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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com @thedm_news

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University organizations recognize World AIDS Day

TAYLOR BENNETT
tbennett@go.olemiss.edu

Many organizations across campus partnered to raise awareness about HIV in Mississippi and the South through various activities for World AIDS Day Monday.

The involved organizations include the Sarah Isom Center, along with the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement, Student Housing, the Office of Health Promotions, the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, the Meek School of Journalism and New Media, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and PrideNetwork.

The activities included a screening of the documentary "deepsouth" at noon in the Overby Auditorium and a social media campaign that allowed students to actively participate by posting pictures on various social media websites.

The institutions participating in this event are Duke University, Vanderbilt and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.



AP PHOTO: ALVARO BARRIENTOS

SEE WORLD AIDS DAY PAGE 3 A woman adjusts a red ribbon, symbol of the fight against AIDS during a demonstration on World Aids Day, in Pamplona northern Spain, Monday.

SPECIAL TO THE DM

Ole Miss continues campus-wide sustainability projects

CAROLINE CALLAWAY
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The University of Mississippi has saved over \$1 million on gas and electricity since implementing a wide range of energy efficient practices — from new window treatments in the library to designing new buildings to be energy efficient.

In April 2008, Chancellor Robert Khayat signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, a pledge that the university would do its best to become "climate neutral," but climate neutrality does not necessarily mean efficiency; it meant the university would do its best to not cause more harm than good to the environment. While the commitment calls for climate neutrality, Ole Miss has been working to promote overall campus efficiency instead.

"Our Board of Trustees has asked us to form a group and try to reduce our energy consumption by 30 percent over a 10-year period," said Larry Sparks, vice chancellor for administration and finance. "We sort of ignored that (30 percent) and have done more than that."

With the university's commitment to become a more efficient campus came the creation of the Office of Sustainability.

"(The office) was created to facilitate the diffusion of the principles of sustainability throughout campus," Anne McCauley, assistant director of the Office of Sustainability, said. "We help transform the campus into a more sustainable institution."

Those who have ideas about how to make cam-



FILE PHOTO

Construction for the J.D. Williams Library is seen earlier this year.

pus more sustainable are able to bring proposals to the Green Fund, a board overseen by the Office of Sustainability that chooses the projects taken on during the year.

An example of a project taken on by the Green Fund is the installation of new window treatments in the J.D. Williams Library to increase energy efficiency within the building. A low-emissivity film was applied to all the original windows to protect documents from the sun and make heating and cooling the library more energy efficient.

These minor projects mark significant achievements in the university's pursuit of a sustainable campus. To ensure efficiency in the future, university architects and

officials are designing new facilities on campus to be as energy efficient as possible.

"We want to use the least amount of energy for heating and cooling and that sort of thing," Danny Blanton, director of public relations, said.

Blanton said that building new facilities to be efficient is not any more expensive than building them inefficiently.

"(There are) new ways they have to design buildings now to make them more energy efficient," Blanton said. "In the long run, it's more cost effective to do that."

According to Ian Banner, director of Facilities Planning and university architect, these "new ways" of building require that multiple aspects of the project be thought through, everything from where the building will be located on campus to which mechanical

SEE SUSTAINABILITY PAGE 3

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COLUMN

Lessons from Willow and Jaden

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Life is a beautiful blessing that is bestowed upon us from above. Life is all of the right forces of nature coming together to create an individual unique to all others in the universe. Regardless of the way in which a life is created it is to be celebrated and cherished. I have observed that the number of those who truly value their lives and the basic necessities that they are provided appears to be substantially lower than what should be expected.

We walk amongst the earth during one of the most pivotal eras in human history, and yet we waste time.

Throughout my very short lifetime, I have been bogged down with the senselessness that presides in our society. It is time for all of us to band together for the sake of civility and make a change. Our descendants will one day look back on the hatred, and senseless violence, that has long

been perpetuated through media outlets.

Spiritual awareness is one of the single most important aspects of my life. The ability to connect with yourself spiritually affects not only yourself, but also those around you. In turn, this creates the basic society we live in. We are responsible for the things that occur. The best place promote positive change is within.

Two very young celebrities, Willow and Jaden Smith, recently participated in a New York Times interview, and in many ways it was a prime example of leadership that our youth and the younger generation needs. I feel as if we have had enough bad examples and "role models" who do not add to the values or positive beliefs of our younger generations.

During the interview, the Smiths spoke about quantum physics, prana energy and ancient texts. I absolutely love the way the questions were answered and the levels of education and

consciousness that were displayed. The Smiths have helped to highlight a key factor in the process of moving forward: education. It is the root source of the preservation of humanity and all human achievements.

I am so thankful for the opportunities that have been provided for me and those around me, and words cannot provide justice for the level of appreciation that I have for those opportunities. I am able to congregate with my peers weekly in order to obtain a level of higher understanding, and that is simply amazing. I think it is time for us all, young and old, to turn away from the things that do not add to the positive advancements of self and society. It is time for us to become one with ourselves, and make a valiant effort to create a world that is even more amazing and even more suitable.

I would love for my children to be able to walk in a world of peace and prosperity. I am no fool. I understand that absolute peace will probably never occur, but

wouldn't it be nice? The things that we often perceive as unobtainable, and are quick to give up on are made achievable by the contributions of individuals. To quote Thoreau, "if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

There is absolutely no reason that mankind should be involved in such inhumane activities and behaviors. According to the Smiths, unlearning can be the hardest form of learning. Regardless, we must unlearn the things that are not necessary or helpful towards positive advancement. It is time for the beautiful lives which we are granted to be put to greater use and positive development of the individual, as well as humanity as a whole. I really hope we can all move forward together.

Brice Ashford is a junior marketing major from Ridgeland.

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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.



**MISSISSIPPI
press
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

WORLD AIDS DAY

continued from page 1

“We are showing ‘deepsouth’ here because Mississippi is impacted by this disease,” said Theresa Starkey, assistant director of the Isom Center and instructor of gender studies. “The screening is one of several that will be streamed live today across the country.”

The documentary, produced by Lisa Biagiotti, is an exploratory, intimate work about HIV’s impact in places such as Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. The film follows the lives of HIV activists in rural Southern areas.

“(Biagiotti’s) subjects are everyday people who are working to build a community of support for those with HIV,” Starkey said. “They are individuals interested in creating structural change for communities with limited resources. Biagiotti’s work shows how individuals can create community for others when family support is absent, and resources are scarce.”

Starkey said the documentary encourages audience members to consider what community means and to think about the ways one person can make a difference and to imagine what positive change can happen when we people work together to help others.

“HIV is a health issue for the state of Mississippi, for example, the Delta and Jackson area and the larger South,” Starkey said. “Acknowledging World AIDS Day is a way for the Ole Miss student body to contemplate their region and how HIV is impacting men and women in our state and in a larger national and international context.”

Tables were also set up around campus containing red ribbons for students to wear, information on testing and HIV and signs that students could take selfies that had the message, “This World AIDS Day I’m #FinsUpAgainstAIDS.”

The hashtag was created by Alysia Steele’s design students in the school of journalism as a way to get students in the classroom involved in the project in a creative way.

“Our vision was to create a social media campaign that our larger Ole Miss student body could actively participate in as a way to raise awareness about HIV in the South and about World AIDS Day,” Starkey said. “Our students are technologically savvy. This format allows them to be active voices in a larger public forum.”

If students are interested in information about HIV testing and other services, Starkey recommends they contact T. Davis in the Office of Health Promotions.

“Her department is instrumental when it come to providing students access to important information about HIV,” Starkey said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl Scout cookies now available for purchase online

NEW YORK — Watch out world, the Girl Scouts are going digital to sell you cookies.

For the first time since sales began nearly 100 years, Girl Scouts of the USA will allow its young go-getters to push their wares using a mobile app or personalized websites.

But only if their scout councils and guardians say OK.

“Girls have been telling us that they want to go into this space,” said Sarah Angel-Johnson, chief digital cookie executive for the organization covering about 2 million girls. “Online is where entrepreneurship is going.”

And the best news for these digital natives: They can have cookies shipped directly to your doorstep.

More than 1 million scouts, from kindergarten-age Daisies to teens, were expected to opt in as cookie-selling season cranks up this month and the scouting organization gets digital sales underway. But the tactic is intended to enhance, not replace, the paper spreadsheets used to generate an estimated \$800 million in cookie sales a year — at anywhere from \$3.50 to \$5 a box, depending on scout council.

There are important e-lessons here, scout officials said, such as better articulating and tracking goals, learning to handle customers and money in a new way, and more efficiently processing credit card information.

“A lot of people have asked,

‘What took you so long to get online?’ We spend a lot of time thinking how do we make this safe, scalable and smart,” Kelly M. Parisi, chief communications executive for Girl Scouts of the USA, said at a recent demonstration for select media.

Councils were offered one of the two platforms but not both. For web-based sales, scouts customize their pages, using their first names only, and email prospective customers with links to click on for orders. They can also put up videos explaining who they are and what they plan to do with their proceeds.

The mobile platform offers tabs for tracking sales and allows for the sale of bundles of different kinds of cookies. It can be used on a phone or tablet.

“They can get them quicker than waiting for me to deliver them because sometimes it takes me a long time to deliver,” offered 11-year-old Priscilla at the preview. The adults at the event asked that only first names of scouts be used.

Added 7-year-old Anna: “My favorite part is that now I can sell more Girl Scout Cookies.” She pulled down about 200 boxes last year and has upped her goal to 600. Girl Scouts use their cookie money to pay for community service work or troop activities such as camping and other trips.

The websites will not be ac-

cessible without an email invitation, requiring the girls to build client lists. And personal information is as protected as any digits out there, for both the scouts and customers, using encryption in some cases.

Much of the responsibility to limit identifying details about scouts online falls on parents.

Troop Leader Karen Porcher of the Bronx has an 11-year-old scout and is particularly psyched about the digital options. They live in a house rather than an apartment, and she and her husband work at home, eliminating at-office cookie and neighborly building sales.

“During cookie season my daughter is wearing her (scout) vest on the subway and people are so excited to see a Girl Scout,” Porcher explained. “Strangers actually will buy a case of cookies and wait for her to call. This is going to be amazing because now she can just say ‘Give me your business card,’ or ‘I’ll take your email address,’ send the email and they can be delivered. This is gonna be sweet.”

SUSTAINABILITY

continued from page 1

systems to use. Even the materials being used to build are important to consider when beginning to design new facilities on campus.

“This (use of local products) is good because it reduces transport costs (fuel use, exhaust gasses),” Banner said. “Granite from the U.S. state of Georgia rather than Italian marble might be good.”

These facilities aren’t only energy efficient, they are cost efficient. When reviewing project proposals, the Office of Administration and Finance looks for ways to increase efficiency in a cost effective way. Office staff looks for sustainable solutions that provide profitable returns.

Even though there has been a slight increase in energy usage this year, the university has saved money by practicing efficiency. According to the quarterly report for 2013, the university has saved over \$1 million on gas and electricity by becoming a more energy efficient campus, and overall energy consumption has significantly decreased since 2006, reaching nearly a 21 percent decrease in energy consumption per square foot.

Designing and using buildings in efficient ways ensures that the buildings will have a lifespan worth the cost to build. The commitment to sustainability and building facilities meant to last assists the university in its efforts to provide the best facilities possible for not only current students and faculty but future students and faculty members as well.

Student Delivery Personnel Needed

The Daily Mississippian has an opening for a student to deliver the paper spring semester.
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Albums to look for this Christmas break

ELLIE BOND

mebond1@go.olemiss.edu

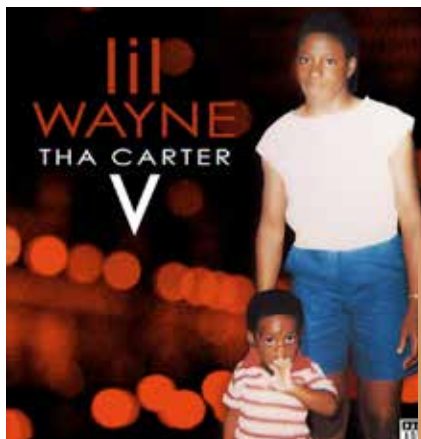
Tis the season for giving, and this month, artists, old and new, will be giving faithful listeners a reason to celebrate with the release of brand new albums.

British electro pop singer and DJ Victoria Hesketh, better known as Little Boots, will be kicking off December with the release of her new EP "Business Pleasure." The female rebel of an artist gave fans a preview of what was to come with her single, "Taste It," which cheekily outlines her jump start into her own record label. Sticking close to her indie-electronic roots, Little Boots' "Business Pleasure" is sure to leave club goers and pop divas satisfied.

Over the past decade, a British takeover has occurred in the music industry, and no one recognizes that more than Mary J. Blige in the release of her highly anticipated thirteenth studio album "The London Sessions." Recorded in the heart of London, Blige wrote and produced this new album with the help of a team of hot new British artists, including Sam Smith, Naughty Boy, Disclosure, Jimmy Napes and Emeli Sande. Even before its release on Dec. 2, "The London Sessions" is already being deemed as Blige's most innovative and exciting album to date.

Everyone loves a good cover, and on Dec. 2, American indie duo She & Him will drop their fourth album "Classics"

COURTESY RIGHT: HIPHOPWIRED.COM
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COURTESY: PITCHFORK.COM

consisting of thirteen well-known covers. The pair, made up of actress Zooey Deschanel and singer-songwriter M. Ward, takes on the task of emulating timeless artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis Costello and Frank Sinatra in their latest collaboration. But never fear, fans of the originals, these classic songs are in good hands, as



his final album, as he wishes to focus on his four children. Featuring collaborations with the likes of Nicki Minaj, Drake and even Justin Bieber, "Tha Carter V" is expected to be Lil Wayne's most



COURTESY: CONSEQUENCESOFSOUND.NET

the talented twosome tackle these oldies with grace.

The wait is over for Lil Wayne fans, as he releases the first part to his two-part album on Dec. 9. With a repertoire of a staggering eleven studio albums, Wayne announced that this would be

personal musical endeavor to date.

"Music is about self," Wayne said. "It's supposed to be personal, a reflection of me. Unless you have someone writing it for you, and everyone knows I'm not that artist."

This appears to be the month for hip-hop, as Nicki Minaj releases her third studio album "The Pinkprint" on Dec. 15. This new creation from Minaj distances itself from the dance-pop that appeared in "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded," returning to Minaj's rap roots. Playing off of the Jay Z album titled "The Blueprint," "The Pinkprint" is Nicki Minaj's tribute to female artists everywhere, as she paves the way for female rappers in the music industry. After the release of her singles "Pills N Potions" and "Bed of Lies," listeners can expect a more raw and intimate Minaj, with a heavier emphasis on her vocals and writing style.

British darling Charli XCX will give Nicki Minaj a run for her money Dec. 15, as she drops her second full-length studio album "Sucker." Well known for her single "Boom Clap," which was featured in the romantic drama "The Fault in Our Stars," Charli XCX burst into the American music scene with full force. Having already been featured in tracks with artists such as Iggy Azalea and Icona Pop and performing at the American Music Awards, the pop princess is making a household name for herself in the States. This latest creation from Charli XCX will stick close to her usual pop style, having girl-power undertones, while also taking influences from punk artists like The Ramones, Weezer and The Hives.

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Brandon Seno	Presbyterian
Joe Newton	Miss. State
Farokh Roberson	Miss. State

They won tickets to Rebel home games this year, courtesy of Campus Creek and The Retreat and by reading the DM and listening to Rebel Radio.

Campus Creek, The Retreat, the DM, and Rebel Radio - Putting You in the Game



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‘Sequence’ films premiere in Oxford Wednesday

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“Sequence,” a collection of four short films written and directed by James Alexander Warren and produced by Robbie Fisher, will premiere Wednesday at the Malco Commons.

Warren, Fisher and their team will host the premiere.

“I really wanted an event specifically for the film, to build an audience and to continue getting my name out there, of course,” Warren said.

Oxford is just one of several locations in which the films will be premiered. They will also have premieres in Jackson, Mississippi, Los Angeles and New York.

The artists involved include David Aaron Baker (Boardwalk Empire, Melinda and Melinda, Homeland) from New York City and Toronto-based musician-songwriter Akua Carson, among others.

“We had a really great (almost) entirely Mississippi cast and crew on the film,” Fisher said. “A few of the lead actors were from other states, and they were amazing. Making a film with people is something that bonds you with your team, and they become your film family during the experience



James Alexander Warren on the set of ‘Sequence.’

COURTESY: SEQUENCE FILMS

and will always be a part of something you created together. It is really special.”

“Sequence” was shot over the course of one year and six months, primarily in Jackson and Yazoo City as well as some surrounding cities.

“The film was shot primarily in Mississippi with the help of a lot of friends from and in Mississippi,” Warren said. “However, just because it was made in Mississippi, I still did not want to be overtly Southern. I wanted it to be something that could work nationally.”

Warren wrote the films while he was on tour in Europe playing drums for singer Dent May. The film is a series of four short films about three junkyard workers, a hyperactive alcoholic, a priest throwing dinner party, an amateur filmmaker and the women around their lives. The idea of this serial type of presentation for the file was inspired by Warren’s admiration for the idea of “a series of works.”

“I really like the idea of a series of works. Four short films seemed like a good way for me to practice

directing and writing,” Warren said. “I had decided that I needed to take a different break after the two short films that I had written before, and I went on tour and wrote six short stories, four of which were used to make ‘Sequence.’”

Among the many people who worked on the project from Oxford are Carson Clover, a filmmaker, and Anna Benefield of Southside Gallery, who worked public relations for the film.

“There are big things in the future for Alex Warren, and I want

to help and work with him in any way I can,” Benefield said.

Everyone is welcomed to come to the premier and meet some of the team that worked on this project. Students, especially those who are interested in filmmaking or like to watch films, are highly encouraged to attend the event, and Benefield expresses that the invitation is extended to everyone.

“I hope that this film will inspire students at Ole Miss to expand their minds creatively and inspire them to fulfill their own dreams and not just pursue a nine to five career,” Benefield said.

“One thing Alex and I talk about often is that we both are fortunate to come from a state which has an incredibly rich literary history, and that we are inspired to build on that tradition and employ film’s multi-faceted art form—with its visual, auditory and sensory components – to add to our rich storytelling legacy in a visually artistic and stunning way which can captivate and transport audiences,” Fisher said. “I think we have done that with the ‘Sequence’ films, and I can’t wait to start sharing them.”

The premiere takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Malco Commons, with an after party at Ajax. Tickets are \$10 and are available online at sequencethefilmoxford.bpt.me and at the door.

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COLUMN

What the Egg Bowl victory means for the future

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE

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In the 111-year history of the Egg Bowl, there has been no more meaningful game than the one Saturday. The stakes were as high as ever for the meeting. Mississippi State had their play-off hopes on the line as they sat 4th in the playoff rankings coming into the game.

Fair or unfair, the legacy of senior Rebel quarterback Bo Wallace was also on the line as he played his final game in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. Despite the large amount of success Wallace has led the program to, it was widely discussed that he needed one more crucial victory to solidify his legacy. Wallace delivered a gutsy performance on an injured ankle, leading the 19th-ranked Rebels over the 4th-ranked Mississippi State Bulldogs by a score of 31-



FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING

Deterrion Shackelford, Channing Ward and Marquis Haynes tackle Mississippi State running back Brandon Holloway during the first half of the game Saturday.

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- 26 Lapped by the tide
- 27 Go rollerblading
- 29 Actor Peter —
- 30 United
- 31 Kind of tooth
- 34 Storrs sch.
- 40 Onetime Spanish coins
- 41 Least messy
- 42 Gorge
- 43 Groveled
- 47 Winter Games org.
- 49 "Hogwash!" answer
- 50 Waffler's
- 51 Tease
- 52 Female lobsters
- 53 Magazine stand
- 54 Wife, to a lawyer
- 56 Chilly and damp
- 58 Ending for "depart"
- 59 Pen point
- 60 Understand

17. It was a shining moment for a team and a fan base that had endured a great deal of adversity over the final weeks of the 2014 season. The victory also goes a long way for the future of Ole Miss football.

With the win Saturday, Ole Miss finished the 2014 season with a record of 9-3 and 5-3 in Southeastern Conference play. The Rebels beat three top 15 teams and were ranked as high as 3rd nationally. With a bowl game still to come, Ole Miss has a chance to complete just its third 10-win season since 1962.

The 7-0 start compared to the way the season ended for the Rebels was a little bit of a let-down. Injuries and tough losses down the stretch were definitely disappointing but in no way was the 2014 season a disappointment. This team brought the Ole Miss program in the national spotlight and proved Ole Miss can recruit, compete and beat

any program in the country.

The Rebels tasted success this year. The next and more difficult step is sustaining that success. Looking at the big picture, it is easy to see the bright future ahead for this program. Just three years ago, Hugh Freeze inherited a program coming off of a 2-10 year that was winless in conference play. Now just three short years later, this program knocked off two top five teams and is now seen as national contenders. This year was another crucial step in the right direction. The Rebels now know what it takes to compete at the highest level and to win big time football games. The future for this program is bright and sure to be exciting.

Maybe the most significant way Saturday's win impacted Ole Miss is in the recruiting department. In a year when both SEC schools in the state of Mississippi stole the national spotlight for the majority of the sea-

son, beating your in-state rival is huge for recruiting. Ole Miss helped assert themselves as the better team in the state in 2014, which is sure to help win the recruiting battle in Mississippi.

The season as a whole helped Ole Miss further validate themselves on the national recruiting scene as well. Prospects now see Ole Miss as a place where they can come and compete with the best teams in the country and have the opportunity to win championships. This season has put Ole Miss in the elite conversation when discussing the top programs in the country.

Saturday's win will go a long way in positively impacting the future of Ole Miss football. Beating your in-state rival always aids in a positive approach to the offseason. This win, as well as the 2014 campaign as a whole, is an essential stepping stone for becoming the consistent contenders Ole Miss Football aspires to be.

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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

INTERMEDIATE

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OLE MISS SPORTS INFORMATION

Conner, Johnson earn SEC weekly honors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After an inspiring defensive performance in Saturday's 31-17 win over No. 4 Mississippi State, Ole Miss's defensive back Tony Conner and defensive end C.J. Johnson were recognized by the league office in its weekly awards selections.

Conner is the SEC Defensive Player of the Week, while Johnson earned SEC Defensive Lineman of the Week accolades. They helped the Rebels limit Mississippi State to a season low-tying 17 points and pressured the Bulldog backfield all game long with nine tackles for loss and three sacks.

A sophomore from Batesville, Mississippi, Conner had seven tackles and led the Rebels with a career-high 3.0 tackles for loss and a career high-tying 1.0 sack. He also broke up a pass and recorded a quarterback hurry. As the Rebels' "Huskie" defensive back, he played a key role in both rush and pass defense. He pressured junior quarterback Dak Prescott into



Ole Miss defensive back Tony Conner runs onto the field before the Mississippi State game Saturday.

FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING

an incomplete pass on 2nd-and-goal from the 4-yard line, leading to a turnover on downs two plays later in a crucial fourth-quarter defensive stand.

Johnson, a native of Philadelphia, Mississippi, shared

SEC Defensive Lineman of the Week with Kentucky's senior defensive end Bud Dupree. Johnson posted season bests with six tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss and a sack in the win over the Rebels' in-state rival. With the Rebels up 24-17 early in the 4th quarter, the junior sacked Dak Prescott for a 10-yard loss that led to an MSU punt.

Ole Miss finished the regular season with the nation's No. 1 scoring defense at 13.8 points allowed per game.

In other weekly awards, sophomore Evan Engram was named the National Tight End of the Week by the College Football Performance Awards. He hauled in five catches for a career-high 176 yards

(fourth-most in a game in school history) while the filling the void left by injuries to top receivers sophomore Laquon Treadwell and senior Vince Sanders.

Ole Miss (9-3, 5-3 SEC) will find out its bowl destination Sunday.



FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING

Ole Miss defensive end C.J. Johnson tackles Mississippi State running back Josh Robinson during Saturday's game.

SHEPARD

continued from page 8

Shepard then proceeded to yell over to Coach Farrar, who ran over in a hurry worrying something was wrong.

"I ran to him and said 'What's wrong Tee?' He said, 'Coach I just heard my first whistle.'

"You aren't always fortunate enough to know how or get to see the changes you make in people, but I got to see how we impacted him," Farrar said.

His hearing problems have been around since he was born, so it made sense that he had never heard a whistle. When he was born, they thought he had a bad ear infection, but could never figure out what was wrong. Given his lack in hearing for so long, Shepard learned the skill of reading lips.

"A lot of people say it's hard, but it's easy to me," Shepard said. "I guess it's just a talent or a gift, but I've been doing it since I was small."

Shepard has even learned how to use his skill now in the game he loves most. He can read opposing coaches' lips to get a head start on the play they're choosing to run.

"I read what they're yelling, so I know what they're going to do, so then I can get the interception," Shepard said.

"People will ask me how I knew that and I'll just say it's magic with a big grin and keep the interception all for myself."

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Week of November 30, 2014

SPECIAL TO THE DM

Tee Shepard: 20 years to hearing your first *whistle*



MEAGHAN SNELL
mesnell@go.olemiss.edu

The whistle blew, marking the beginning of the 2014 fall camp for Ole Miss football, but the sound rang unfamiliar to a certain player. Tee Shepard, a new transfer to the Rebels, had just experienced hearing his first whistle.

Shepard is no stranger to the football field after spending a majority of his time there. That is until the whistle blew that day. For the first time ever, Shepard wasn't just seeing the field; he was hearing it.

Tee Shepard is a 2012 graduate from Washington Union High School in Fresno, California. He attended Notre Dame in Spring 2012, then transferred to Holmes Community College and has found his way to Ole Miss all in the chase of a new recent dream to play college football.

Given his hearing disability, Shepard had never really expected to be as far as he is now in the sport.

"How am I going to play football with my hearing loss?" Shepard



COURTESY: SCOUT.COM

said to himself. "It wasn't until high school that I realized I can do it."

"I always thought my hearing loss would slow me down, but it didn't because I found myself playing defense, and on defense it's like sign language," Shepard continued, referring to the hand signals defensive coaches use in football to communicate the plays they want to call to their players.

Shepard in his late high school years had decided he was not going to let his hearing issues hold him back and strived to be a Division I athlete. He is an experienced defensive back that floated between a four and five-star recruit before he reached the Rebel team. In other words, he was a highly sought after football player.

Unfortunately, due to eligibility issues, he could not partake in any Ole Miss football activities until this past year. Co-Defensive Coordinator Jason Jones and Assistant Athletic Director for Junior College Relations Barney Farrar both recruited Shepard over the years before coming to Oxford.

"I was not personally involved in the recruitment of Tee (Shepard). After a great job of recruiting by Coach Freeze, Coach Jones, and Coach Farrar, Tee was still one class short to be eligible," Assistant Recruiting Director Branden Wenzel said. "He ended up needing to take an online class from the junior college in which he graduated last year in order to be eligible to play in the SEC."

Shepard has played his entire football career without the use of hearing aids, and it was made known that it had no effect on his

game or who Shepard was as a person, Wenzel mentioned. Shepard is a genuinely happy person who believes God has a plan for him. Even after dealing with his hearing issues and yet another injury this season, he always keeps a smile on his face.

"My mom had always told me, no matter what you're going through in life, there's always someone dealing with something worse. I'm alive and breathing so why not just smile," said Shepard with a wide smile on his face.

Coach Wenzel saw this positive mindset in Shepard.

"There was never a concern once we got to know Tee, because we knew that Tee was the type of kid that wasn't going to let anything get in the way of his dreams," Wenzel said.

Once reaching the Ole Miss program, they were able to help make his hearing problem less of an issue with the use of hearing aids.

Throughout his life, Shepard had never been able to find the right technology he needed for his hearing loss. Once in Oxford with the right trainers and information, he was able to get the hearing aids he needed.

"They were so small you couldn't even see them," Shepard said.

That next practice after receiving his new aid was when Shepard truly had a life changing moment.

"When Coach Freeze blew the whistle, I had heard the noise come out for the first time ever. I started looking around and asking if there was a bird in here," Shepard recalled. "What is that noise? Walked over to Coach, he blew it again and I was like whoa!"

SEE SHEPARD PAGE 7

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