





WELCOME BACK SOMC

Communication Station

FEBRUARY 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15  MARDI GRAS BREAK	16	17 	18	19 Roy Howard Journalism Day	20	21
22	23	24	25 WUSM 88.5 Live	26 MAB Day WUSM 88.5 Live	27 RHCJC: Media Mentors	28

Announcements

Don't miss out on the final RHCJC event of the week!

A Night of Stories That Matter with Rick Cleveland
TONIGHT, February 20 | 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. | Joe Paul Theater

A special evening featuring acclaimed Mississippi sportswriter Rick Cleveland. In conversation about a lifetime of storytelling rooted in community and character, Cleveland will reflect on journalism, sports and Mississippi life. The event will explore how stories build trust and why local journalism still matters.



Congratulations to Speech & Debate on placing 2nd overall at University of West Florida this past weekend!

Congrats Zeke Jackson

Tournament Runner-Up in Pentathlon
Tournament Champion in Poetry & Prose

3rd Place - Dramatic Interpretation

5th Place - POI & Communication Analysis

Congrats Tyron Rhodes

3rd Place - After Dinner Speaking

4th Place - Communication Analysis

Congrats Prasanna Rijal

4th Place - Extemporaneous Speaking

Congrats Aadarsha Kunwar

6th Place - Extemporaneous Speaking



Weekly Meetings

Fridays | 11 am - 12 pm | CH 101

Digital Nest focuses on creative media with professional results. They have produced short films, documentaries, music videos, commercials, photography, on-set and in-studio audio, live recordings, and EPs. Digital Nest hosts student-led masterclasses to get members familiar with equipment and software. They offer lots of hands-on experience and projects to add to a professional portfolio, all while having fun!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Chloe Martin, VP of our PRSSA Chapter, on receiving the Pine Belt PRAM 2026 Student of the Year Award and Scholarship!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SOMC



LIVE EVENT

Feb. 25th & Feb 26th

**11:00 am- 1:00 pm in Shoemaker Square
Stop by the tent on your way to class and tune
in at WUSM 88.5 fm!**

WUSM Live Remote

**Wednesday
February 25, 2026
11 am - 1 pm
Shoemaker Square**

WUSM Live Remote

**Thursday
February 26, 2026
11 am - 1 pm
Shoemaker Square**

MAB Day

**Thursday
February 26, 2026
Get your reels & portfolios ready for
the professionals!**

Scholarship Priority Deadline

**Sunday
March 1, 2026
Students must fill out the general
application in the GO system by this
date for priority consideration, but can
update the application at any time!**



MEDIA & COMMUNICATION
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**ROY HOWARD
COMMUNITY
JOURNALISM CENTER**
SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION



**Media
Mentors**

*Roy Howard Community
Journalism Center*

MEDIA MENTORS:

Maggie Wade, WLBT Jackson

Feb. 27th | 11:00 am- 12:00 pm

**“Staying Power: How Credibility and
Ethics Build a Career That Lasts”**

Registration is encouraged at rhjcnews.com/mm. Follow
RHCJC on social media (@rhjcnews) for updates!



**SUBMIT
YOUR STUDENT
ORG INFORMATION
TO THE
COMMUNICATION STATION**

**Email submissions to
vivienne.cookmeyer@usm.edu**

MAB DAY 2026 NEED TO KNOW

Feb. 26, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

10 a.m. - Noon - Main floor of College Hall: Portfolio reviews and interviews

Noon - Lunch with faculty, staff, and students

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Panel in Stout Hall: Threats and Opportunities for young graduates

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Internship & Job Opportunities Await!

- Dress professionally
- Bring copies of your resume
- Have your reel/digital portfolio prepared
- Make sure to include contact info/picture on opening slide of reel & length should be around 5 minutes max
- Digital/Print Business Cards are encouraged for students to give out
- Collect as many business cards as possible & follow up with professionals 1-2 days after



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MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

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SPRING 2026 MEETINGS

Communication Research Group (CRG) is a weekly meeting of faculty and graduate students designed to develop research skills, coordinate research efforts, and encourage one another as we strive to produce high-quality scholarship. Meetings are primarily held at 11 am in CH 202 (with the Research Collectives as an exception). All are welcome!

2/20	Peer Review: How to Create & Respond to Peer Reviews
2/27	Research Collective II
3/6	Qualitative Workshop: Thinking About Qualitative Analysis
3/13	SSCA Practice Presentations
3/27	Research Collective III
4/17	TBD: Student Choice
4/24	Research Collective IV
5/1	Research Collective Debrief
5/8	CRG Social

For more information, contact brent.hale@usm.edu

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
PRESENTS...**

STOUT HALL

MARCH 10TH

7-9 PM

3 LUCKY BANDS

**BATTLE OF
THE BANDS**

EMAIL YOUR AUDITION TO:

goldeneagle3ntertainment@gmail.com

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS FEB. 27TH

PRIZE OF \$500

+

HUB CITY SESSIONS RECORDING



ROY HOWARD COMMUNITY JOURNALISM CENTER

SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION

NOW HIRING - SUMMER 2026 COHORT

Positions Available in Hattiesburg, Long Beach, & Jackson

At RHCJC, students don't just observe — they do real newsroom work. This is hands-on, professional experience designed to build your portfolio and prepare you for a career in journalism or communications. Positions may be paid or completed for internship class credit. Selected applicants are expected to work approximately 20 hours per week during the semester, with opportunities to continue into Fall 2026. Applications close March 15.

Photographer/Videographer

Pitch visual story ideas, capture photos and video, conduct interviews and produce multimedia packages for web, broadcast, radio and social platforms.

Media Literacy Producer (What Is True?)

Lead fact-checking efforts, investigate community-submitted claims and help produce written, audio and video explainers that strengthen public trust.

Visual Content Producer

Manage social media accounts, design graphics, edit short-form videos and analyze audience engagement data to amplify our reporting.

Reporter

Cover real issues impacting our 10-county region. Reporters pitch, interview, write and produce multi-platform stories focused on community impact and solutions.

Learn more at <https://rhcjcnews.com/jobs/>

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Summer Internship Opportunity!

Mississippi Free Press is offering internship opportunities for students looking to gain newsroom experience this summer. Paid hourly internships are dependent on available grant funding. Currently, the primary internship option allows students to be paid at the same rate as freelancers, while receiving a more structured publication schedule and additional guidance through the editorial process. This format offers hands-on experience with clearer expectations, regular feedback and a deeper understanding of how stories move from pitch to publication. Students may also choose to work as typical freelancers, with greater flexibility in setting their own schedules.

To learn more about available opportunities, visit:

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/jobs/>

Job Openings for Upcoming Graduates

The Mississippi Free Press is seeking full-time reporters to join its newsroom in three regions: the Gulf Coast, East Central Mississippi and the Jackson metro area. If you're passionate about covering the issues that matter and building trust with local communities, **learn more and apply here:**

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/jobs/>

Mississippi Today is hiring a Data Reporter to help uncover and explain stories through public records, datasets and investigative analysis. If you're passionate about combining reporting with data to produce impactful, in-depth stories, **learn more and apply here:** <https://mississippitoday.org/careers/data-reporter/>



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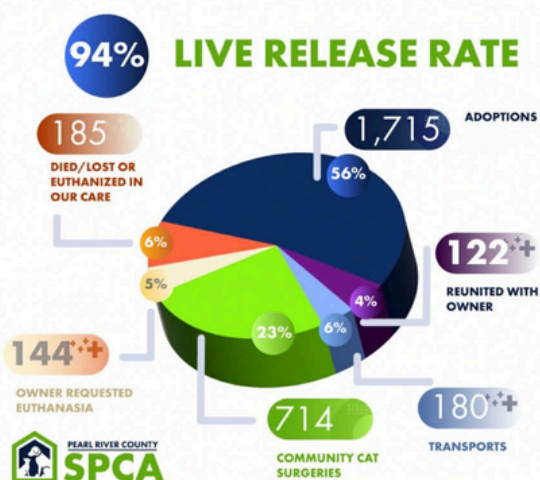
SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION

Pearl River County introduces microchip stations to reunite lost pets faster

Kristen Kaylor | Feb. 16, 2026

2025 Shelter Report

INTAKE: 3,165 OUTCOME: 2,746 IN CARE: 237



A 2025 Pearl River County SPCA shelter report shows 3,165 animals taken in during the year. Of those, 122 were reunited with their owners, including 31 that were already microchipped. Shelter officials say increasing microchipping rates could help improve return numbers. (SPCA)

PEARL RIVER COUNTY —
When a dog slips out of the yard, or a cat disappears overnight, time matters. Now, Pearl River County residents who find a lost pet have a way to check for a microchip immediately — without waiting for animal control or making a trip to the shelter.

Read the full story [here](#).

SM² SOUTHERN MISS
STUDENT MEDIA

News for the students, by the students

Southern Miss baseball season underway as team gears up for Sunbelt action

Alvia Walker | Feb. 18, 2026



Alvia Walker

Pete Taylor Park sign.

HATTIESBURG — The season has officially begun for Southern Miss Golden Eagles baseball. With games already on the schedule, the team is navigating the early part of the year, adjusting to the challenges of competition and preparing for what promises to be an exciting season.

Read the full story [here](#).