



**STATE**  
**John Grisham and losing to politics**

**INSIDE >>3**



**OPINION**  
**Saying goodbye**

**FORUM >> 4**



**BASKETBALL**  
**Community supports Travis Outlaw Day**

**SPORTS >> 1C**

SERVING STARKVILLE, OKTIBBEHA COUNTY AND MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1903

# Starkville DAILY NEWS

**tvspotlight TODAY**

STARKVILLEDAILYNEWS.COM | Sunday, August 23, 2015 | Volume No. 111, Issue No. 235 | \$1

## Grand jury to meet on local terrorism case

By **CONNOR GUYTON**  
 life@starkvilledailynews.com

A grand jury will meet in Oxford this week to determine whether Jaelyn Young and Muhammad Dakhllalla will stand trial for allegedly conspiring and attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Young and Dakhllalla were arrested at the Golden Triangle Airport in Columbus on August 8 after spending more than two months discussing plans to join the Islamic State with undercover FBI agents posing as ISIS facilitators, according to affidavits. A preliminary hearing was held on August 11, in which U.S. Magistrate Judge S. Allan Alexander ordered that both

be held without bail, saying she believed the desire to commit acts of terrorism is "probably still there" in the two former Mississippi State students.

Young, 20, of Vicksburg and Dakhllalla, 22, of Starkville, had been in a relationship for several months before contact with FBI agents began. In conversations with the agents, Young said she and Dakhllalla had a nikkah — an Islamic religious ceremony that celebrates the signing of a marriage contract — so they could travel together without an escort.

Starkville's small Muslim community is, two weeks after the arrest, still in shock and disbelief, said Rani Sullivan, faculty advisor of the Muslim Student Association at MSU. However, she added that services have continued as normal at the Islamic Center of Mississippi since the arrests.

On August 13, threats against the mosque on social media were reported to the Starkville Police Department. The alleged threats included several statements regarding burning down the building. Investigation into the threats is now in the hands of the FBI.

"The FBI and Starkville Police Department are working with federal and state prosecutors to evaluate this threat and determine whether federal or state charges will be appropriate," said Deborah Madden, FBI spokesperson.

Dennis Harmon, a Columbus attorney representing the Dakhllallas, said that the family members disabled their social media accounts shortly following the arrests on August 8 and, therefore, had not seen any of the threats.

"All we are getting are notes of support," Harmon said.

Muhammad Dakhllalla's father, Oda Dakhllalla, is active within the local Muslim community, but does not serve as the imam of the mosque.

"We do not even have an imam at this mosque," Sullivan said. "What we have is an executive committee that consists of a president, vice president, secretary and so forth. We are a small community and different members have given the Friday sermon; Oda has done that several times."

Sullivan added that Oda Dakhllalla does not serve on the executive committee that makes decisions for the center.

While not serving the mosque in any official capacity, Oda Dakhllalla has always been enthusiastic to share his beliefs with others.

See **CASE** | Page 3A

## School board likely to decide on Holloway's fate Monday

By **JAMES CARSKADON**  
 educ@starkvilledailynews.com

The Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board of Trustees will likely decide whether Superintendent Lewis Holloway will maintain his job Monday.

A special called board meeting is scheduled to take place at 5 p.m. at the Greensboro Center. An agenda for the meeting does not have any specific details, but the one item listed is the determination of need for an executive session. School Board President Eddie Myles said last week the board would likely make a decision on Holloway at Monday's meeting.

Holloway was arrested on Aug. 10 on two charges of simple assault by threats. His arrest stems from an Aug. 9 incident during which he allegedly shot a firearm into the air, putting one minor and one adult "in fear of eminent bodily harm," according to affidavits filed by the accuser in Oktibbeha County Justice Court.

Oktibbeha County Sheriff's deputies responded to the incident near Holloway's home on Mt. Olive Road, but no arrests were made at the scene. After the accuser filed two affidavits against Holloway, a warrant was issued for the superintendent's arrest. He turned himself in and was released shortly after on \$1,000 bond.

The day of Holloway's arrest, the SOCSA school board placed Holloway on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation by board attorney John Hill.

Court records show Holloway filed an



Holloway

See **HOLLOWAY** | Page 3A

## MSU modern architecture exhibit makes home in Jackson

By **ALEX ONKEN**  
 news@starkvilledailynews.com

A small student exhibit which started early last year at Mississippi State University has made a new home in the Old Capitol Museum, 100 State St. in Jackson. The "Modern Mississippi" photo exhibit takes a look at different examples of modern architecture. The exhibit is running now through Nov. 15.

"We talked about highlighting modern architecture in Mississippi because not that many people are aware that Mississippi has a modern culture to it with



The St. Richard's Catholic Church building in Jackson was built in 1968 and is an example of modern architecture. The use of concrete, stone, and natural light are common elements expressed through modern architecture. (Photo courtesy of David Lewis)

See **EXHIBIT** | Page 3A

## Do you know this history mystery?

Do you know when and where this great fire occurred? From the looks of it, even in silhouette, it must have been a major event.

If you've seen this picture before, or even watched the fire yourself, tell us about it at editor@starkvilledailynews.com and we'll put your answer in next week's feature.

Only one person took a guess at last week's picture of several people, most prominently a slim woman in a



See **MYSTERY** | Page 3A

## Water test comes back clean for Starkville after leak

SDN staff report

The boil-water notice for more than 500 Starkville water customers has been lifted, according to a notice posted Saturday on the city's website.

The warning was provoked by a Wednesday break in a water main along Highway 12, in front of Backstage Music. Residents and businesses were asked to boil water for two full minutes before using it for drinking or food preparation.

It applied to customers in the several-block area along Highway 12 between Eckford Drive and Louisville Street, on

Louisville Street between Wood Street and Linden Circle, and in Longmeadow Subdivision.

The notice went out about 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, and was expected to last until at least 5 p.m. Monday. That's when results were expected from test samples sent to the state health department in Jackson. But Terry Kemp, general manager of the Starkville Utilities Department, said on Friday that the city was doing all it could to get the samples processed quickly, in hope of getting clean results on Saturday.

That appears to have happened.

The water main break occurred on Wednesday when a contractor for Atmos Energy, digging to repair a gas leak, struck a city water line about 10 to 15 feet underground. City workers pumped out the hole — briefly flooding Backstage Music's parking lot when a storm drain backed up — and had the leak fixed

See **LEAK** | Page 3A

## All smiles for Dak Prescott



Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott looks up to have his picture made during the school's Fan Day on Saturday. An announced crowd of 7,500 attended the event. For more on what took place inside the Palmeiro Center, see sports page 1C. (Photo by Danny P. Smith, SDN)

## Author Watson to speak Tuesday

SDN staff report

Author and Mississippi State University graduate Brad Watson will hold a public reading on campus Tuesday afternoon.

The free public presentation will be at

3:30 p.m. in the Fowlkes Auditorium, inside Colvard Student Union, 198 Lee Blvd., according to a news release from Sasha Steinberg in the MSU public affairs

See **WATSON** | Page 3A



**Newsroom**  
 662-323-1642

**Online**

www.starkvilledailynews.com



**Inside**

**2A:** Around Town  
**4A:** Forum  
**5A:** Weather

**1B:** Lifestyles  
**6B:** Classifieds  
**1C:** Sports

**GOOD MORNING**  
 TO OUR LOYAL SUBSCRIBER  
**MASHALA PULLIAM**



## At Risk for Kidney Disease? Receive a FREE SCREENING to find out!

Often referred to as the "silent" disease because it has no symptoms in its early stages, kidney disease can be treated. Those who have high blood pressure, diabetes, and/or a family history of high blood pressure, diabetes or kidney disease are at increased risk of developing it!

That's why OCH Regional Medical Center and Mississippi Kidney Foundation are partnering to offer free kidney screenings which will include blood pressure, blood sugar, urinalysis, full renal panel, complete blood count, lipid panel and cholesterol check.

Wednesday, September 2 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. • OCH Community Room

Supplies are limited, so make your reservation today by calling the Mississippi Kidney Foundation at 601-981-3611.



www.och.org

# John Grisham talks politics at Mississippi Book Festival

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS  
Associated Press

JACKSON— John Grisham says being on the losing side of a Mississippi political fight gave him plenty of time to write big chunks of his first two legal thrillers, "A Time to Kill" and "The Firm."

Grisham took part Saturday in the first Mississippi Book Festival at the state Capitol.

He recounted how, as a young state representative in the building during the 1980s, he was powerless after supporting a losing candidate for House speaker. So, instead, he listened

and took notes as politicians drank coffee — or something stronger — and told tall tales.

"There's a storytelling tradition that goes hand-in-hand with our literary tradition," Grisham said.

More than 3,000 people attended the daylong book festival on the grounds of the state Capitol to celebrate the storytelling legacy of Mississippi, the home state of William Faulkner and other literary greats.

Throughout the day, panelists discussed a wide range of topics, including southern fiction, sports, food



Best selling author and former Mississippi lawmaker John Grisham serving as the master of ceremonies on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015 in Jackson, Miss. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

writing and civil rights history.

Aram Goudsouzian, chairman of the history department at the University of Memphis, discussed his book, "Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power and the Meredith March Against Fear." It recounts a 1966 Memphis-to-Jackson freedom march started by James Meredith, whose 1962 enrollment as the first black student at the University of Mississippi had been met with violent protests.

Meredith survived being shot a few miles into the 1966 march. Hundreds of civil rights activists completed the 220-

mile walk in his name. About 15,000 people rallied at the Mississippi Capitol at the end of the march, and Meredith spoke to the crowd there.

Goudsouzian said more than 4,000 African-Americans registered to vote in Mississippi during the march, which happened a year after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Among them, he said, was a 106-year-old man in the northern Mississippi town of Batesville.

Speaking of the march, Goudsouzian said: "It exposed the depth of black grievances and the height of black possibilities."

## EXHIBIT

From page 1A

architecture," said Jacob A. Gines, assistant professor for the college of architecture and design at MSU. "The exhibit takes these buildings from the mid-century modern area and put them on display."

The exhibit was mainly focused on the Jackson and surrounding areas.

"That made the most sense, let's go to the capital and start there," Gines said. "But these gems are all over place."

"It's been really fascinating to have the work displayed in a place like the Old Capitol Museum," said David Lewis, a senior at MSU's school of architecture. "It's really neat to have the photos of the modern buildings in such a historically beautiful yet architecturally different building. The juxtaposition between the two is really neat. Jackson is my hometown, and being able to show off the work that we've done to my friends and family to show off my education and educate people at home on what we're doing."

According to Gines, modern architecture developed out of a reaction to previous architectural styles. The style takes a closer look at functionality, precision, and geometry while also using what was seen as unconventional building materials of the time such as concrete and steel. The style was popular starting in the 1930s and remained in style until the mid-1970s.

"You see curves," Gines said. "There's a common misconception that modern architecture is just a bunch of boxes. That's not true. Modern architecture from a definitive standpoint is an exploration in form generation. It takes on all kinds of different forms and explorations with that. It's about geometry and forms. It's about certain instances in pattern making. It's also about scale and size in comparison to

proportion and some fundamental design elements."

"One of my favorite places to photograph was the buildings at Tougaloo College," Lewis said. "It's an historically black college, and so not a lot of people are able to see the campus and see a lot of the buildings. Seeing those buildings for the first time was really fascinating. They're some of the most fascinating I've ever seen, not just in Mississippi. They are incredibly unique. It was a part of a master plan that was never fully realized. They're just these amazing tubular buildings. It would have changed the look completely of what Tougaloo would have looked liked. It's neat to think what it would have been."

Some of the buildings featured in the exhibit are slated for demolition.

"Some of these buildings are threatened to be demolished and we are losing our own history," Gines said. "It's a shame and a travesty. They're a part of our history. I think for a long time, modern buildings have taken a back seat to more traditional and classic buildings. I think a lot of people misunderstood their presence in our society or the value that they really do play. Whether it is modern architecture or not, we need to be considering new and innovative uses of these buildings that respond to our society and our culture now."

"The Meridian Police Department building is up for demolition," Lewis said. "The process is at a stand still right now because there is a lot of pushback to save it. One of the reasons why we did this is to save places like the Meridian Police Department that could just use repairs and renovation instead of demolition. It could be an incredibly well functioning building instead of just tearing it down."

For the exhibit's website featuring interactive maps and photo galleries, visit [www.lovemsmod.com](http://www.lovemsmod.com). For the Old Capitol Museum, visit [mdah.state.ms.us/oldcap](http://mdah.state.ms.us/oldcap).

## Judge makes no ruling in suit over political mailers

From Wire Reports

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A federal judge is examining a request to keep hidden the origin of a political mailer that depicted the Madison mayor manipulating Madison County supervisor candidates with puppet strings.

On Friday U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves did not rule and said he would take the matter under advisement after a 90-minute hearing.

The hearing arose out of a lawsuit, filed Thursday, that claims the state law that requires senders' identifying information be included on such political correspondence violates their right to free speech.

The plaintiffs, who admit in the complaint they were behind the mailer, were identified as Anonymous Doe, Anonymous Roe and Anonymous Company.

The Madison County mailer and others appeared before an Aug. 4 primary election.

Attorney General Jim Hood, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann and Gov. Phil Bryant are named as defendants.

Hosemann and Hood initiated a joint investigation into the Madison County mailer

and several others when they appeared in the days before an Aug. 4 primary.

At news conference in July, Hosemann called the mailers "gutless."

A Madison County Justice Court judge signed search warrants related to the investigation that have already been executed, said Graham Carner, the Jackson attorney representing the plaintiffs. The violation is a misdemeanor.

"The whole point of this is to preserve their anonymity," Carner said.

At the heart of the suit is a flyer sent to Madison County residents that depicts Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler as a puppeteer controlling three candidates challenging incumbent supervisors. Two of them won the Aug. 4 primary.

Attorneys for both sides used the hearing to try to convince Reeves which U.S. Supreme Court ruling was controlling to Mississippi's law.

"There will be national repercussions" if Mississippi's law is essentially struck down, argued Harold Pizzetta, the assistant attorney

See MAILERS | Page 5A

## LEAK

From page 1A

by 4 p.m. Thursday, according to Kemp.

But crews turned off several nearby valves

to isolate the leak, which cut off water to several downstream customers, such as Starkville High School. That was soon restored, but the breach in the pipe raised concerns of contamination. Thus the city issued the boil-water notice as a precaution.

## HOLLOWAY

From page 1A

affidavit two days later alleging his accuser, Roy Couvion, him Holloway in the jaw and pushed him down during a May 3 incident. After a warrant was issued for Couvion, the Starkville man turned himself in to authorities on a simple assault charge on Aug. 17. Couvion was released shortly after on \$500 bond.

The same day Couvion was arrested, the school board heard the results of Hill's investigation during a lengthy closed-door meeting. The board took no action during the meeting, but Myles said a decision would hopefully be made regarding Holloway's employment status during a special called meeting on Aug. 24.

"As a board, we'll make our decisions and that's

what we'll stand on," Myles said on Aug. 17. "If they find him guilty, we have to come back as a board and make a decision that goes along with those decisions."

On Tuesday, Ward 2 Alderman Lisa Wynn announced school board member Juliette Weaver-Reese had resigned from her position. Weaver-Reese had been absent from board meetings for most of the summer, including the meetings that followed Holloway's arrest.

Weaver-Reese's resignation leaves the decision on how to handle Holloway's arrest up to the boards four other members: Myles, Keith Coble, Jenny Turner and Lee Brand.

Holloway and Couvion are both scheduled to appear in Justice Court on Sept. 15. The charges against both defendants are misdemeanors.

## CASE

From page 1A

"Oda has always taught Islam as a peaceful religion," Harmon said. "The Quran says that Christians and Jews are also people of 'the book' and Oda expected to treat Christians and Jews as people from the book, with the respect that the prophet had instructed."

Those teachings, though, are far from the ISIS ideology and the views that Young expressed in messages to FBI agents. Around July 17, following an attack on a military installation in Chattanooga, Tennessee where five U.S. military personnel were shot to death, Young said the news of the attacks was comforting to her.

"What makes me feel bettee (sic) after just watching the news is than an akhi (brother)

carried out an attack again US marines in TN! Alhamdulillah (All praise be to God), the number of supporters are growing. \*better," her message read.

Sullivan said that, speaking only for herself, she gets her belief system from the scripture, which speaks of peace.

"It speaks of neighborliness," she said. "It speaks of kindness and protection of all of God's creation."

Sullivan used the same words — peaceful and kind — to describe Muhammad Dakhllalla, who was part of the Muslim Student Association while attending MSU.

"Things just don't fit; we are all scratching our heads," she said. "Mo was even active within our service activities — helping with Habitat for Humanity and volunteering at the Casserole Kitchen."

## WATSON

From page 1A

office. It will be followed by a public reception and book signing.

Watson, a Meridian native an 1978 MSU graduate, holds a master's degree in creative writing and literature from University of Alabama, Steinberg said. He is now an associate professor of creative writing and

literature at University of Wyoming.

Watson's works include the short-story collection "Last Days of the Dog-Men," and novels "The Heaven of Mercury" and "Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives," all of which have won national awards.

For more information on Watson's visit, contact Michael Kardos, MSU associate professor of English, at 662-325-3644 and [MKardos@english.msstate.edu](mailto:MKardos@english.msstate.edu).

## MYSTERY

From page 1A

and close-fitting hat, standing in front of the Longview train station.

"I wonder if the photo could possibly be Eudora Welty?" wrote an anonymous emailer. "Ms. Welty did take photographs for the WPA. Railroads figure in some of her fiction (read the beginning of

'Delta Wedding')."

Welty was born in Jackson in 1909 and died there in 2001. The famed author traveled the world but went to college in Columbus and lived most of her life in Mississippi. She was also known for time spent behind a camera, rather than in front of it.

Our emailer suggested that the curator of Welty's home in Jackson, now a museum, might tell us more.



**NOW PROVIDING SPINAL AND ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**  
LET YOUR PETS SWIM IN OUR POOL FOR RECREATION AND THERAPY. ENJOY FUN AT DOGGY DAYCARE.



**Offering Quality Healthcare at an Affordable Price**

Small Animal internal Medicine ■ Exotic Animal Care  
Intensive Care Unit ■ Digital X-Rays ■ Ultrasound  
Radiosurgery ■ Chemotherapy ■ Indoor/Outdoor Boarding with Suites ■ Doggy Daycare/Kindergarten & Training  
Available! Watch Your Pet with Doggy Cam ■ Outdoor Pool  
Agility Course ■ Dog Training Available  
Protect Your Pet with Flea & Tick Treatments  
Be Sure Vaccinations are Kept Up-To-Date

334 West Broad Street • West Point • Dr. Karen Emerson  
662.524.4145 • 662.524.4155 • Mon-Fri: 7:30-5:00 • Sat: 8-12

[emersonvethospital.com](http://emersonvethospital.com)