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MISSISSIPPIAN

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SPECIAL REPORT: THE OLE MISS PENDULUM

The events of the past year demonstrate a growing momentum on the Ole Miss campus. Yesterday's special report explores the origins of that momentum and where it may take the university next.

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City considers ban on e-cigarette use

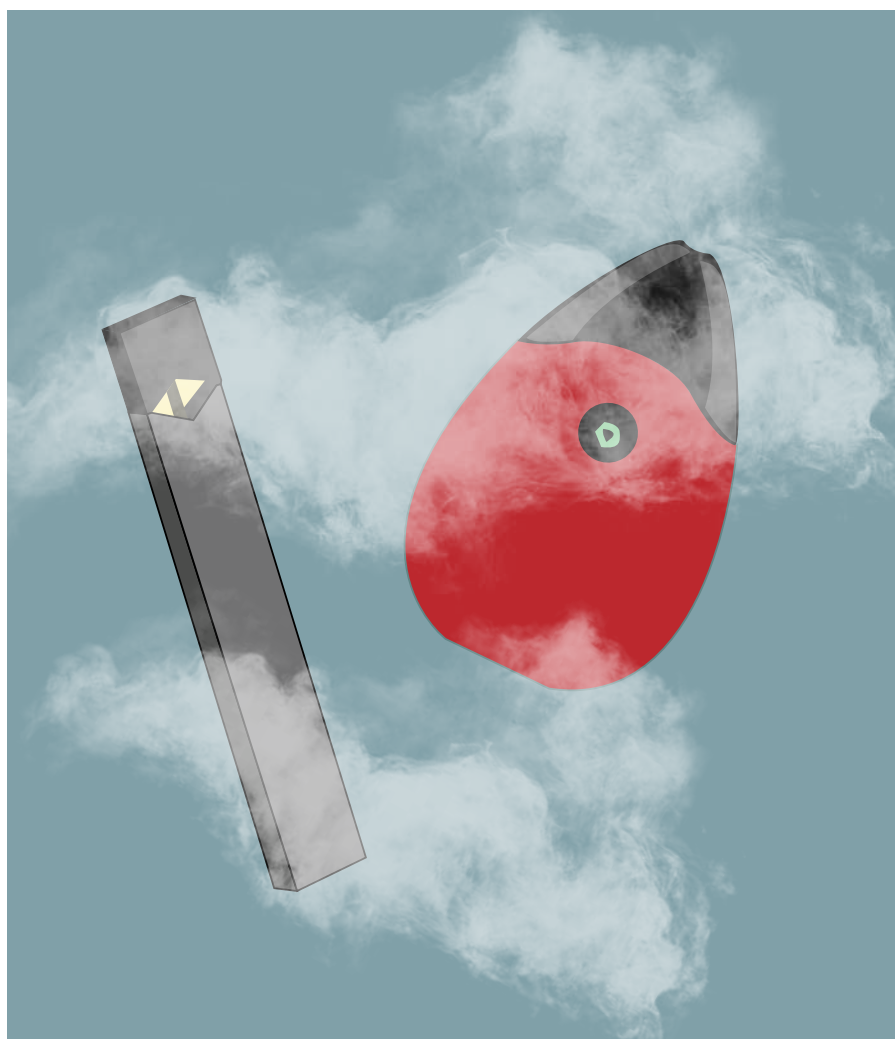


ILLUSTRATION: ELISE BRANDWEIN AND MACKENZIE LINNEEN

EMMA ROSE DAVIS
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Square-goers may no longer be able to smoke electronic cigarettes inside if the Oxford Board of Aldermen votes to pass the ordinance change they proposed during their meeting on Tuesday, April 2.

The Board of Aldermen gave the first reading of the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 50, Article IV—Smoking Ban of the city's Code of Ordinances.

This reading proposes changing the smoking ban to add any "electronic smoking device" to the ordinance, meaning that bars, restaurants and establishments on city-owned property will no longer allow patrons to use devices such as Juuls.

The ordinance was proposed at the suggestion of local business owners, according to the aldermen.

Police Chief Jeff McCutchen said that electronic smoking devices are a problem that was not explicitly addressed in the smoking ordinance, and the verbiage needed to be changed.

"We are trying to stay proactive

and look at trends that can affect businesses and people around them," McCutchen said. "People should be able to go and eat or shop at different establishments and not feel like they are getting smoked on."

Lee Harris, owner of Funky's Pizza and Daiquiri Bar, said e-cigarettes do not really bother him because they don't smell like cigarettes, and he has not had any problems or complaints regarding e-cigarettes in his establishment.

"It will make it more difficult for us to regulate, but there are positives and negatives to both (sides)," Harris said. "If it ever got to be a problem that my patrons complained about, then I would stop it immediately."

Former Library Sports Bar bartender Alexandra Santiago said she can see the proposed ordinance change creating a problem for bar staff, but she also sees why it would be a positive change for restaurants and businesses that are more family-friendly.

"I really don't see how this will

SEE **E-CIGS** PAGE 3

New director wants to move health center to hospital

MADISON HYATT
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The University of Mississippi health center has recently made a change in administration, hiring Alex Langhart as the director of health services to replace Dr. Travis Yates after the latter stepped down from the position.

After holding the position since July 2013, Yates's desire to return to medical care prompted his decision.

"My background is a physician's background," Yates said. "I've been doing patient care all my life. I had never been a director of anything. I made a promise to the administration that I could maintain our current level of care, and that was my whole focus — to maintain status quo. We were very successful with that."

Yates will continue to see patients at the center, but he will no longer have administrative responsibilities.

"When (Yates) asked if he could step down from the director role, he and I talked at length about all the changes in healthcare that are occurring in our country," Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Leslie Banahan said. "We agreed that the health center needed a full-time administrator instead of someone who was trying to balance administration but also see patients."

Following the announcement of Yates's decision, Langhart, an alumnus of the university, was selected to fill the position.

"My family has been in health care ever since I was younger," Langhart said. "Health care is just in my family. I knew I

wanted to go into it, but I didn't know if it would be the clinical side or the business side. After coming to Ole Miss, it turned out I liked the business side a little bit better."

Langhart graduated in 2015 with a master's degree in health services administration. Although this is the first time in six years that the health center will not be run by a practicing doctor, this type of administration is not uncommon. According to Langhart, many other universities follow this model.

"When physicians go to school, they go to school to be a doctor and to take care of patients," Langhart said. "People like me take a different route and go with the administrative side so



PHOTO: MADISON HYATT

SEE **HEALTH CENTER** PAGE 3

Alex Langhart, new director of the V.B. Harrison Health Center.

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COLUMN

State lottery will be a tax on the desperate



JOHN HYDRISKO
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

At the end of August 2018, Gov. Phil Bryant signed legislation authorizing a lottery in Mississippi. In recent months, a five-member board of directors has worked to establish a \$400 million Mississippi Lottery Corporation. At the moment, Mississippi is still one of six states that does not sell lottery tickets, but that is expected to change by next spring and perhaps as early as this October.

Many politicians supporting the lottery call it a last-ditch effort to raise revenues for Mississippi's failing infrastructure and foundering schools despite the state generally avoiding significant tax hikes on the state's wealthiest citizens. The lottery, essentially, is a tax levied by anti-tax

politicians. I don't know if the lottery is economically wise, but I do think that the lottery is morally wrong.

Some say that lotteries are a way for states to get money from people foolish enough to throw it away on terrible odds. Lotteries are, I think, a way for states to sell hope to the hopeless. Different people play the lottery for different reasons, but the lottery is generally most popular among the most marginalized segments of society who view it as a slim chance to radically improve their lives.

On average, people with annual incomes over \$100,000 spend \$300 a year on lotteries, whereas people with annual incomes under \$13,000 spend \$600. On average, college-educated people spend \$200 a year on lotteries, whereas non-college-educated people spend \$700. On average, white people spend \$210 a year on lotteries, whereas African-Americans spend \$998. A lottery is a tax on segments of society that are already discouraged, disempowered and disenfranchised.

There are, of course, many marginalized people in Mississippi. The state is the

poorest in the union, with a median household income of \$34,473. One in four Mississippians lives below the federal poverty line of \$12,490. Why, some are asking, shouldn't poor people pay their share? But the fact of the matter is that poor Mississippians are not only taxed but overtaxed. Mississippi levies a 5% income tax against the highest bracket, but the highest bracket includes anyone making more than \$10,000 a year.

On average, a person in Madison County makes three times as much as a person in Holmes County, but both individuals pay a 5% income tax. Mississippi charges a 7% sales tax — one of the higher sales taxes in the country — which disproportionately affects poor people who must spend almost all of their income to survive. To make matters worse, Mississippi is one of two states that charges the full sales tax rate on groceries. The average Mississippian pays 12% of his or her annual income for various state taxes, making Mississippi the 14th highest taxing state in the union.

Mississippians are already taxed, and poor Mississippians are already heavily taxed. In

funding our infrastructure and schools, we should not enact a tax that disproportionately targets some of the poorest people in the country.

Supporters of the lottery remind us that the lottery is an optional tax. The state, they say, would not force anyone to play the lottery. I don't buy this, and neither should you. The state of Mississippi, since its inception, has denied or failed to provide opportunity to poor people, undereducated people and people of color. To leave people with one option is to grant them no option at all.

Of course Mississippi needs the money, but the money should come from honestly taxing the rich and content instead of dishonestly gaming the poor. The state has no business peddling a sense of hope that the state itself has long withheld.

John Hydrisko is a sophomore English and philosophy major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CORRECTIONS

A headline on page 5 of yesterday's Daily Mississippian implied that Ed Meek photographed Mahoghany Jordan and Ki'yona Crawford. He did not photograph the women but received the photos that appeared in his Sept. 19, 2018, Facebook post from an acquaintance.

An article on page 10 of yesterday's Daily Mississippian incorrectly stated the year that the university's journalism department became the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. The school was formed in 2009, not 2007.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

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.

HEALTH CENTER continued from page 1

we can deal with the laws and regulations. That, I believe, any health care provider would tell you is a headache for them.”

Langhart began work as the director of clinic operations at the Greenwood Leflore Hospital after earning his master’s degree. Langhart commuted from Oxford to Greenwood daily. After four years in this position, Langhart was ready for a change.

“The position just fell in my lap,” Langhart said. “Even though I was going to Greenwood, I lived in Oxford. That was a three-hour round trip every day. That was rough on me and my wife. I saw (this position) was open, applied and got lucky enough to get through the interview process.”

Langhart’s administrative work will include running daily operations, budgeting, staffing and coordinating community outreach and student and employee affairs. He said he hopes to lead the health center toward accreditation, the highest stamp of approval by the Association of Accreditation of Ambulatory Healthcare.

“(The health center) is not accredited right now because the facility doesn’t meet those requirements,” Langhart said. “We’ve outgrown the space that we’re currently in.”

Because of limited space,



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Former University Health Services Director Dr. Travis Yates announced his resignation from the position earlier this semester.

Langhart hopes to move the health center to the South Oxford Center, the previous location of the Baptist Memorial Hospital on South Lamar Boulevard. The health center would be located in the old emergency room space. Although it is off campus, Langhart said he believes the location will better fit the university’s needs.

“This current building is very old, and I have eight exam rooms with five providers. That’s not ideal,” Langhart said. “I understand that it’s very nice to be able to walk and get care, but if we want to grow, if we want to get accredited, we have to be in a facility that’s going to allow for that. We need to cater to our entire population and not just a small portion of it.”

According to Langhart, student and administrative input is necessary in the decision for the move. The proposed move wouldn’t take place for at least another year, but two surveys will soon be sent out to evaluate student and employee opinion.

E-CIGS continued from page 1

be a manageable thing for bars,” Santiago said. “A lot of people have switched from cigarettes to e-cigarettes so they don’t have to step outside.”

University of Mississippi students have responded to this proposed ordinance change with mixed emotions.

“As a non-smoker, I think that people think e-cigarettes don’t have as many adverse effects as cigarettes,” said political science major and incoming Associated Student Body Judicial Council chair Liza Boyer.

People aged 18 to 24 are using e-cigarettes at increasing rates, according to the Truth Initiative, but many are still against their public use.

“As a non-smoker, it’s really annoying having smoke always blown in my face, even if it doesn’t smell like cigarette smoke or smells good,” elementary education major Carlye Mann said.

The University of Mississippi is technically already a smoke-free campus, but university officials have had problems with student use of e-cigarettes.

McCutchen offered a piece of advice to those who plan on using e-cigarettes.

“Educate yourselves on what this is costing you. It is not just vapor and flavor — it has lasting effects,” he said.

The second reading of this proposed ordinance change will happen at the next Board of Aldermen meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 in the City Hall courtroom. All Board of Aldermen meetings are open to the public.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Hoang Minh Nguyen

B.S. in Mathematics;
B.B.A. in Managerial Finance

“Portfolio Optimization Methods: The Mean-Variance Approach and the Bayesian Approach”

Directed by Andrew Lynch

Friday, April 12, 2019
at 2:00 pm
SMBHC 331

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

28004

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Muriel Mikayla Johnson

B.S. in Biology

“Healthcare Practices Related Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome”

Directed by John Green

Friday, April 12, 2019
at 2:00 pm
SMBHC 331

The defense is open to the public.

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32200

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Mallory Brooke Harmon

B.S. in Biology

“The Role of AGE/RACE Signaling Pathway in Cardiac Fibroblast Migration”

Directed by James Stewart

Friday, April 12, 2019
at 1:00 pm
TCRC 2066

The defense is open to the public.

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28003

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Katelyn Marie Inserra

B.S.E.S. in Exercise Science

“Nutritional Content of Mississippi Child Care Centers Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program: 1995”

Directed by Kathy Knight

Friday, April 12, 2019
at 1:00 pm
SMBHC 114

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

32199

How the last Pike Powderpuff champs became 'LegEndZ'

NANCY JACKSON
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Members of Kappa Alpha Theta were given the news on Nov. 1, 2018, that they were losing their chapter at the University of Mississippi because of low rates of member retention. Despite the news, former members have chosen to compete together in Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity's annual philanthropy football tournament.

Though the team can't compete under the official name of Kappa Alpha Theta, the members chose the title "LegEndZ Never Die" to commemorate their chapter, Epsilon Zeta.

Johanna Naimoli, a senior marketing major who was a member of the sorority, said that after Kappa Alpha Theta was disestablished, she and fellow members were upset that a large part of their college experience was gone.

"It felt like our second home was taken away from us," Naimoli said. "As many of us are at Ole Miss, we are out-of-



PHOTO COURTESY: ERIN ALLISON

state students, especially within our chapter. Many of us found our home at Ole Miss through Theta."

One of their proudest moments as a chapter, according to Naimoli, was winning the Pike Powderpuff charity football game benefiting St. Jude in 2018, so they have decided to return this year to protect their position as reigning champions. This year, the team opens as the No. 1 seed.

Sara Doan, a senior and former member of the chapter, said that winning the tournament last year was a rewarding experience for the members who had competed every year in college.

"Seeing the trophy in our entryway just looked right," Doan said. "Even with being kicked off campus, as the reigning champions, there is no way we couldn't compete this year. We want the chance to be two-year champions — even if it's not under the name 'Theta.'"

Without the financial support of Theta, the women have

decided to raise the necessary \$1,500 entry fee to compete in the football game themselves. Not only has LegEndZ Never Die raised enough to compete, but the team has raised \$3,930 to benefit St. Jude, more money than all sororities on campus.

The Gamma Iota chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha has hosted the powderpuff football philanthropy to benefit St. Jude for nine years. This year, the fraternity has chosen to honor fraternity brother Zach Hoefler, who died of pilocytic astrocytoma, a form of brain cancer, in September 2018.

"Maybe, with LegEndZ Never Die, we can lead the way for other non-Greek organizations to participate in the future," Doan added. "We're raising money for St. Jude and Pike's brother, so maybe LegEndZ Never Die can pave the way for a change. You don't need to be in a sorority or fraternity to help make a difference."

The powderpuff football tournament will be hosted by Pike on Sunday starting at 9 a.m. at the Oxford-Lafayette Sportsplex.

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Oxford musicians' limited-run vinyl benefits local charity

KERRIGAN HERRET
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Local musicians Anne Freeman and Kate Teague are teaming up with The End of All Music to release a Record Store Day title that is limited to 300 copies. All proceeds from the album's sales will go to Memory Makers, a local nonprofit care program for those with dementia and other memory disorders.

Memory Makers offers respite to caregivers who may need to take a break from caring for their affected loved ones and to adults who are entering the stages of Alzheimer's and related disorders.

"Kate and I both had relatives that suffered from memory disorders, so Memory Makers hit close to home for us," Freeman said.

Memory Makers will be using the funds for general operation. The program can serve 12 participants for four hours for the four days per week that it is open. The goal of the program is to keep the cost low for participants at \$20 per day, and it relies heavily on private donations, fundraisers and grants.

Jo Ann O'Quin, co-founder of Memory Makers, said the program aims to provide a "four-hour party to those with memory loss and allow caregivers a four-hour break."

For the last 33 years, O'Quin has been running a

support group for caregivers of those suffering from memory loss. She got the idea to begin Memory Makers after she saw the strain that caregivers in the group encountered. Her co-founders Dianne and Bill Arnold aided the start-up, and Dianne Arnold directed the program until her recent retirement.

When Freeman and Teague picked Memory Makers as their beneficiary, David Swider, the owner of Oxford's record store The End of All Music, was immediately on board.

"We thought it was really important to create something not only for Record Store Day but also to take a snapshot of the current Oxford music scene," Swider said.

Swider approached Freeman and Teague about collaborating, according to Freeman. The End of All Music used Kindercore Pressing Plant in Athens, Georgia, to produce the record and raced to get it finished in time for Record Store Day.

"The whole process was just like hanging out with good friends," Swider said.

The record is a 7-inch, double A-side single that features songs from each of the contributing artists' upcoming albums. Freeman's "Generation's Fast" will be on the side labeled "Anne side," and Teague's "In Our Element" will be on the side



PHOTO COURTESY: THE END OF ALL MUSIC

labeled "Kate side."

Each copy will be printed on colored vinyl and can only be purchased from The End of All Music. Any leftover records will be available for purchase on their online store

beginning Monday, April 15.

Record Store Day is this Saturday, and The End of All Music will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will be an after-party at Proud Larry's from 8 p.m. to

midnight, and Anne Freeman & The Garbage Sons, Okey Dokey and Starman Jr. will be performing.

"We can't wait to cut (Memory Makers) a check," Swider said.

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SOFTBALL

SEC slate continues with home series against Missouri

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 THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

The Ole Miss softball team will welcome the Missouri Tigers to Oxford for a three-game weekend series starting Friday afternoon at 3 p.m.

The Rebels are in good shape with a 28-10 overall record and a 7-4 record in the tough SEC. The team was ranked No. 9 in the latest Softball America poll and holds a No. 12 RPI.

In their game Wednesday, the Rebels won a 3-2 nail-biter over UAB with a walk-off walk in extra innings. The Blazers scored 2 unearned runs with an RBI single from Destini England after an error in the first inning. Brittany Finney cut UAB's lead in half in the fourth inning with an RBI single that brought Amanda Roth home.

The Rebels tied the game

up in the sixth. With Finney on first and Autumn Gillespie on second, Tate Whitley hit a pitch deep enough for both runners to tag up and advance. An errant throw from the short stop gave Finney enough time to cross home plate to even the score.

Finney, Gillespie and Whitley were not done for the night, however, as they all found themselves on base again in the eighth inning. With the bases loaded, Mikayla Allee drew a walk with a 10-pitch at-bat, bringing in the winning run.

Ole Miss will need to perform more of these heroics when the Missouri Tigers come into town this weekend.

The Tigers are 23-16 overall and hold a 6-6 record in the SEC. Their resume has them just outside of the USA Today Top 25, and they have series wins over then-No. 13 Georgia and swept then-No.

23 Kentucky under their belts. Pitcher Madi Norman threw her first career no-hitter in an 8-0 victory over Oregon in the Mizzou Tournament.

Missouri swept rival Illinois in a doubleheader on Tuesday with 2-0 and 3-2 wins. Norman pitched a shutout in the first game, and the Tigers rallied to win the second game in the final inning.

The Rebels have been victorious in 20 of their last 24 games, and they've defended their home turf especially well this season. They have a 15-2 record in the Ole Miss Softball Complex, with their only home losses coming against then-No. 14 Arkansas and then-No. 6 Florida.

Ole Miss enters the homestretch of the regular season after this weekend with midweek matchups against UT Martin and Southern Miss as well as three more weekend series against Mississippi State, Tennessee and Georgia.

The SEC Tournament will be held May 3-11 in College Station, Texas.

The series this weekend will start with a doubleheader on Friday, with first pitch of the first game set for 3 p.m. and the next game set to follow immediately after at 6 p.m. The Sunday matchup will start at 1 p.m.



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER
 Brittany Finney pitches the ball at the game against Florida earlier this season. The Rebels hope to finish strong against the Missouri Tigers this weekend as the regular season comes to a close.

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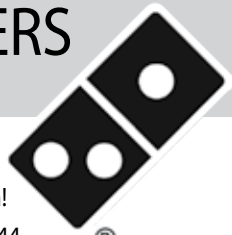
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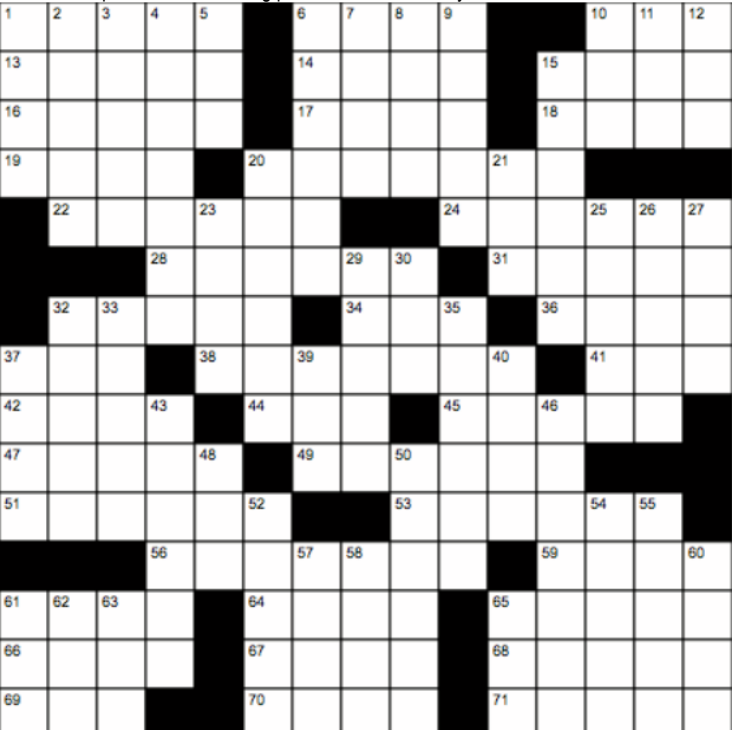


- ACROSS**
- 1 Opponent of Ike
 - 6 Young salmon
 - 10 ___ Lingus (Irish carrier)
 - 13 Former French currency
 - 14 Peter Fonda role
 - 15 Narrative
 - 16 Path
 - 17 Mideast carrier
 - 18 Shower
 - 19 Ye ___ Shoppe
 - 20 Competence
 - 22 Legume
 - 24 Shuts
 - 28 Jointed or knobby at intervals
 - 31 More adorable
 - 32 Pong maker
 - 34 Subj. for immigrants
 - 36 Scarlett's home
 - 37 Mean Amin
 - 38 Vapid
 - 41 Bro's sib
 - 42 Upon us
 - 44 Pink lady ingredient
 - 45 Get into hot water?
 - 47 Little laugh
 - 49 Contiguous with
 - 51 Bandit
 - 53 Ukraine port
- DOWN**
- 1 Bushy do
 - 2 Whimsical
 - 3 Diploma word
 - 4 Wave catcher
 - 5 Diamonds, in slang
 - 6 Native American village
 - 7 ___ want for Christmas...
 - 8 Unfeigned
 - 9 Museum artifact
 - 10 Towing org.
 - 11 Biblical high priest
 - 12 Cartoon dog
 - 15 Audition
 - 20 Assisting
 - 21 Pampering, briefly
 - 23 Singer Amos
 - 25 Hiding place

SOLUTION TO 04.11.2019 PUZZLE



- 26 Spine-tingling
- 27 Mmes., in Madrid
- 29 Paris divider
- 30 Medium skill
- 32 Parting word
- 33 Taut
- 35 Sexual drive
- 37 A fan of
- 39 Bro or sis
- 40 Florida's
- 43 Aided
- 46 Having a will
- 48 Canal site
- 50 Already?
- 52 Language elements
- 54 Sub detector
- 55 Latin stars
- 57 ___ Beach, Florida
- 58 ___ way (not at all)
- 60 Delhi wrap
- 61 Actress Charlotte
- 62 Campus climber
- 63 Chart shape
- 65 Puncture sound



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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

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TENNIS

Ole Miss teams enter final weekend on high note

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The Ole Miss men's and women's tennis teams each have two matches left in the regular season, and they'll be looking to round into peak form before the SEC and NCAA tournaments.

The No. 49 women's team is coming off a near-upset on the road against then-No. 6 Vanderbilt that they lost 3-4. The Rebels dropped the doubles point to start the match, but they fought back against the 1-0 deficit. Sophomore Sabina Machalova fought through a tight match and a one-set deficit for a 5-7, 7-6, 6-1 win on the No. 1 court. Meanwhile, senior Tea Jandric took the No. 2 court in dramatic fashion with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 win over the No. 7 player in the nation, Fernanda Contreras.

Despite these wins and a victory from Tereza Janatova, two three-set losses and a sweep on the No. 6 court would prove to be the Rebels downfall. In what was an excellent showing for Ole Miss as the team looks to continue its ascent through the rankings, 5 of the 6 singles courts went to three sets.

Jandric and Janatova continued their excellent play on the season. Their wins in the Vanderbilt match pushed their SEC win streaks to six and seven, respectively, and their play has buoyed the Rebels during a tough SEC schedule that contained No. 2 Georgia and No. 5 South

Carolina as well as multiple top-30 teams.

The men's team also faced top competition over the weekend. The No. 33 Rebels faced then-No. 6 Mississippi State in Starkville, where they lost 1-6. Senior Filip Kraljevic was a bright spot, as he won both of his matches. He and junior Tim Sandkaulen won their doubles set 6-3, but the Bulldogs took home the doubles point with wins on the other two courts. Kraljevic also won his singles match 5-7, 6-3, 1-0 (10-5) to gain the lone point for the Rebels.

The men finished off the weekend with two sweeps of Arkansas Pine-Bluff on Sunday.

The Rebels have maintained momentum throughout the past few weeks after tight 4-3 wins over current-No. 17 Georgia and No. 20 Alabama. Sandkaulen has led the way from the No. 1 singles spot with a 10-8 overall record, and he was No. 60 in the latest iteration of the Oracle/ITA Division I Men's Rankings. Meanwhile, the doubles team of Fabian Fallert and Finn Reynolds has reached as high as No. 31 nationally.

The women return home to Oxford to face No. 28 LSU on Friday before their final match at home on Sunday against No. 16 Texas A&M. The men will be on the road for their final two matches. They travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to play No. 36 LSU on Friday before visiting College Station, Texas, to play No. 8 Texas A&M on Sunday.



FILE PHOTO: EVAN TURNER
 Allie Sanford hits a backhand during her doubles match against Georgia in 2016. The men's and women's tennis teams each only have two matches left in the regular season and are looking to win against LSU and Texas A&M this weekend.

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BASEBALL

Rebels hoping to keep win streak alive against Kentucky

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Since the head-scratching midweek loss to North Alabama on April 2, Ole Miss baseball has rattled off four straight wins and welcomes the scuffling Kentucky Wildcats to town this weekend.

Kentucky comes to Oxford fresh off a series loss at the hands of the Missouri Tigers. The Wildcats sit at 2-10 in conference play — last place in the SEC.

Ole Miss, on the other hand, swept Florida last weekend and pummeled Southern Miss on Tuesday to return to the national spotlight and reignite discussions about the Rebels' hopes for hosting a regional tournament this summer.

In the four games since the loss to North Alabama, Ole Miss has scored 51 runs on 58 hits and is currently in a three-way tie for first place in the SEC West with Arkansas and LSU.

A large part of the Rebels' success at the plate has come from shortstop Grae Kessinger, who had a slow start to the season but has since lifted his batting average to .317. In Ole Miss's last four wins, Kessinger has gone a combined 9-15, including a 5-5 spot in game two against Florida, when he drove in 5 RBIs.

Kessinger has seemingly benefitted from moving from the leadoff spot to batting behind the Rebels' new leadoff man, Ryan Olenek, who is just a couple points shy of batting .400 this season.

Speaking of Olenek, his health may be a storyline to follow this weekend. Olenek was hit in the hip with a pitch last Saturday in a game against Florida and did not play in this week's midweek game against Southern Miss, presumably due to lingering soreness.

While it is unlikely that Olenek will miss any game time this weekend, he may not yet be at full speed, and that could be crucial, considering he plays center field and is one of the most consistent bats in the Rebel lineup.

Ole Miss's offensive onslaught has come at a time when its



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

Houston Roth pitches the ball at the game last Saturday against Florida. The Rebels will play at home this weekend in a series against Kentucky.

weekend pitching has finally begun to take shape. Will Ethridge has continued to dazzle on Fridays, and freshman left-hander Doug Nikhazy has been one of the best surprises for the Rebels so far this season, as he handles Saturday duties.

Sunday is still a question mark

for the Rebels as far as starting pitching is concerned, with Gunnar Hoglund earning the majority of the starts early in the season but giving way to Houston Roth in game three of last weekend's series against Florida. Neither Roth nor Hoglund has been extremely consistent this season,

but they have shown glimpses of promise.

JUCO-transfer Tyler Myers is a potential option for a Sunday start on the bump for Ole Miss, but head coach Mike Bianco has yet to announce who will get the ball in game three this weekend.

Although the Wildcats' record

may not show it, the team has some capable hitters in its lineup, including four players who are batting over .300 on the year. The team has also combined for 36 home runs, so even though Kentucky has had little success in the SEC, the Rebel pitching staff will have to show up to play this weekend if it hopes to have another successful SEC slate.

If there has been a lingering weakness in the Rebel bats this season, it has come against left-handed pitchers. Right-handed pitcher Jimmy Ramsey will start the weekend on the hill for the Wildcats, and left-handed pitcher Zack Thompson will start on Saturday. Head coach Nick Mingione has yet to name a Sunday starter. As a staff, the Wildcats have a 4.36 ERA and have given up 20 home runs so far this season.

The Rebels and Wildcats will get their series started tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Swayze Field and, weather permitting, will start their meetings on Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., respectively.



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