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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Thursday, March 18, 2021

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Volume 109, No. 21

Already?

On March 16, 2020, the first UM student self-reported a case of COVID-19. Since then, incalculable changes have occurred in Oxford and around the world. In this issue, The Daily Mississippian dives into these changes in the UM community.

VIRTUAL CLASSES

continued from page 1

return from quarantine

University begins mass testing

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Students quarantine in dorms

"The additional vaccine will be distributed to community partners in a manner that seeks to address

SEE VACCINE PAGE 3

Outbreaks on

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HADLEY HITSON
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Move-in for the fall semester began on Aug. 15, and since then, 46 students have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the university's confirmed cases report. Of these cases, six are specified as "not in Oxford" and "not on campus" and no hospitalizations have been reported.
Fifteen of the students are student-athletes, and at least five members of the Delta Delta sorority tested positive.

KENNETH NIEMEYE
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Social gatherings postponed

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Ignore
guidelin

ARE WE READY?
continued from page 1

Community ignores asymptomatic

THE MICHAELSON

SPREAD
continued from page 1

can spread unknowingly has added a great deal of complexity to the pandemic," Anita Barkin, co-chair of the ACHA COVID-19 task force, said.

Barkin said the association released the guidelines "after

the cancellation of tailgating in the Grove and other activities, Oxford residents are looking for places to spend their game days. As a result, there is a higher demand for

decided to quarantine with her friend who has a house in Oxford, rather than stay in Crosby

"The email was very vague but our community assistants

SEE QUARANTINE PAGE 12

NOE
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health guidelines university and the community and Sorority KUPFSL campaign fraternity members missing several in-person events without following and social distancing guidelines. In photos obtained by The Daily Mississippian - which were publicly

SEE GUIDELINE

UM vaccinates over 700 people

HADLEY HITSON
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At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 12, University of Mississippi pharmacy students and doctors officially began administering the COVID-19 vaccine in the Tad Smith Coliseum. UM received a shipment of 1,170 Pfizer vaccines that day, and as of Wednesday, 708 of those doses have been administered to students and employees.

Initially, on-campus vaccinations were only available to people who both qualify under the Mississippi State Department of Health eligibility guidelines and work at the university, including student workers and those who work in Aramark locations on campus. Currently, the MSDH says that people who may receive the vaccine are: healthcare personnel, long-term care facility residents and staff, anyone over the age of 16 with a chronic health

condition, adults over the age of 50, K-12 teachers and preschool and childcare workers.

However, some student workers and other university employees who don't meet any of those requirements have been able to receive the vaccine at the on-campus clinic.

According to a statement from university spokesman Rod Guajardo, when university officials were notified last week that the university was to receive Pfizer doses, they first allowed campus employees who met MSDH standards for vaccine eligibility to make appointments for the clinic on March 10 and 11. Then, they realized that over half of the total available appointments were still open.

"When supply outpaced demand, the university followed the recommendation of our Task Force to activate the standby list to ensure that shots get in arms of our employees," Guajardo said.



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The university began distributing Pfizer vaccines on Friday, March 12 at the Tad Smith Coliseum, and senior biology major Brianna Chambers was the first person to receive a dose on campus.

"In order to ensure that none of the vaccine doses provided to us by MSDH were wasted, campus workers on the standby list were notified via text message on the afternoon of Thursday, March 11, that they could begin scheduling vaccine appointments on campus."

UM administrators compiled the standby list by using information from the COVID Vaccine Administration Survey that the Office of the Provost sent to the UM community via email in February to measure willingness to receive the vaccine, as well as how many people on campus have already

received the vaccine.

The university has also already requested additional doses from the MSDH, "and the university stands ready and willing to vaccinate additional members of (the) campus community if we receive additional doses," according to Guajardo.

Students, faculty reflect on continuing pandemic habits

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After spending months adapting to remote teaching, many UM faculty members said they're looking forward to seeing classrooms filled with students in the fall. Still, many plan to continue implementing select pandemic practices in the classroom.

"Over the past year, I have learned a lot about new technologies that were necessary for distance learning that I can foresee will be helpful ... even after we fully return to in-class teaching," Michael Herrington, an intensive English program instructor, said.

Many professors have become accustomed to using Zoom as a tool to teach and record their classes. Now, faculty are thinking about

what internet applications they can continue to use in the classroom.

William Joseph Sumrall, a professor of elementary education, said Google Sheets can be an extremely useful tool, even in a face-to-face classroom.

Sumrall also spoke about an application called Voki, which students can use for animated presentations, assignments and as a virtually viewed discussion forum, according to its website.

"I can see (Voki) as being a really good thing to do in the face-to-face class with students," Sumrall said.

While most of the faculty is looking forward to the switch back to in-person classes, there is still an uneasy feeling about the idea of having so many people in the same room again.

"I think some of us will feel nervous even though we'll be vaccinated. We've been conditioned to be fearful of gathering, and it may take a while before we can relax and feel comfortable inside classrooms," Vivian Hobbs, an English professor, said.

Most students are also eager to return to in-person classes. According to the COVID-19 response survey conducted by the university, 81% of students who responded said they found remote learning hindered their motivation to engage with their classes.

"Kind of bummed that I have to wake up more than three seconds before class now, but I learn a lot better with face-to-face instruction," Damien Harbin, a junior criminal justice major, said.

Oren Smith, a freshman



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

forensic chemistry major, said remote learning has taught him better time management.

"Most of it at first was on your own and not on a strict schedule that you had to follow. You had to make one on your own," Smith said. "That's a skill I'll be taking back with me, as it will help me in the long run."

For some, going back to the classroom doesn't necessarily mean the end of Zoom chats and remote instruction.

"I see no reason why instructors couldn't set up a Zoom call for students who can't make it to class," Harbin said. "As much as I hate to say it, Zoom kind of destroys sick absences."



Now Hiring SAILING INSTRUCTORS

Blackjack Sailing is hiring part time sailing instructors to teach sailing to kids 3 - 6 days a week from June 1st through July 2nd at the Sardis Lake Marina on small sailboats. Pay is \$15/hour. Necessary skills include previous experience teaching sailing and working with kids. Best if applicant has previous experience teaching on small boats at a sailing camp or holds a US Sailing small boat teaching certification. Transportation to and from Sardis Lake Marina will be provided if needed.



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Students detail their vaccine side effects

HADLEY HITSON

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One year ago, a University of Mississippi student self-reported the first case of COVID-19 among UM students, faculty and staff. Since March 16, 2020, the Oxford campus community has amassed 1,288 aggregate confirmed cases, and Oxford's most recent data shows a total of 5,858 cases in the past year.

Now, the rate of increase for those numbers is beginning to plateau — partially because of vaccine distribution. Over 11% of the state is fully vaccinated, and 20% has received at least one dose, according to Mississippi State Department of Health data.

Nikki Jonah, a junior forensic chemistry major, is one of the 329,992 people in the state who are fully vaccinated. She has two heart conditions that define her as high risk: inappropriate sinus tachycardia (IST) and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). Before the pandemic, though, she was only aware of one.

“Back in the fall, I had some unknown virus and wound up getting a lot of inflammation around my heart,” Jonah said. “Because of that, it wound up causing or worsening the second condition, POTS.”

Still, when the vaccine became available in January, Jonah said her mother urged her not to make an appointment.

“She was worried about what side effects I would get,” Jonah said. “I was more worried about



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

what would happen if I actually got COVID than about the vaccine, so I just went ahead and did it.”

Jonah did not tell her mother about receiving the vaccine until after her first dose of Pfizer, and when her side effects were arm pain and a headache, Jonah said her mother “felt a lot better about it.”

“It’s a lot of fear about what could potentially happen,” Jonah said. “It’s kind of a personal decision, because I didn’t have that severe of a reaction to it. But my roommate had already had COVID when she got the vaccine, and she had a much more severe reaction.”

Jonah’s roommate is Barrie Wright, a junior international studies major. Wright has always

had “really, really, really bad lungs,” so when she tested positive for COVID-19, she was expecting severe symptoms. Still, she said having the coronavirus was worse than what she imagined it might be.

“I was hospitalized because my reaction was very bad,” Wright said. “I was put on this plasma. People who had COVID could donate their plasma, and they were using that to see if it had any treatment on COVID-19.”

This treatment is called convalescent plasma therapy, and according to NPR, more than half a million Americans have received it over the past year. Still, it remains unclear whether it has any direct benefits for COVID-19 patients.

A few months afterward,

Wright was able to schedule a vaccine appointment. Almost immediately after her first dose of the Moderna vaccine, Wright began experiencing intense symptoms.

“Usually, you don’t have a major reaction with your first shot, but mine was very bad. I had a fever for the first three days of like 101.8, and with the arm that I got the shot in, I couldn’t move my arm at all for at least five days,” she said.

Her reaction to the second dose was similar, but slightly less-severe symptoms. Still, Wright said she would do it all again to be immune to the coronavirus.

“I would rather take the symptoms of the vaccine anytime before I would ever want to get back to having COVID,” Wright said.

While Wright recognizes her experiences with the vaccine as worth the pain she experienced, there are many other students like Jonah who received the vaccine with little to no pain.

Olivia Fox, a senior biochemistry major, received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine through her work with the University of Tennessee Methodist clinic in Memphis, and she said vaccination was an easy, relatively painless experience for her.

“I just got emailed a link to sign up and go get it,” Fox said. “After the first day, my arm hurt, but that was as normal as it is with any flu shot I’ve ever gotten.”

Meanwhile, sophomore biochemistry major Reena Thera’s experience was between extremes. Thera is a certified and licensed pharmacy technician in the state, so she received the Moderna vaccine early on in distribution from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

“The first dose, I didn’t have any side effects other than a sore arm for a couple of days, and then the second dose was pretty brutal for me,” she said. “I had major body aches and migraines. I had the chills, and I was taking ibuprofen every six hours ... and the next day, I was fine.”

No matter what symptoms Jonah, Wright, Fox and Thera experienced post-vaccine or what impact the past year of the pandemic had on their lives, each now has lasting immunity against COVID-19.

Students admit mixed feelings about vaccine eligibility

SOPHIA JARAMILLO

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Students at the university have mixed reactions after Gov. Tate Reeves announced that the state would begin to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents ages 16 and older.

“To be honest, I don’t know if it will affect things too heavily,” senior English major Allison Clayton said.

According to the MSDH, nearly 23,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered in Lafayette County.

With the mask mandate in Oxford ending and more businesses including bars and restaurants operating at full capacity, some students at the university seem eager to have life back to normal now that they are eligible for the vaccine.

As Gov. Reeves encourages Mississippi residents to get vaccinated, the university has made an effort to make the vaccine available to staff, faculty and student workers, as they recently activated a vaccination site on campus at the Tad Smith Coliseum.

AJ Norwood, a sophomore

journalism major, said he is ready to take the vaccine

“I’m ready to get out of this pandemic, and whatever it takes to get out of the pandemic, if it’s for the greater good for the people in our community, then I’m all for it,” Norwood said.

However, not all students feel the need to get vaccinated. Freshman biology major Caroline Karschner said that she does not plan to get vaccinated because she has already had COVID-19 twice. Another two students who refused to give their names agreed and said they will not be getting the

vaccine, regardless of the effects it could have on the university’s plan to open completely in person in fall 2021.

Many students are concerned for their safety and the university’s plan to reopen in the fall, but Hardy feels confident that following protocol and getting the vaccine before the upcoming semester can lead to a successful reopening of campus in fall 2021.

Freshman business major Olivia Reeves just received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on campus as a student worker.

“Knowing that I, personally,

am safe means there’s one less thing to worry about. Now, it’s about protecting others around me,” Reeves said.

She, among many other students, hopes to see more of the student body getting the vaccine before next semester begins.

“Regardless of what happens, I want campus to be an environment where everyone feels comfortable,” Reeves said. “I’m hoping that people do take initiative and they get vaccinated and create an environment that is comfortable and safe for everyone.”

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ACROSS THE STATE

After a year in a pandemic, North Mississippi schools reflect on crucial changes

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Mississippi schools were some of the first in the country to reopen for in-person learning during the pandemic. Now, teachers and administrators across Northern Mississippi are reflecting on everything they've had to adapt to in the past year.

Teresa Jackson, the Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District superintendent, knew on March 16, 2020 that the kids in her district would not be returning to school. It was also the day that the Mississippi High School Activities Association officially suspended all sporting events and practices for grade school students.

"State law says we go to school for 180 days," Jackson said. "So for anything to not follow that — it's just outside our ability to comprehend."

When the two schools that serve nearly 1,200 students in her district closed last March, they did their best to keep in touch with students through daily updates posted on Facebook and emailed out to parents. Still, it wasn't easy to continue teaching children remotely because an estimated 35% of students in the district did not have internet access at home.

The entire district had to resort to assigning take-home packets to its students that parents would pick up and drop off in filing cabinets outside their child's school. At the time, it was difficult to ask teachers to grade the packets because no one knew how the COVID-19 virus was transmitted yet.

"The students that were putting the work in probably got something out of it; many students did not," Jackson said.

She said seeing the students struggle so much with remote

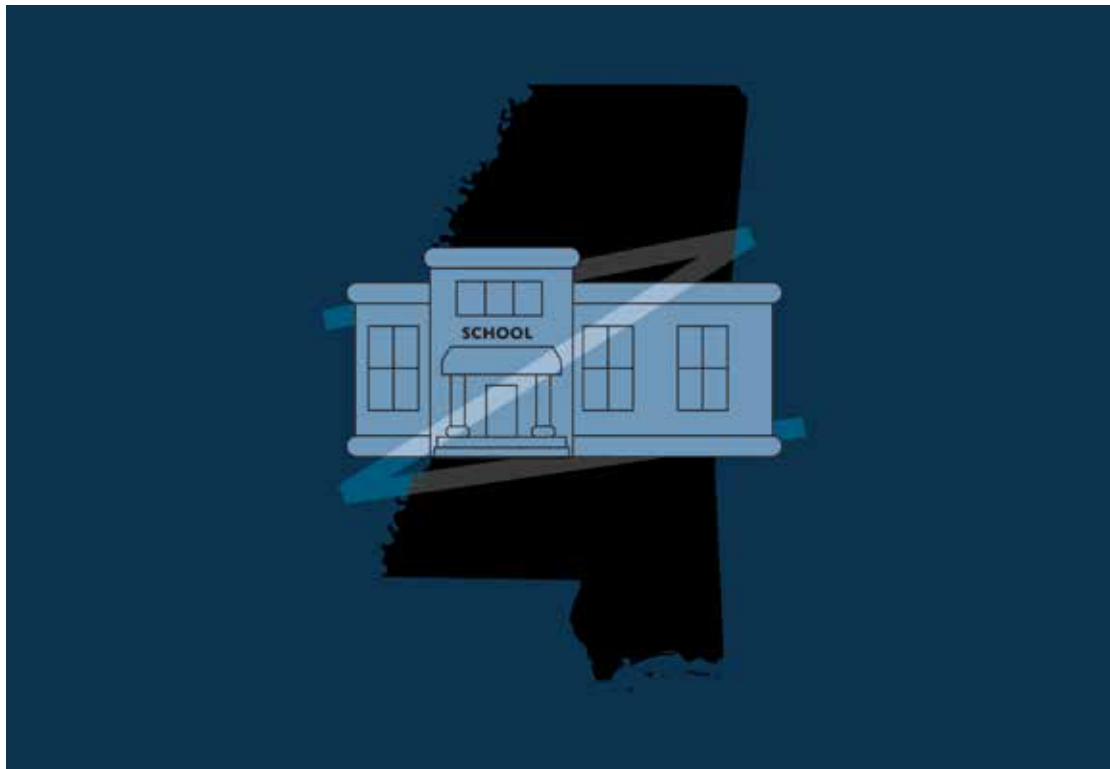


ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

work was one of the things that pushed them to reopen schools for in-person learning.

Jackson added that one of the challenges the school district was facing in the fall was making younger students keep their masks on at all times. However, she found that the kids were so grateful to be back in school, most would wear them without complaint.

Terri Rhodes, a fifth-grade teacher at Mantachie Elementary School, said they took a similar approach to Winona schools when they first closed last March. They created videos for students to watch at home and distributed packets at the schools while also giving out lunches. Nearly 65% of students there are on a free or reduced lunch program.

"In Tupelo and bigger cities, the large number of people have internet access," Rhodes said. "In Mantachie, so many parents don't have internet access, and if they do, it's on their phone."

Because they weren't

allowed to take the assignments they were sending home for a grade, she said most students were reluctant to do their work.

"I would say maybe a quarter of kids were doing those activities," Rhodes said. "I would say the large majority of kids just cut off that spring break."

When school returned to

"One of the biggest tells of how distance learning is going, in general, is that I started out with 65 distance learning students at the beginning of the year, and I'm now down to 30."

- Marcie Harper

Tupelo Middle School science teacher

in-person class in the fall, Mantachie Elementary School went back in a hybrid format that it still uses. In-person students come to school Monday through Thursday each week, and students who have chosen to learn remotely come in on Fridays to take tests.

child is given a Chromebook laptop to complete their work, and when the pandemic shut down school last March, they set up WiFi hotspots in their parking lot.

TMS switched to a block schedule to keep students from crossing paths too much and avoid spreading the virus

at school. They also allowed students who wanted to learn virtually to do so at home.

Harper records videos for her virtual student learners and sometimes arranges for them to attend live lessons on Google Meet, a video-communication software provided by Google.

"One of the biggest tells of how distance learning is going, in general, is that I started out with 65 distance learning students at the beginning of the year, and I'm now down to 30," Harper said.

Because Harper's students have struggled during this school year, she decided to make a policy change in her classroom and no longer gives 0% grades on any of her assignments. Instead, she rarely gives a student a grade lower than 50%, so that if one child decides not to do their homework for one week, it won't tank their grade for the entire rest of the school year.

"The thing is, I have around the same amount of failures as my colleagues doing this," Harper said. "I just now have more recoveries than they do."

Harper said most of her virtual students who have struggled during the pandemic have done so out of an unwillingness to do work rather than stress of the pandemic.

She recognized that the pandemic is a stressful event for everyone, especially children, but she said most of her students who struggle tell her that they fell behind simply because they were unable to motivate themselves to get the work done at home, which is why she believes it's important to give them a second chance.

"I think they should be allowed to try, you know," Harper said. "They should be allowed to have a change of heart and that to matter because that's what we're trying to teach them."

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‘Thank God for the time’

The story of Brother Thomas’s quarantine album

ELIZA NOE

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While the world outside was coming to an end, Eli Bettiga was putting together his second album.

Eli, who performs and writes music under the name Brother Thomas, has been working on “Kudzu,” for over three years. Last March, he released “Oakseed,” the prequel or introductory version of the upcoming album. I wrote the preview for that album as well, and it was a cover story in the March 6 issue of *The Daily Mississippian*.

That was our last issue of spring 2020, and Eli’s face sat in newspaper vending machines for almost six months. Catching up with Eli felt familiar, but foreign; our interview was over Zoom instead of in person, and COVID-19 is now an instigator of a worldwide cultural shift instead of just a mysterious virus taking over China. We were still Eli and Eliza, but we were two very different versions of those people — almost like two strangers again.

“I actually recorded this album while I had COVID,” he said. “For 10 straight days, I would sleep until 11, and then work on music and drink Gatorade until I fell asleep. I did that for, like, 10 straight days — like nonstop. So, I worked on music because no one could see me; I couldn’t go anywhere. It was like eight hours a day.”

However, as quarantined time passed on, it became a time that Eli says is a blessing. Spending hours a day writing lyrics, composing tracks or mastering finished works, “Kudzu” became ready for the public, and it’s set to come out in April.

“I thank God I finally had time to just handle all of my responsibilities (and) to finally get a product out. For all of this stuff that I’ve been devoting all this time to behind the scenes, (I have) finally got it to a place I’m happy with,” he said.

During winter break, Eli and his roommates were exposed to COVID-19, forcing them into a

two-week quarantine that cut very close to Christmas Day. Stuck in his room once again, he went over the lyrics of work that took months and years to put together and realized he hated them. His solution? Gutting them completely.

“It definitely made my lyric writing more interesting because I could tap into that. I think of us being restricted and forced in isolation. (The main character of the album is) very isolated to an extent — especially to the first half because he doesn’t even know where he is,” he said

To Eli, this version of the album is like the world has been since lockdown began: “less crowded.”

“I tend to use beats in the rhythm, and it makes it rushed,” he said. “It sounds like there’s a lot going on (and) sounds really crammed and anxious. Quarantine definitely broke it open with my psyche and lyric-writing, which was really, honestly, a revelation to me.”

“Kudzu” is the end of a long saga Eli and his friends have been building together for years. In this epic finale, he writes of Michael, a character he says is a parallel for himself. As Michael is transported to another universe to take on a mission granted by a deity he has never met, he faces trials and tribulations in a world he doesn’t understand. Where his last album had “purposefully vague” lyrics, those prophetic parables come to fruition.

Like the divine parallels he writes about for his character Michael, part of Eli’s story is coming to an end, as well. As a graduating senior, he will finish his studies in April and move on. To Eli, it’s an “unconscious cap” to this time in his life.

“It’s definitely like me creating this world where I can have him run through a bunch of turbulent things that I personally wanted to explore and see how I felt about or how I might handle them,” he said. “He’s set up in a world similar to something that I would personally



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Eli Bettiga, who performs and writes music under the name Brother Thomas, has been working on parts of his next album “Kudzu” for as long as three year. Much of the album, set to be released on April 16, was rewritten during quarantine. The first single “Revelations” will be out on Friday, March 19.

face. Every site has symbolic structures that can represent what I face, so there’s little song details that are metaphorical for something in my own life.”

In the grand scheme of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a year of incalculable loss: loss of opportunity, of familiarity, of half a million people, of life as we knew it. For Eli, however, it’s been a year of gains. Besides “Kudzu,” he was accepted into medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, which he grew up 15 minutes away from in a suburb.

In an entire world of loss lasting 12 months, Eli is an underdog like his character Michael, who has to fight a Vader-esque character at the end of the album. It’s hard not



to root for him.

“I think when I’m 50, I can still be Brother Thomas — write about work or something like

that,” he said. “Brother Thomas at least gives me a sort of framework that I can do anything I want for forever.”



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Local band plays for late keyboard player

WILL CARPENTER

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For a local band that spent the past year dealing with pandemic restrictions and the loss of a member, Subcontra is looking ahead to new shows, a new album, and moving forward with their love for music, each other and the town where they grew up.

The key word for the band is “organic.” From their beginning to the way they write their songs, they’ve always had a knack for adapting and letting things grow into their own unique style.

Sporting talent as a multi-instrumentalist, Andrew Gardner joined Subcontra last fall and can be seen on electric violin or exchanging duties on bass with founding member Lucas Feather during live shows. He previously played in other bands around town, allowing him the opportunity to watch Subcontra’s presence develop until the day he was ushered in.

It’s hard to pinpoint Subcontra’s sound, but they categorize themselves as jazz/funk fusion. Gardner’s first impressions of the band, however, may capture their essence the best.

“It was just mystical, insanely complicated, niche elevator music,” Gardner said with a laugh. “What was so fun to me was the question, like, ‘Why would anybody play this?’ I just think it’s a really beautiful thing. Pursuing something just for the pursuit of it. I think Subcontra captures that really well.”

In 2018, the original lineup of guitarist Matt Simpson, drummer Joseph Wells, bassist Avery Goodman, keyboardist Jack Holiman and saxophonist



PHOTOS COURTESY: SUBCONTRA

Subcontra guitarist Matt Simpson said it was a “gut-check” moment for the band when their keyboard player Jack Holiman died last fall.

Feather played their first show in Cleveland, Miss., under the name Feather and Associates. Eventually, Feather pitched the name Subcontra based on an enormous type of bass saxophone that requires two people to play.

The band simply liked the sound of it, but as time went on, the unique nature of the instrument seems increasingly fitting to the music they play.

Over the past year, they have undergone multiple lineup changes, notably the departure of Goodman and addition of Gardner.

The most drastic change for the band however, came with the passing of Jack Holiman last



September.

“It was a gut check. It was just a really dark time for all of us,” Simpson said. “We didn’t really think much about the band. It was just the most surreal thing. It is still hard to find words for the feelings because he played a really integral part in our band.”

As important as Holiman was to the group as a band member, his presence was felt even more as a friend.

Gardner had only been playing

with Subcontra for a short time before Holiman passed, and some sessions left him nervous to the point his hands were shaking. He said Holiman took the time during one session to encourage him.

“Probably a week before he passed, there was a time where he had pulled me aside and been really supportive of me and my position in this group,” Gardner said. “I think he had sensed that I was maybe a little unsure, uncertain, uncomfortable and maybe even a little lacking in confidence at that point. This was just Jack, he just knew what you needed to hear.”

The loss of Holiman forced them to rework their sound without a keyboardist. The pandemic left the band unable to perform live, so they spent the time practicing and overhauling their sound with new creative approaches to fill the gap in their music.

“Jack would have wanted us to continue playing 100%,” Gardner

said. “If we lost the music or lost our will to play, even though his death was in vain, it would have been even more so.”

Their new album, “No Need for Words,” is slated for release on April 30. It will be dedicated to Holiman.

Simpson said the band avoids being confined to one genre, as setlists provide songs that are tightly composed but freely improvised upon, transitioning from reggae to blues, then funk to something more pop. In the end, the core of their product is still “Subcontra.”

Initially, Subcontra did not know how their instrumental approach would be received. While there are jam bands that frequently circuit the bars in town, there aren’t many that play with quite the complicated sonic fusion of Subcontra.

“We weren’t sure how people would react to it, but we have people from all age groups and walks of life,” Simpson said. “Alternative kids come out, frat jamband kids come out, older people come out and they are all just like, ‘That sounds tight.’”

The positive reception creates a living atmosphere at their shows where they do their best to interact with the audience, particularly a recent moment where Feather and Simpson had an impromptu “solo battle” between saxophone and guitar. Constant practice allows them to build this kind of rapport and make moments like these possible.

“As we’ve gotten more comfortable, I feel like we’re just more comfortable taking chances,” Wells said. “The songs become part of your bone structure, and you could play them in your sleep. You feel more comfortable trying new things on him in the spur of the moment.”

Every band has a “home base,” and for Subcontra, that venue is Proud Larry’s.

“I think there’s a mysticism about Proud Larry’s. It’s got this history of like amazing artists coming through and building their names,” Gardner said. “To be at that stage in our career where we’re small but accepted, and I would even say enjoyed, it’s kind of a beautiful building block that we get to see and be a part of.”

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The curious case of Delta 8

How Oxford stores sell this marijuana-adjacent drug

MADDY QUON

thedmnews@gmail.com

Stores in Oxford are selling and giving away Delta-8-THC, a derivative of hemp that is similar to Delta-9-THC, the primary psychoactive ingredient of marijuana.

According to the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp and hemp-related products are now legal, so long as they have less than 0.3% of Delta 9, which is illegal. Essentially, the bill removed hemp — defined as cannabis — and derivatives of cannabis with low concentrations of Delta 9 from the legal definition of marijuana.

Tony Barragan, the owner of Hemp Ville CBD, said that the Delta 8 products he sells — the smokeable, vappable and edible forms — are very popular among his customers.

“(Delta 8) is one of the most trending things right now,” Barragan said. “There was a time where cannabigerol (CBG) was pretty popular, which was promoted to us as the Rolls Royce of the cannabinoids. It was very popular. And next thing you know, the Delta 8 came out. We already know that there’s Delta 10 on the way, so we’re waiting on that.”

Delta-8-THC is only slightly chemically different from Delta

9. According to Don Stanford, the assistant director of the research institute of pharmaceutical sciences, the one chemical difference is a double bond in one position in Delta 9. In Delta 8, that bond is in a different position.

“Psychoactive and pharmacologically wise, they’re very similar in that they’re both psychoactive,” Stanford said. “But Delta 8 is less psychoactive than Delta 9.”

Alex Fauver, captain of the Metro Narcotics Unit (MNU), said that while MNU officers deal with people in possession of THC in some form almost every day, they have not had any legal issues with Delta-8.

“We haven’t seen or had any trouble with Delta 8 that I’m aware of,” Fauver said. “Our crime lab (doesn’t) even break it down to percentages or anything else. They test for THC, and that’s it. That’s all the state crime lab tests.”

Barragan said that while there is a slight chemical difference between Delta 8 and Delta 9, the effect it has is drastic. He said that while Delta 9 gets users high, he would describe Delta 8’s effect as more of a buzz or euphoric effect.

Barragan said some people believe that Delta 8 is illegal, but he said that it’s a perfectly legal product.

“The reason why it is legal is because it is hemp-derived Delta 8. There’s nothing illegal about hemp-derived products,” Barragan said. “People think that Delta 8 is coming from the cannabis plant and things like that now. Knowing that the cannabis plant naturally grows with that low THC level, it’s just hard for me to accept the fact that people are comparing Delta 8 to Delta 9 when it’s night and day.”

Stanford disagrees with Barragan, saying that because of the uncertainty of Delta 8, there is a grey area concerning the legality of the product.

“(Delta 8 is) one of those things that people do to make a buck even though there’s a lot of uncertainty about the legality of it. It’s really pretty clear that to a (Drug Enforcement Administration) agent or law enforcement with Delta 8 and Delta 9, there would be no difference as far as the legality goes,” Stanford said.

Larry Walker, the director emeritus of the National Center for Natural Products Research, also said that Delta 8 is illegal. He attributed the act of people trying to find loopholes to make it legal to the Farm Bill from 2018.

“When the hemp laws were revised in 2018, it made a lot of peo-



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Slackers Supply smoke shop does not sell anything related to CBD, but they do daily giveaways of Delta 8.

ple think they have a loophole, so they could take anything that’s not technically Delta-9-THC and say it’s from hemp and legal, but that’s not true,” Walker said.

Kelsie Wright, the owner of Slackers Supply smoke shop, said that while her store does not sell anything related to CBD, she does do daily Delta 8 giveaways and uses it as a form of free advertisement. Wright said she originally had concerns about possessing Delta 8 in the store, considering how similar it is to Delta 9.

“One of our concerns is not really being able to tell too much of a difference between (Delta 8) and

(marijuana),” Wright said. “Since we’re giving it out for free instead of selling it, it’s kind of a loophole in its own. We haven’t had any issues with it or any troubles at all.”

Stanford, the assistant director of the research institute of pharmaceutical sciences, said that while Delta 8 is gaining popularity, it is only as safe as any other drug and advises people to be careful if they use it.

“Every drug has its risk,” Stanford said. “So if you’re going to use Delta 9 for whatever purpose, Delta 8 would probably be as safe as Delta 9.”

Meet OPD’s only female detective

KATE KIMBERLIN

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Law enforcement was not Oxford Police Department Detective Rachel Carver’s first idea when it came to a career path.

Carver has been a member of the OPD since 2017 and a detective since 2018. She worked for two other police departments before Oxford and has worked most of her career as a single mother. Despite the challenges she faced getting to her current position, Carver said she believes this is where she’s meant to be.

“I have always said, ‘God, put me in the right place at the right time,’” Carver said.

Beginning her career after graduating with a master’s degree from the University of Memphis, Carver applied to be a crime scene specialist on a whim.

“There were over 200 people in the Civic Center that I had to take my qualification test in. I just felt like, ‘This is not gonna happen,’” Carver said.

She was offered the position and decided to take it, despite feelings of hesitation about moving her then three-year-old son away from family and St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, where he was receiving treatment for bilateral retinoblastoma.

“We just picked up and moved,” Carver said. “I felt like I bit off more than I could chew.”



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Rachel Carver is the Oxford Police Department’s first female detective. Carver has been with OPD since 2017 and is currently one of six detectives in Oxford.

Carver then became a certified crime scene analyst with the Little Rock Police Department and was involved in cases that ranged from bank robberies to homicides. Little Rock has been ranked one of the most violent mid-sized cities in years past, and Carver witnessed everything firsthand.

“I worked every scene you can imagine,” Carver said. “I say I’ve seen everything, but people

surprise you.”

Despite the high crime rates in Little Rock, Carver said the police department was so understaffed that she worked over 500 cases in six months. After four years, she was ready for a change of pace.

“I loved it, but I was burned out,” Carver said. “When you get to that point, you got to stop.”

So, Carver moved to her hometown of Cleveland, Miss., and took a job with the local

police department.

“My son was growing up, and I wanted to be closer to family,” Carver said.

Carver also went from one of nine female crime scene analysts in Little Rock to being the only woman on the Cleveland police force.

Then, while she was an instructor for the Moorhead Police Academy, Carver met many OPD officers who would

come in for training. She remembers how organized and well-informed the unit was every time they presented to recruits at the academy.

“They always were squared away and always knew what they were about,” Carver said. “They just looked like they knew what they were doing.”

She applied to the Oxford Police Department months later and got the job despite tearing her ACL in a field-related accident. Carver became a patrol officer in 2017, and then a detective in July 2018.

“This department has definitely given me room to grow, fail and learn,” Carver said.

Carver, who is now 37, has spent a total of nine years in law enforcement. One lesson she has learned in her time on the force is how to stand up for herself.

“I found my voice literally and figuratively,” Carver said. “I’m more comfortable with confrontation, and I can make decisions for myself.”

Being a woman in law enforcement, she discussed the perseverance she had to learn through her career. Instead of letting mistakes and difficult situations influence her mindset, she has found a way to learn from them instead.

“You just have to have tough skin,” Carver said. “You have to figure out how you’re going to respond to it.”

TRACK AND FIELD

Rebels to start 2021 outdoor season

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After a competitive stint at the Indoor NCAA Championships, the Ole Miss men's and women's track and field teams will head to the Tiger Track Classic in Auburn, Ala., for their debut outdoor season track competition.

During the NCAA Indoor Championships, the Ole Miss men's team finished in 10th place, which is the best the team has done since 2001. Meanwhile, the women's team finished in

19th place. The Rebels earned 12 First-Team All-American honors combined and four Second-Team All-American honors.

The men's distance running medley earned second place in the race. Senior Elijah Dryer, sophomore Mario Garcia Romo, and seniors John Rivera Jr. and Everett Smulders all earned First-Team All-American awards for their time of 9:20.75.

Garcia Romo also earned a men's 3K award, making him the first Rebel to score in multiple events at the NCAA Indoor meet in program history.



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS VIA OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss Track and Field at the Blazer Invite in Birmingham Crossplex on Jan. 10, 2020.

Also running the men's 3K was teammate Waleed Suliman who

earned Second-Team All-American honors as well as First-Team honors for his men's mile time.

"I am so proud of the way our men and women competed this weekend," Ole Miss head coach Connie Price-Smith said through Ole Miss Athletics. "The men's (distance running medley) was simply amazing to watch, and Waleed in the mile and Mario in the 3K was a job well done. A top-10 finish is the icing on the cake for the indoor season."

Meanwhile, the Rebel women earned six First-Team All-American honors with women's weight throwers Shey Taiwo in third place and Jasmine Mitchell fourth place. This 19th place finish marks the second top-20 finish for women in the last five years after only placing in the top-20 two times prior in the program's history.

"Great job on a wonderful indoor season to both our men's and women's teams," Price-Smith said. "At the beginning of the year and as the season started to unfold, it was hard to tell how the indoor season would end, but I couldn't be happier with the way our athletes competed. Thanks to this great coaching staff for getting them ready, and I can't wait to see what outdoors

will bring."

The program released its outdoor schedule last week, which features two home meets and four additional regular-season trips to SEC schools. The Rebels will host a meet for the first time in two years and in back-to-back efforts, with the first being the Ole Miss Classic on March 26-27 and the second being the Joe Walker Invite on April 9-10.

Also included in the 2021 outdoor slate is the Tom Jones Classic in Gainesville, Fla., and the LSU Invitational in Baton Rouge, La. Postseason will begin on May 13-15 for the SEC Outdoor Championships.

Ole Miss Athletics says the attendance plan for the two home meets will be announced closer to the date.

The Rebels are bound to take on the Auburn Tigers at their next meet. The Tigers finished the NCAA Tournament tied at No. 42 for the men, while the women finished in the top-10 right at 10th place. The Rebels beat the Tigers during the SEC Indoor Championships with the men's team placing No. 4 and the women's team placing No. 7. The Tigers finished at No. 8 for the men and No. 10 for the women.

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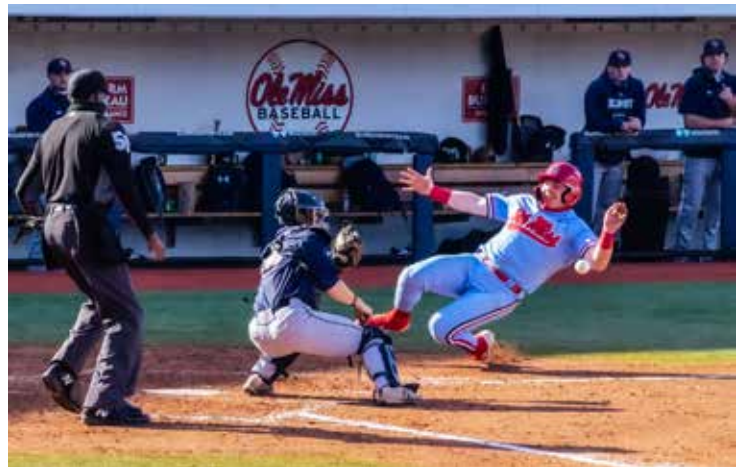
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HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Hayden Dunhurst slides into home plate, as a Belmont catcher attempts to tag him out. Following a midweek loss to Louisiana Tech, Ole Miss prepares to take on the Auburn Tigers in a three-game series the weekend of March 19, 2021.

Baseball drops La. Tech

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The No. 4 Ole Miss baseball program dropped its first on-the-road game against the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs, 13-1, on Monday, and the Rebels will now prepare for their first SEC series of the season against the Auburn Tigers.

The second series game against Louisiana Tech, originally scheduled for Wednesday, was canceled due to a potential COVID-19 case. As disappointing as this loss may seem, there are still plenty of opportunities for Ole Miss to officially begin playing as a true Omaha contender starting this weekend.

The Rebels officially dropped their first mid-week matchup of the season on Tuesday and ultimately fell to 13-4 on the season, adding two games to the losing streak. The starting pitcher for the Rebels on Tuesday night was freshman Josh Maltiz (1-1), who went four innings on the mound and gave up four hits and three runs in the first inning.

“We really didn’t do anything in all three phases ... offense, defense, pitching,” head coach Mike Bianco said in the press conference after the game. “We didn’t play better defense and didn’t help ourselves out. It’s disappointing.”

The Rebels tallied six hits and stranded nine on base offensively. Junior Keven Graham went 2-for-4 at the plate and scored a run. The main source of problems for the Rebels against the Bulldogs was Louisiana Tech’s star pitcher Cade Gibson, who only allowed one run on five hits over 7.1 innings. The

Bulldogs’ 13 runs are the most against the Rebels since June 10, 2019, at the Fayetteville Super Regional finale against Arkansas.

“I wish I had that answer,” Bianco said after a question about not hitting Gibson. “Sometimes it’s just a tough night. He threw a ton of strikes, hit a ton of fastballs in and out.”

In other unfortunate news for the Rebels, Nikhazy won’t be pitching against Auburn this weekend, Bianco announced in the postgame press conference as well. The pitcher has been out due to a chest injury and missed last weekend’s series against the University of Louisiana at Monroe, as reliever Derek Diamond took his place on the mound.

The Auburn Tigers are currently 11-5 overall and are coming off a win against Lipscomb, 9-7. Auburn hit four home runs in the first five innings and scored nine runs on ten hits in the first five frames. Junior Tyler Miller hit two home runs in the five frames, hitting a home run at the top of the second and then another in the third with a three-run home run.

Without Nikhazy, the Rebels will be relying on the rest of the bullpen to pitch the Rebels on top for their first SEC matchup of this 2021 season. Resting at the top surely didn’t last long, and now, this first SEC series can determine whether or not the trip to Omaha is in the cards for the Rebels.

The Rebels will begin the series on Friday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Swayze Field. Fans can watch the series until Sunday, March 21 on SEC Network + or listen to the game on the Ole Miss Radio Network.

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Women's golf to face SEC foes

BARRETT FREEMAN
thdmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss women's golf team will travel to Athens, Ga., this weekend to compete in the 49th annual Liz Murphey Classic hosted by the Georgia Bulldogs.

Featuring all 14 SEC schools as well as Louisville, Southern California, and the College of Charleston, the tournament will tee off on Friday, March 19, and will last the entire weekend,

concluding at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 21.

As usual, the Rebels will face a tough competition between the hedges. The tournament will feature nine teams that currently rank in the top-25. Sitting at No. 6 in the country, the Rebels will compete against notable teams such as No. 3 South Carolina, No. 4 LSU, No. 11 Southern California, No. 12 Auburn and No. 13 Georgia.

The women will look to use their experience from facing



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS VIA OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss Women's Golf at The Ally Tournament on Oct. 22, 2020.

off against tough competition in their last tournament at the Gamecock Collegiate to improve on their game. During the tournament, the Rebels struggled to start off but finished strong on their last day to place 8th overall. The Rebels finished with a team score of 881 (294-299-293) over 54 holes.

"This was a championship-caliber field this week, and we simply just didn't play our best golf this week," Ole Miss head coach Kory Henkes said. "We made a lot of mistakes that we don't normally make, and it cost us. In this type of field, you can't get away with the type of

errors that we had."

A likely leader for the Rebels senior Julia Johnson, who finished the last tournament placing 10th overall and leading the team in 10 birdies and par 5 scores (-2). Additionally, sophomore Andrea Lignell will look to continue her streak of four top-20 finishes with her strong par 4 (E) performance in the last tournament. Freshman Smilla Sonderby gained valuable experience in the Gamecock Collegiate as well. It was her second collegiate performance, and she contributed to the overall score of the team with a career low score.

The Bulldogs also attended the Gamecock Collegiate, placing right behind the Rebels at No. 9 with a final score of 887 (301-288-298). The Bulldogs shot a final round of 298 with team leader Caterina Don finishing the final round with a 1-under. Don finished in a tie for 29th place, while teammate Jenny Bae finished tied at the 15th slot.

The Liz Murphey Classic will begin this Friday, March 19, with a tee time of 8:30 a.m.

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ACROSS

- Kid;
- Beaucurd;
- Pocket problem;
- Copland ballet;
- Winged god;
- ___ about (roughly);
- Country album?;
- Poet Teasdale;
- Dark purple;
- Designer Geoffrey;
- Indolent;
- NFL scores;
- Debussy's "La ___";
- "The Farmer in the Dell" syllables;
- Drinks (as a cat);
- Of some benefit;
- ... mouse?;
- Old Italian money;
- Key with no sharps or flats;
- Boundary;
- Insecure;
- Whirlpool;
- U.S. soldiers;
- Brazilian ballroom dance;
- Dies ___;
- Ovid, e.g.;
- Family;
- Recolor;
- Stand astride;

DOWN

- Kvetch or whinge;
- Table d'___;
- Goofing off;
- Makeshift shelter;
- Gave a measured amount;
- Dick Tracy's love;
- Like some history;
- Public meetings;
- Practice;
- Kachina doll maker;
- Responsibility;
- Scottish body;
- It may come before long;
- Grouchy;
- Goo-covered;
- Hoax;
- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters";
- Seraglio;
- ___ longa, vita brevis;
- Nervous person, maybe;
- ___ for tat;
- Architect Jones;
- Sarge's superior;
- Dadaist Max;
- Capital of Zambia;
- Assisted;
- Taxi;
- Nutritional fig.;
- Blue dye;
- Scholar;
- Do-nothing;
- Jerks;
- Lab fluids;
- Small combo;
- Cincinnati club;
- Neighbor of Cambodia;
- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland;
- ___, old chap!;
- Clublike weapon;
- Lodge members;
- Slip preventer;

SOLUTION TO 3.11.21 PUZZLE

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

HOW TO PLAY

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL CHALLENGING

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

Men's basketball begins postseason run on Friday

BARRETT FREEMAN
thedmsports@gmail.com

Though not selected to dance in the NCAA Tournament this year, the Ole Miss men's basketball team will compete in this year's National Invitational Tournament (NIT) starting this Friday, March 19. The Rebels could be without two offensive players as forward KJ Buffen has opted out of the NIT and senior guard Devontae Shuler is currently with his family as his mother recently had surgery.

"KJ Buffen has opted out of the NIT," head coach Kermit Davis said in a press conference on Wednesday. "I'm just going to leave it at wanting to coach the guys and talk about the guys that want to be in our program. Devontae Shuler flew out. His mother is having surgery in Vegas. Devontae didn't practice with our team yesterday. We hope to get Devontae back to Dallas to meet us. Depending on what happens with the COVID protocols and getting involved in it, it depends on when he can get back."

The Rebels were selected to participate in the NIT after being one of the first four teams out of the NCAA Tournament. Due to a



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

KJ Buffen goes in for a shot against Kentucky. The Rebels beat Kentucky, 70-62, on March 2.

strong finish to wrap up the season going 8-2, including being undefeated against top-25 opponents, Ole Miss was selected as a No. 1 seed.

Usually, the NIT is played at the higher seed's home court, and the final four goes to Madison Square Garden in New York

City. However, due to COVID-19, the tournament will take place in Texas at two different locations. Teams will either play in the city of Denton's Super Pit or the city of Frisco's Comercia Center, home of the NBA G-League team the Texas Legends. The NIT final four and championship game will also be

held at the Comercia Center.

This is the Rebels' 12th appearance in the NIT and their first since 2017 when they advanced to the quarterfinals. The farthest the team has advanced in the tournament was in 2010, when Ole Miss lost in the semifinals to Dayton, the team that went on to win the

tournament.

The Rebels will first face the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs (21-7), who advanced in the C-USA tournament before eventually losing in the semifinals to eventual champion North Texas.

Both Louisiana Tech's play style and team build mirror Ole Miss. Louisiana Tech's key player has been freshman Kenneth Lofton Jr., a power forward who is 6-foot-seven and 275 pounds. Averaging 10 points and seven rebounds a game, Lofton hasn't disappointed this season, which means senior Rebel Romello White will have to be a force.

As for the rest of the Rebels, junior Jarkel Joiner will look to carry his momentum from the last game against LSU where the Rebels narrowly lost 76-73 in the SEC Tournament. Joiner shot for his career-best with 26 points and has been averaging over 19 points the last three games for the Rebels. The team will also look to First-Team All-SEC guard Devontae Shuler to lead the conference's top-ranked defensive unit if the senior is back in town to play.

Ole Miss tips off its first round in the NIT against Louisiana Tech on Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. on ESPN2.

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OPINION

Political partisanship hurts people regardless of party

LONDYN LORENZ

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Jackson's water crisis serves as the most recent example of state politics taking priority over human needs, leaving thousands of Jacksonians without water. The LOU community and Mississippians at-large have rallied together to support victims of the outage, yet we have seen little from Gov. Reeves's office and nothing from the federal government.

While Jackson residents continue without water and other crises -- such as Texas's water and power outages or the now one-year-old pandemic -- occur across the country, entire states are blamed for the inaction of their governments while little aid makes its way to those

affected. People find it easy to dismiss the problems of citizens of states that are labeled as politically opposite. Even though our state is consistently labeled as deeply red, 41.6% of Mississippians voted for Biden/Harris in 2020.

In our ever-polarizing United States, the "redness" or "blueness" of governments is often the scapegoat for a plethora of incompetencies. This led millennial Democrats to sip their coffee while Georgians died of COVID-19 in April and former President Donald Trump to say to "take the blue states out" of national COVID-19 numbers. Human needs have now become a matter of state political representation and not of its victim constituents.

Supporting Black lives means supporting Black lives

in red states. Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana are the Blackest states in the nation. Historically, they are among the reddest states as well. If the Democratic Party claims to support Black people more than the GOP, Democrats must not directly oppose itself against red states. "Red states" are never homogeneously Republican, and demonizing a state for the beliefs of its governor or its two senators degrades its residents.

In the American political system, it seems that a simple 50.1% majority can decide the fate of a state or the nation for years to come. This, however, is complicated by systemic gerrymandering and voter suppression found in every state. Steps have been taken to combat this corruption, but these artificial boundaries

create deep divisions across the country. Rather than representing their constituents, politicians are fighting for their party's advantage; this leaves all Americans behind, except the small few whose beliefs directly align with the Republican or Democratic party.

Georgia serves as a great example of why politically typecasting states is not productive. As part of the Southern Bible Belt, many Democrats regarded Georgia as a lost cause to the GOP. However, grassroots organizers, such as Stacey Abrams, mobilized Georgians to go to the polls and flipped the state from red to blue in the 2020 election. This led many Democrats to celebrate their new blue ally, including those who made fun of Georgia's COVID-19 num-

bers earlier that year.

Blind allegiance to a party is bad for all, but when that allegiance translates into attacks on the opposition, undeserving victims are impacted the most. The division between red and blue states ignores the systematic marginalization of voting groups within the US and blames a lack of progress on constituents rather than ineffective politicians. Ending the crises in Jackson and Texas requires a closer look at the needs of Americans beyond the color of the state.

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GUEST COLUMN

Mississippi must invest in water infrastructure

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On March 10, city officials finally lifted the month-long water boil notice for Jackson. Over the past four weeks, many of Jackson's 300,000 citizens have been without clean running water due to February's historic winter storm. Winter storm Uri wreaked havoc on Jackson's dated infrastructure, causing instrument failures at the city's main water treatment facility and ten sizable water main breaks around the city. During a global pandemic, residents of Jackson had to boil the murky water coming out of their taps and wait hours in lines for bottled water at distribution centers across the city.

Jackson's water crisis should serve as a warning to the rest of the state. If Mississippi and the federal government fail to invest billions of

dollars into our drinking water infrastructure, water crises like the one in Jackson will become more prevalent.

Last year, the American Society of Civil Engineers, rated Mississippi's drinking water infrastructure a D on an A-F scale. The report recommended that Mississippi work with the federal government to invest over \$4.8 billion to fund clean water systems like water treatment facilities, wells and water storage tanks.

According to the ASCE's report, most of Mississippi's drinking water infrastructure is past its design life, causing the state to lose nearly 40% of its treated drinking water to leaks and water main breaks. This dated infrastructure has cost Mississippian taxpayers millions of dollars. It also creates a sizable health crisis for Mississippians. Leaks and water main bursts allow for foreign particles to seep into

sanitized drinking water. Ingestion of water with foreign particles in it can cause illness and can lead to death in rare cases. The state and federal governments must invest in clean water systems to save taxpayer money and keep residents safe.

They also need to update these systems to prepare for the harsh weather conditions created by climate change. Winter Storm Uri proved that Mississippi's drinking water infrastructure was outdated and unable to withstand pressure from a severe weather event. As climate change continues to increase, climatologists believe that natural disasters and abnormal storms will become more prevalent. According to the U.S geological survey, an increase in surface temperature will likely increase the amount and intensity of weather events around North America.

Mississippi will likely see more severe hurricanes, tornadoes and winter storms in the coming years. Both the state and the federal government must quickly invest in modern, durable clean water systems to better prepare for the storms of the 21st century to make sure that 300,000 citizens don't go without clean drinking water for a month because of an uncontrollable weather event.

Access to clean drinking water is a basic human right according to the U.N. We, as Mississippi residents, must demand more funding for our

clean water infrastructure from both state and federal governments. Failure to invest and update these systems will lead to future boil notices and more Mississippians without clean drinking water. Please write to your local and national representatives and tell them you want more money designated to clean water infrastructure before we have another water crisis on our hands.

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