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THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026 ONE SECTION LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095 VOLUME 68 - NUMBER 27

America at 250: The roots of America's greatness

VICTOR JOECKS

If you want to find out why our country has been so successful, you should study the people who built it.

America is about to turn 250 years old. It should be easy to celebrate America. Aside from the healthy patriotic pride anyone should feel, we are the greatest country in the history of the world. We enjoy freedoms most people could only dream about.

We have the strongest military in the history of the world. We have the most dynamic economy. We put men on the moon.

For those born after the end of the Cold War, it's easy to take this for granted.

It can feel like America has always been dominant. It hasn't. Especially because public schools don't teach it, we need to look at the roots of America's greatness. That's easy to discover if you read the words of the Founding Fathers. They weren't shy about what — or rather Who — deserved the credit.

"We have appointed a continental Fast," former President John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail Adams on June 17, 1775. This was during the Second Continental Congress. "Millions will be upon their Knees at once before their great Creator, imploring his Forgiveness and Blessing, his Smiles on American

Councils and Arms."

Government officials calling for God's help happened repeatedly during the American Revolution. In March 1775, Connecticut Gov. Jonathan Trumbull issued a proclamation for "a day of public fasting and prayer" in order "that God would graciously pour out His Holy Spirit on us ... and make this land a mountain of holiness and habitation of righteousness forever."

He set that day of prayer for April 19, 1775. History buffs may recognize this as when "the shot heard 'round the world" was fired at the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

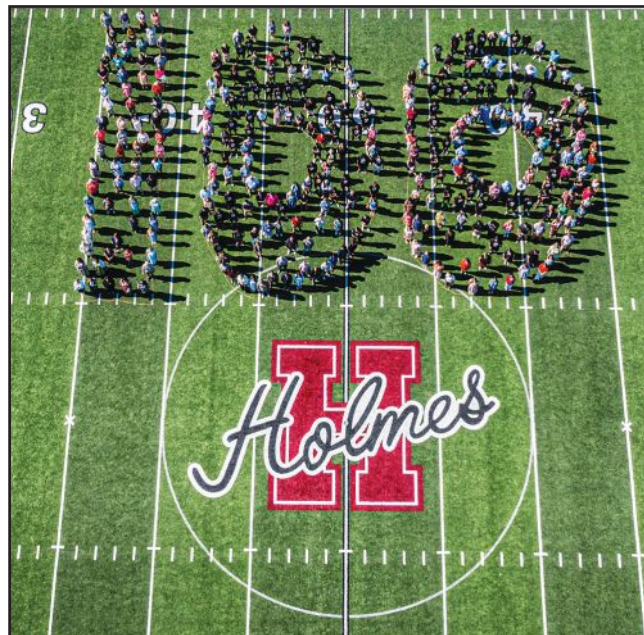
This language from elected officials is shocking — even scandalous — to modern ears, but it was commonplace at the time of America's birth. While the colonists didn't share a common denomination, most shared a common Christian faith.

On March 16, 1776, William Livingston successfully proposed that the Continental Congress declare a day of fasting and prayer. The Founding Fathers sought a time "that we may, with united hearts, confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and, by a sincere repentance and amendment of life, appease his righteous displeasure, and, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and forgiveness."

Further, "it is recommended to Christians of all

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Holmes celebrates 100 years of success, looks to dynamic future



From its start with just three buildings to its current role as a multi-campus educational leader, Holmes Community College is celebrating 100 years of preparing students for success. It is a milestone that honors a century of history while also celebrating the college's dynamic future.

The journey began in

1925, with an endorsement from the State Superintendent of Education, W.F. Bond, to establish a junior college in Goodman. Led by Superintendent M.E. Morehead, the college was founded on a small campus with an administrative building and separate dormitories for boys and girls. Early on, the college's farm provided

both hands-on learning and food for the students. The campus quickly grew, and in 1928, the college opened its first gymnasium and introduced student publications that still exist today: "The Growl" student newspaper and the yearbook, which became "Horizons" in 1941.

The college continued to grow under the leadership of Ras M. Branch, who became president in 1940. He expanded course offerings and student activities to include athletics, a marching band and several academic and social clubs. The football stadium, built in 1936, was named in his honor. During this period, the college even bought and renovated a grammar school to serve as a boys' dormitory. Following World War II, the college acquired two naval barracks for dormitories and apartments and adding a new manual arts building

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Holmes County man granted new trial in 2018 capital murder case

State Supreme Court reverses convictions, citing speedy trial violation and other issues

HOLMES COUNTY, Miss. (WLBT) - A 36-year-old man convicted of capital murder and armed robbery will receive a new trial after the State Supreme Court reversed his convictions.

Calvin Gibson was convicted and sentenced to life in 2024 for the capital murder and armed robbery of 29-year-old Brandon Cooper

in February 2018.

In his appeal, Gibson argued that his right to a speedy trial was violated, that insufficient evidence was presented to support his convictions and that the court allowed hearsay testimony. He also alleged prosecutorial misconduct.

The State Supreme Court agreed and reversed Gibson's convictions, ordering a new trial.

Cooper was the son of an alderwoman in Lexington.

A new law could create a list of immigrants illegally living in Miss.

By David A. Lieb, AP

A new Mississippi law will authorize the state's top law enforcement agency to compile a list of all immigrants illegally living in the state.

What's to be done with that information is a bit open-ended. But the law set to take effect Wednesday is sparking alarm among immigrant advocates, who fear it could become a new tactic to target immigrants in

conjunction with President Donald Trump's plan to deport millions of people lacking legal approval to live in the U.S.

The law says the state Department of Public Safety "may use all reasonable lawful investigative means available" to determine the number and identities of all "illegal aliens" in Mississippi. That includes collecting their names, addresses, country of origin and

whether they are an adult or minor. It also includes noting any criminal history and the date, location and status of deportation proceedings.

The department is directed to share information on those suspected of violating laws with state and local authorities. The measure neither requires nor prohibits the database from being shared with U.S. Immigration and Customs

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Weather forecast grid for Thursday through Wednesday with icons and precipitation chances.

How to reach us PHONE • 834-1151 FAX • 834-1074 EMAIL hcherald@gmail.com