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# Students on call



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The university is preparing for the distribution of the coronavirus vaccine at the Tad C. Smith Coliseum.

## UM finalizes plans to distribute vaccinations

**HADLEY HITSON**

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The University of Mississippi has been prepared to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations within a moment's notice for weeks.

Socially-distanced tables and chairs fill the Tad Smith Coliseum, organizing the circular building into stations through which patients will rotate counter-clockwise. General medical supplies are stocked, and security guards are on-call.

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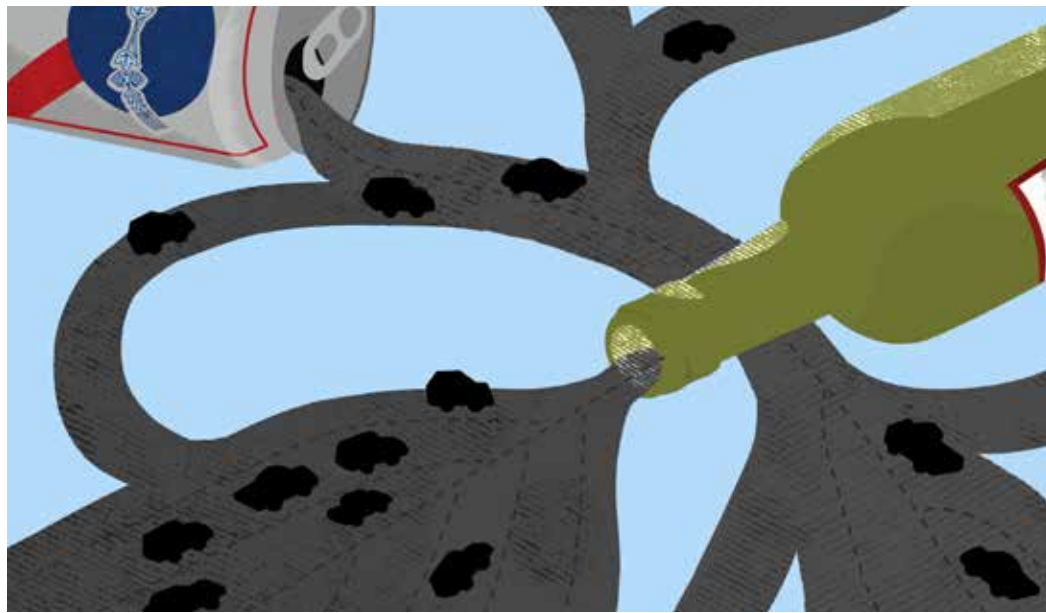


ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

# DUIs break six-year record

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The city of Oxford saw 63 arrests for driving under the influence last month, giving January 2021 a higher number of DUI arrests than any other January since 2016, according to the Oxford Police Department weekly crime logs.

January 2021 had at least 25 more arrests than January 2020, 2019 and 2016. While January 2017 and 2018 reported higher arrests, they do not surpass last month's total DUI arrests.

## OPD made 63 DUI arrests last month

Oxford Police Department public information officer Breck Jones said that the number of DUI arrests in January was an increase from arrests made in December, as well. Approximately three times the number of DUI arrests occurred in January 2021 than December

2020.

"It's probably just that more people are coming into town," Jones said. "You know, school started back, so the town's a little busier, and there's more people out and about."

There were 468 DUI arrests in Oxford in 2020, a little over 100 less than the years prior. Breck said the drop can be attributed to stay-at-home orders and social distancing regulations brought on by the pandemic.

"They went down slightly, but probably not as much as

SEE RECORD PAGE 2

## BOARD OF ALDERMEN

# No changes to COVID-19 restrictions

**KENNETH NIEMEYER**

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The Oxford Board of Aldermen decided not to make changes to existing COVID-19 restrictions or Mayor Robyn Tannehill's current executive order at its regular meeting on Tuesday. The executive order mandates that people wear masks inside of all indoor businesses and in outdoor public spaces where social distancing is not possible.

According to Tannehill, the number of COVID-19 patients at Baptist Memorial Hospital has hovered between 45 and 55 for the last six weeks. As of Monday, though, there were 23 COVID-19 patients at the hospital and two in the intensive care unit. That leaves 181 staffed beds and 24 staffed intensive care unit beds currently available.

"So, (Oxford is) still in

SEE MANDATE PAGE 3

## Coronavirus update

as of Feb. 3

Total vaccinations	Total cases	Total deaths
<b>5,800</b> Lafayette County	<b>5,456</b> Lafayette County	<b>106</b> Lafayette County
<b>270,205</b> Mississippi	<b>277,322</b> Mississippi	<b>6,158</b> Mississippi

Source: Mississippi Department of Health

## MANDATE *continued from page 1*

good shape at the hospital, which is what we kind of use as our primary measuring stick (for restrictions) right now," Tannehill said.

There has also been a decrease in new coronavirus cases in Lafayette County within the past four days. The county has seen an average of approximately 27.5 positive cases per day for the last seven days, and just eight were reported on Tuesday.

One COVID-19 related death was reported in Lafayette County today, but it was found in a review of previous death certificates, according to Jimmy Allgood, director of emergency management for the city. Overall, 105 total deaths have occurred in the county due to the coronavirus.

In Lafayette County, 5,577 residents have been recorded as vaccinated thus far, but Allgood said there are likely more residents who have been vaccinated than have been reported. Allgood said this number is on track with similar counties.

In Lee County, 5,568 residents have received the vaccine, and 8,299 Desoto County residents have been vaccinated to date.

"Our group is doing extremely well out here. They're going 400+ vaccinations a day," Allgood said. "We've had people from all over North Mississippi coming to our site (and) from Arkansas and from Tennessee."

Allgood did not have the exact number of vaccines that have been distributed in Lafayette County, but he estimated it to be around 6,400.



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

## RECORD *continued from page 1*

you would think," Jones said.

Despite the lower overall rate last year, several videos have circulated on social media this January showing vehicle and property damage caused by vehicles in Oxford.

One video posted to the Barstool Ole Miss Instagram account on Jan. 22 showed damage caused by a driver

in the Ole Miss parking garage. Another video from Jan. 23 showed vehicle damage caused to parked cars in The Retreat residential complex.

OPD replied to both posts, stating that the drivers were subsequently arrested for DUI.

University spokesperson Rod Guajardo said that the University Police Department has not seen any increase in DUI cases on campus.

Around midnight on Jan. 28, a car hit an electrical pole

on South 16th Street, resulting in a power outage that took until around 8 a.m. the next morning to fix, according to a tweet from Oxford Utilities.

Sophie Close, a senior civil engineering major, said she had returned to her home, which was near the crash, just five minutes before the pole was hit.

"It was weird," Close said. "The power went out first, and then we heard a big pop, and I kind of figured it had blown

because I've heard that before."

Close said she and her neighbors gathered in the street, confused and searching for the cause of the blackout.

"It was so dark because there were no streetlights or anything in our whole area," Close said. "A bunch of our neighbors were also outside looking around, but we didn't see the pole. We figured someone had hit it."

In the tweet on Jan. 28, Oxford Utilities stated that this was the fourth broken pole in the last nine days. Just two days before, another car hit a pole on Harris Drive, leaving 35 residents without power while the damage was repaired.

A video of the aftermath was also posted to the Barstool Ole Miss Instagram on Jan. 28, where some of the comments attributed the damage to drugs or alcohol. Jones could not speak specifically to the cause of these damages at the time.

"It's just one of those things where we want to encourage everybody, if they're under the influence of drink or anything like that, to not get behind the wheel of a car. Try to get a ride," Jones said. "One of the things that we want to promote is to always try to plan ahead, if you plan on going out or going to a party or something, make sure that you have someone that's designated to drive or you have a rideshare or taxi to get home."

February 1 is included in the January 2021 DUI statistics due to being grouped with January 30 and 31 as the final weekend of the month in the Oxford Crime Report.



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# ON CALL

*continued from page 1*

According to students who have begun training, approximately 180 UM pharmacy students will be assisting licensed pharmacists in administering the vaccine.

The only thing missing from the university's vaccination distribution plan is actual doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

The university released a statement on Jan. 21 notifying the UM community that the date when doses will arrive remains uncertain. Still, the pharmacy students who will play an integral role in distribution have already signed up for volunteer slots as early as Monday, Feb. 8.

Pharmacy student Sarah Janus said that the school has student volunteers ready to administer vaccinations during every time slot from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Tad Pad starting on Feb. 8 and continuing every weekday.

"We're going to be preparing the vaccines. We're going to enter data. We're going to escort patients from station to station and make sure everything's okay (and) observe them. Basically, we're starting this clinic from start to finish, which is a big deal," Janus said. "Honestly, we're just waiting for the vaccine to come in."

First year pharmacy students like Janus will not receive vaccination certification until Feb. 9, so she said she will likely work the check-in station until she feels comfortable preparing the vaccines. Meanwhile, students who are further in the program will prepare the syringes with the vaccine doses.

According to pharmacy students who attended the hour-long university training for the COVID-19 vaccination clinic, the university wants to receive doses of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to provide second doses to community members who have received a first dose from elsewhere. Each type requires a different preparation, and during the training led by Dr. Lauren Bloodworth, an associate pharmacy professor at the university, the pharmacy students were trained for both.

While it is not a requirement for the pharmacy students to receive the vaccine themselves, many have already been able to schedule vaccination appointments across the state, qualifying as healthcare workers. Still, Janus said she felt a sense of guilt when scheduling one of the limited appointments available for vaccination in the state.



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The Tad Pad has been filled with socially distanced tables and chairs in preparation for the distribution of the coronavirus vaccine.

"I was not planning on getting it. I would rather my spot go to my sister (or) my grandparents. You know, you want to put others before you, but last week at the training session, our adviser for the whole UM COVID clinic told us we could all get it. That's what pushed me to go ahead and get it," Janus said.

As of this week, 254,000 Mississippians have received the COVID-19 vaccine, according to state health department officials, but the demand for vaccinations still exceeds the supply. When Gov. Tate Reeves announced on Tuesday that 30,000 more vaccine appointments were available on the Mississippi State Department of Health website, all of the appointments were booked within two hours.

Jordan Hepler, another first year pharmacy student who is trained to volunteer in the university's vaccine clinic, received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine through her job at a CVS Pharmacy.

"I knew that at the time I signed up, the Mississippi State Department of Health said they had no first dose vaccines available, so that makes me think it's two different systems. It's not one central system," Hepler said.

Nonetheless, she said the process took a total of 20 minutes —



five for the vaccine administration and 15 for a waiting period to make sure she didn't have a reaction. Hepler said the university's vaccine clinic will hopefully be just as efficient.

"If I remember correctly, the goal is to (administer) 400 to 600 doses a day," Hepler said. "They're going to follow the phase guidelines, and as of now, the clinic would just be for the Ole Miss students, faculty, staff, professors and all of that."

The CDC refers to community locations at which state and local agencies dispense and administer medical countermeasures like vaccines as points of distribution (PODs). PODs can either be open, meaning they dispense vaccines to the public, or closed, meaning they only distribute only to their own

populations.

"The pharmacy school said that they contacted the Mississippi State Department of Health and said that they'd be willing to open up (our clinic) to the Oxford community if that meant that we would get the shipments of vaccines in quicker," Hepler said.

The university is currently designated as a closed POD, according to pharmacy student Lindsey Stout.

"A lot of things are so new with this vaccine, and a lot of the doctors and pharmacists are having to learn new procedures and preparation techniques," Stout said. "It's really been beneficial to be a student in this time because we get to learn it right off. We get to really be hands on and help the older members of the community

learn the new techniques."

Stout also said that the pharmacy students who volunteer in the university clinic will play key roles in studying who is getting the vaccine and how it's affecting them, which will impact the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines ultimately receiving U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. Both vaccines are currently administered through emergency use authorization from the FDA.

"Getting the right information and documentation is so important, especially considering that the vaccines are still going under FDA approval," Stout said. "The more people get the vaccine, the more information that we get and can learn from."

Stout also said that it is critical for university community members to understand that pharmacy students being involved with vaccine distribution is nothing new at UM. Every year, the UM chapter of American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists runs Operation Immunization to provide the community with flu vaccines.

"We've learned so much about medication, and we are very supportive of vaccinations," Stout said. "Pharmacists, whether it be community pharmacists otherwise, we all deal with these medications, and we are all able to give these vaccines and be hands on in the community."

Jessica Sproat, another pharmacy student trained to volunteer in the vaccination clinic, said the pharmacy school utilized its pre-existing plan for Operation Immunization as a baseline for the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan.

"It's pretty easy — just replace it and amplify it with the COVID vaccine, and you have this clinic," Sproat said. "It's a really good way to utilize these 180 trained people to effectively disperse the vaccine between people."

Eric Pham, a pharmacy student who helped run Operation Immunization this year, is on the university's vaccination task force and has helped the university develop its strategy for campus immunization. While Pham was unable to comment on university plans prior to publication, he said UM communications plans to host a panel in the coming week to answer questions about the university's vaccine rollout plan.

Rod Guajardo, a spokesperson for the university, confirmed UM communication's plan for a virtual Zoom panel where university officials and experts involved in the vaccine plan will answer questions. The exact date and time has yet to be released.

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# Lynching memorial approved for courthouse

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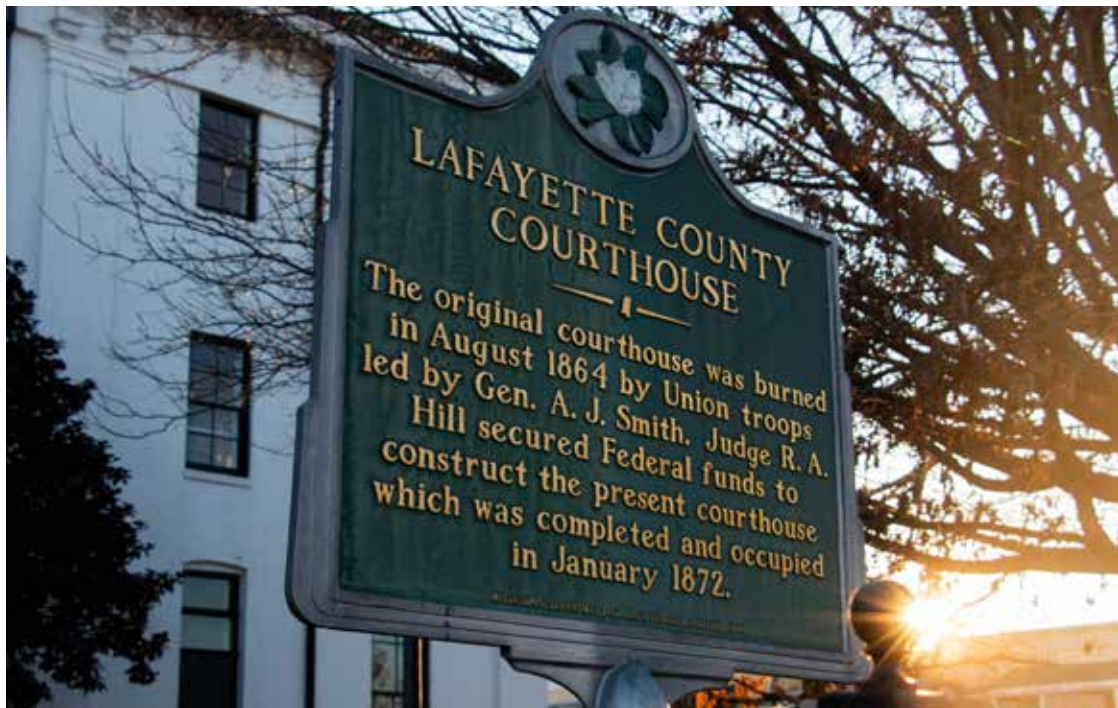
The Lafayette County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted on Jan. 19 to place a marker dedicated to lynching victims on the grounds of the Lafayette County Courthouse. The marker is estimated to be placed around September or October, according to April Grayson, a member of the Lynching Memorialization in Lafayette County steering committee.

The marker will have the names of seven Black men who were lynched in Lafayette County, and it is the result of advocacy from the steering committee — a group of local citizens committed to telling the stories of lynching victims — and the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal aid organization that seeks to reframe the narrative around racial justice.

This is the second lynching marker the steering committee has advocated for. The first memorialized Elwood Higginbotham, the last Black man to be lynched in Lafayette County. Higginbotham was murdered by a mob in Oxford in 1935.

Grayson said the steering committee decided the courthouse would be the most appropriate place for a lynching marker that would memorialize all seven victims because it is the center of the community. Not only is the courthouse the center of the community, but at least three of the lynchings occurred either at the courthouse or in the general vicinity of the Square, according to Grayson.

The steering committee approached the board in Sept. 2019, presenting their case for a lynching marker. Following the approval from the board, the county had to submit a formal application to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to allow the marker to be placed in front of the courthouse — be-



PHOTOS: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The memorial honoring seven lynching victims in Lafayette County will be installed in the fall of 2021.

cause the courthouse is a protected historical landmark.

The entire process took over a year, leading up to a final vote on signing the permit in Jan. 2021. The Board of Supervisors was originally going to vote on the memorial in Dec. 2020, but members decided to postpone it.

Grayson said one struggle that the steering committee faced in getting the marker approved was that District 3 Supervisor David Rikard originally did not want to vote on it. Rikard said one of the men included on the marker — Lawson Patton — was allegedly “caught red-handed” killing a woman.

“Our argument really has been that we don’t know the full facts of the case because he never got due process. What is very common in lynching history is that even though there are newspaper accounts, often



newspapers were framed in very, very white supremacist language,” Grayson said. “He never got due process. He was kidnapped from jail and brutally murdered before any of the facts could really become part of the public record or better known.”

Rikard’s issue was solved, however, during a Zoom meeting with the rest of the Board of Supervisors where he discussed his reservations. Rikard thanked the committee for being willing to discuss his issue and said that the Zoom meeting helped a lot, according to reporting in the Daily Journal.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in favor

of signing the permit on the third Tuesday of January, allowing the lynching marker to be placed in front of the courthouse. The steering committee is now working with the Board of Supervisors to order the marker and plan a formal unveiling of the marker.

Grayson said that while it is most likely that the marker is going to be unveiled in the early fall, it really depends on how the COVID-19 pandemic progresses, along with home football games and other factors.

Members of the Board of Supervisors were unable to be reached by the time of publication.

Deterrian Jones, a direc-

tor of political action for the university’s Black Student Union, said he thinks the lynching marker is a great step to counteract the Confederate monument that remains in the Square. Jones also said he is appreciative of Lafayette County recognizing the hard truths of its past.

“My first thought was that of the years of advocacy and hard work it took for the Confederate statue on campus to come down. Confederate statues glorify a glossed over and romanticized version of the Old South while refusing to acknowledge the atrocities committed during that same period of time,” Jones said. “Taking down the Confederate statue was the initial request of not only the minority community, but the entire university community as well.”

Associated Student Body president Joshua Mannery said that while he did not personally advocate for the lynching marker’s approval, he was excited to hear the news.

“I’m always a fan of contextualizing history and, given our own to acknowledge the places that we’ve come from and the direction where we’re headed, but I think it’s a step in the right direction,” Mannery said.

Grayson said that the steering committee of the Lynching Memorialization of Lafayette County is happy about the marker being put up since it is going to bring attention to history, and hopefully provide the community with a good way to have conversations.

“It’s just part of our work, which is really about the larger issue of enabling us to have hard investigations into histories and move forward from them because they provide some level of healing for some people,” Grayson said. “They also provide our community an opportunity to wrestle with things that have not been properly acknowledged or dealt with and then go for-

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# UM official to run for alderman

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Afton Thomas, associate director for programs at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, entered the race for a seat on the Oxford Board of Aldermen last week. Running as a Democrat, Thomas will face Republican incumbent Mark Huelse to represent Ward II.

Thomas said she decided to run after being encouraged by members of the community to run based on her involvement with various nonprofit organizations in Lafayette County.

“I was asked, ‘Have you ever considered it?’ and I hadn’t considered it. I said, ‘You know, now you have me thinking about it,’” Thomas said.

She first began her involvement with Excel by Five, a nonprofit that aims to educate young children, when she moved to Oxford in 2012, and she current-

ly serves as board president of Move On UP Mississippi, a nonprofit that funds educational initiatives in the state. She also serves on the board of Lafayette Oxford Foundation for Tomorrow and a steering committee with Leadership Lafayette.

Thomas said most nonprofit organizations in Oxford like the City Market, Doors of Hope and the Pantry all serve the same or similar groups of people. She wants the city to pay more attention to the needs of those groups and the services being provided to them and said her work with nonprofit organizations will help her bring a unique perspective to that effort.

“I’m scrappy, I’m creative and I don’t really think that we should just do a thing because we’ve always done it one way, so I offer a fresh perspective,” Thomas said.

One issue that Thomas’s campaign will focus on is afford-

able housing.

“We’re talking about it,” Thomas said. “And I’m not going to say that (the Aldermen are) not talking about it. They’re talking about it, and they’re working on it, but there’s much more to be done in terms of affordable housing here in Oxford.”

Huelse, the incumbent, said the Aldermen are already considering affordable housing as an issue in Oxford.

“We’ve had two very successful affordable housing projects,” Huelse said. “We were the first city to pass our affordable housing incentives, and that’s been very successful, and I think it has been a great case study.”

Huelse also said the recent annexation of land within the city limits will provide more land for affordable housing. He thinks continued improvement of infrastructure is the most prominent issue to residents



PHOTO COURTESY: UM COMMUNICATIONS

in Ward II and noted that the city has completed \$72 million worth of improvements in the past four years, including road improvements and the construction of the parking garage on the Square.

“We’ve got a big project starting downtown to improve our sidewalks downtown and

outdoor dining and manage our growth” Huelse said. “We’ve continued to grow, and (we want to) continue to get those new services to Oxford citizens. Continuing to do that while staying in our budget without raising taxes is going to be the challenge.”



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

# Veteran services relocates

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The Ole Miss Veterans and Military Services building was officially unveiled at the recently renovated George Street House last week. The building will now also house the Veterans Resource Center.

Veterans and Military Services’ move to the George Street House from the third floor of Martindale was meant to increase accessibility to students, according to a press release. Additionally, the Veterans Resource Center’s move from the basement of Yerby Hall is expected to cut down on a walking commute from the two buildings, which used to be 10 minutes.

The services of the office of military services vary widely, from assistance with GI Bills to Veterans Assistant insurance. According to Andrew Newby, the assistant director of veteran’s services, the Martindale office was too small for the number of students utilizing it.

With the limited space and

reduced resources in their separate Martindale and Yerby hall offices, Newby felt the move would be a “great improvement.”

“(This) would bring the university at least on par with the Southeastern Conference,” Newby said.

The Veterans Military Services and Veterans Resource Center also has developed a new connection with Grove Grocery, the university’s food bank, and will now serve as a satellite hub for all students. Newby said the services will focus on grab-and-go food items and serve as a beacon to combat food insecurity, since the new location is in the heart of campus.

The building also houses a full kitchen for its Grove Grocery services, provided by a Home Depot grant. Newby said in a press release that the rest of the money for the renovations came from the sale of special “Welcome Home” vanity license plates organized through the Student Veterans Association,

With this new location next to the library and the combin-

ing of two offices, Newby said he hopes that the renovation and new location will become a “one-stop-shop in the heart of campus (that) allows student veterans to fully succeed on campus.”

Many student veterans are thankful for the new convenient location, as well as a place of reprieve and community for students in similar situations. Angela Roberts, a Marine veteran and biology major from Dallas, said in a press release that this move was crucial to advisors and fellow students understanding the individual situations military-connected students may face.

“When you leave the military, you don’t always know how to start the process,” she said. “You’re trying to integrate into society, trying to be a civilian and have to shift your mindset.”

Roberts said these services have helped her tremendously when it came to adjusting civilian life, and she is thankful for the new renovations and move.

# Man arrested in connection with bomb threat

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Walmart management called the Oxford Police Department to Jackson Ave. on Sunday, Jan. 31 after someone inside the store told other shoppers that there was a bomb somewhere in the store.

OPD tweeted at 4:30 p.m. that people should stay away from the Walmart and that the building had been evacuated. Around two hours later, OPD announced that K-9 explosives units were dispatched by other agencies assisting with the search of the building.

At 7:47 p.m., the building was deemed safe to reenter, but

the Walmart location stayed closed for the rest of the day.

Jordan Montray Williams, a 26-year-old from Oxford, was arrested in connection with the bomb threat and charged with false reporting of bomb, explosive or weapons of mass destruction the following day. His bond was set at \$50,000.

OPD Chief Jeff McCutchen thanked the Oxford Fire Department, University Police Department, Lafayette County Sheriff’s Office, Mississippi Highway Patrol and Walmart employees for their assistance with the incident in a press release. The investigation into the bomb threat is still ongoing, according to OPD.

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# In 1970, Coolidge Ball made history. Now, UM is honoring him.

KELBY ZENDEJAS

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The University of Mississippi will honor its first Black student-athlete, Coolidge Ball, with a life-size statue in the north plaza of The Pavilion come May 15., according to an announcement from Ole Miss Athletics on Monday. The university will also install a historical marker beside the statue to showcase Ball's place in history as a civil rights pioneer.

"Coolidge Ball is a trailblazer whose lasting legacy at the University of Mississippi is reflected in how he braved uncharted territory and, in doing so, helped to move the university and our state forward," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said in a statement. "As the first Black student-athlete to enroll here, Coolidge opened the door of opportunity for countless other student-athletes. This statue is a well-deserved and fitting honor that ensures his courage will always be remembered and celebrated by our university and our fans."

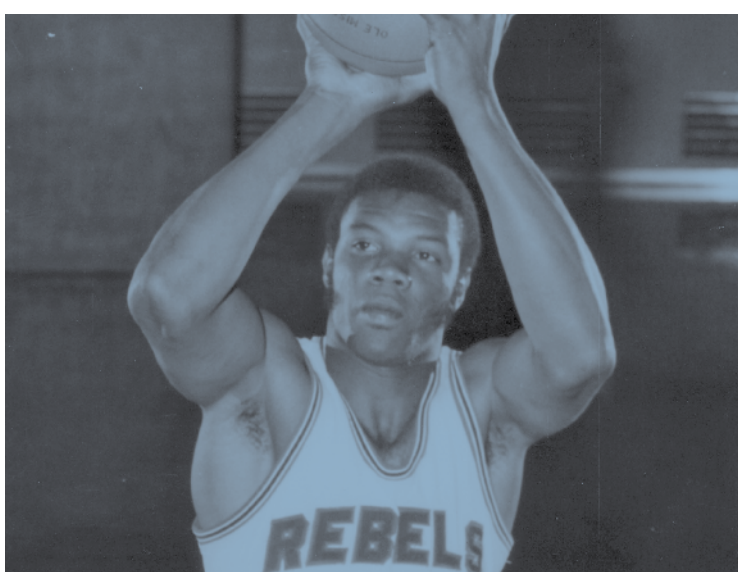
The Indianola native assigned to the Ole Miss basketball program on Aug. 6, 1970, taking the last available scholarship at the time. After declining several other offers from schools such as Arizona



PHOTOS COURTESY: OLE MISS ATHLETICS

State and New Mexico State, Ball set the precedent to allow future Black athletes to attend Ole Miss.

"I'm very grateful to be distinguished in this way," Ball said in a statement. "When I first came to campus, I never dreamed that 50 years later I would be recognized as a part of our university's history. While I'm proud of my accomplishments on the court, I'm truly honored to be viewed as someone who paved the way for future student-athletes. I'm really excited to see the



statue go up and look forward to the ceremony."

During his time at Ole Miss, Ball accumulated a total of 1,072 points and became known as a highly respected player, earning team captain and Most Valuable Player honors. In addition, Ball earned All-SEC honors in 1972 and 1973 and second-team All-SEC honors from the Associated Press during the same years. He also led in helping the Rebels to achieve three winning seasons consecutively for the first time since 1936-1938.

Ball graduated from Ole Miss in 1975 and was inducted into the Ole Miss Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991. Then in 2008, Ball was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

"Our university is forever indebted to Coolidge Ball for the courage he showed 50 years ago," Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter said. "With this strength, humility and kindness, Coolidge provided a beacon of light for our community while setting an example for generations of student-athletes, both on and off the court. We are eternally grateful to Coolidge for his contributions to civil rights and for his leadership for Ole Miss."

## VOLLEYBALL

# Rebels continue looking for first victory of the season

RILEY COMDEN

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The Ole Miss volleyball team will take on Alabama at home this Friday at 12 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. for its second matchup of the spring season.

Alabama is currently ranked at No. 11 in the SEC, going 2-8 on the season so far, and Ole Miss is right behind the Crimson Tide at No. 12, going 0-8 on the season.

The Rebels are ready to bounce back after getting swept by Florida last weekend. Co-captains senior Bayleigh Scott and junior Aubrey Sultemeier are looking to lead their team to a victory against the Crimson Tide. Freshman Samantha Schnitta is another player expected to have a successful performance and currently leads the team with 64 kills, 60 digs and 15 service aces. Sultemeier has looked promising, as well, with 60 kills so far this season. She needs 29 more blocks to enter the top 10 for total blocks in the rally-scoring era.

Freshman G.G. Carvacho has been outstanding for the Rebels this season, contributing 58 kills and had a career-high of 20 digs



PHOTO COURTESY OLE MISS ATHLETICS

against No. 8 Missouri.

In the previous game against the Gators, the Rebels could not overcome the 14 aces that Florida dealt and lost the match, 16-26, 16-25 and 19-25.

Alabama is coming off of a hard-fought game that resulted in a loss to South Carolina after battling back-and-forth for five matches. The Tide hasn't won a game since beating Georgia in the fall season, 3-1.

The Rebels will need to shut down junior Abby Marjama who currently has 115 kills on the season, and sophomore Kennedy

Muckelroy who currently has 88 kills on the season if Ole Miss wishes to win this game.

Ole Miss has won 12 out of the 27 games they have played against Alabama in past years and was on a three-game winning streak against the Tide until they lost to 2-3 the last time they played on Nov. 3, 2019.

The games mark the first time the Rebels will be televised on national television. Catch the Rebels on the SEC Network, as they continue to work towards their first win of the season.

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# Track and field travels to SC after top 20 national rankings

KELBY ZENDEJAS

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After a top performance at the Razorback Invite last week, the Ole Miss men's and women's track and field teams received national rankings in Week Two of the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Rating Index. The men's team ranked No. 6, and the women's team ranked No. 18.

The men's ranking is the highest that any Ole Miss track and field team has seen since Week One of the 2008 rankings when the women's team was placed at No. 7. The new No. 6 men's ranking comes after the men placed third overall at the Razorback Invite.

The men's team soared 26 spots into this record-breaking ranking, and the last time the men's team placed this high in the indoor polls was

during the 2014 preseason release at No. 16.

Last weekend's performance helped the Rebels claim the top seed. Four team members led the way by breaking Ole Miss school records and personal bests. Distance runners Waleed Suliman, Baylor Franklin, Everett Smulders and Mario Garcia Romo made up the record-breaking team after running a 9:30.62 in the distance medley relay, which added a solid 19.37 points to the index. This becomes the third-best time in NCAA history and second-best in Ole Miss history.

The quartet contributed to individual successes as well. Smulders became the fourth Rebel to clock a less than four-minute mile with a time of 3:58.93. Former SEC champion Garcia Romo also broke the men's 3K school record with a time of 7:48.40, breaking Robert Domanic's

2016 record by six seconds. Suliman would have been the runner to break the record with a time of 7:54.57 if it hadn't been for Garcia Romo's success.

Franklin set his personal best in the men's 800-meter, clocking in with a time of 1:48.59 and ranking fifth nationally.

On the women's team, the Rebels finished sixth at the Razorback Invite, helping the team place 11 spots above their previous national ranking.

All-American sophomore Jasmine Mitchell led the women's team with a No. 4 ranking in the weight throw at 21.57 meters (70-09.25). For distance runners, senior Anna Elikin ranked in both the 5K (10th, 16:21.83) and mile (32nd, 4:46.23), senior Victoria Simmons in the 5K (20th, 17:07.22) and sophomore Loral Winn with at her



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss Track and Field at the Blazer Invite in the Birmingham Crossplex last season.

school-record mile time of 4:45.60 in 28th. Winn took the top seed at Ole Miss after beating Elkin's time at the Commodore Indoor two weeks ago.

In addition to the distance runners, newcomer Sintayehu Vissa ran the fourth-best 800-meter time in Ole Miss

history with a 2:06.45. The time is the eleventh-best nationally this year.

The Rebels keep setting standards and breaking records, and the teams are set to travel to Columbia, South Carolina, this weekend for the South Carolina Invite.

# Jarkel Joiner joins the 1,000-career-point club

RILEY COMDEN

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To reach 1,000 career points is a rare occurrence in college basketball. This season, the Ole Miss men's basketball team features three players who have reached that goal, including senior guard Devontae Shuler, forward Romello White and most recently, junior guard Jarkel Joiner. The other title holder is transfer student Dimencio Vaughn, who tallied 1,000 points during his stint at Rider University.

An Oxford native, Joiner reached his 1,000th career point in the matchup against Arkansas on Jan. 27. During his freshman year at California State University at Bakersfield, he scored 313 points. As a sophomore, Joiner scored an impressive 532 points in the 2018-19 season which broke CSUB's Division I single-season scoring record.

After sitting out the 2019-20 season due to transfer rules, Joiner is currently an Ole Miss redshirt junior, averaging 10.8 points for the Rebels with 184 points. He has started in 13 out of the 17 games and scored double-digit points in nine of those games.

Joiner has settled in nicely as a Rebel and has gained the trust of his teammates to score from anywhere on the court.

John Stroud, who played



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Jarkel Joiner goes to shoot the ball at the game against Tennessee on Tuesday. The Rebels came back in the last five minutes of the second quarter to win the game against the Vols.

for the Rebels from 1976-1980, is the career points leader for Ole Miss at 2,328 points. With a successful conclusion to his redshirt-junior year and a productive senior year, Joiner could catch Rebel alum Breein Tyree on the all-time scoring list.

Schuler, a native of Irmo, South Carolina, reached his 1,000th career point on Dec. 29 when he dunked early

in the first half of the game against Alabama.

During the 2017-18 season, Shuler scored 193 points and averaged six points per game. In the 2018-19 season, he scored 340 points, and the next year, he was one of two Rebels to start all 32 games. During that season, Shuler scored 374 points.

Now in his senior season, Shuler has scored 253 points

and is averaging 14.9 points per game.

White, a transfer student from Arizona State University, also reached his 1,000th career point in the game against the Alabama Crimson Tide on Dec. 29.

As a redshirt freshman, he scored 325 points his first year at Arizona State. As a redshirt sophomore, he ended the season with 296 points,

and the next season, he scored 306 points, tallying his total of 927 points as a Sun Devil.

White transferred to Ole Miss for the 2020-21 season, and so far, he has 170 points and is averaging 10 points per game. He has brought energy to the floor for the Rebels and is a noticeable presence on the board with 93 rebounds so far this season.

Vaughn, a transfer student from Rider University, reached his 1,000th point in his junior season with the Broncos. Vaughn scored just 43 points in nine games after an injury ended his freshman year early. He bounced back and put up 468 points in his redshirt freshman year and 285 his redshirt-sophomore year.

In his final season as a Bronco, Vaughn put up 443 points for a total of 1,239 points at Rider University.

Vaughn transferred to Ole Miss to join the Rebels for the 2020-21 season and has played in 16

games so far. He has put up 27 points, with a season-high of seven points against Dayton. Vaughn has been a great addition to the Rebels' and brings great energy on and off the court.

The thousand-point quartet and the rest of the Rebels will be back in action on Sat. Feb. 6, in Auburn, Alabama. The game will be broadcasted live on ESPN2.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Rebels to host Kentucky

KELBY ZENDEJAS

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Coming off a tough loss against LSU, the women's basketball team will face off against No. 14 Kentucky today at 6 p.m. in The Pavilion. Ole Miss currently holds a 7-7 overall record, while the Wildcats hold a 13-4 overall record. In their last match-up on Feb. 20, 2020, the Rebels took a 94-52 loss with point guard Mimi Reid and then-freshman Jayla Alexander scoring 12 points each. The last time the Rebels beat the Wildcats was in 2016 with a 55-49 win, and that win marked the first time Ole Miss beat Kentucky in Lexington since 2007.

In an effort to keep the lead against LSU, Ole Miss gave in during the late fourth quarter on Sunday, costing the Rebels yet another loss. With Ole Miss on a losing streak, conquering the Wildcats could build momentum and confidence within the team as a whole — hopefully in time to take on in-state rival Mississippi State on Feb. 14.

Kentucky is coming off a 61-55 win against Missouri where junior Rhyne Howard scored 22 points. The Wildcats rank No. 15 in the Associated Press ranking. Howard is the top scorer for the Wildcats, ranking No. 5 in scoring in the SEC and No. 5 in free throw percentage. To tame Howard

will be one of the Rebel's main focuses in this game.

The Rebel offense ranks second in assists in the SEC and No. 37 nationally with an average of 16.3 assists per game. Reid leads the team with 4.6 assists per game and ranks second in the SEC.

Freshman Madison Scott received her third All-SEC Freshman of the Week honor as she hauled in a career-high of 16 rebounds and 12 points for her second career double-double. The 16 rebounds against LSU stand as the highest amount of rebounds a Rebel freshman has made in a game since 2011. She is tied for 16th nationally among freshmen in rebounding with



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss guard Taylor Smith tries to get past a Kentucky player last season.

her average at 7.1 per game.

Another Rebel to watch this game is junior Shakira Austin who sits at 903 total points and is predicted to become the 31st Rebel to reach 1,000 points during the South

Carolina game. She averages 16.8 points per game during this season.

Tipoff against Kentucky is set for 6 p.m. and will be broadcasted on SEC Network+.

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# Ole Miss upsets No. 10 Tennessee, 52-50

**RILEY COMDEN**  
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The Ole Miss men's basketball team pulled off a shocking upset against nationally ranked No. 10 Tennessee with a final score of 52-50 on Tuesday night.

"We played against such a tough and well-coached team," head coach Kermit Davis said. "Down the stretch, we made some game-winning plays. It was just a whole group effort, and I'm just so happy to see this team taste that victory against a top-10 ranked team."

Tennessee dropped in the Southeastern Conference standings after its loss to Ole Miss, and the team is now ranked at No. 6 in the conference. The Vols are 12-4 on the season with five wins and four losses in conference play. Ole Miss is currently ranked No. 9 in the SEC, going 9-8 so far this season with four wins and six losses in conference.

Ole Miss has its remarkable defense to thank for this win, yet again. The Volunteers are one of five teams to score 50 or fewer points against the Rebels this season. Tennessee's defense is ranked No. 6



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss forward Robert Allen and Jarkel Joiner jump to catch a Tennessee rebound at the game yesterday. Ole Miss won the game with a close final score of 52-50.

nationally and No. 1 in the SEC, while Ole Miss ranks at No. 28 nationally and No. 2 in

the SEC. The Rebels forced 17 turnovers and had six steals and

four blocks to shut down the Volunteers. In addition, Ole Miss forced Tennessee to

shoot 36% and held them to shooting 1-14 from the field in the final 13 minutes of play.

Ole Miss's 1-3-1 defense has proven to be a huge asset for the Rebels, especially late in the game. The Rebels kept the Volunteers without a field goal for 12 minutes and 27 seconds late in the second half. The Rebels shot 64% from the free-throw line, 39% from the field and outscored the Volunteers 30-10 in the paint.

Senior Devontae Shuler once again led the Rebels with 15 points and seven rebounds. Senior Romello White showed up big time for the Rebels with 14 points, six rebounds and one assist. Sophomore Luis Rodriguez put on a show with an incredible dunk and contributed seven points, six rebounds and four assists.

Junior Jarkel Joiner, who was honored at the beginning of the game for scoring his 1,000th career point, scored seven points and had one rebound. Junior Robert Allen, who earned another start for the Rebels, had four points, four rebounds and one assist.

The Rebels will now prepare for their matchup against the Auburn Tigers on Feb. 6. Tipoff is set for 3:00 p.m., and the game will air on ESPN2.

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# How Blenz Bowls brought its business to campus

NEELY MULLEN

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Blenz Bowls, a Miami-inspired smoothie bowl food truck and cafe concept founded at the University of Alabama, rolled on to the University of Mississippi campus this semester, the first of many proposed Southeastern Conference expansions for the business.

The smoothie spot, which was founded by Alabama graduates Riley Voce and Zach Rogers in 2018, has its sights set on a complex market: on-campus dining.

“We identified pretty early on that college campuses are our market,” Voce said. “It’s very untapped. There’s a huge barrier to entry; it’s hard to get on campus.”

Aramark, a multinational food contractor that supplies food to a variety of education, healthcare, business and carceral clients — including the Mississippi Department of Corrections — holds exclusive power over dining options at the university, making it difficult for independent vendors to break onto the on-campus roster.

According to a report from

exclusivity agreement between UM and the contractor has seen the university send \$117 million over the past five years directly to Aramark, who in return awarded the university nearly \$10 million in commissions.

Despite complex legal and financial barriers posed by the subcontracting model inherent at Aramark-contracted institutions, Voce says Blenz Bowls was uniquely positioned for a more painless expansion onto UM’s on-campus dining scene because of its success and experience at the University of Alabama.

Local Oxford food trucks have been unable to find the same footing with the contractor.

When a group of local food truck owners attempted to strike a deal with Aramark in 2015, John Ferguson, owner of Fergdan’s Pizza Café, said the contractor offered food trucks an “absolutely ludicrous” deal.

Ferguson says Aramark told Jake Sessums, owner of the now-defunct YoknapaTaco taco truck, local food trucks were welcome to roll on to campus so long



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A student worker at Blenz Bowls in Weir Hall puts the lid on a smoothie bowl order to be delivered by the Aramark robots.

as they were able to give 42% of their earnings to the contractor.

“We have to pay them for the privilege to be there, so the costs get so exorbitant that we can’t afford to cover our costs,” Ferguson said. “It’s so cost prohibitive to be there.”

Ferguson said that the deal didn’t offer his business nearly enough value to offset its costs.

“I’ve got better things to do with my time than work for somebody else,” Ferguson said. “That’s why I’m in business. I don’t want to work for somebody else.”

Blenz Bowls’s experience at Alabama, as well as its unique business model, helped the owners to reach a more amicable deal with

the contractor. Still, Voce says that it took Blenz Bowls years of persistence to earn their spot on campus.

“The first email we ever sent to Ole Miss was in late 2018, maybe early 2019,” Voce said. “It wasn’t until the summer of 2020 before we actually started having phone calls with Aramark here and the people we needed to talk to to get on campus.”

Currently, the smoothie company operates out of two locations on campus. The first is the truck, which rotates to different locations throughout the week. The second is a café in Weir Hall, a space that has served as home to several pop-up dining locations

over the last few years.

“After meeting with the Aramark team and them getting to know us and seeing our product, they basically put their faith and trust in us,” Voce said. “We jumped on that opportunity as quick as they offered it, basically,” he said of the offer to open a second location in Weir Hall.

Gia Osso, a senior marketing major and new employee at Blenz Bowls, says she has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the company.

“It’s really fun. The truck just has a really good energy to it,” Osso said. “They’re very flexible on hours because there’s a lot of people that can fill them.”

Overall, Voce says that what really makes Blenz Bowls distinct from the competition is their commitment to a positive campus and employee culture.

“We push positivity, good vibes, being a good human, and we hope someday somebody sees something different about us,” Voce said. “We’re more than a smoothie company. When you come to the store, we want you to go away feeling good about your day, feeling good about yourself.”

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ACROSS SOLUTION TO 1.28 PUZZLE

- 1- Worthless person;
- 5- Last Greek letter;
- 10- Jutting rock;
- 14- Snake dancers;
- 15- Member of a motorcycle gang;
- 16- Shelter for honeybees;
- 17- Redolence;
- 18- Hound's trail;
- 19- Like \_\_\_ of bricks;
- 20- Cure-all;
- 22- Illness;
- 24- EMT's skill;
- 25- Great Lakes canals;
- 26- Greek pastry;
- 30- Glut;
- 34- A shivering fit - often a precursor to malaria;
- 35- Incite;
- 37- Greek portico;
- 38- Container cover;
- 39- Battery size;
- 40- Cabinet dept.;
- 41- "The Time Machine" race;
- 43- Impudent (slang);
- 45- Smell \_\_\_;
- 46- Official sitting;
- 48- Language of European Jews;
- 50- Assn.;
- 51- Ambient music pioneer;
- 52- To recover;
- 56- Clear and shrill;
- 60- Scope;
- 61- Gave a hoot;
- 63- Uh-uh;
- 64- Hue;
- 65- Love, Italian-style;
- 66- Util. bill;
- 67- Chip in;
- 68- Tied;
- 69- Unpleasantly moist;

SOLUTION TO 1.28 PUZZLE

- 21- Tax pro;
- 23- Parking place;
- 26- Bundles;
- 27- Nimble;
- 28- Praise;
- 29- Another time;
- 30- Lathered up;
- 31- Maker of Pong;
- 32- Roman garments;
- 33- Soil;
- 36- Breach;
- 42- Set apart;
- 43- Reasonable;
- 44- Ceded;
- 45- Decked out;
- 47- 401(k) alternative;
- 49- It's in the genes;
- 52- Pro follower;
- 53- "\_\_\_ Brockovich";
- 54- 1/100 of a monetary unit;
- 55- One of the Three Bears;
- 56- Part of a bird's beak;
- 57- Kansas city;
- 58- Candid;
- 59- Bottle part;
- 62- Fabled bird;

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

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

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

# OPINION



CARTOON BY: NAKIYAH JORDAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

This what Black History Month look like on Venus. Got to be.

## Oxford needs masks outdoors

**HELEN CLAIRE MCNULTY**

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Last Monday, the Oxford Board of Aldermen decided to implement an outdoor mask mandate that requires patrons to wear masks outdoors when social distancing is not possible — including while standing in lines for bars on the Square. This was the right call. This decision came after photos of young people in massive lines outside of the bars were posted on social media and sent to Mayor Robyn Tannehill, along with a slight increase in cases.

Some young people believe that they are invincible and that COVID-19 will not be able to touch them, which is partially true. People between the ages of 18 and 29 only have a mortality rate of 0.5%. However, the main issue is that these young people who are infected with the virus will indirectly or directly infect older and more-at-risk patients who have a much higher mortality rate.

We are going on almost an entire tedious, stressful year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions and lockdowns have been hard for all of us to bear, but we must keep in mind that when we practice socially responsible behavior, including wearing masks and social distancing, the pandemic will come to an end a lot sooner.

The older a person is, the higher their risk of death. People over the age of 50 have a 20% COVID mortality rate, which progressively jumps by age group up to 32.1% for individuals over the age of 85. Oxford is a certified retirement community, and over 10% of its residents are above the age of 55. A lot of our professors are middle-aged, and we also go to necessary places such as the grocery store and doctors' offices. College students do not only interact with other college students, even in a college town. We all interact with each other, even

in the most indirect of ways.

Unfortunately, the long bar lines are just the beginning of Oxford's COVID-19 problems. I live in a small condo complex that has mostly student residents. The neighbors next to us like to throw loud parties with tons of people late at night; I joke with my roommates, calling them "COVID parties." I know for a fact that this is not an isolated incident, and fellow college students are engaging in socially irresponsible behavior during this pandemic.

There's no denying that the return from winter break

has most likely contributed to the slight uptick in cases in Lafayette County. As of October, social gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, but that does not stop the flow of maskless parties with 20+ people in attendance on my Instagram feed. We shouldn't be surprised that young people are continuing to act irresponsibly, but this doesn't make it right.

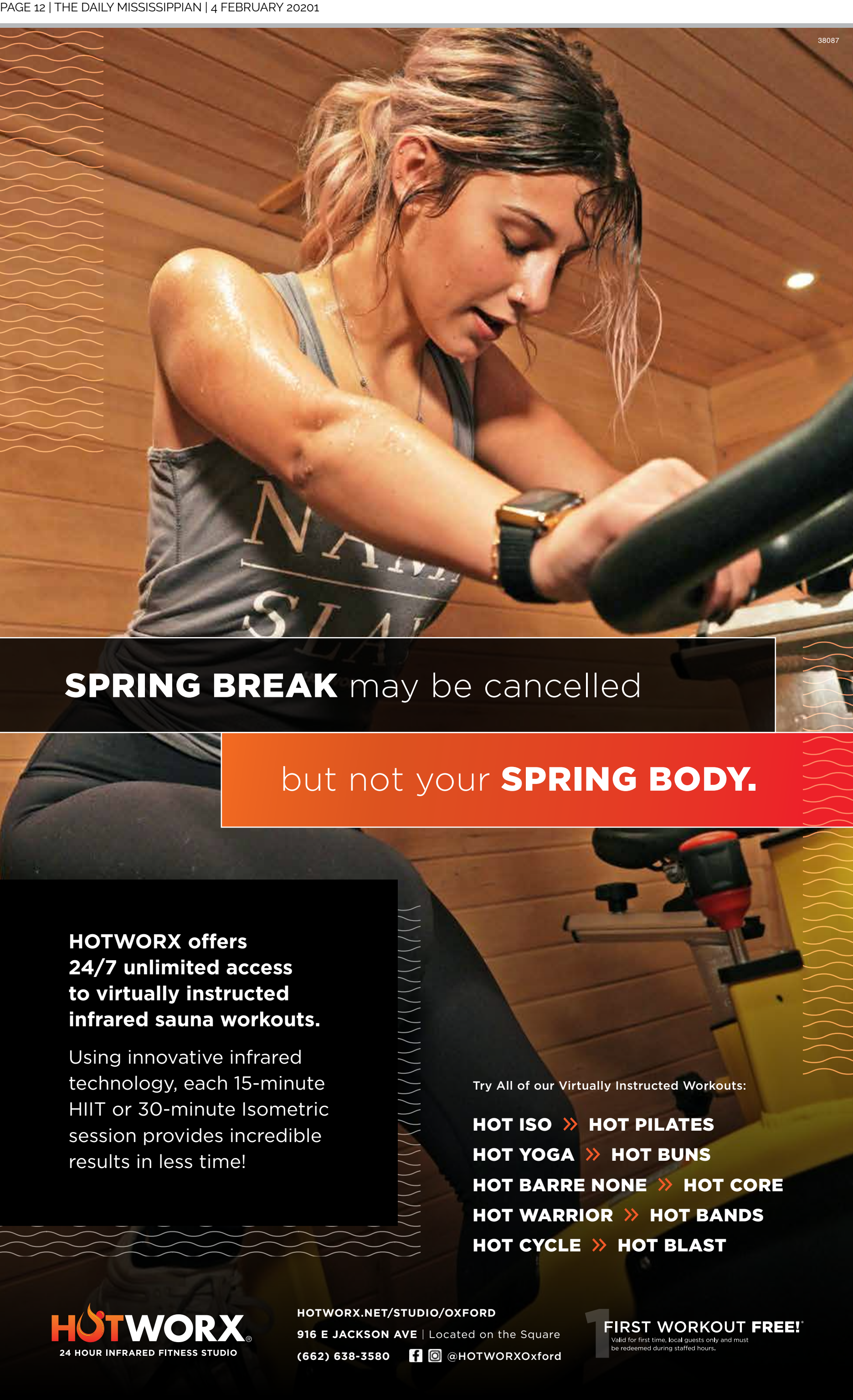
We are going on almost an entire tedious, stressful year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions and lockdowns have been hard for all of us to bear, but we must

keep in mind that when we practice socially responsible behavior, including wearing masks and social distancing, the pandemic will come to an end a lot sooner. We should be grateful that there is a vaccine for the virus, and hopefully, the end is in sight if we take precautions now.

*Helen Claire McNulty is a senior biology major from Holland, Mich., and West Palm Beach, Fla.*

### Opinion Policies:

Columns do not represent the views of The University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian. The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor, which should be emailed to [dmlletters@olemiss.edu](mailto:dmlletters@olemiss.edu). Letters should be no longer than 300 words. They may be edited for clarity, brevity and libel. Third-party letters and those with pseudonyms or no name will not be published. Letters are limited to one per individual per month. Letters should include contact information, including relationship to the university, if applicable.



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Using innovative infrared technology, each 15-minute HIIT or 30-minute Isometric session provides incredible results in less time!

Try All of our Virtually Instructed Workouts:

- HOT ISO » HOT PILATES**
- HOT YOGA » HOT BUNS**
- HOT BARRE NONE » HOT CORE**
- HOT WARRIOR » HOT BANDS**
- HOT CYCLE » HOT BLAST**