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State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor



June 6, 2025

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the Great State of Mississippi, it is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the 2025 State Games of Mississippi! This event represents the very best of what makes our state great – the dedication, spirit, and perseverance of our people. Whether you are competing or cheering on your favorite athletes, you are contributing to an unforgettable celebration of talent and hard work.

Mississippi has always been a place where community comes together to support one another, and the State Games embody that unity. I am proud that this event gives athletes of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to shine, pushing themselves to new heights and inspiring those around them.

As you participate in the Games, you are not only showcasing your own determination but also helping to strengthen our state's tradition of excellence. The energy and enthusiasm that you bring will inspire future generations of Mississippians to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals.

To all the competitors, coaches, volunteers, and families, thank you for your hard work, your passion, and your commitment to making this event a success. I hope you enjoy the camaraderie, the competition, and the lasting memories that are sure to come from this year's State Games.

Again, welcome to the 2025 State Games of Mississippi. I wish everyone the best of luck in this year's competition, and I commend all of you who worked to make this event possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

Tate Reeves
Governor



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(F) 601.485.1911

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(F) 601.485.1979

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Meridian, MS 39302-1430
www.meridianms.org



March 5, 2025

Greetings State Games Participants and Fans:

Welcome to Meridian as we celebrate 34 years of the State Games of Mississippi.

Over the years, the number of athletes involved in the games has grown tremendously. We credit the warm hospitality of our city, and the wonderful organization that is State Games.

We applaud the State Games of Mississippi which began in 1992 with about 1200 athletes. The 2025 games will host more than 6,000 athletes who will compete in more than 40 sporting events. Athletes young and old, proudly representing their communities, come together in warmth and friendship to celebrate this extraordinary event. Your participation is invaluable.

Meridian is truly proud to be home of the State Games of Mississippi. May the spirit of healthy competition prevail and may you return to your own community a better person for having been a part of the State Games.

Again, welcome to the City of Meridian. We wish you the best as you compete in the State Games of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Jimmie Smith
Mayor

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TO ALL ATHLETES, PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, FAMILIES AND FANS FOR THE 2025
STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI:

On behalf of the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors and All of the Citizens of Lauderdale County, we welcome you and commend you for your participation in this, the 34th Year celebrating the State Games of Mississippi!

Many of you have been before, and we welcome you back to Lauderdale County. If, however, this is your first time to participate or to visit us, we hope you enjoy your stay as much as we enjoy hosting you. Our citizens will be working extra hard to make this a great weekend for you!

We all get so much from sports, whether we are playing, coaching, cheering or just watching, there are lessons to be learned. We especially enjoy how many families participate as a whole! Every participant in the Mississippi State Games is a winner.

We know this will be a busy weekend for you so we invite you and your families to visit us again when you have more time to see all that Lauderdale County has to offer. From outdoor activities to cultural events we have something for everyone. Come back and be a part of our family!

We wish each of you well in the competitions. Our hope is that your experience in the 2025 State Games of Mississippi will be something you cherish for the rest of your life.

Sincerely yours,

Justin "JJ" Anders, President
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors

— VISIT — MERIDIAN

Welcome to Meridian!

Our Visit Meridian Tourism team is honored once again to welcome the state's best athletes to participate in Mississippi's premiere sporting competition. Meridian has long enjoyed our partnership with State Games and the influx of amazing visitors it brings to our community. We thank you for your participation and wish you the best of luck in your competition.

While you are here, we hope you take advantage of your free time (or an extended visit) to enjoy the many wonderful family-friendly experiences Meridian has to offer. Visitors of all ages are delighted by the entertaining yet educational exhibits at Mississippi's Children's Museum – Meridian. Take a tour of The Mississippi Arts + Entertain Experience and learn how many artists and entertainment legends have Mississippi roots.

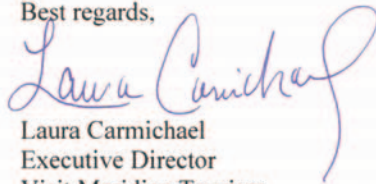
Walk the streets of downtown where you find classic Southern cuisine and friendly dining favorites. Or visit one of our six downtown museums and see why Meridian is the state's unofficial cultural capital. Experience great shopping, fabulous dining, history and more. Or head out to North Hills and enjoy specialty shopping and fun dining experiences.

From The Boxcar, watch the lights atop Meridian's Threefoot Hotel, the tallest symbol of our revitalized downtown. If you love the outdoors, enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities of Bonita Lakes with more than 22 miles of horse and bike trails surrounding three pristine lakes.

Be sure to check out our website, visitmeridian.com for a full list of attractions, events, shopping, and dining options. From the state's oldest restaurant to Mississippi's first brew pub, there's something fun for everyone.

Again, we want to welcome you to Meridian and wish you the best of luck as you compete. We hope you enjoy your visit and make plans to see us again soon.

Best regards,



Laura Carmichael
Executive Director
Visit Meridian Tourism

2000 Front Street, Suite A • Meridian, MS 39301 • 601-482-8001

888-868-7720 VisitMeridian.com



2025 Individual Sports

2 Gun Competition - June 15

Battlefield Shooting Club - Collinsville

5K Road Race & Walk - June 7

Bonita Lakes – Meridian

Archery - Youth Championship - June 7

Lauderdale County Ag Center – Meridian

Axe Throwing - May 17

Alley Cats - Hattiesburg

Bowling - June 21 & 22

Event Zona – Meridian

Chess - June 21

Meridian Community College Gym - Meridian

Cornhole - June 28

Phi Delta Kappa – Meridian

Cycling/Time Trial - June 21

John Stennis Drive – Meridian

Disc Golf - May 17 (Singles) - May 24 (Doubles)

B&W Disc Golf Course - Collinsville

Equestrian Events - Barrels & Poles - June 21

Lauderdale County Ag Center – Meridian

Fencing - June 21 & 22

Oxford Fencing Club – Oxford

Junior Golf - August 2 & 3

Bay Pointe Golf Course – Brandon

Martial Arts - May 17

Meridian Community College Gym - Meridian

Mountain Bike -- June 29

Roosevelt State Park – Morton

Pickleball - May 31 - June 1

Hall's Ferry Park - Vicksburg

Paddle Race - April 26

Bonita Lakes – Meridian

PCC/Pistol Competition - June 14

Battlefield Shooting Club – Collinsville

Pumpkin 5K Run & Mini Run - October 11

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

Sporting Clays - July 26

Camp Binachi – Meridian

Swimming Masters - June 7

Meridian Community College – Meridian

Table Tennis - June 7

Velma Young Community Center - Meridian

Junior Tennis - June 6-8

Northeast Tennis Center - Meridian

Trail Run - June 28

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

2025 Team Sports

All Star Baseball - Tryouts June 4

District 1 – Itawamba Community College - Fulton

District 2 - Northwest Community College - Senatobia

District 3 - Coahoma Community College - Clarksdale

District 4 - East Central Community College - Decatur

All Star Baseball - Tryouts June 3

District 5 - Jones College – Ellisville

District 6 - Hinds Community College - Raymond

District 7 – Southwest Community College - Summit

District 8 – Pearl River Community College - Poplarville

All Star Baseball Tournament - June 9-13

Meridian Community College - Meridian

Baseball - Junior High School - May 27-30

Central – Southeast High School - Meridian

South - Biloxi High School – Biloxi

Baseball - High School - June 2-5

Central – Southeast High School – Meridian

South - Biloxi High School – Biloxi

Baseball Youth - Grand Slam - May 30-June 1

Center City -Pearl The Quarry – Brandon

Softball Youth Recreational Teams - May 3

Northeast Park Softball Complex – Meridian

Softball Youth Fast Pitch Rec Teams - September 13

Northeast Park Softball Complex – Meridian

Softball - High School - Fast Pitch - June 2-5

Central – Clarkdale High School – Meridian

South - Biloxi High School – Biloxi

Soccer High School 7v7- June 21

Northeast Park

Soccer Youth -- June 7-8

Jaycee Park, QV Skyes Park,

MCC, Sammie Davidson - Meridian

Stickball - June 11-14

Choctaw Central High School – Choctaw

Ultimate Flying Disc - May 31

Freedom Ridge Park - Ridgeland

Volleyball - 2 Person - June 21

John Moss Volleyball Courts – Meridian

Volleyball - 4 Person - June 28

John Moss Volleyball Courts – Meridian



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A healthy community begins with the health of its people — and when you thrive, we all do.

It's good to be blue.



MISSISSIPPI



State Games 2024 Ochsner Rush Athletes of Year

Three athletes who competed in the 2024 State Games of Mississippi bring special qualities to multiple sports and were named Ochsner Rush Health Athletes of the Year. The titles go to Rowdy Briscoe of Choctaw (Youth Athlete), Jaycie Collins of Meridian (Female Athlete) and Scott Gray (Male Athlete).

The State Games of Mississippi hosted more than 5,000 amateur athletes in 40 sports in 2024. “It has been amazing to see the levels of competition and the spirit during this year’s events,” said Missye Dozier, Executive Director of the Games. “And we are so grateful to our sponsors and volunteers as they continue to stand strong in support of everything we do for Mississippi’s amateur athletes.”

Based on the national program, the State Games of Mississippi established the annual “Athlete of the Year” award to recognize Mississippi’s amateur athletes. Coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers, and spectators nominated athletes from each of the 2024 sports for the award. The nominated athletes personify the ideals of the State Games movement, such as participation, sportsmanship, special attributes, achievements, efforts, and positive attitudes. Three final winners are chosen: Male, Female and Youth Athletes of the Year.

The State Games also named the 2024 Volunteer of the Year, Shellie Burgess of Brookhaven. Shellie is no stranger to volunteering as she has eight children and has been named 2022 Enterprise Parent of the Year, is an active member of the Lincoln County School District and has



served as the president of the Parent Teacher Organization for the past five years. She and her husband Kelly are also active members of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Rowdy Briscoe

2024 Youth Athlete of the Year

Thirteen-year-old Rowdy Briscoe of Choctaw has always loved Stickball. “I got my own stickball sticks at two-years-old,” he said. “I learned to play from my dad, uncles, friends and watching the games at the Choctaw Indian Fair. It is part of our tradition from our Tribe (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) and we are the next generation to help keep this ‘granddaddy of all sports’ alive.” In the 8th Grade at Neshoba Central Middle School, Rowdy has

been playing stickball for five years and has participated in State Games for six years. In 2024 Rowdy and his team, Beaver Dam, took home the gold medal – and Rowdy was named MVP by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Not just a stickball athlete, he has participated in State Games Youth Baseball, bringing home one bronze medal and two silver medals. Outside of State Games, Rowdy and his team have won their 4th Championship for the World Series of Stickball, Pushmataha division.

Jacelyn “Jaycie” Collins

2024 Female Athlete of the Year

Meridianite Jaycie Collins is a gold-medal swimmer who wins in many events at the age of 42. A State Games participant for two years, Jaycie took home five gold medals in 2023 and 2024 in freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley. “I am a Down Syndrome athlete,” Jaycie said. “I am short, I have limited arm span, my legs are not terribly long but I love to swim and have learned to use what God created to win in swimming.” Outside of State Games, Jaycie participates in the Mississippi Special Olympics. She was a Mississippi Swim Team Delegate to the National Special Olympics in Seattle, Washington in 2018 and a Mississippi Swim Team Delegate to the National Special Olympics in Orlando, Florida in 2022.

Lewis “Scott” Gray Jr.

2024 Male Athlete of the Year

Scott Gray of Meridian has been involved in the sport of volleyball for more than 44 years and has participated in the State Games of Mississippi for more than 30 years as a participant and a sport commissioner. This 60-year-old is proud of his record over the years, winning three gold medals and many silver and bronze medals. “This year our team took a silver, but I was more proud that I was able to compete in the heat,” he laughs. In the early days of the State Games Scott remembers his work setting up the nets for the volleyball tournaments and pushing hard to make volleyball an enduring State Games sports. Outside of State Games he has competed in multiple

tournaments all while coaching soccer for 20 years, raising three kids who love to play and having three knee surgeries. He says he could not have done any of it without the support of his wife, Dawn Marie.

Other nominees for the 2024 Ochsner Rush Health Athlete of the Year included:

2 Gun Competition	Justin Lewis
22 Caliber Rifle Competition	Caden Dees
5K Road Race	Ryan Thompson
Archery Youth	Trip Alexander
Axe Throwing	Wade Wicht
All-Star Baseball	Preston Sowell
High School Baseball	Jackson Irvin
Junior High Baseball	Bryson Faia
Bowling	Will King
Cornhole	Scotty Massey
Cycling	Randal Rawson
Disc Golf	Daryl Gilbert
Equestrian	Cassidy Martin
Fencing	Douglas Krafft
Junior Golf	Ben Eichelberger
Mountain Bike	Michelle Williams
Paddle Race	Kelly Kinderman
Pickleball	Greg Head
Pistol Competition	Nicholas Walker
Youth Soccer	Avery Blake Shirley
Soccer High School 7v7	Brayden Combs
Softball Youth Recreational	Caroline Singleton
Sporting Clays	Chylen Williams
Table Tennis	Matthew Atchison
Junior Tennis	Charlotte Lucas
Trail Run	Daisy Scott
Ultimate Flying Disc	Allison Bohler
Volleyball Beach 2 Person	Jason Tiffin





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The traditional Choctaw game of stickball is one of the fiercest field sports in America. Its roots go back centuries, when warriors gathered together to play a game to promote peace and unity, rather than fight a war that would create divisions.

Today's Choctaw warriors play the game for sport. But they take pride in keeping an important part of the Choctaw legacy alive.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is proud to be a part of the State Games of Mississippi. As a proud sponsor, we wish each participant the best of luck in competition.

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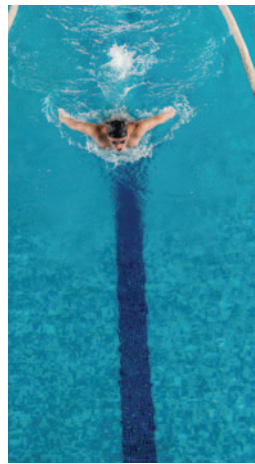


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Join Rick Cleveland and Malcolm White for an engaging conversation at The MAX exploring the surprising and inspiring connections between Mississippi's creative icons and athletic legends.

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Jaycie Collins National Winner

We congratulate State Games of Mississippi swimmer Jaycelyn “Jaycie” Collins for being named the National Congress of State Games 2024 Adult Athlete of the Year. Meridianite Jaycie achieved this honor after being named the 2024 Ochsner Rush Health Female Athlete of the Year recently. The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) is an American nonprofit sports association, consisting of 27 full members divided into three regions, of which the State Games of Mississippi is member. Jaycie is a gold-medal swimmer who wins in many events at the age of 42. A State Games of Mississippi participant for two years, Jaycie took home five gold medals in 2023 and 2024 in freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley. “I am a Down Syndrome athlete,” Jaycie said. “I am short, I have limited arm span, my legs are not terribly long but I love to swim and have learned to use what God created to win in swimming.”

State Games — Celebrating 34 Years

The State Games of Mississippi began in 1991 with 1,200 athletes competing in 12 sports. The 2024 State Games consisted of 40 sports with more than 5,000 athletes competing. This year, 40 sports will again attract amateur athletes from across the state for top competition.

The State Games of Mississippi is a privately-sponsored, non-profit organization that promotes amateur athletics and healthy lifestyles for Mississippians of all ages and abilities.

The State Games of Mississippi is a member of the National Congress of State Games and is affiliated with the U.S. Olympic Committee. Mississippi is one of 35 states that hold State Games competitions each year.

The State Games of Mississippi is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. A five-person staff conducts the day-to-day activities of the organization.

The State Games of Mississippi is a non-profit organization funded by sponsorships, donations and entry fees. It is our many sponsors who help us keep entry fees affordable.



In the first years of the State Games, the Opening Ceremonies were held at Meridian High School's Ray Stadium.



Opening Ceremony • June 6, 2025



Food, fun, parade of athletes, lighting of the State Games torch and spectacular fireworks!

Festivities kick-off at 5:30 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m.

Downtown Meridian, MS



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Take exit 153 off I-20.

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From I-20 (Tuscaloosa/Birmingham)

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www.stategamesofms.org

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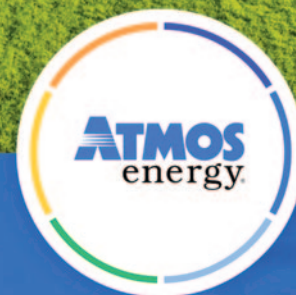
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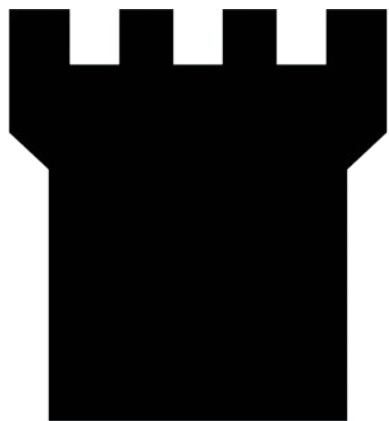
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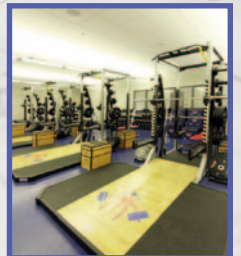
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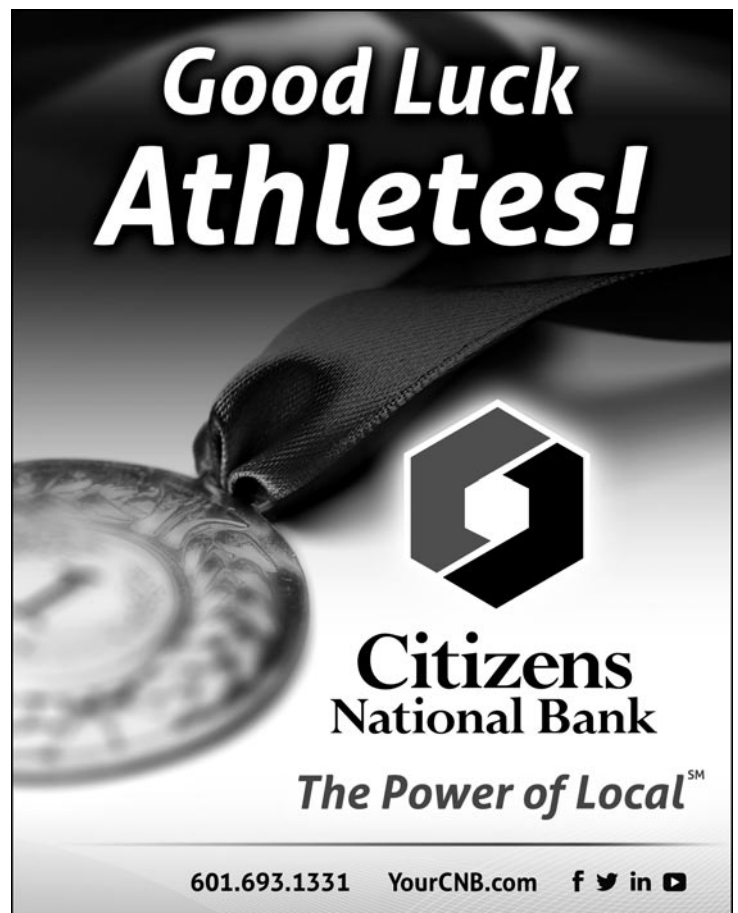
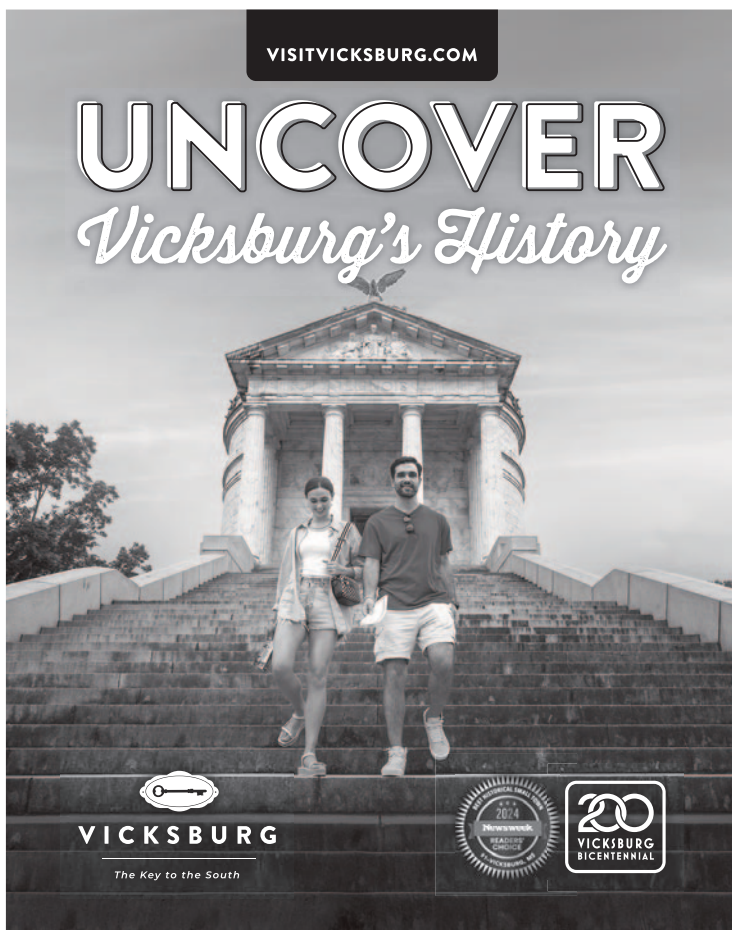
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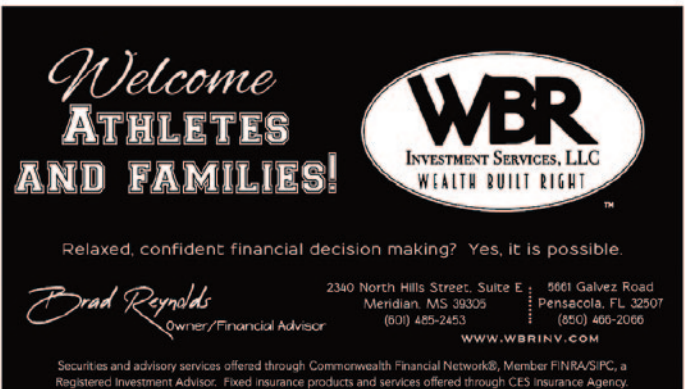
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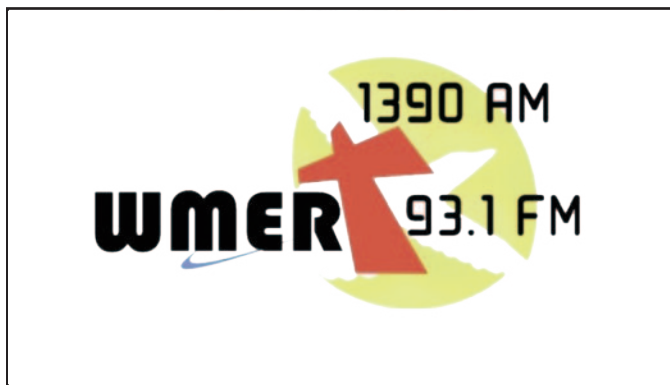
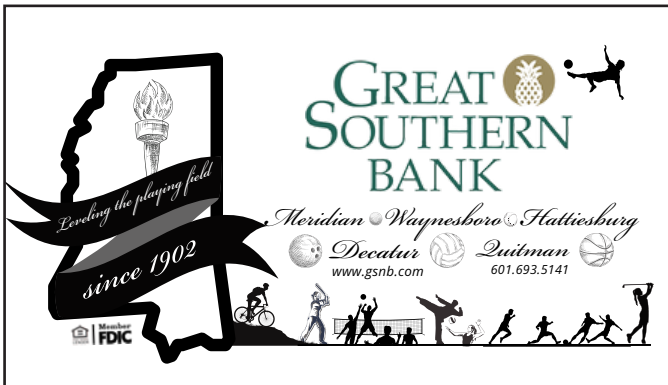


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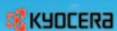
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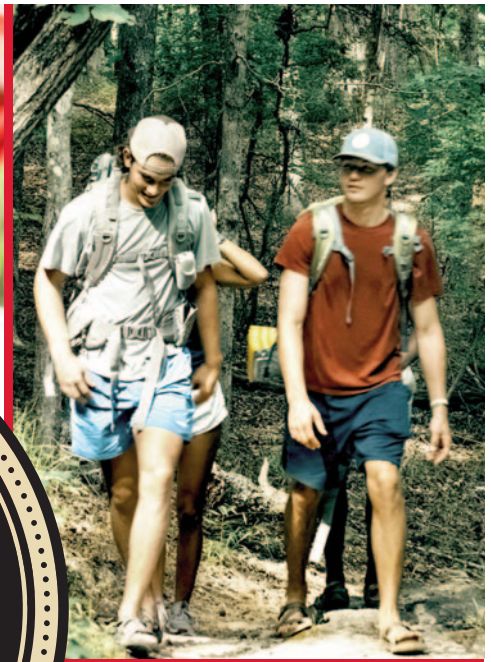
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