



Seattle Times file illustration via TNS

Here are 10 questions you should ask when choosing a day-care provider.

In today's paper

SPORTS: Pelicans blow out Clippers for 4th straight win. 1B



There's always more to the story.

Get the latest updates online. Set up the free access with your subscription at sunherald.com/activate

SunHerald



ROGELIO SOLIS AP

Debris covers the ground from a destroyed diner early Saturday in Rolling Fork, Miss. The diner's two owners and six employees survived the tornado Friday night by hiding out in the cooler.

Coastal Living names Pass Christian a best place to live

BY MARY PEREZ
meperez@sunherald.com

A beach town in South Mississippi has made it onto "Coastal Living" magazine's list of Best Places to Live on the Coast for 2023.

The spring edition of the publication lists Pass Christian as No. 4 on the list, along with scenic beach towns like Vero Beach, Florida and Laguna Beach, California.

This is the first time a city in South Mississippi has made it on the list.

Coastal Living was charmed by Pass Christian's "picket fences, historic cottages and moss-decked Spanish oaks." The article called the Pass "a gleaming, sweet place with affordable real estate," where people can raise a family and embrace the Gulf Coast lifestyle by strolling, kayaking, crabbing, boating, birding and passing time on gracious porches.

Robin Roberts frequently talks about her hometown of Pass Christian on Good Morning

SEE CHRISTIAN, 3A

Daunting recovery underway in tornado-ravaged Mississippi

BY LEAH WILLINGHAM
Associated Press

Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado wrought a path of destruction in the Mississippi Delta, even as furious new storms Sunday struck Georgia, where two tigers briefly escaped their badly damaged safari park.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through several towns on its hour-long path late Friday. One man was killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through the debris of

flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

Jarrod Kunze drove to the hard-hit town of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, from his home in Alabama after hearing about the storm, ready to volunteer "in whatever capacity I'm needed."

"The town is devastated," Kunze said. "Everything I can see is in some state of destruction."

Kunze was among several volunteers working Sunday morning at a staging area, where cases of bottled water and other supplies were being prepared for distribution.

"Sharkey County, Mississippi, is one of the poorest counties in the state of Mississippi, but we're still resilient," Rolling

Fork Mayor Eldridge Walker said Sunday. "I feel confident that we're going to come back and build this community back bigger and better for our families and that's what we're hoping and that's what we're looking to do."

"Continue to pray for us," he added. "We've got a long way to go, and we certainly thank everybody for their prayers and for anything they will do or can do for this community."

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration for Mississippi early Sunday, making federal funding available to the areas hardest hit.

The recovery efforts in Mississippi were underway even as the National Weather Service warned of a new risk of more severe weather Sunday — including high winds, large hail

and possible tornadoes in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

A tornado reportedly touched down early Sunday in Troup County, Georgia, near the Alabama border, according to the Georgia Mutual Aid Group. Affected areas included the county seat of LaGrange, about 67 miles (about 108 kilometers) southwest of Atlanta.

"Many buildings damaged, people trapped," the agency said on Facebook. In nearby West Point, roads, including Interstate Highway 85, were blocked by debris. "If you do not have to get on the roads this morning please do not travel."

Two tigers "briefly escaped" early Sunday from their encl-

SEE TORNADO, 3A

ANALYSIS

Conference meetings not always open at state Legislature

BY BOBBY HARRISON
Mississippi Today

House and Senate conferees met for days including through the Easter weekend in 1997 to hammer out an agreement on the landmark Mississippi Adequate Education Program legislation that was ultimately approved by both chambers.

All of those often intense and combustible meetings were open to the members of the media, who were on hand to see Senate negotiator Hob Bryan, D-Amory, storm out of the meeting in response to House proposals he found objectionable. Reporters also were on hand when the conferees, with the exception of then-Senate Appropriations Chair Dick Hall, R-Jackson, signed the compromise on the school funding formula, sending it on to the two chambers that approved it overwhelmingly.

Joint rule 23A of the Mississippi House and Senate stipulates that "all official meetings of any conference committee on a bill or on a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment shall be open to the public at all times, unless declared an executive session in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-41-7, Mississippi Code of 1972."

That is the rule now, approved

SEE LEGISLATURE, 3A

Layla's Coffeehouse closed, Cajun Gourmet closing soon

BY MARY PEREZ
meperez@sunherald.com

A restaurant whose soups, sandwiches, specialty coffee and desserts made it a favorite spot on the Coast has closed after 20 years and a Cajun shop will close at the end of the month.

As South Mississippi celebrates dozens of new restaurants opening across the three Coast counties, business

owners are sharing on social media that the economy and other struggles are forcing them to close.

Layla's Coffeehouse & Eatery at 2079 East Pass Road is no longer in business, the owner posted on Facebook.

Originally Nezaty's Café, the restaurant opened in 1993.

Linsey O'Keefe bought the restaurant from her mother-in-law in 2018, according to Gulf

SEE LAYLA'S, 3A



MARY PEREZ meperez@sunherald.com

Layla's Coffeehouse and Eatery on East Pass Road in Gulfport has closed. The restaurant that previously was Nezaty's Cafe had operated on the Coast for 20 years.



We're committed to providing the essential journalism you need. Find the content important to you inside. Subscribers can find an additional 50+ pages each day by going to sunherald.com/eedition/extraextra or by scanning the code to the left.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
800-346-2472
sunherald.com/customer-service



7 98256 00006 5