



# Dogs have good start

Mississippi State's Mullen praises players' retention from spring after opening day of fall practice, **1C**

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# The Clarion-Ledger

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## LONDON PRIMER



Robert Deutsch/USA TODAY Sports

Gabby Douglas, 16, became the first African American to win all-around Olympic gold in women's gymnastics Thursday, earning this tweet from Oprah Winfrey: "Flowing happy tears!!" **More, 1C, 4C.**

## Douglas joins elite group of champions

Gabby Douglas officially became America's Olympic darling Wednesday, winning the coveted all-around gymnastics title.

Douglas, 16, is only the fourth American to ever win the title, joining Mary Lou Retton, Carly Patterson and Nastia Liukin.

Douglas led from start to finish, although Russian gymnast Viktoria Komova stayed close the entire way and finished second.

Aly Raisman, who posted the highest qualifying score among the Americans and effectively kept Jordyn Wieber out of Wednesday's competition, tied for third place but missed the bronze medal when a tiebreaker rule did not go her way.

The women will compete again Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in individual event finals.

## Phelps bests Lochte

Michael Phelps got even with Ryan Lochte on Wednesday.

Phelps, who lost to Lochte on the first day of the swimming competition, earned some revenge by beating Lochte in the 200-meter individual medley. The race was their second and final head-to-head showdown of the Games.

It was Phelps' 16th career gold medal.

## Four things to know

■ Phelps' and Lochte's relative struggles have overshadowed a great Games for other U.S. swimmers. Wednesday featured Rebecca Soni breaking her own world record in the 200-meter breast stroke and Tyler Clary beating Lochte in the 200-meter backstroke.

■ Wednesday's big day pushed the U.S. ahead of China in total medals won (37-34), and tied the Chinese for most golds (18).

■ The boxing competition has been tainted by poor officiating. One referee was sent home and the bout he scored was overturned on appeal. The referee had awarded a fight to a boxer who had been knocked down six times in the last round and had to be helped from the ring after the bout.

■ The track and field events start today, although the men's 100-meter heats don't begin until Saturday.

Follow the Olympics at clarionledger.com

## MISSISSIPPI PATH FORWARD: GOV. PHIL BRYANT

# Stumping for reform

### Education takes center stage at Neshoba fair



Gov. Phil Bryant speaks about his first term's successes during his Thursday morning address at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia.

Rogelio V. Solis/The Associated Press

By Dustin Barnes  
dbarnes2@jackson.gannett.com

PHILADELPHIA — Crowds gathered to listen to Gov. Phil Bryant's speech at the Neshoba County Fair Thursday learned a thing or two about where he sees Mississippi going in the next few years. Part of his Mississippi Path Forward initiative, the governor inspired the fairgoers with his list of top goals for the state and its residents.

Perhaps his biggest goal for next year's state Legislature is to push through education reform, a fact Bryant drove home when he spoke about teacher evaluations, dropout rates and work force training programs.

"Every classroom needs the best qualified teacher we can provide," he said.

His solution: "You find the best teachers and you pay them more."

The state ranks 46th or 47th in the nation for teacher pay and last in the Southeast, Kevin Gilbert, president of the Mississippi Association of Educators, said last week when Bryant first announced his merit pay plan.

See BRYANT, 4A

**1** Education — Bryant has said he wants the 2013 legislative session to focus on education, with some of his goals including lowering dropout rates and charter schools.

**2** Health care — The state's health care issue is one of Bryant's main focuses, he said. "We're the most underserved health care state in the nation, and we need to do something about it."

**3** Job creation — Making Mississippi one of the most attractive options for global businesses is high on the governor's list.

**4** Teen pregnancy — Educating the youth is one way Bryant said the state can lower its high teen birth rate. Going after those who prey on teens is another.

**5** Healthier Miss. — With the state's unhealthy record, Bryant said it's time for residents to take control. "I know this gets tough sometimes to remind people that their health care starts with them."

## HOUSE SPEAKER PHILIP GUNN



Republican

Looking ahead to the next legislative session, Gunn told the fairgoers he was ready to get the Mississippi House motivated to sign off on legislation approved by the Senate and encouraged by the governor.

Gunn touted success from the recent session as a sign of how the state will move forward. Among those successes were the House rules change where no money could be appropriated that the state doesn't have to spend. He also praised the Child Protection Act.

## SECRETARY OF STATE DELBERT HOSEMANN



Republican

Keeping an eye on voter fraud has been a huge priority for Hosemann. Under his leadership, the state has prosecuted more cases of voter fraud than ever before, he told the fair audience.

He also stressed the importance of the state's new voter ID initiative that won overwhelming support last November, saying that while the people in Washington, D.C. may not care "if a voter is registered, of age or alive," Mississippi certainly does care.

## STATE TREASURER LYNN FITCH



Republican

In her first term as state treasurer, Fitch said she's determined to promote financial literacy to the state's youth.

Fitch also said she wants to continue promoting state colleges to Mississippi students, through her office's programs that allow families to save for higher education.

"We want our kids to go to college here and stay here," she said. "We want them to be our work force, and to do that we have to start with an education plan."

— Compiled by Dustin Barnes

**MORE ON MISSISSIPPI PATH FORWARD, 4A; ADDITIONAL COVERAGE, 10A**

# Government reports Medicaid tax cheats

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of Medicaid health care service providers still got paid by the government even though they owed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal taxes, congressional investigators say. A legal technicality is making it harder for the IRS to collect.

In a report released Thursday,

the Government Accountability Office says Medicaid payments to doctors, hospitals and other providers aren't technically considered federal funds, since they're funneled through state health care programs.

Because of that glitch, the IRS can't just shut off the payment spigot to collect tax debts. Investigators only

looked at three states, so the full extent of the losses is even greater.

One dentist who received more than \$100,000 from Medicaid while owing back income taxes was spending money on fine dining, trips, spas, shopping and wine, the report said.

In another case, a medical transport company received more than \$1 million from

Medicaid while owing millions in unpaid payroll taxes for its employees. Not paying the payroll taxes is a violation of federal law.

Medicaid, a federal-state program that mainly serves low-income people, is the companion to Medicare, which primarily serves seniors.

While the IRS can block Medicare payments to See MEDICAID, 7A

## COMING SUNDAY



**DOCTOR SHOPPING:** Addicts take advantage of lax monitoring program.

## CORRECTIONS

If The Clarion-Ledger publishes an error, we will correct it. To report an error, call (601) 961-7163.

## WARM

Partly sunny. A thunderstorm tonight. **Weather, 6C**



94 | 75  
HIGH | LOW

Business	5B	Metro/State	1B
Classified	1D	Opinion	8-9A
Comics	9-10B	Sports	1C
Crosswords	10B, 4D	Style	7B
Deaths	4B	TV listings	6C

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