

## First two weeks of 2020 Legislative Session are eventful

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

### Swearing in New Members

On January 7, the Mississippi House of Representatives kicked off the 2020 legislative session with the swearing in of all 122 House members. This also begins a new four-year term for all members.

One of the first orders of business is to elect the Speaker. I was tremendously honored to be elected unanimously by the members of the House to serve the people of my district and the state of Mississippi for a third term as Speaker of the House – a position that I do not take lightly or for granted. I am humbled beyond measure to be entrusted with this responsibility. Forefront in my mind is the fact that this would not be possible without the support of you, my constituents. Again, you have put your faith in me to represent you, and I sincerely thank you all for your continued support.

It has been years since a blank slate such as this has lain before us in Mississippi with newly-elected State offi-



cial in almost every executive office. My ultimate goal as Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives is for everyone to work together to make Mississippi better than it has ever been. With this vote of confidence in my leadership, I hope to foster a spirit of cooperation across the aisle and across the Capitol rotunda.

### Governor's Inauguration Ceremony

On Tuesday, January 14, I had the honor to participate in the inauguration and swearing in of the 65th Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves. Due to weather, the ceremony was moved indoors and held in the House chamber. I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Reeves on the issues important to all Mississippians.

### HB1

Since passage of the teacher pay raise during the 2019 Legislative Session, it came to our attention that the legislature was not provided with the complete information from the Mississippi Department of Education regarding the number of teachers from each district. This error from MDE resulted in a miscalculation for certain districts, which led to a deficit in teacher pay raise.

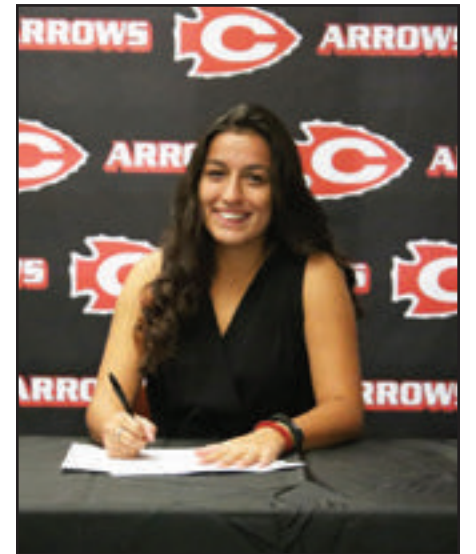
My first order of business after being sworn in as Speaker of the

House was the passage of HB1, officially titled "Additional Funding for Teachers' Salaries." On Wednesday, January 8, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed HB1, the very first bill of our 2020 session, to correct this almost \$18.5 million discrepancy and to fulfill our promise to raise the pay of all Mississippi teachers.

### Next Items on the Agenda

With the ceremonial procedures of this new term behind us, my next priority as Speaker of the House will be to begin assigning members to House committees, as well as appointing committee chairmen. Once the committees have been formed, my office can then begin referring bills to the various committees. Every bill dropped by a member of the House must first be voted on and passed out of the committee to which it was referred before it can be brought to the floor for a vote. This process deserves much thought and consideration to ensure that each member is placed where he or she has the best experience, as well as an interest in their committee. I am confident these committee assignments will be completed in a timely manner so we can move forward and begin working on the passage of legislation - more importantly, legislation on the issues important to the people of Mississippi.

## Rodriguez signs with Jones College



Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton Lady Arrow Soccer midfielder Acacia Rodriguez recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer with Jones College. A three-year co-captain, Rodriguez has been a fixture in the middle of the field for the Lady Arrows since her seventh-grade year. Rodriguez is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. She is the daughter of Marcos and Teri Rodriguez.



# Bridal Bliss

CLINTON BRIDAL SHOWCASE



## Saturday, February 1

OLDE TOWNE DEPOT - 281 EAST LEAKE STREET, CLINTON  
11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



BRIDAL BASICS SEMINAR WITH A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
10:00 A.M. - RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
ATTENDEES CAN REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES FROM VENDORS

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
THE CLINTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 601.924.5912  
OR MAIN STREET CLINTON 601.924.5472





# FIRST FRIDAY



## LIVE JAZZ AT THE DEPOT

# FEB. 7

## THE JACKSON ALL-STARS TRIO

7:00 PM • 281 E. LEAKE ST  
[www.oldetowndepot.com](http://www.oldetowndepot.com)

