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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

ASB SENATE: HOMECOMING KING AND ELECTION REFORM

Senators passed a bill Tuesday night aimed to curb Greek organizations' influence in student body elections. Earlier in the day, Attorney General Austin Fiala further explained the ASB's decision to delay the recently passed Homecoming King legislation for another year.

SEE PAGE 3

BRADEN THORBERRY: NO. 1 AMATEUR IN THE WORLD

Ole Miss' champion golfer added another accolade to his collection this week with the McCormack Medal, the most prestigious award an amateur golfer can win.



SEE PAGE 6

Community makes strides to honor lynching victim

BLAKE ALSUP
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Efforts to memorialize the 1935 killing of Elwood Higginbottom, the seventh and last person known to be lynched in Lafayette County, continued on Tuesday night.

A few dozen people lined the pews in the Tallahatchie Oxford Missionary Baptist Association church building for a public meeting hosted by the Lynching Memorialization in Lafayette County group.

April Grayson, director of community building with the William Winter Institute, led the discussion and provided background on the lynching.

A white mob lynched 28-year-old Higginbottom on September 17, 1935 — kidnapping him from the Lafayette County jail before taking him to the “Three Way” at the intersection of North Lamar Boulevard and Molly Barr Road, where he was killed.

Higginbottom had been serving time for shooting a neighboring farmer, Glen Roberts, in self-defense, three days prior.

“He stood up for his family, and that caused him to be lynched,” said Alonzo Hilliard, chairman of the communication sub-committee. Higgin-

bottom's eldest and only remaining child, E.W., was only four years old when his father was killed. Higginbottom's lynching received renewed national attention because of the work of Northwestern University law student Kyleen Burke and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

The lynching was once again brought to national attention earlier this year when Ole Miss assistant professor of journalism Vanessa Gregory wrote an in-depth piece on the tragedy and the family's struggles for The New York Times.

The Winter Institute and Burke's work brought the Higginbottom family back to Oxford — from which it fled after the killing of its patriarch — and brought healing and reconciliation to his descendants.

In September 2017, the group took Higginbottom's son and other family members on a tour around Oxford and Lafayette County to show them the areas believed to be associated with his life, arrest and lynching, including the cemetery where he is believed to be buried in an unmarked grave.

Grayson recalled E.W. Higginbottom saying, “I never thought I'd see this day come. I can't believe I'm back here, but I've met

SEE LYNCHING PAGE 4



PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

TOP: Alonzo Hilliard speaks during the Lafayette County lynching memorialization meeting at the Tallahatchie Oxford Missionary Baptist Association on Tuesday night. BOTTOM: An Oxford resident attends the first Lafayette County lynching memorialization meeting sponsored by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. The meeting sought to bring attention to victims of lynchings in Lafayette County.

State lottery bill could bring scratch-offs to Oxford

SLADE RAND
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On Tuesday, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed a lottery bill after initially voting against it on Monday. The bill will now be sent to the governor, who has already indicated his support for the bill. If signed into law, this bill would allow for gas stations and other approved vendors across the state, including those in Oxford, to sell lottery tickets.

This lottery bill comes at a time when hundreds of bridges have



PHOTO COURTESY: OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS | KEVIN BAIN

State Rep. Jay Hughes speaks at a Boys State event on campus in 2016.

been closed throughout the state because of structural concerns and after a sports betting bill passed in the previous legislative

session.

State Rep. Jay Hughes, of Oxford, said he voted in favor of the lottery bill because he be-

lieves “individuals should have the freedom to spend their own money without the government making decisions for them.”

“Most other arguments I have heard for or against the lottery are based on morals,” Hughes said. “I do not believe it is the job or right of the legislature to attempt to legislate morals. If so, where does it end?”

Hughes said proceeds from the lottery are slated to go toward infrastructure for the first 10 years, but he would like to see the funds go toward public education. Louisiana's state lottery, for comparison, netted nearly \$180 million

in proceeds that directly benefited the state's education system in the most recent fiscal year.

“It has been equally frustrating to watch Mississippians spend millions of dollars each year on the public education in Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee,” Hughes said.

For most of Mississippi's history, the lottery has been banned by the state constitution. Although voters chose to repeal this ban in 1992 by a ballot initiative, until now there has never been a successful lottery bill passed in the

SEE LOTTERY PAGE 4

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COLUMN

The Fault in Our All-Star Specials: *A case for an Oxford Waffle House*

JACOB GAMBRELL

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As most Ole Miss students do, I adore the quaint, little Southern town of Oxford, Mississippi. Unfortunately, I'm stuck in a one-sided relationship, as Oxford does not love me back. This unrequited love truly hurts, and I believe most Oxonians feel the same sting. You see, every other SEC college town has something that Oxford doesn't (well, except for Texas A&M, but they've only had six years to assimilate to SEC culture). In fact, we are deprived of something present in 1,608 other towns and live in a second-rate college town without a Waffle House.

Waffle House is a great Southern institution. In high school, my friends and I would meet at 6:45 a.m. every Friday morning to carb up before our football game on a double order of goldenly greasy hash

browns, a beautiful pecan waffle and a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich with pickle. After the football game, we would go back to the same Waffle House 16 hours later.

A few years later, I ate at Waffle House with those same friends the morning of my wedding. Before ACT tests, work shifts or church services to after concerts, movies or nights out on the town, Waffle House is where great days begin and better days end. It's a transit zone — a temporal bus stop from one part of the day to the next, one stage of life to the next. When you walk through its glass doors, you enter a place where time stands still as you dine with patrons from all walks of life. It's where you go in your highest of highs and your all-time lows. All are welcome at the table of the Waffle House. All are welcome — except Oxonians.

I don't know who's to blame — whether it's our city govern-

ment's aversion to chain restaurants or if Waffle House doesn't think we're a viable market. No matter whose fault it is, this horrible travesty must go on no longer.

OPD's Twitter account recently quote-tweeted support for a Waffle House food truck and got almost 2.4 thousand likes and 500 retweets. The sports blog Red Cup Rebellion wrote a column last summer about the distress that could be solved if the chain came to Oxford. There is even a dedicated Twitter account called @wh4oxford that "fights for a dream that all college kids share," which is having a Waffle House in Oxford. Since there is massive demand and zero supply, we must take matters into our own hands and tell Mayor Tannehill and CEO Walter G. Ehmer that we need a Waffle House.

At its worst, Waffle House is a "gas station bathroom that sells

waffles," according to stand-up comedian Jim Gaffigan. However, according to Sean Brock and Anthony Bourdain, at its best it's considered "an irony-free zone where everything is beautiful and nothing hurts."

Earlier I referred to it as a great Southern institution, but I believe that I was mistaken. Like sweet tea, bluegrass, the blues and college football, Waffle House is a Southern sacrament, and "smothered, covered, chunked, diced, peppered, capped, topped and country" is our liturgy.

Maybe someday at 2:53 a.m., our children will see those checkered yellow boxes illuminate the Oxford skyline like a lighthouse, guiding them to a safe harbor where time stands still but the waffle batter keeps flowing.

Jacob Gambrell is a senior international studies major from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

COLUMN

State lottery is legislature's latest cash grab



WILL HALL

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Yesterday the Mississippi State Legislature convened for a final special session to discuss — among other issues pertaining to the allocation of funds from the Deepwater Horizon settlement — the failing condition of the roads they rode to work on. After a chaotic set of deliberations, the Mississippi Republican establishment came to the conclusion that the best way it could salvage our failing roads and bridges would be through the introduction of a state lottery.

After decades of grandstanding,

mounting arguments that the consequences of such legislation would create an increased burden on working families and even suggesting that the introduction of such legislation would invoke the wrath of the Savior himself, the legislature finally caved.

Agreeing to convene for two additional days to address the legislation's numerous problems — ranging from the initial proposal that the state lottery commission would be external from the authority of the Public Records and Open Meeting Acts to the suggestion of allowing truck stop gaming — lawmakers finalized a bill which promises to allocate \$200 million to Mississippi's infrastructure needs with increased state oversight.

From increasing access to liquor to raising tobacco taxes and even going so far as to legalize sports gambling, with the promise to shore up our state's education system, Mississippi has spent the last century refusing to sober up from its cash-induced haze and

mumbling to voters that if they get one more hit, they'll finally beat the table while walking away to spend billions on other projects

The fact of the matter is that Mississippi will never solve its problems by introducing new ways to rob its citizens of their hard earned money when all it knows how to do is waste taxpayer funds on frivolous and corrupt public works projects.

Remember those amphitheatres in Brandon and DeSoto County that the legislature promised would bring millions to the state economy? What about the \$24.5 million dollars in taxpayer aid given to the Mississippi Aquarium currently being built on the coast or the \$274 million in taxpayer guaranteed bonds for the failed Kemper County Facility? Imagine if we spent that money on our outdated roads and bridges or even our vastly underfunded public schools.

I find it a bit hard to believe that we've invested in Mississippi's whales more than we've invested in

the roads and bridges Mississippians travel on every single day. Yet when you understand the Mississippi establishment's addiction to cash, it doesn't come as a surprise.

Instead of introducing the lottery, what if our lawmakers prioritized eliminating its agenda, which is centered on eliminating wasteful spending, reforming the welfare state and living within our means? (Yet I understand that in Jackson this would come as a truly radical proposal.)

To the legislators who spent decades preaching about the consequences of what Governor Bryant described as a "silly notion" just two years ago: What was it that led you away from standing in the way of the lottery on convictions of faith for decades? Was it a directive from the prophet, or was it merely profit itself?

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Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

ASB addresses Greek influence in campus elections

HADLEY HITSON
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The Associated Student Body Senate unanimously passed a bill Tuesday night meant to enforce new campaign rules that some Senators view as a response to the role Greek organizations have played in past elections. Earlier that same day, Attorney General Austin Fiala released a statement in support of the ASB's decision to delay the introduction of a homecoming king until the 2019 homecoming elections.

This most recent campaign reform bill aims to curb attempts by candidates, campaign representatives or organizations to "coerce, bribe, incentivize, intimidate or force a person to vote or campaign for a specific candidate." Violations will result in a major campaign violation for the candidate.

The bill comes after former Attorney General Katherine Sistrunk's resignation and decision to lead an Election Reforms Task Force. She said Greek organizations "provide certain advantages to their members running in student elections that non-Greek affiliated candidates are not afforded." "This bill seeks to combat unethical behavior we have seen and heard of on the behalf of candidates and their supporters in recent elections," Sen. Charlotte Shackelford, one of the bill's authors, said.

Sen. Barron Mayfield vocalized his concerns regarding the bill's enforceability and played a key role in amending the bill to the version that was passed.



FILE PHOTO: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Students hand out campaign stickers in front of the ASB candidate signs on Business Row last year.

"Let's get around the elephant in the room and say that this is pretty much a reaction to the point system used by sororities," Mayfield said.

The "point system" is a system used by sororities to incentivize chapter members to vote for their own members running in ASB elections. Sororities often award or penalize members by threatening their entrance to parties or revoking other privileges.

Mayfield also clarified that though Greek organizations may reward points to members for voting, they may not reward points for voting for specific candidates.

"This is not a specific attack on the Greek community," Shackelford said. "ASB does not oversee what specific

chapters or organizations on this campus choose to do and cannot do. However, ASB does oversee election rules that a candidate, Greek or non-Greek, must follow."

"The Attorney General in the past has done nothing to make sure that we hold these people running for office and organizations accountable for what they're doing, so they've pretty much been running unchecked," Sen. Nick Weaver said.

Sens. Shackelford and Weaver agreed that this bill will provide the Attorney General and the Elections Commission with more consistent and clear language off of which to base their decisions.

Sen. Abby Johnston is a member of the Greek community herself and

demonstrated her full support for these campaigning rules. "This bill is not anti-Greek," she said.

"The intent is also to legitimize our positions," Johnston said. "It's saying that you can run for these positions regardless of organizations that are backing you."

ASB also made another campaign announcement Tuesday, when newly appointed Attorney General Austin Fiala released a statement explaining the decision that there will not be an election for Homecoming King in the upcoming fall elections.

"We believe that a Homecoming King election this fall would create an unequal playing field, as members of the student body and hopeful candidates, alike, would be required to operate on a shortened timeline," the statement read.

The announcement came just days after the Senate overturned former ASB President Dion Kevin's veto of a bill to instate a Homecoming King election.

"By holding the inaugural election of a Homecoming King in the fall of 2019, all eligible students will have an equal amount of time to consider running, to prepare a campaign team and to garner a support network for their candidacies in the time leading up to campaign season," Fiala's statement read.

As several Senators stated and Fiala's statement reiterated, the goal of ASB is to serve and represent the entire student body, and a large part of that is fostering fair elections.

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LYNCHING

continued from page 1

nothing but good people all day long.”

At a later meeting, the group decided to contact the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Its initial contact with the EJI evolved into a year-long partnership that culminated in the group naming the Oxford-Lafayette area a priority community, paying for a

memorialization plaque and sponsoring a high school essay contest that will award five local students with \$1,000 scholarships.

The plaque dedicated to Higginbottom will be unveiled on Oct. 27, at the three-way stop where he was killed. The community-wide event will be the first of seven markers to commemorate lynchings in Lafayette County.

The six other victims — Harris Tunstall, William Gregory, William Jackson, William Steen, William Chandler and Lawson Patton —

were all lynched before Higginbottom. A research subcommittee has been formed — and will continue to accept members going forward — to investigate these and Higginbottom’s lynchings.

Jeff Jackson, a professor of sociology and anthropology, will aid the research subcommittee. Any interested university students are encouraged to join, and there will be classes on campus concerning the ongoing research surrounding Higginbottom and other victims, Jackson said.

Not talking openly about the past leads to forgetting it, which is why members of campus are interested in getting involved, according to Jackson.

Hilliard stressed not the intellectual or societal weight of remembering the lynchings but the importance of helping a single family heal.

“What we are trying to do here is to help this family and memorialize Mr. Higginbottom in a way that this family can be proud of what happened to their father, in the way

that it did. He died for them,” Hilliard said.

Hilliard said the community hasn’t owned up to what happened to Higginbottom and that the unveiling in October will, “show the rest of the nation that Oxford is doing something about racial reconciliation.”

The meeting concluded with a prayer about unity, love and knowledge by Lee Robinson, moderator of the Tallahatchie Oxford Missionary Baptist Association.

LOTTERY

continued from page 1

legislature.

As the bill made its way through the House, members approved an amendment proposed by state Rep. Sonya Williams-Barnes, of Gulfport, that would repurpose lottery proceeds in excess of \$80 million each year toward pre-K education.

“I don’t look at it as my education amendment. It is the students’ and Mississippi’s education amendment,” Wil-

“Most other arguments I have heard for or against the lottery are based on morals. I do not believe it is the job or right of the legislature to attempt to legislate morals. If so, where does it end?”

Jay Hughes

State House Representative

iams-Barnes said. “It took all of those who voted for it and continue to vote.”

She said the bill’s additional

focus on education can benefit the overall financial well-being of Mississippians.

“First of all, I think that the avenue from poverty to wealth is education. It’s important that we support public education so that we can fix some of the issues of poverty that exist in our state,” Williams-Barnes said.

Ray Rupani has owned Four Corners Chevron just off the Square for eight years and said he is excited about the potential of a state lottery. He said he would sell lottery tickets under whatever laws the state requires.

“If the state of Mississippi starts carrying it, I would carry the lottery also,” Rupani said. “That would bring a lot of new customers, bring opportunities, bring revenues and all of that.”

Rupani owned a gas station in Collierville, Tennessee, before moving to Oxford. Tennessee operates a statewide lottery, and Rupani said that in his years there he became familiar with selling lottery tickets at his gas station.

“It’s all computerized and automatic. All you do is just keep up with the inventory, and that’s

it,” he said.

He said his most popular lottery ticket sales were the Powerball and scratch-off tickets.

Amer Alowdi, who works at the Texaco station down the road from Rupani’s Chevron, said his gas station would also sell lottery tickets if the lottery bill becomes law. Alowdi’s cousin, Omar Alowdi, owns the Marathon gas station across the street and said that if the state passes a lottery bill, he would also participate in the lottery.

“I would take a chance to do so,” Omar Alowdi said.

MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Phil Bryant’s crusade to save his lottery proposal

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Just hours after the House stunned the Capitol on Monday night by rejecting Gov. Phil Bryant’s special session lottery proposal, at least six state representatives sat around a big table at Caet, a wine bar and restaurant in Jackson’s Fondren neighborhood.

Earlier in the evening, the lottery legislation had gone down in flames in part because Democrats wanted more of the proceeds to go towards education.

The legislators — both Republicans and Democrats — at Caet were among the 60 House members who had rejected the lottery proposal earlier that evening, jeopardizing Bryant’s plan that offered a lottery as a key piece of his \$200 million special session for road and bridge funding.

The objective of the Jackson restaurant meeting was for governor’s staff to flip some of Monday’s no votes to the yes column.

Several lawmakers described the scene to Mississippi Today, but declined to speak on the record because they did not want to draw the ire of their colleagues or the governor’s office. One at a time, representatives at the restaurant left their big table and moved to a smaller table in the restaurant to sit with Whitney Lipscomb, an attorney on Bryant’s staff and a main author of the lottery bill, who answered questions and addressed concerns they had about the bill.

A main topic of those one-on-one conversations, according to lawmakers who were approached by the governor’s staff on Monday and Tuesday, was the pot of about \$100 million in BP settlement money that is expected to be set aside for specific, earmarked



PHOTO COURTESY: MISSISSIPPI TODAY | ERIC SHELTON

State Rep. Willie Perkins Sr. speaks to other representatives after the House passed the lottery bill during a special session at the Capitol in Jackson Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018.

projects.

Representatives of the governor’s office said the subject of the meeting was the lottery bill not BP funding.

“The role of Gov. Bryant’s policy staff is to answer any questions lawmakers have about a particular issue or piece of legislation, especially one as complex and groundbreaking as Senate Bill 2001,” said Bryant spokesman Clay Chandler. “Whitney Lipscomb was fulfilling that responsibility well yesterday, as she has numerous times before.”

Bryant announced at the beginning of the special session that splitting up the BP funds — the settlement the state received from the 2010 oil spill that devastated the Gulf Coast — would be considered during the special session, but not until the other aspects of the transportation proposal were passed.

Indeed, several House members told Mississippi Today it was made clear after Monday’s vote that before the possible earmarks from the BP funding could be placed on the table,

a lottery had to pass.

It eventually did Tuesday, as eight total representatives flipped their no vote from Monday to a yes vote. Of those, five were Republicans and three were Democrats. At least two of those eight representatives were at Caet with Lipscomb on Monday night.

The scene at Caet provides rare insight into the mechanics of legislating in Jackson: If a bill fails, legislative procedures typically keep the bill alive for some time. As the bill hangs in the balance, lobbyists representing major international corporations and political staffers who have direct influence over the state’s purse strings can plead their cases.

Bryant’s efforts to revive the lottery bill are extraordinary given that he and fellow Republican leaders previously staunchly opposed the games.

Nonetheless, Lipscomb’s efforts succeeded, and by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, staffers inside the governor’s office were celebrating and deciding how to add the BP settlement item to

the special session.

Since the Senate passed the proposal on Monday, the bill now moves to the governor’s desk for signature. Leaders said this week they expect the game will be “up and running” in about two years.

Various members who voted for the controversial proposal did so because they said their constituents wanted it and because a large number of Mississippians were traveling to surrounding states to purchase lottery tickets.

“I live in a border county to Tennessee,” said Rep. Bubba Carpenter, R-Burnsville. “I feel like a lot of our Mississippi money is going (out of state). We are losing not only money from lottery tickets, but also sales tax when they purchase gas, beer or whatever when buying a lottery ticket.”

Carpenter said he had a few to ask him to vote no, but “beaucoup of my people asked me to vote for it.”

The state will create a quasi-government agency called the Mississipi

Lottery Corp. that will be run by a five-member board of governor’s appointees. Those appointees would select a president of the corporation, subject to the governor’s veto, and they would hire a private company to oversee the implementation of the game.

Lawmakers said the proposal would generate \$80 million per year in revenue — a majority of which would be earmarked for state road and bridge repairs. Leaders tweaked the conference report, sending any revenue in excess of \$80 million to the Education Enhancement Fund. After 10 years, the lottery revenue would flow directly into the state’s General Fund.

Even though Republicans hold a three-fifths supermajority in the House, the governor always had needed Democrats to pass the lottery proposal because of the significant moral opposition to the lottery amongst Republicans.

After the House rejected the bill on Monday night, Bryant was pointedly critical of Democrats who vote to oppose it. But by Tuesday, Bryant’s office had convinced enough Democrats and Republicans to pass the bill.

“I wasn’t going to jeopardize our funding on roads, something so important,” said Rep. Doug McLeod, R-Lucedale. “Seven out of 10 in my district want a lottery anyway. I’m not generally opposed to a lottery, I didn’t like the process of some of the stuff in the bill.”

Rep. Greg Holloway, D-Hazlehurst, changed from no on Monday to yes on Tuesday “because my questions and concerns have been addressed.” He said he met with House members who supported the lottery who told him the various items the education money could be used for, but not the governor’s office.

The Lyric's fall schedule opens tonight with Two Friends

STORY BALL

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For The Lyric's kickoff concert of the semester, Two Friends, a DJ duo known for remixes of popular songs, will take the stage at 9:00 p.m. Wednesday night.

Matt Halper and Eli Sones are the minds behind Two Friends. The pair have been best friends since middle school and have always bonded through their mutual passion for music.

During their senior year of high school, they started putting their dreams into action. Halper and Sones began remixing songs and other dance music, thus creating Two Friends.

Two Friends eventually went viral, with remixes of popular songs including "Trap Queen," "I Miss You" and "Mr. Brightside" streaming all over popular music stations and devices. After gaining popularity from the internet and radio, they now perform live shows.

"Being able to do what we love — and do it as a career — is often surreal," Two Friends said in an email exchange with the Daily Mississippian. "And getting to do it with your best friend — that's just the icing on the cake. But being able to work on music in our studio each week and then travel all over on weekends to perform that music — we try to never take that for granted, and



PHOTO COURTESY: TWO FRIENDS

it motivates us to keep working even harder."

Halper and Sones are no strangers to Oxford. Although Two Friends started in Los An-

geles, this will not be the group's first time performing in the city.

"We've been to Oxford a couple times in the past two years, and it is always such a blast,"

Two Friends said. "We have a feeling that this Wednesday is going to top them all though. It's a great town with a beautiful campus, but the best part is definitely

just all the students (that have) so much energy each time. It always turns into quite the party."

Citing progress as a main goal, Halper and Sones say there is much to look forward to in the future of Two Friends, and they have not wasted time coming out with new collaborations. Their most recent single, "Bandaid," came out two months ago.

"Some of the music we're finishing up and some of the music we're just starting on with awesome collaborators, it gets us so excited for what's ahead," Two Friends said. "Get ready for a lot of new music, bigger and better shows, more mixes, more fun videos (as always) and just continuing to grow Two Friends as best as we can. We're so pumped for Oxford to kick off this fall back-to-school season."

With music tailored to a college-aged audience, Two Friends already have fans on campus.

"Mr. Brightside" is definitely my favorite remix that they have put out," said freshman psychology major Kristi Stewart. "The song is great by itself, and it (is) made even better by Two Friends' own personal spin on the tune. They seem like they have a great time on stage, and I am very excited to witness that at The Lyric on Wednesday."

Two Friends' concert is an 18-and-over event presented by the Bonfire Social Club at Ole Miss.

Latest 'Mission: Impossible': Decent action, nothing new

IAN PAYNE

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The days of Hollywood being a bastion of creativity and originality are dead, and sequels and reboots are the new kings of entertainment. The worst part about this is that Hollywood doesn't even use the "sequel-boot" to do something different or change the formula.

Case in point, see the newest installment of the "Mission: Impossible" series, "Fallout," a title which I can only say makes the movie seem cooler than it actually is.

In this iteration, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) must heroically hero his way through multiple potential love interests, terrorists, car chases and stunts in order to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of a terrorist organization called the Apostles (a.k.a. the Syndicate (a.k.a. Hydra)).

After dropping the nuclear ball on a mission, Hunt is teamed up with CIA agent August Walker (Henry Cavill). Armed with a gun, a fistful of arthritis medication and Walker's mustache — which has the power to end the careers of dozens of Justice League editors — they embark on

the most impossible "Mission: Impossible" mission yet.

Cruise is 56 in reality and 53 in the movie, yet he almost single-handedly does the job of several armies, a couple of intelligence agencies, a criminal organization and a doctor within span of a couple hours.

You really have to hand it to the scientists that the Church of [Redacted] kidnapped and trapped in their subterranean labs beneath Riverside County. They've really perfected the art of harnessing the life energy from all their sacrifices in order to keep Cruise young forever.

At multiple points in the movie, the agents just kind of acknowledge how ridiculous it is that they keep succeeding in these missions. This always happens with little more than Hunt's assurance that he'll protect everyone, which — and I'm gonna say this is a spoiler even though it shouldn't come as a shock to anyone who's ever heard of these movies — he does.

Don't let the trailers that imply he might possibly break bad fool you. He saves everyone within a five-mile radius of himself.

You would think that a special covert operations force working alongside every major intelligence agency in the world



PHOTO COURTESY: "MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT" FACEBOOK

and fighting all kinds of threats with no operating parameters would have to perform some morally questionable actions for

the greater good. But Hunt (or Cruise, really) is America's special golden boy, and America's special golden boy can't be mor-

ally ambiguous.

As such, almost every single moral quandary that Hunt finds himself in works itself out so that he only ever ends up having to shoot the bad guys. Or, in other cases, Hunt will go incredibly far out of his way to not have to do anything too unredeemable — almost equally opposite to how far the various bad guys go out of their way to be bad.

Despite this, the tone of "Mission: Impossible — Fallout" stays consistent enough to not take you out of it, and some of the action scenes are pretty cool if you somehow haven't had them spoiled by the trailers.

Of course, you also have to respect Cruise's insistence at filming all his own stunts, even if it means breaking more bones in the process.

At the end of the day, it's a "Mission: Impossible" movie. You know what to expect. It's a competent action movie with solid performances and subject matter that never gets too risky so that your average American Joe can easily digest it.

It's like the movie version of applesauce: It tastes good and is easy to swallow, but it lacks sustenance and tastes exactly like it did last time.

Thornberry honored as McCormack Medal winner

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Former NCAA National Champion Braden Thornberry has received another major accolade by winning the McCormack Medal, the most prestigious award an amateur golfer can win.

The USGA and the R&A announced Thornberry's victory on Monday morning, confirming Thornberry as the No. 1 player on the World Amateur Golf Ranking following the conclusions of both the U.S. and European Amateur Championships.

The award, named after Mark H. McCormack, the late founder of IMG, has been taken home by some massive names since its inception in 2007, including Jon Rahm and Ollie Schneiderjans.

"This is a prestigious award, and I am honored to be among the group of past recipients," Thornberry said. "There are many people who have made this possible

along the way, and I am grateful to everyone. I am really excited about my future in the game of golf, and I hope to keep representing my country, my state and the University of Mississippi in the best way possible."

The excitement around the program seems to be at a level rivaled only by that of Thornberry's 2017 National Championship win. Head coach Chris Malloy said he believes he and the program have a generational player in Thornberry, and he heaped praise on the Ole Miss star.

"I don't necessarily know that he has a ceiling," Malloy said. "I've coached many talented players that were know-it-alls, that didn't ask very good questions, weren't interested in being coached. They were good players. They went on to be fine players. Then you have players that maybe didn't have tons of talent but just worked their tails off, and they went off to be very good players. I think with Braden you have the whole package. He is the most coachable guy that I've had in



PHOTO COURTESY: OLE MISS SPORTS

Braden Thornberry travels to compete as an individual in the NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional in 2016.

my career, at the end of the day."

As is the nature of the sport, coach Malloy was hesitant to make monumental statements about his expectations for the season, but the excitement is clear from all parties.

"And I think as a coach you almost have to reel expectations back a hair and focus on the process," he said. "We have to focus on process with Braden and (on) controlling everything that he can control, rather than outcomes."

Malloy said Thornberry works harder than any other golfer at improving his game and knows the areas in which he needs to improve.

"(Thornberry) asks the right questions," Malloy said. "If he does those things, the results will take care of themselves, and he will be a better golfer this year than he was last year — than he was even the year before."

Having Thornberry as a talisman for success in the Ole Miss Golf program is an important asset for the young players on the team. Malloy said that for those players, the chance to learn from someone of his quality is an advantage. He said Thornberry is talented not just on the course but also in the way he shares insights with other golfers.

"It's got to mean the world to (them) that they've got a blueprint in front of them for what it takes to be the best amateur in the world and what it takes to be successful," Malloy said. "Sometimes, your best player does all the right things himself, but sometimes, they're so competitive (that) they're not going to share their secrets of the trade with everybody else. Braden is an open book."

Heading into the season, Thornberry is already quite literally at the top of the world (in rankings). However, this season is his chance to set the tone and prove that he's yet to hit a ceiling of personal improvement heading into the 2019 U.S. Open and his PGA career.

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SOLUTION TO 8.27.2018 PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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17				18				19				
20				21				22				
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ACROSS

1 Area

5A ___ formality

9 Beer choice

14 Thought

15 National competitor

16 Snigler

17 Long and Peeples

18 Cut the crop

19 French composer Erik

20 Assuredly

22 Male deer

23 Writer Hentoff

24 Discovers

25 Senator Specter

29 More secure

32 Gadget

34 Comforting

39 Hamburg's river

40 Big name in printers

42 To ___ (exactly)

43 Stretch

45 Car heart

47 Hopping mad

49 Ed of "Lou Grant"

50 Legally responsible

54 Flight

56 Founded: abbr.

57 Pedantic or formal quality

63 ___ Haute

DOWN

1 Bluish white metallic element

2 Comics canine

3 Close by

4 Sunrise direction

5 "West Side Story" song

6 Happenings

7 Iranian coin

8 Catch a view of

9 Final course

10 Gaucho's rope

11 Communion table

12 Pretend

13 Lock of hair

21 Tolstoy's Karenina

24 Sierra ___

25 Zip-___-Doo-Dah

26 Drum sound

27 Timber wolf

28 Utopia

30 It's a plus

31 Rock's ___ Fighters

33 The Wreck of the Mary ___

35 Witches

36 Pack ___ (quit)

37 Hawaii's state bird

38 Grandpa Walton portrayer

41 School org.

44 Unit of magnetomotive force

46 Reputation

48 Go by

50 Lewd one

51 Grenoble's river

52 Skylit lobbies

53 Less covered

55 Let's Make ___

57 Impersonator

58 "Unforgettable" singer

59 Soft shoes

60 As to

61 Actor Penn

62 High-ranking NCO

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The University of Mississippi Department of Parking & Transportation (DPT) in Oxford, Mississippi hereby gives notice of enactment of the University's Traffic and Parking Regulations for the 2018-2019 academic year. These rules and regulations are enacted by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi, and are effective from and after July 1, 2018. The full text of such rules and regulations are available at www.olemiss.edu/parking the website of DPT.

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Puzzles by KrazyDad

			9					3
	6	5						8
		9	1					
	4	6	7			1		
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	1					7	6	
2					5			

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

CHALLENGING

8	6	4	5	1	9	7	3	2
2	9	7	4	6	3	8	1	5
6	5	1	3	8	2	4	6	9
7	4	8	3	6	5	1	2	9
9	2	6	1	4	8	3	5	7
8	3	5	1	6	7	2	9	4
4	7	9	2	5	1	6	8	3
1	6	8	7	3	4	5	9	2
3	1	5	6	8	9	2	4	7

Eric Swinney out three weeks after mono diagnosis

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The Ole Miss offensive unit will have to deal with the loss of running back Eric Swinney in Saturday's AdvoCare Texas Kickoff against Texas Tech. The redshirt junior was diagnosed with mononucleosis early Tuesday, after showing symptoms over the weekend. The team's medical staff expects Swinney to miss the Rebels' first three games.

Going into the season, Matt Luke's backfield was set to be a committee of sorts, with junior Scottie Phillips and Swinney looking to replace Jordan Wilkins, a fifth-round pick in April's NFL Draft.

Though he is listed as the second running back on the Ole Miss depth chart, Swinney possesses a vital asset that is now absent in the Rebel backfield: experience. As a junior college transfer, Phillips has had his fair share of playing time in his career, but none of it has come while playing against an SEC defense.

"It depends what situation we're in," running back coach Derrick Nix said, regarding who would come in behind Phillips on Saturday. "I think that you could see Isaiah (Woullard), you could see Tylan (Knight), you could see Armani (Linton)."

Woullard, who is listed third on the depth chart, and Knight

are both true freshmen, and Linton is a junior who has primarily been a defensive back for the Rebels, up to this point in his career.

The loss of Swinney hurts the Rebel cause even more when considering that the Ole Miss backfield is already banged up. Junior D'Vaughn Pennamon was the Rebels' second-leading rusher in 2017 despite suffering a season-ending knee dislocation against Texas A&M in November. Pennamon is still recovering from the injury, though he has started participating in individual drills.

"I think in midseason we will re-evaluate him (and) see where he is at," Nix said.

Despite these losses, the unit remains confident that they will be able to compete at a high level.

"(Coach Nix) has helped us out a lot and taught us a lot, so I think we will be fine," Woullard said. "It's the same role, just bigger opportunity."

Woullard also acknowledged that there is a certain comfort level that one can have when playing behind such an experienced offensive line in such a talented offensive unit.

"They're great," Woullard said. "It's just an honor (to play with them)."

Nix himself is similarly upbeat. Though the unexpected nature of Swinney's injury could have caught the coach off-guard, Nix remained poised thanks to



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

The Ole Miss football team holds one of its first practices of the season.

a great deal of confidence in the remainder of the position group.

"I feel really good," Nix said. "Of course, it is always different when you get into a game situation, but they have always shown signs that they will be able to compete at a high level and be able to function."

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Rebel Roll Call: McGriff confident in his young linebackers

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As the anticipation intensifies leading up to the team's trip to NRG Stadium in Houston, so do the questions regarding the defense, specifically the linebackers.

The defense as a whole has been underwhelming in recent memory, but defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff, in his second stint at Ole Miss, is hopeful that his linebackers can strengthen the defense rather than weaken it.

The loss of DeMarquis Gates, who led the team with 114 total tackles in 2017, will be a big blow on and off the field for the Rebels. With his departure, the linebacking core now features only two upperclassmen among a slew of freshmen and sophomores.

One of those upperclassmen, junior Willie Hibbler, is poised to take up a leadership role in the linebackers' room. Hibbler has appeared in 10 games in his Ole Miss career, recording a total of 22 tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss. Although his numbers may not jump off of the page, he was named as one of the starting outside linebackers on Monday, and coaches are optimistic he can be a difference-maker this year.

"He knows what to do," head coach Matt Luke said. "He is improving because of the competition."

Sophomore Mohamed "Momo" Sanogo will also see a lot of time on the field during the 2018 season. Coaches have been impressed with his performance during fall camp and announced that he would start against Texas Tech on Saturday. After playing in only five games in 2017 and finishing with eight total tackles, he has a lot of room for improve-



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Linebackers Josh Clarke and Luke Knox join a group of players to huddle up after running drills during practice on Friday.

ment as a starter. "When you look at Momo, this guy has got a strong football IQ," McGriff said. "He has really done a tremendous job this off-season of changing his body. His focus

is a lot better, and right now he's gonna be in the right spot, more often than not. He's got the size to get in there and anchor it. Now he's just got to continue to prove his play strength."

Lining up beside Sanogo will be true freshman Kevontae' Ruggs. The Alabama native has shown his ability to fly around the field and make plays on a consistent basis in camp, which has landed

him a starting position.

"He is just a natural football player," McGriff said. "He'll make some freshman mistakes, but we've got to live with it. He'll make more plays than he gives up. The biggest asset for Kevontae' Ruggs is having Momo next to him."

Behind Hibbler, Sanogo and Ruggs are two freshmen, Luke Knox and Josh Clarke, who are also fighting for playing time and will almost certainly see the field at some point this season. The true freshman Knox, brother of tight end Dawson Knox, has a lot of potential with his 6-foot-3, 227-pound frame.

Clarke, a 4-star recruit in 2017 according to ESPN, also has the potential to be a successful linebacker. The Louisiana native was redshirted last season, which gave him an opportunity to gain experience under veterans and learn McGriff's defense.

"The Landshark defense is back — that's all I'm gonna say," Clarke said. "I just hope we have a good season together."

With the linebacker's past performance in mind, the young Rebels have nowhere to go but up. Coach McGriff is confident in his players' abilities; it's just up to them to execute the game plan and communicate with each other out on the field.

"We've talked all summer about how a noisy defense is a good defense," McGriff said. "We just want to make sure we're giving them confidence that carries over to game time."

To read our analysis of each Rebel position group, visit the Rebel Roll Call section of thedmonline.com

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