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The Fayetteville Observer

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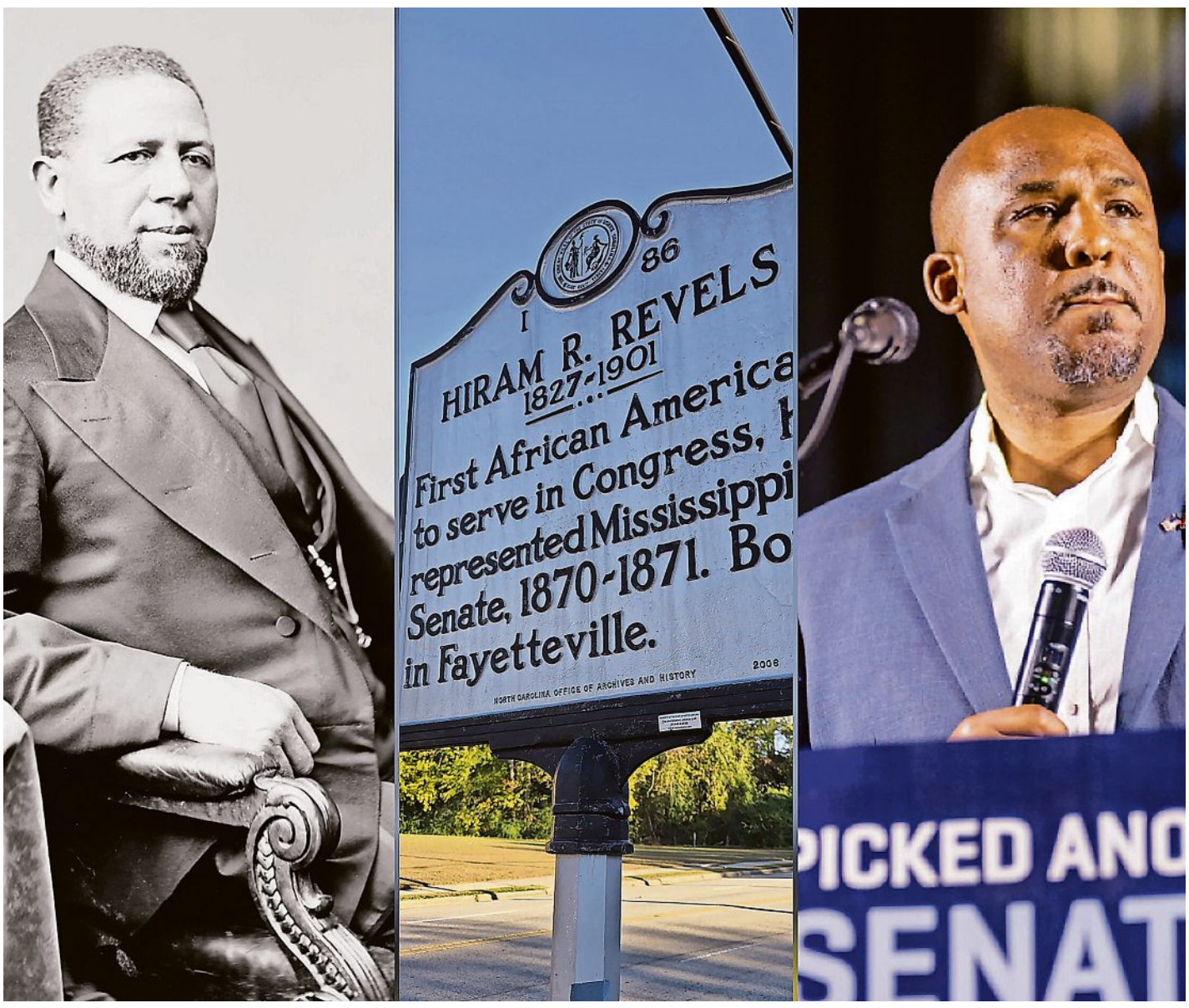
Fayetteville's link to a historic Senate win in MS



Then and now: Fayetteville, NC-born Hiram R. Revels, the first Black U.S. senator, is commemorated by a historical marker on Murchison Road. On Nov. 3, Scott Colom won the same Mississippi Senate seat Revels once held during Reconstruction. MYRON B. PITTS/GETTY/WIKIPEDIA



Myron B. Pitts
Opinion Editor
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Democrat Scott Colom scored one of the most unexpected victories of the Nov. 3 election, when he won a U.S. Senate seat in deeply conservative Mississippi, becoming the first Black person to do since the 1800s Reconstruction era.

Fayetteville people have a reason to be proud, too, and remarks Colom himself made in a victory speech at historically Black Tougaloo College illustrate why.

"For people that don't know, the first African American to be a United States senator was from the great state of Mississippi," Colom said. "His name was Hiram Revels."

If the name sounds familiar, Revels is featured on a North Carolina historical marker on Murchison Road at Blue Street, which cites him as the "First African American to serve in Congress" and lists his Senate service in Mississippi as occurring from 1870 to 1871.

"Born in Fayetteville," states the marker.

The Rev. Aaron Johnson of nearby Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church said at the 2006 unveiling, according to The Fayetteville Observer: "We have brought home one of our most outstanding citizens. Some folks didn't even know anything about him. We've come here today to say he will never be forgotten."

From Fayetteville to the U.S. Senate

Hiram Rhodes Revels was born free around 1827 at a time when slavery was still in practice. His parents "were of mixed Croatan (Lumbee) Indian and African American blood," according to NCPedia, a state-run site that is part of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Revels was a cousin of Matthew Leary Jr., also from

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Officials: ICE detention wasted millions

DHS trying to sell several warehouses it purchased

Trevor Hughes, Irene Wright, Elena Santa Cruz and Ansley Franco
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA – When federal officials revealed plans for a 10,000-bed immigration detention center in this tiny Trump-loving community, locals had a lot of questions. Among them: How, exactly, are you planning to flush the toilets?

Envisioned as a core part of a network of Amazon-like warehouse "mega centers" housing migrants facing deportation, the building sits at the corner of an industrial park fewer than 50 miles east of downtown Atlanta and is large enough to fit 17 football fields. The project would have dwarfed the more than 200 migrant detention facilities operating nationwide today.

Social Circle officials said the Department of Homeland Security lacked the kinds of detailed plans necessary to move the project forward, including access to wastewater treatment for thousands of detainees and as many 2,500 workers. They also said the DHS significantly overpaid for the property.

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Cali Overs, who has led efforts against the proposed immigration detention center near Dysart High School, stands outside the building in Surprise, Arizona.
JOE RONDONE/ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

Inside city's planned museum dedicated to tattoo history

Alex Goldstein
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Johnny Ivey, known professionally as Johnny Awesome, has a stake in Fayetteville's tattoo scene dating back to the late aughts. Now, he runs his own tattoo and piercing studio, Awesome Tattoos on Hay Street, popular for its 24-hour tattoo marathons and wacky wall art.

Come December or early 2027, Ivey hopes to open the first version of his tattoo museum in a back hallway of Awesome Tattoos. Its walls and display cases are already beginning to fill with artifacts from Ivey's personal collection, but for the past several months, he's been collecting relics from local, state and national tattoo history donated by members of the Fayetteville community.

When it opens sometime in the next few months, museum visits will be by reservation only due to limited space, said Miriam Medina, the director of curatorial affairs and historian at Awesome Tattoos.

How does a tattoo museum work?

Museumgoers will enter the parlor through the back door of Awesome Tattoos and be guided forward in time

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