chunk of the bond money. The city doesn't need to have a final list to borrow the money, but must have most of the money spent within three years. Council president Kenny Glavan said \$14 million is the

SEE PROJECTS, 3A



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Landscaping and construction is performed on the Gulfport High School track and football field on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026.

Gulfport High School stadium construction breaks ground

BY SCOTT WATKINS
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Gulfport High School has broken ground on its new on-campus stadium. Construction began this week around the William “Prince” Jones Track and Field Complex where the Admirals will relocate Friday night football games to from Milner Stadium roughly five miles away. The project has been awarded

to D & P Construction Company at a bid of \$10.2 million, slightly above the estimated cost of \$10 million. The costs have essentially already been covered by taxpayers through the school district's excess fund balance, meaning no bonds need to be issued or taxes raised. Athletic director Matt Walters told the Sun Herald the timeline for completion is currently ahead of schedule. The bulk of the work involves the installa-

tion of prefabricated bleachers that are set to arrive in June and will take six weeks to install. This would allow the stadium to be ready in time for the 2026 season. New turf and a new track were laid down at the site in 2022, allowing the district to minimize costs for a new stadium and streamline the construction process. The new stadium will accommodate 4,500 people and a new visitor's locker room will be

built. Gulfport's final game in Milner Stadium on 38th Avenue saw the Admirals win a South State championship against Brandon before the team won its first classification-era state title in Starkville. The school has further plans for expansion in the area, including pickleball courts, a natatorium and a powerlifting facility. There is no timetable for the post-stadium expansion phases at this time.

Job fair scheduled as iconic hotel prepares to reopen

BY MARY PEREZ
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The restoration of the historic Markham Hotel in downtown Gulfport is nearly complete, and a job fair is planned to staff the hotel, restaurant and other amenities. They don't have an opening date yet, said Tessa Lambert, chief marketing officer for Lodging & Leisure Investments, the owner of the hotel. The job fair is Feb. 23 and 24 at the Markham Hotel at 2301 14th St., Gulfport. It will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and positions are open across all areas of operation, including hotel, food and beverage, events and guest services. Job-seekers can apply in person or online for 82 open positions, such as supervisors, door-

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