



**No market**  
Brookshire's selling two stores, closing Jackson sites, **6B**



**Monster mash**  
Monster Freestyle Fallout comes to Coliseum, **10D**

# The Clarion-Ledger

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Thursday, January 14, 2010 ■ Jackson, Miss.

## Quake toll to be staggering

■ Disaster in Haiti leaves impoverished nation in rubble, chaos

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to Pres-

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**Gallery:** Haiti earthquake  
**Gallery:** Devastation in Haiti

**INSIDE**  
■ Related story, **2A**

ident Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds. Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

See **HAITI, 4A**



Injured people sit along Delmas Road on Wednesday, the day after an earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday.

The Associated Press

## Currier named health officer

■ To lead Miss. Health Department

By **Jerry Mitchell**  
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Dr. Mary Currier has been appointed Mississippi's health officer for the next six years, succeeding her friend and mentor, the late Dr. Ed Thompson.

Thompson, who died Dec. 1 after a long bout with colon cancer, recently had been recognized by the National Association of Local Boards of Health as the outstanding state health officer in the nation.

Currier, 53, has served since as interim health officer. She said she wasn't expecting the job offer Wednesday but was happy to receive it.

"I'm honored. I truly am. Public health is my passion," said Currier, who has spent 20 years with the state Department of Health. "We're a state with a whole lot of public health problems. We certainly won't run out of things to do."

Board Chairman Dr. Luke Lampton of Magnolia acknowledged Currier "has got some really big shoes to fill, but I think she has the makings of a great state health officer that will leave a legacy like Dr. Thompson and Dr. Alton Cobb. I think she's going to be a great asset for this state for many, many years."

The board met Wednesday in executive session and discussed whether to have a national search.

"After a lot of discussion and consideration and some extensive conversations with Dr. Currier, the board decided she was the most qualified

See **OFFICER, 4A**

## JACKSON'S WATER CRISIS PIPE PRESSURE RISING



Joe Ellis/The Clarion-Ledger

A crew from the Flowood Public Works Department works to repair a broken water main beneath Wesley Avenue near Mill Street in Jackson.

### Getting to leaks challenge for crews

By **Heather Civil**  
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Melvin Mangum stood at the side of the pit, his rubber boots covered in runny mud.

Five feet below him, two of his workers dug their way through knee-deep water and mud to get to a leak underneath Wesley Avenue in Jackson. A pump chugged nearby.

The men are part of a seven-person crew from Flowood assisting Jackson in repairs to its water lines. "It's rough over here,"



Joe Ellis/The Clarion-Ledger

A crew from the Flowood Public Works Department works to repair a main beneath Wesley Avenue near Mill Street in Jackson on Wednesday morning.

Mangum said. "We're just blessed that we didn't have this kind of stuff in Flowood."

Crews also from Madison, Ridgeland, Richland, Hattiesburg, Greenville, Canton and the Mississippi Department of Transportation are helping Jackson

Public Works with the repairs.

Most crews have been working eight- to 12-hour shifts, moving from one leak to the next. Some breaks take only an hour or so to repair. Others take all day, depending on how difficult

See **CREWS, 8A**

### Workers close in on last of repairs

By **Gary Pettus**  
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While the water-pressure crisis has eased in Jackson, several agencies and institutions will remain closed today, including state offices and Jackson Public Schools.

Others, including Gary Road Elementary and Gary Road Intermediate schools in Byram, are reopening.

Freezing temperatures over the past week have caused at least 132 water-line breaks in Jackson and a citywide boil-water alert. On Wednesday, Jackson Public Works and crews from other Mississippi cities had more than 30 breaks left

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**Gallery:** Jackson water crisis  
**Interactive:** Map of water line breaks

to fix. The breaks have shut down everything from state and city governments to local restaurants. Gov. Haley Barbour earlier this

week declared a state of emergency in the city.

Water pressure in the city's system must reach 65 pounds per square inch "in order for everyone to have

See **WATER, 8A**

### MORE INSIDE

■ Democrats hold marathon talks on health care bill, **2A**

■ Senate backs extra budget-cutting power for governor, **1B**

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**WARM**  
Warming up nicely, but mostly cloudy. Coolish tonight. **Weather, 2A**

**59** | **34**  
HIGH | LOW

**CORRECTIONS**  
If The Clarion-Ledger publishes an error, we will correct it. To report an error, call (601) 961-7250. Correction, **2A**

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