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# SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL SECTION INSIDE

# THE MISSISSIPPIAN

Monday, August 26, 2019

theDMonline.com

**Volume 108, No. 1** 

# 173 Days

The university learned about this racist photo in March. Why is the investigation taking so long?



# **DANIEL PAYNE**

thedmnews@gmail.com

On March 1, three former Ole Miss Kappa Alpha fraternity members posed for a photo with guns in front of a bullet-riddled Emmett Till memorial. The three men in the photo now face a possible Department of Justice investigation.

Till, a 14-year-old civil rights icon, was tortured and murdered in 1955. An all-white, all-male jury acquitted two white men accused of the murder.

The sign that the students posed with, located where Till's body was recovered.

The photo, which was obtained by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting and ProPublica, shows Ben LeClere, an Ole Miss student, holding a shotgun while standing in front of the bullet-pocked sign. His KA fraternity brother, John Lowe, squats below the sign. A third fraternity member stands on the other side with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. The photo appears to have been taken at night, with lights from a vehicle shining on the three.

Though a complaint about the post was filed to the university in March, no comment was made about the post until Jerry Mitch-

ell with the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting broke the story on Till's birthday in late July.

University spokesman Rod Guajardo acknowledged that an Ole Miss official had received a copy of the Instagram picture in March. The university referred the matter to the university police department, which in turn gave it to the FBI.

Guajardo said the FBI told police it would not further investigate the incident because the photo did not pose a specific threat.

In a response to the story,

**SEE TILL PAGE 12** 

# UM has not sent plans to relocate statue

**MADDY QUON** 

thedmnews@gmail.com

The University of Mississippi has not yet sent plans to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History concerning the relocation of the Confederate monument, MDAH Director of Public Relations Michael Morris wrote in an email Tuesday.

"The department is still awaiting plans and specifications from the University of Mississippi. Once submitted, MDAH staff will review the plans. After review, MDAH staff will place the issue on the MDAH Board of Trustees agenda," Morris said in the email.

On March 21, Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks announced that the university had submitted a notice of intent to the MDAH, but noted that "the process to secure the necessary approvals for this relocation will require some time."

In email correspondence with The Daily Mississippian in April and May, university spokesperson Rod Guajardo wrote there were no new updates, and that Sparks's March 21 statement would serve as the university's comment. Five months have now passed since Sparks's statement.

Guajardo responded to another inquiry on Thursday, writing that the university's request was "nearing completion." Guajardo did not specify a timeline for the application, but added that they'd provide updates to the university community as the process moves forward.

The process of relocation began in early March when the resolution was shared by ASB's committee for inclusion and cross-cultural engagement,

**SEE STATUE PAGE 12** 



# FORMER OLE MISS STUDENT WILL RECEIVE EVALUATION BEFORE TRIAL

Attorneys for Brandon Theesfeld and District Attorney Ben Creekmore agreed to submit Theesfeld for a psychiatric evaluation. He will be held in Lafayette County Detention Center without bond.

SEE PAGE 3



# IN SPORTS: IS OLE MISS LOSING THE PARTY?

Ole Miss made several adjustments this summer to improve fan experience, but all of it is inconsequential until the university decides to sell alcohol.

SEE PAGE 8

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LARRY SPARKS:
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# Letter from the editor: Why we're digital first

**DANIEL PAYNE** 

dmeditor@gmail.com

The Daily Mississippian will be different this year. After over 108 years of service as a print news source, we are becoming a digital-first publication.

The internet is not just for a few generations. It's the way most of the world works. It's time for the news that matters to you, your classmates, your neighbors and your community to be as accessible and up-todate as any other information. Now, when news breaks, you don't need to wait for the paper to arrive on newsstands the next morning, wondering if the posts you've seen online are fact or fiction. The DM will be there, reporting facts, verifying information, telling the stories that you want and need. You'll be able to see stories develop in real time.

A digital-first publication is not just about faster reporting. It's about higher quality journalism. Online, you will be able to see stories as they should be told – by hearing audio interviews, watching action unfold, interacting with information in ways that are impossible with ink onand paper.

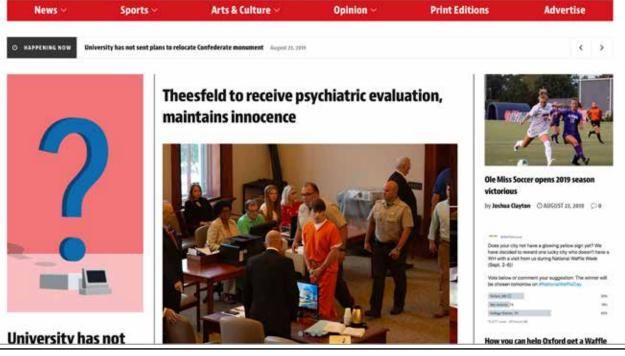
Our mission is to of serveing the community with quality journalism, and that mission will does not change. The decision to become a digital-first publication is a recommitment to the goals that have driven student journalists for over a century.

The print paper will still be on newsstands three days a

week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All of that content, plus more stories, photos, videos and podcasts will be online and updated seven days a week.

Check out our new website and follow us on social media and Apple News. Stay updated with The next time you're online, visit our website and social media profiles for the newspaper that has served ourthe community for over a century --, now, better and more accessible than ever.

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# Theesfeld to receive psychiatric evaluation

#### **GRIFFIN NEAL**

thedmnews@gmail.com

Just minutes into Thursday morning's hearing, attorneys for Brandon Theesfeld, the 21-year-old University of Mississippi student charged in the murder of fellow student Ally Kostial, withdrew their request for a bond hearing, saying they had received "new information." They are opting for a psychiatric evaluation.

Attorneys for Theesfeld met with District Attorney Ben Creekmore yesterday, informing the state of their intention to withdraw the request and proceed with a psychiatric evaluation, pending approval of Judge Andrew Howorth.

Both Howorth and Creekmore referenced the considerable length of time a psychiatric evaluation takes.

"I know it's an issue. Everybody is aware of that," Creekmore said. He added that Theesfeld will likely be evaluated at the state hospital in Whitfield, in Rankin County.

Creekmore confirmed that Thursday's proceedings did not change their case, and the prosecution will continue presenting the case on Aug. 27, where a grand jury will decide whether or not to indict Theesfeld.



Brandon Theesfeld entering the court for the bond hearing for the murder of Ally Kostial. Brandon's Attorneys withdrew their request for a bond hearing and are entering psychiatric evaluation.

Tony Farese, co-counsel for Theesfeld, did not comment on the nature of the new information but confirmed that they maintain his innocence and are proceeding with a plea of not

"I'm hoping that everybody does their job and justice is served," Farese said.

Theesfeld was in the courthouse for approximately five minutes, confirming that he wants to proceed with the psychiatric evaluation, before being led out of the Lafayette County Courthouse back to the Lafayette County Detention Center, where he has been held since July 22.

Family and supporters of Ally Kostial were also in attendance. Friends of Kostial stood outside of the courthouse holding signs reading "Justice for Ally" and "Today is for Ally, not Br\*nd\*n."

Kristi Kelley, Kostial's **SEE THEESFELD PAGE 5** 

# Title IX office moves

**GRIFFIN NEAL** 

thedmnews@gmail.com

The offices of Title IX and Equal Opportunity & Regulatory Compliance are moving from Martindale to Lester Hall

The Title IX office is led by Title IX coordinator Honey Ussery, who is responsible for "overseeing the development of sexual misconduct policies, ensuring compliance with Title IX and relevant federal and state regulations, and investigating Title IX complaints alleging student sexual misconduct," according to the office's university website.

Title IX ensures that "No person in the United States. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.'

The Title IX office can be reached by calling 662-915-7045 or emailing TitleIX@ olemiss.edu.

# Classes stopped, but the news didn't. Here's what you missed this summer.

#### GRIFFIN NEAL thedmnews@gmail.com

Hello reader,

Welcome back! As you settle into the new school year, we've compiled a list of stories from the past few months that we feel are essential in staying informed on what happened in Oxford. Just because you could cruise unbothered down Jackson Ave. and get a table at any restaurant on the Square doesn't mean news didn't break over the Summer, because it certainly did. See theDMonline.com for full coverage.

Two Oxford legends die Oxford lost David Sansing and Ron 'Ronzo' Shapiro this

summer, two pillars of the

community whose legacies will live long past their time in Northeast Mississippi.

# New writers in resi-

January O'Neil was selected as the newest Grisham Writer in Residence, and Ann-Marie Cammarato was named as the inaugural playwright in residence. O'Neil, a prolific poet and professor of English, will occupy the position previously held by the likes of Kiese Laymon and Jesmyn Ward. Cammarato's residency offers female playwrights the opportunity to develop theatrical work to share with the Oxford community.

# **ICE Raids**

Immigration agents detained

approximately 680 people in counties throughout Mississippi in what is believed to be the largest single state immigration enforcement operation in US history. The raid did not include Lafayette County, however the Daily Mississippian uncovered that ICE has removed 56 individuals from the county since 2012, including 2 in 2019.

# Increases in tuition, and where it goes

Federal funding for colleges and universities has decreased across the board, and at the University of Mississippi, students (mainly out-of-state students) are footing the bill. In 2018, Ole Miss budgeted \$540 million to spend from

the general and education fund, \$285 million of which came directly from student tuition and fees. Nearly 40% of that \$285 million come from nonresident fees.

#### Season tickets and party decks

Football ticket sales account for roughly 20 percent of the Ole Miss Athletic Department budget, and season ticket sales were down in 2018 from 2017. In anticipation of another potential decrease, Interim AD Keith Carter (Carter replaced Ross Bjork when he left for Texas A&M this summer) has introduced partial season ticket packages and student party decks.

# Kinne moved

# **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

thedmnews@gmail.com

A former Mississippi police officer accused of killing a woman is being moved to another jail after a picture posted online showed him unguarded outside his cell.

Lafayette County District Attorney Ben Creekmore tells WTVA-TV authorities are moving Matthew Kinne from the Panola County jail to another jail.

Kinne is charged with murder in the May 20 death of 32-yearold Dominique Clayton. She had been shot in the head. Her relatives say the two were romantically involved.

The picture appears to show Kinne standing at a counter inside the jail eating, with no guards around and without restraints.

Creekmore isn't saying where Kinne will be housed, saying officials don't want other inmates to know Kinne is a former officer.

Grand jurors could consider indicting Kinne next week.

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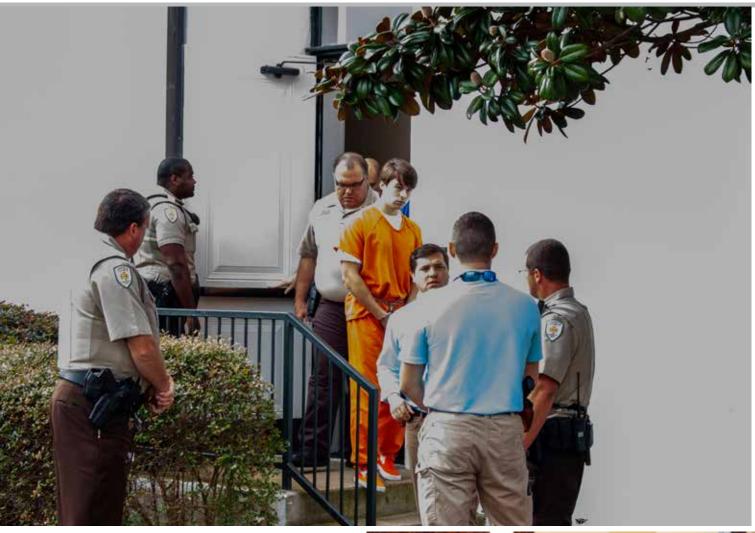
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"Ally's family is deeply grateful for the prudent work accomplished by the Memphis police, the Lafayette County Sheriff's office, the Lafayette County Coroner's office, the Ole Miss community, and the many others who worked tirelessly over the past few weeks on this case."

- Kristi Kelley Cousin of Ally Kostial

# **THEESFELD**

continued from page 3

cousin, offered a statement from the family following the proceedings.

"Ally's family is deeply grateful for the prudent work accomplished by the Memphis police, the Lafayette County Sheriff's office, the Lafayette County Coroner's office, the Ole Miss community, and the many others who worked tire-

lessly over the past few weeks on this case. Our hearts go out to all of those touched by Ally's positive spirit and passion for life, who are now feeling sorrow. We pray for strength in the coming days and are thankful for the friends, neighbors, coworkers and many others who have supported us."

them are paid for their work. Jobs are open to all students, all majors and all grade classifications. Here are some of the student positions:

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Kristi Kelley, Ally Kostial's cousin, gives a statement on behalf of the Kostial Family. Brandon's Attorneys withdrew their request for a bond hearing and are entering psychiatric evaluation

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# **Welcome Letter from Chancellor Sparks**

Dear Students,

Welcome to the start of the 172nd academic year at the University of Mississippi, including a special welcome to those embarking on the college experience – the Class of 2023. Thank you all for choosing Ole Miss to pursue your higher education.

I must acknowledge the sorrow I know you share with the loss in July of Ole Miss student Ally Kostial. Ally was an engaged member of our community with a bright future ahead of her. We are here to support Ally's family, friends and classmates, and we hope they find some solace in the wake of this tragic loss that has shaken our campus community.

You will find several campus enhancements to explore. It's great to have the expanded Student Union in the heart of campus as a revitalized gathering place and hub of student life. Another major upgrade is the new South Campus Recreation Center, which adds 98,000 square feet of recreational, fitness and wellness capacity to our campus. The SCRC includes an indoor climbing wall and one of the nation's only collegiate recreational high-ropes courses, and it is also home to the new William Magee Center for Wellness Education. In addition, the School of Applied Sciences moved into a new home in the renovated Garland Hedleston Mayes complex, just west of Rebel Market.

A new year brings the opportunity to renew your commit-

ment to make the most of your college years. This is an important stage in your lives to learn about yourself – knowing your likes and dislikes, what makes you tick, how to balance and prioritize. From study abroad, internships, and volunteering to attending challenging lectures or a show at the Ford Center, now is your time to learn how to lead and serve in powerful ways. Along the way, I believe you will discover an abiding affection for this place that binds Ole Miss students and alumni for life.

I also hope you will embrace the principles and values – integrity, respect, accountability, fairness, civility and commitment to excellence – that contribute to our caring and inclusive community.

Sometime this fall, we expect to learn who will serve as our university's next chancellor. You can add your voice to the search process during a Campus Listening Session on Thursday, September 5, at The Inn at Ole Miss. For more details, visit http://www.mississippi.edu/ieo/um/

I look forward to seeing you around campus. Have a great year!





Laura Hill, FNP-C Angela Hill, RN

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# Oxford just got one step closer to having a Waffle House

#### **ELIZA NOE**

thedmfeatures@gmail.com

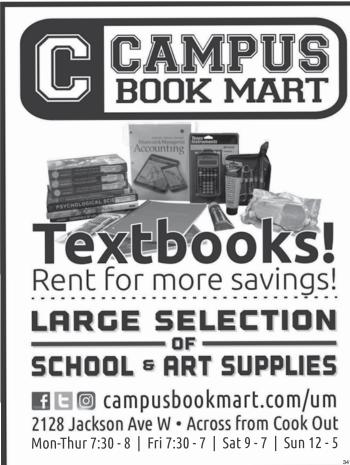
In a year-long campaign that took over Ole Miss twitter for much of the 2018-2019 school year, Waffle House might give Oxford a new breakfast spot to celebrate National Waffle Week.

Official Waffle House social media accounts announced the contest early Friday morning, with a twitter poll for followers reaching over 11,000 votes in three hours. Oxford competed with College Station, Texas, and San Antonio, Texas.

Instead of announcing a winner, the restaurant chain will travel to all of the participating cities. Oxford's stop during the Waffle Week tour will be Sept. 4.

Fans of the chain can visit the Waffle Truck on the Square for the reception from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.





# Tired of the desk in your dorm? Try these study spots instead.

6:04 AM - Aug 24, 2019 - Twitter Web App

#### **SARAH SMITH**

thedmfeatures@gmail.com

Oxford is teeming with great places to study, but where are they? Not only are they great for that #studysesh, but they are also totally Instagram-able so you can keep up your aesthetic online while studying for your classes this semester.

# 1. The Cozy Coffee Shop - High Point Coffee

High Point Coffee on Old Taylor Road has a great atmosphere with music that's fun but not too distracting. They have ample space and study rooms if you're working on the dreaded group project. In addition to its study amenities, it's a great place to get into dig into that project or maybe a pastry.

# 2. Get your nose in the books -Square Books Balcony

The best part of the upstairs balcony at the infamous Square Books bookstore is that you get to stay in the fall air while looking over notes or listening to online lectures. It's on the second floor, and before you head out to start studying, there's a chance to grab a cup of tea or coffee at the small barista station.

# 3. Studying and Traveling - Grad-

With its hanging globe light fixtures and funky decor, the world-travel vibe in the Graduate will keep you dreaming about that study abroad trip you might be saving for junior year. It's also a great place to study for that upcoming calculus test.

# 4. Nature nut - Rowan Oak

For the person who loves studying in nature Rowan has got you. Who knows, maybe William Faulkner's spirit will rub off on you a bit for your papers you've got due this week.

# 5. The hip hub - Uptown on the Square

Uptown on the Square has the tablespace to spread out the books for your research papers. Whether you need a pick-me-up from a weekend, or an exam, the marble mocha is your chocolate and coffee fix all in one delicious cup.





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# Is Ole Miss losing the party?

#### JOSHUA CLAYTON

thedmsports@gmail.com

Ole Miss is a school that takes great pride in its game day experience, for good reason. The Grove on campus and the downtown Square attracts a flood of tourists from across the country every fall.

The problem is that the same elements that make the Ole Miss fan experience so unique are ultimately detrimental to that alreadytough fight to get fans to buy tickets, leave the Grove, go into the game and stay.

Ole Miss made several adjustments this summer to improve fan experience, including additional ticket bundle options and student party decks, but all of it is inconsequential as the school has yet to make the obvious move that could be a major part of a solution to the

problem almost every program is facing.

The SEC lifted its threedecade ban on stadium-wide alcohol sales over three months ago. Since then, LSU, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt and Tennessee have announced they'll sell beer and wine in stadium. Mississippi State, Georgia, Auburn, Alabama and South Carolina will not sell alcohol during this season. Ole Miss is among the few schools yet to make an official move in any direction regarding the 2019 football season.

Southern Miss revealed last week that they'll start selling alcohol in the stadium, prompting Ole Miss fans to take a look at their watches and wonder exactly what's taking so long.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE

KATHERINE BUTLER/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

It's no question that anything Ole Miss does, positive or negative, is immediately compared to Mississippi State and vice versa. So when, of all schools, Southern Miss proved to be the most proactive and enterprising university in the state, the bubble of tension had to burst.

Three months ago, many said that there was still a lot of red tape to navigate due to the state law prohibiting the sale of alcohol on college campuses in Mississippi. M.M. Roberts Stadium in Hattiesburg holds a "resort" status, which is a possible exemption allowing alcohol sales. While Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville

does not have the resort status. Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

It's safe to say that if Southern Miss were able to carve out a way around the state law for the 2019 season, Ole Miss should be able to do the same, especially considering Former Athletic Director Ross Bjork's early work in support of alcohol sales when he was in Oxford. Notice Bjork's new school in College Station was the first to announce their plans to sell this summer.

The delay in decisionmaking from Ole Miss suggests there is a divide within the university on this issue that shouldn't be an issue.

Alcohol in the stadium should have been a slam dunk for the athletics department. Not only do

you add another revenue stream, you also keep fans and boosters happy, potentially increasing ticket sales and keeping people in the stands during games.

Ole Miss has gone to the store and picked up all the seasoning and ingredients to make a great burger, but got home and realized they forgot the beef. Why go to a party deck where you can't party? Why toast in the sun when you can chill in the Grove with a cold beer and cold chicken tenders? Why stay in the student section when you can beat the cover at your favorite watering hole on the Square?

Due to the indecision from the university, it looks as if beer and wine will not be flowing in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium until late this season, if at all in 2019. A dry Pavilion or Swayze Field this spring would make this even more interesting as Ole Miss would be continuing to leave money on the table with the rest of the league working to get it done.

Southern Miss's proactivity last week highlighted Ole Miss's fumbling of this easy solution, revealing a desperate need for strong, permanent leadership in Oxford.

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**ACROSS** A long time;

6- Gets ready; 11- Reverse of NNW; 14- Razzle-dazzle 15- Hit back, perhaps 16- That girl;

17- Gentle push 18- Mistreat 19- ER staffers 20- Moreno of "West Side Story

2- Get a smile out of; Straddling; 28- Reverence 30- Son of Zeus; - On the wagon;

32- Wash lightly; 33- Sheet fastener?; 37- Metal-bearing mineral: 38- Kind of cat; 39- Baseball stat: 40- Calm:

43- Relish

32 37

45- Low life?; 46- At peace; Seaport in NE Italy, 49- Tailed primates

50- Belief - Little bit; 53- Folded food: 56- That group; 61- Beehive State 62- Perfect places;

63- Studio stand; 64- Georgia, once: 65- Holdup; 66- Tempest;

DOWN Desire; Euro forerunner 3- City official: Abbr.: 4- Piece of cloth tabloid newspaper;

6- Babble Singer McEntire; contents; 9- IBM products; 10- Vegetable

Gesture of indifference; 12- Psychics claim to

have a sixth one; 13- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 21- Wedding words; 23- Artist Chagall; Brother of Moses Church topper;

Island" monogram; 28- Aspirations Comply with; Embankment;

Spicy sauce;
First-year cadet; Satirical dialogue;

43- Legislative bodies; 58- Barcelona bea 44- Biblical beast boat; 59- Sun. delivery; 46- Lush

garments; 48- Computer key; 49- Like rocks in a stream: 51- College in New

Rochelle 54- Fruity drink; Obi-Wan portrayer; 55- Animation unit;
Windmill blade; 57- Covering for the 57- Covering for the 58- Barcelona bear:

60- Shade provider;

26- Printer refill

Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.



# Rec Center opens today

#### **MADELINE CLICK**

thedmsports@gmail.com

The new South Campus Recreation Center, located off Whirlpool Trails, is was finished this summer and is now open to students. The original timeline had the building set to be completed in the fall of 2018, but it is now scheduled to be open for the beginning of the fall semester 2019, with a few additional elements that are planned to be completed by January 2020.

The facility provides more opportunities for the university and Oxford community to work toward their health and fitness goals. It will also provide University of Mississippi students a state of the art recreation center. It will serve as a "hub" for student activity at the university and inspire an active lifestyle.

The Turner Center covers only 9,000 square feet with a fitness center and three fitness studios. It will still remain the on-campus recreation center, but Peter Tulchinsky, the Director of Campus Recreation, said he felt the facility was not fitting for the growth of the university.

"The facility was needed to provide additional recreation space and services due to the university's enrollment growth, as well as expansion of recreational program offerings,"
Tulchinsky said this summer.

The new facility covers 98,000 square feet with a more modern appearance. It includes an expanded fitness space, three fitness studios, two basketball courts, a multi-activity court for indoor soccer and floor hockey and a walking/jogging track.

Aside from those new amenities, the center houses the nation's only collegiate recreation indoor high-ropes courses and an indoor and outdoor functional training zone. It also includes an indoor climbing tower and bouldering wall, the only one in north Mississippi, as well as a demonstration kitchen and a convenience store.

Two fields for intramural sports, sports clubs and informal recreation will be located next to the facility with a sidewalk connecting the new recreation center to the South Campus Rail Trail. This will be a link to provide indoor and outdoor recreation options.

The South Campus Recreation Center will house the William Magee Center for Wellness Education and the Department of Parking and Transportation. The outdoor programming and personal training services will have dedicated office areas as well.



The new South Campus Recreation Center features two full size basketball courts set end to end. The new recreation center is set to open today.

The new recreation center was constructed with hopes of bringing in more student and faculty involvement and to be an attractive addition for prospective students and student athletes.

"The facility will have a significant impact on participation, as we expect at least a 10% increase in student patrons," Tulchinsky said. "It will also be a showcase facility for the university and should have an impact on the recruitment and retention of students."

The new recreation center project had a total budget of \$32 million.

10:30-1:30 A.M. P.M. Current Ole Miss students have full access to the facility, as the fees are included in tuition, but there will also be several membership opportunities for faculty, staff, alumni and community members who would like admission and usage of the facility.

The South Campus Recreation Center will be located at the former Whirlpool property off of Chucky Mullins Drive. It will provide over 700 parking spaces as well as service on the O.U.T. bus lines and shuttles to the main campus.

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# Knight is new Swiss Army Knife for Ole Miss Offense

#### JOSHUA CLAYTON

thedmsports@gmail.com

They days of D.K. Metcalf and A.J. Brown terrorizing defenses in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium are over, but according to the young Ole Miss receiving corps, the Nasty Wide Outs (NWO) are still in full swing.

The Rebels have reloaded with a room full of talented pass catchers including Braylon Sanders and Elijah Moore alongside potential game-changing freshmen Jonathan Mingo, Demarcus Gregory, Jordan Jernigan and Miles Battle. The puzzle piece adding a new dynamic to the Rodriguez offense is a true jack-ofall-trades in Tylan Knight.

The 5-foot-6 sophomore out of Pearl is listed as a running back on the official roster, but describing Knight as just a ball carrier would be inaccurate. Since arriving in Oxford last year, he's moved from tailback to defensive back, then back over to offense, working mostly out of the slot during fall camp.

"I'm really enjoying it," Knight said. "It's different from what I played in high school. I didn't really play it as a starting position, but I'm getting used

Something he doesn't have to get used to is making plays. Knight helped lead the Pearl Pirates to their first ever 6A football championship in 2017. His late-game touchdown gave the Pirates the 21-17 win over <u>Starkville in Vaught-H</u>em-



ingway Stadium.

His versatility has put him all over the field in his short time with Rebels, but his performance in his slot debut in the Grove Bowl with 91 yards and a touchdown on five catches is a sign his new role could be a lasting one.

Knight has worked as a backup to starting slot Elijah Moore, coming in on four receiver sets to maximize weap-

ons on the field in 10 personnel. So far in limited practice availability, he's taken handoffs out of the backfield, run sweeps and reverses out of speed motion, and of course develop the route tree with corners, seams and bubble screens.

"It'll be very dangerous. We've been saying this since day one, we'll be very dangerous to the opposing team," Knight said when asked about the potential of him and Moore

on the field at the same time.

In Knight, Rich Rodriguez and wide receiver coach Jacob Peeler have a player to keep in mind when thinking of wrinkles to add to a game plan from week to week designed to beat a specific defense.

"We can get in four receiver sets, five receiver sets if we need to based on the skill sets or what's needed on that particular play," Peeler said. "I do think as the season progresses

you'll see guys develop. Obviously in Jerrion Ealy you see a guy who can go from backfield to slot as well as he gets more comfortable, too. We've got some options there, kind of those little jitterbug guys you can get the ball to in a bunch of different ways and let them do what they do best."

Knight is part of a new emphasis on depth this year for the NWO. Jacob Peeler said that he wants have seven to nine receivers ready to play in every game this year rather than depending on four like last

"We have things within our group, within our offensive standard that we want to meet," Peeler said. "I think it's a long season and you saw last year we kind of limped across the finish line. A.J. (Brown) was playing 90-plus snaps a game. That's not what you want. You want to be able to finish strong, so hopefully some of these young guys start to really develop and allow us to build that depth as the season progresses."

A player like Tylan Knight is vital to the Rebel offense in 2019, and they'll depend on him to do several things in the attack while Jerrion Ealy adjusts to the collegiate game.

'As far as just going out there and playing, they haven't really shown me anybody or compared me to anybody," Knight said. "Me personally, I don't like being compared to anybody. I'm my own person so I just go out there and give it all I've got."

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# **OPINION**

# Racist act. Administration fumble. Public outrage. Rinse. Repeat.

#### @HannahB\_15

"how can ppl rlly be surprised that an organization that hosts an event at a plantation has members who would deface the Emmett Till historical marker ....like .... have y'all not been paying attention or...?"

# @ProfessorTwitty

Replying to @HannahB\_15
"RELATED: how can ppl rlly be
surprised that a school with a 30 foot
monument to the Confederacy at its
entrance continues to attract racist
students from around the country?"

#### @Dr\_JessieW

"What is the University prepared to tell Black students & professors, among others, who understand this pose as cosigning from the future the murder of a Black boy? Who will be expected to teach and learn beside them, who have made their racism and commitment to violence clear?"

#### @blackwitekeyz

"I'm tired of the University administration being slow to react and condemn offensive stuff."

# @Brady\_Ruffin

"Actions speak way louder than words, @UMchancellor -- and today you're choosing to disregard & oppose the first statement of the University of Mississippi Creed: 'I believe in respect and dignity of each other'"

# @KieseLaymon

"When I was 19, I fought these dudes and an institution that sanctioned their terror. White institutions are failing its white boys and everyone else has to unfairly reckon with the weight of that engineered failure. We have other work to do."

# @AntoniaEliason

"If potential students who were of color, of a non-Christian faith, or members of the LGBTQIA community asked my opinion on whether to attend UMiss, I would not, in good conscience, be able to recommend that they do at this moment."

"As long as the Confederate statue stand in the center of campus, these kinds of sickening actions will be all too common and we will continue to be a campus that attracts racists, drawn by our iconography and virulent past. #takeitdown"

# @Stersic

"One of the saddest parts of the Emmett Till tragedy was the acquittal of the murderers. By refusing to step up @UMchancellor you have chosen to repeat history instead of taking a chance to move forward from it. Be braver."



# EDITORIAL

# Are students the only adults in the room?

The University of Mississippi is fractured. Any time a member of our community is publicly caught doing something racist — a tradition as old as our institution — there are two reactions: one from students and faculty and another from the administration. This page demonstrates the stark, predictable difference. Student and faculty reactions are often anti-racist, unafraid to call out wrongs. The administration's response is slow and careful not to upset those in the community comfortable with racism. Although the investigation is ongoing, the administrative has been more reactive than proactive.

Students push this university forward. Our university progresses, not because of, but in spite of our administration. The state flag no longer flies in the Circle because of students' work. In 2016, when a member of our community referenced lynching, the administration did not respond — until students protested. Even now, the administration is slow to relocate the Confederate monument, which, of course, students campaigned to move. The university still hasn't sent plans to relocate the monument to the state government.

The university was made aware of the above Instagram picture in March, yet no statement was given until there was public outrage.

On July 26, Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks started his initial statement by saying, "In the last 24 hours, national and regional media outlets have reported on (the above picture)." If there were no media coverage and if students had not demanded appropriate action, would Sparks have made a statement at all?

Students should not bear the full responsibility of pushing our university forward. Black students, workers and faculty should not have to wonder if they belong in the university community. When we organize, march and protest against racism, it is not only a sign of our student body's strength but also a sign of our administration's weakness. Students should be in class, comfortable knowing we have an anti-racist administration that will protect black people.

The Editorial Board

# @hullojess

"if this image doesn't violate your code of conduct, you need a new code of conduct. do better @olemiss."

# UM Critical Race Studies Group (Facebook)

"This incident is not an anomaly. It is consistent with a broader campus climate that condones and even cultivates racism."

# @realcalebknight

"The students that shot the sign commemorating Emmett Till should face expulsion. They do not represent what Ole Miss is and the direction that the university is heading."

#### @jarvispbenson

"@OleMissRebels Expel those boys. Remove that statue. Protect your black students. Hear your black students."

#### @SKEEerra

"What's going on in the Lyceum that young white men on campus are acting even more emboldened with other people's lives, lately?
@OleMissRebels"

#### @domthefurious

"Sometimes I am so ashamed of my alma mater that I want to lie and say I got me degree from somewhere else."

#### @DaMarkusLodge18

"Those three men and their actions honestly do represent the values of your institution. The only time a student of minority feels safe/ comfortable there is only if they're an athlete. Do better!"

# @AlexMcDaniel

"the code says students have the right to a community free of conduct interfering with a 'suitable working, living or learning environment' black students are expected to feel safe on campus knowing racists with guns not only walk among them but do so with the school's blessing"

# @tell\_dave

"Vandalism is too weak a word for this. This is terror."

# @inthegrid\_

"so you're telling me that a fraternity w a racist as their "spiritual leader" did more about these mens actions than the actual university of mississippi? like bc the fbi didn't see it as a major threat and didn't come on campus the solution was to do nothing? make it make sense"

# @Dion\_KevinIII

"Ole Miss needs to make a concerted effort to educate its students on the painful and racist past of Mississippi and the Deep South. We have the opportunity to be a beacon of reconciliation for the rest of the nation and it begins with expulsion of these men."

# @em\_aye\_ee

"The amount of competition at Ole Miss to get an invitation to Old South was, upon reflection, bizarre and disgusting. 'I have to only be around KAs so that I can go to a civil war reenactment' was a genuine sentiment."

# @Neuro\_lover

"I just don't understand it </3 how does anyone have so much hate in their hearts? Emmett Till was just 14 yrs old... he would have been 78 today."

# continued from page 1

Guajardo said that while the university considered the picture "offensive," the image did not present a violation of the university's code of conduct. He noted the incident depicted in the photo occurred off campus and was not part of a university-affil-

Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks released a statement the day after the story was published, saying the students did not represent the university.

Sparks reiterated that the incident occurred off campus, was not a part of a university-affiliated event and that the university has limits on its tools to remedy the "offensive behavior."

Four days after the story was originally published, Sparks said in an updated statement that the university's investigation into the incident was not complete. The university mishandled the investigation, he said.

"Given that we first learned about this incident in March, the university launched an internal review last week of our handling of the incident report about the photo, and we discovered a breakdown in communications between units on our campus," Sparks said in the statement.

On March 6, the university's Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) notified UPD, the Dean of Students, the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct and Fraternal Leadership & Learning of the post, Sparks said. UPD sent the allegations to the FBI.

On March 20, BIRT requested an update from UPD on the status of the FBI inquiry. It was not until April 2 that the FBI responded



# **Who was Emmett Till?**

Emmett Till's death in 1955 was a catalyst of the civil rights movement.

While visiting relatives in Mississippi, Till went to a grocery store and was accused of making sexual advances toward a store worker, Carolyn Bryant. Her husband, Roy Bryant, and brother-inlaw, J.W. Milam, kidnapped and brutally murdered Till, dumping his body in the Tallahatchie River.

Till's body was beyond recognition, but his mother requested an open casket funeral.

"I think everybody needed to know what had happened to Emmett Till," she said, according to PBS.

Photos of Till's body circulated, outraging many black and white Americans alike.

The killers, who were acquitted by an all-white, all-male jury, later detailed the

crime in an interview. Nearly 60 years later, Till's accuser, now known as Carolyn Donham, said she lied about

"I think everybody needed to know what had happened to Emmett Till,"

- Till's mother

her interaction with Till. In an interview, Donham confessed that the 14-year-old did not make a sexual advance toward her. Her statement directly contradicted her testimony from decades before.

Till would have been 78 years old in 2019.

to UPD, saying the photo did not represent a specific threat.

"Because of a lapse in communication, several units on campus did not learn from UPD about the FBI's decision," Sparks's statement said. "In addition, BIRT did not confirm the final status of the referral to the FBI. At this time, the BIRT process has not concluded."

Sparks said that university staff members involved in the investigation "demonstrated an ongoing commitment to deal with this matter seriously," and that the university is continuing its review of its process to govern racist student behavior in the future.

A university spokesperson

"Because of a lapse in communication, several units on campus did not learn from UPD about the FBI's decision."

> - Larry Sparks **Interim Chancellor**

would not comment on whether suspension or expulsion were possible outcomes of the investi-

The Daily Mississippian emailed Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Community Engagement Shawnboda Mead on August 8 requesting an interview to further understand the BIRT process. A university spokesperson responded to the request, saying that "Shawnboda would like to respectfully decline an interview."

The KA chapter at Ole Miss suspended the three men in the photo after being asked for comment by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting and ProPublica.

LeClere posted the picture on Lowe's birthday on March 1 with the message "one of Memphis's finest and the worst influence I've ever met."

Two hundred forty seven people liked the post originally. One of those who liked the photo said in an Instagram direct message, "I just liked the picture because it was a birthday post. Had o clue who [Emmett Till] even was until all of this happened," according to Mitchell's reporting.

In a joint statement released on July 26, the Black Student Union and Associated Student Body released a statement saying they expect the university, within 90 days, "to hold all members of the UM community accountable to the UM Creed by implementing it as an actionable plan and aligning it when situations arise."

# **STATUE** continued from page 1

where it originated. Two days later, the ASB Rules Committee approved the legislation for Tuesday night's debate.

The Graduate Student Council Senate voted to relocate the statue March 4. The next night, the Associated Student Body Senate unanimously voted to do the same, and both the Faculty Senate and Staff Council

followed suit two nights later.

While all four campus government organizations request to the state college passed resolutions to relocate the statue, the university must submit the proposed move as an agenda item to the Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees for its approval in order to physically relocate the monument.

Sparks said the univer-MDAH to develop justification for moving the statue to

the Confederate cemetery on campus before submitting a board because the monument is considered a state landmark.

Once the university sends the MDAH the plans, they can submit the proposal to the IHL Board of Trustees to relocate the statue to the cemetery.

This is a developing story, and any updates or comments sity would first meet with the from the university will be added as they are released.



"The department is still awaiting plans and specifications from the University of Mississippi."

> - Michael Morris MDAH Director of Public Relations

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