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### 

# Students struggle to find parking A

Here's how the parking director wants to fix it.



### **KELBY ZENDEJAS**

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The common perception among students — especially commuters frantically searching for a place to park their cars before class begins — is that the university does not provide enough parking spaces on campus.

Sam Patterson, director of parking and transportation at the University of Mississippi, disagrees.

"I don't think people realize that the University of Mississippi has 17,000 parking spaces," Patterson said. "I think we probably have a parking convenience issue more than a parking space allocation issue. Because we have enough parking spaces, it's just people want them, right by their building or their class. Unfortunately, with the number of people that are on this campus, it's physically impossible to do this."

But Patterson acknowledges campus parking can be improved. For example, he believes the university needs to go "up" instead of "out," saying in the next few years there will be another parking garage on campus after bond payments from the residential garage and pavilion garage are paid for.

Patterson said he plans on gradually transforming Ole Miss parking, starting with the implementation of license plates as permits and potential daily parking locations. The Oklahoma native also plans on collaborating with student leaders, organizations and even engineering students to keep the conversation on how to create a more efficient commuter experience going. Although Patterson has only been at Ole Miss for one year, he's worked in the parking and transportation business for roughly 20 years. During his interview at Ole Miss, he knew from the beautiful landscape and the small-town feel of Oxford that Ole Miss would be the perfect place to call home.

"I called my wife afterward and I was like, 'I really love this place," Patterson said. "I love how these folks are collaborative, and they really want to work

SEE PARKING PAGE 4

### ASB approves COVID-19 resolution

#### VIOLET JIRA LANDON PRESTWOOD thedmnews@gmail.com

The Associated Student Body Senate voted Tuesday evening to support the faculty senate's resolution calling on the University of Mississippi to implement a campuswide COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

By a vote of 26-18, the ASB Senate passed SR 21-10, which reads, "Therefore, be it enacted that the ASB Senate support the faculty senate's resolutions and call for a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all students, faculty, and staff, with exemptions allowed by law and policy."

On Sept. 7, the Faculty Senate passed its resolution calling on the university to initiate a vaccine mandate and called on other bodies at the university — such as the Associated Student Body and the Staff Council — to support their resolution.

With the pressure previously on ASB, President Morgan Atkins cited the university's inaction as their biggest concern with current COVID-19 policies.

"As of right now, the University of Mississippi is not

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# The test of Tulane?

CATHERINE JEFFERS

out hot this season, ranking



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In what some are referring to as Ole Miss' first true test of the season, the Rebels will face off against Tulane on Saturday at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

Tulane shocked fans in Norman, Oklahoma, and around the nation after losing by five points to the then No. 2 Oklahoma Sooners. They were playing with heart and went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the country following the disastrous Hurricane Ida that struck New Orleans the week prior. Tulane's offense has come fourth in points per game and putting up 69 points against Morgan State last week. On the other side of the ball, their defense has come up with four interceptions in their first two games, one thing that has yet to challenge the Rebel offense.

Throughout his first two games, Matt Corral has shown vast improvement in his passing accuracy and overall comfort in the offense, with no turnovers through 65 attempts. While he might be tested this week, he's truly shown growth in the pocket and against opponents' pass rush and this will likely continue against a

SEE **TULANE** PAGE 6

ILLUSTRATION: VANESSA CLARK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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doing enough in preventing the spread of COVID-19," said a liaison on behalf of Atkins. "We have been ranked last for months and we have been encouraging our students to be vaccinated, but we lack the institutional support to make a genuine impact on our community."

Some senators worry that the resolution is the student body's last chance to have an impact on COVID-19 policy.

"This resolution is a necessary call to action to our administration to solidify accommodation," Chair of Committee on Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement Anastasia Jones-Burdick said. "This [the resolution] is the last card in our deck."

Maddy Ryan, Chair of Committee on Governmental Operations, and Bennett Matson, Chair of Committee on External Affairs, presented and took questions on the bill on behalf of the other seven senators who also authored the resolution.

"The resolution is a nonbinding call to action, or in this case, calling out the lack of action," Ryan said as she introduced the bill. "This legislation is suggesting vaccine mandate and a recognizing the faculty senate resolution which has called for our support."

ASB Senate, like the faculty

senate, cannot implement a mandate or take measures that force administration to implement a mandate. The resolution gives them an opportunity to officially declare their position on the matter, and recommend that university administration take action.

The senate body was split on the matter, and the vote was close. The body passed the resolution 26 to 18, narrowly meeting the simple majority required to pass it.

Some senators echoed the sentiments of Ryan and Matson and were vocally, absolutely in favor of the resolution. Others, like Senator Cole Wood voted no on the resolution, citing the lack of support from his constituents.

"I have spoken to my constituents about this issue as much as I can and every single person I've asked has said no, adamantly," Wood said. "They do not want the vaccine mandate, they do not want any further steps-they don't want any further steps period."

The resolution comes after weeks of talk about the university's approach to the fall 2021 school year with respect to the ongoing pandemic. After cases spiked towards the end of the summer, the Chancellor amended his decision to return to full normal operations, instating an indoor mask policy.



The ASB Senate's meeting on Tuesday evening was marked by a long period of debate over SR 21-10.

Cases state and nationwide are slowing, but cases are still high on campus, with 72 new confirmed cases over the past seven days, according to the university's COVID-19 dashboard. Local hospitals are still overwhelmed and ASB senators as well as health professionals have shared concerns over the impact that university activities, like

tailgating on game weekends, will have on local transmission levels.

Osman, President Lila Pro Tempore & Chair of the Rules Committee, had similar sentiments about lack of leadership.

"Now it is time as student leaders to make those difficult decisions, decisions that the university itself is avoiding,"

Osman said. "We need to hold the university accountable to manage this public health crisis because we are not the experts. It should not be the responsibility of student organizations to manage a pandemic."

The ASB Senate is expecting a response from the Office of the Chancellor in the coming days.

### **UM celebrates International Education week**

#### SOPHIA JARAMILLO

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This week, the University of Mississippi is celebrating International Education week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State to highlight the importance of international education.

The Office of Global Engagement hosted a of diversity celebration and the global reach of education in the Circle on campus. Representatives from the School of Business, Study Abroad and different language programs each many times as they want, and all majors are welcome," said McElroy.

From tables showing traditional East-African clothing and culture to a table offering students to partake in "Fika," the Icelandic tradition of drinking coffee and enjoying pastries. International Education Week seeks to bring awareness to students so that they can consider studying abroad, no matter how far into their college career they are.

"I think that it's a really great way to expand your horizons, and kind of get out of this sense of what vou're used to," said Mikaela Taylor, University Relations Associate for Middlebury. The Study Abroad office at Ole Miss offers guidance and advising to help students choose which program is right for them. There are study abroad programs that any student can participate in, regardless of their major. Studying abroad makes you a stronger person, and it makes you more resilient and a problem solver," Cara Vandermiller, the Program Manager for International Business Seminars, said. "Studying abroad is good for any career."



have tables set up to explain and show the importance of international education.

"We're here mainly celebrating differences in students and education abroad on campuses and in businesses and nonprofits around the world," all said Blair McElroy, Senior International Officer and Director of Study Abroad.

The university offers five language majors and 10 language minors, but students don't have to major or minor in a language to study abroad.

"Students can go anywhere in the world, as

SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Fatima speaks with Mikaela Taylor, a Middlebury University relations associate, at the Language and Culture Festival on Sept. 15.

that

and

Ole Miss Study Abroad studying abroad. offers scholarships, help "By taking with applications to study commitment challenging yourself to grow abroad and guidance on personally in your language which courses to take when

skills and your intercultural competence, you also are able to engage with the community a little bit more," Taylor said.

# **COVID-19 vaccine waste is inevitable**

### MARY BOTYE

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There is an imbalance between the number of COVID-19 vaccines arriving in Mississippi and the number of people rolling up their sleeves and getting the shot. As a result, some vaccine doses go to waste at the end of the day. This imbalance may change with the recent surge of vaccinations.

Vaccines, once thawed, have a limited time period in which they can be administered. Pfizer stays viable for around six hours, and Moderna for around 12. Once this time period expires, they are labeled as "waste." The exact number of vaccines going to waste is unknown, possibly due to sites not reporting how many vials end up in the trash on a daily basis.

Rather than dwell on negative numbers, some professionals like Lauren Bloodworth. Clinical

Professor in the Ole Miss Department of Pharmacy Practice, are choosing to focus on using as many vaccines as possible every day.

"We hope that none of our allotment goes to waste," she said. "We make every attempt to use every dose in a vial."

local pharmacist Α involved in administering vaccines shared similar The sentiments. Daily Mississippian agreed to withhold the pharmacist's name because the company for which he works discourages employee interaction with media.

"Every single attempt was made to be very very prudent with what we were given," he said.

Still, wastage occurs.

"The Mississippi State Department of Health has encouraged us to always open a vial if we have a person that would like the vaccine even if that means that some waste will occur," Bloodworth said. "In order to serve patients

make the vaccine and available to them, there is going to be necessary waste," the pharmacist said.

The line lies in the word "necessary." Some wastage is inevitable every day. The issue arises when there are more vaccines thrown away than normal.

Mississippians aged 12 and over are eligible to get the vaccine. Vaccines are free and many sites offer walkin appointments. For UM students, the Pfizer vaccine is currently offered at a walk-in clinic at the Johnson Commons. Despite the accessibility, Mississippians are not getting the vaccine at the rate at which they are arriving. One quick scroll on the state's vaccine scheduler shows that there are hundreds of open appointments across each county.

According to the New York Times, as of Sept. 13, Mississippi is using 72% of its allotted vaccines. This percentage is one of the lowest in the United States.

passed only by Alabama.

40% of Mississippi adults are fully vaccinated. This is well below the percentage needed for herd immunity. Many are hesitant to get the vaccine, making the numbers needed difficult to reach.

Many still have questions about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"We are hopeful that if a person is hesitant that they will talk with the primary care provider or pharmacist or nurse practitioner about it and have any questions answered," Bloodworth said.

Less vaccine wastage is within reach. The key lies in spreading accurate information, according to the pharmacist.

"The number of bodies that have been involved - the number of doses that have been subjected to scrutiny is incredible," he said. "The studies have proven that it's safe."

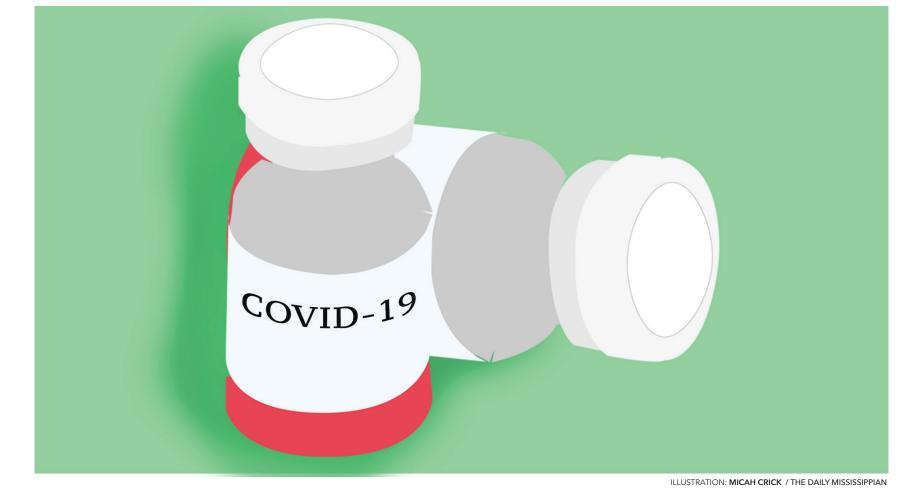
The data shows that this information is spreading. "Within the last two

and a half months, there's been a tremendous surge in vaccinations," the pharmacist said.

Between July and August, vaccine rates in Mississippi increased, peaking at 86,051 shots administered on Aug. 21. More people may be realizing the safety of the vaccine. Others may be getting their "I got my Covid vaccine" stickers for one important reason: the Grove.

"A lot of people are concerned about football," the pharmacist said.

Many want the Ole Miss tailgating experience back, and they believe the path to this is through vaccination. Whether or not people are getting vaccinated for the Rebels, the amount of vaccine wastage in Mississippi may decrease if the vaccination rates continue to increase. The key is to keep these numbers going up.



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### PARKING continued from page 1

with students. I just felt like it was a good fit."

Collaboration seems to be a keyword for Patterson and his style of work. From working with commencement parking committees, football day committees and even COVID-19 committees, Patterson enjoys the ability to communicate and listen to everyone – furthering his positive attitude toward parking issues at Ole Miss.

"T think some have reputations in the parking industry to be so policyoriented, and really black and white thinkers but I've always had my reputation," he said. "I'm going to be kind, I'm going to be honest, I'm going to listen and I don't have all the answers. I'm certainly not the smartest person in the room. But, I'm going to do the best I can."

Adeline Dunn, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, is one of 15,546 students, according to the Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning. Dunn didn't buy a commuter pass this year based on the fact that she would only be on campus a couple times a week. One of Patterson's

goals here at Ole Miss is to implement daily parking lots for students who have only or two classes per week.

"I've seen it at other schools," Dunn said. "I think that would be really good, especially if you're just wanting to look at the campus or you're a grandparent or an aunt or a family member that's trying to meet up with the student. You have nowhere to park and no options unless you pay for the meter."

Since Ole Miss is not the only university Patterson has worked for in the parking department, his knowledge of effectiveness stems from the experiences he underwent at universities such as Boise State. Patterson is no stranger to taking the OUT Buses himself either, saying during COVID-19, his commute to campus would include riding the bus.

"In some commuter cases, it might be better off for them, to just park, get on a bus, get to where you're going, and then walk the rest of the way," he said. "But selling that to some students, I think, is something I want to work on."

Urging students to plan out their commute to school can be challenging, according to Patterson. He says the department needs to find intentional ways to connect people, whether it be buses, bikes or large multimodal paths.

"If you build something, and it's really intentional, and students and faculty find it easy to use and connect, they'll use it," he said. "It's just we need to do more of that."

Patterson's enthusiasm and willingness to listen is what makes him so easy to talk to and, for colleagues, a joy to work with. Assistant to the Chancellor for Executive Affairs, William Kneip works hand-in-hand with Patterson and says Patterson and his team are the first to jump on board when issues arise.

"I think it's important that we continue to have conversations just like you and Sam had and expand that because Sam is going to be the first one willing to come to the table to meet with students, to meet with ASB, to meet with the Graduate Student Council," Kneip said. "Because of Sam's drive and his passion and his caring leadership style, that's where these creative solutions are gonna come from. That's why it's so important for everybody to continue to come to the table together to discuss solutions."



Sam Patterson was appointed as the parking director June 22, 2020.

# **COVID-19 cases slow as Mu variant appears**

### **VIOLET JIRA**

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As new COVID-19 cases nationwide and across Mississippi seem to be on the decline, health officials are turning their eyes toward another variant of COVID-19, the Mu variant, which has shown up in all 50 states.

Many health officials have advised that the variant is not yet of concern, only accounting for 0.1% of all cases in the United States, according to an article in Newsweek.

Oxford's Director of Management Emergency Jimmy Allgood said the city is

keeping an eye on the variant and awaiting more data.

"Right now we don't have enough information. It's brand new and there's not a lot of information on it so we're watching it," he said. "We don't have a lot of data on its characteristics - is it more contagious? We don't know. We're watching it. Monitoring and tracking it and waiting for more data."

Cases slowed have nationwide as well as in Mississippi. On Aug. 20, Mississippi reported 5,048 cases, the most cases for a single day in the state, ever. That day, the seven-day average was 3,586 cases. On Sept. 10, Mississippi reported

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1,892 new cases with a sevenday average of 1,921.

Currently, the Delta variant is responsible for the majority of COVID-19 cases being seen state and nationwide. Delta and Mu are both major mutations of the original COVID-19 strain. Data has shown that the COVID-19 vaccine is 50 percent less effective against the Delta variant than it was against the original Alpha variant, according to Healthline. There is evidence to suggest that the Mu variant is vaccine resistant.

Regarding Mu the variant, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Mississippi's state health officer, shared a tweet with an article from the Wall Street Journal attached.

"The Delta variant of the coronavirus is likely to that a decline in cases does one dose.

outcompete Mu, Lambda, and other variants because it is so infectious, scientists say. 'Nothing so far has appeared competitive to Delta," the tweet read.

Most health professionals, like emergency room Dr. Mac Nichols, continue to stress the ever present importance of getting vaccinated.

"I'm because worried there doesn't seem to be a huge interest still in getting vaccinated," he said. "It's challenging, because you create the opportunity for other variants when you have such a huge amount of viral load in a population. So, you know, can Mississippi be the next you know, not Delta, but whatever the next thing is gonna be."

Nichols explains further

not necessarily mean the end of the pandemic.

"[Cases] are going to go down because the people with COVID, who don't get hospitalized, are going to have antibodies for a few weeks, maybe a couple of months," he said. "So the infection rates are going to go down. But then we're going to have just another wave as that immunity starts to go back down, people let their guards down, and new variants pop up. And it's just gonna cycle again."

As of Sept. 12, 48.5% of Mississippi's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. Vaccination rates have increased, but the state is still well below the national average, where 68.1% of people have received at least

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### **Oxford faces at-home COVID-19 test shortage**

### CASSIE MORRISON

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In Oxford, CVS is currently out of stock of at-home COVID-19 tests in the store as well as online, and Walmart, which was previously out of stock, has a limited inventory available. Walgreens currently has a limited stock available online and in the store, as well as Kroger.

The surge in Delta variant cases over the last month has contributed to the increase in demand for these at-home tests. Local testing facilities and pharmacies that have been administering tests since the beginning of the pandemic are still available to those seeking a COVID-19 test, but the convenience of the at-home test makes it more accessible to a wider range of people.

Dr. Beau Cox, Executive Director of Mississippi's Pharmacist Association, says that "the greatest benefit to the athome test is convenience." Many people are more likely and able to purchase a test for \$20-30 rather than going to a clinic during set hours and having to pay a fee, according to Cox.

Grace Bennett, who was seeking a quick result to determine whether or not she had contracted COVID-19, purchased her test from Walgreens three weeks ago. Bennett said that the test was simple to use and provided her with her results within 10 minutes. The test she purchased cost \$20 and came with two tests.

Dr. Hubert Earl Spears, who works at the University of Mississippi Health Clinic, said the at-home test makes it simpler for people who do not have health insurance to get tested.

"For people with health insurance, most tests at facilities are covered by their insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. Most at-home tests purchased over the counter are not covered," Spears said. "Most at-home tests purchased over the counter are not covered. If one has no type of insurance coverage, at-home overthe-counter tests may be the least expensive modality."

Retailers around the country are facing an increase in demand for at-home COVID-19 tests following the White House's announcement on Sept. 9 of President Biden's nearly \$2 billion rapid testing plan.

On the White House website, it states that the plan aims "to improve access to rapid tests for all consumers, top retailers that sell rapid COVID-19 tests – Walmart, Amazon and Kroger – will offer to sell those tests at-cost for the next month."

Under the six-pronged national plan, President Biden calls for these tests to be sold for up to 35 percent less. The plan also "will expand the number of retail pharmacy sites around the country where anyone can get tested for free through the HHS free testing program to 10,000 pharmacies."

The increased demand for at-home tests, however, has put a strain on the companies and manufacturers, resulting in shortages nationwide. Ron Gutman, CEO of Intrivo, a testing manufacturer, told USA Today that "there is a big shortage in the market right now across the board. We have a lot more demand than we have ever seen before."

Retail chains like CVS are responding to the supply shortages for at-home tests by limiting the number of tests someone can buy. CVS is limiting customers to purchasing four tests in the store and six online. A CVS spokesperson told Insider that the limitation is a result of Abbott's manufacturing delays.

"In the mid-summer, noting the decrease in incidences of infections across the country before the delta surge, Abbott misjudged the demand that has resulted from the delta surge, and ceased production of their product," Spears said.

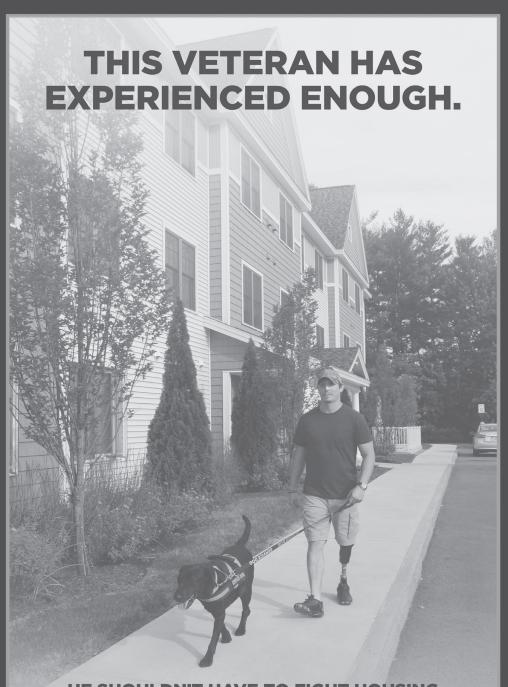
Abbott has been one of the leading producers of the antigen test with their product Binax Now, according to Spears.

Abbott has since resumed production, but, in an email written to CNN, Abbott's spokesperson, John Koval said, "We're seeing unprecedented demand as case rates rise, and we've been scaling up manufacturing since Delta became the dominant strain and new CDC guidance called for a reprioritization of testing."

Koval says there will continue to be supply shortages in the coming weeks, but "we're working with our customers to ensure tests get to where they're most needed and we're ramping back up."



Graduate Student Tyler West is tested for COVID-19.



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### TULANE continued from page 1

talented Tulane team.

For the Rebel defense, keep your eyes peeled for a few key names. Look for Chance Campbell to continue his dominant start to a Rebel career. He's given Ole Miss defensive presence at linebacker, something the team has lacked in years past. Campbell is flourishing in D.J. Durkin's defense, flying to the ball and making impact plays.

Returning to the starting lineup at free safety is junior AJ Finley. Finley is shaping up to have another stellar year, with eight solo tackles already on the season. His speed alone is enough to concern any opposing offense, but his true talent lies in his ability to read plays as they unfold, leading the team last year with three interceptions.

True freshman Tywone Malone stepped onto the scene against Austin Peay, recording his first career sack. He already has the physical size to be productive in the SEC, and he's a newcomer to watch as the

season progresses.

Don't underestimate Tulane, but don't be surprised if Ole Miss continues their strong start to the 2021 season with another dominant victory. Here's what a few of the non-sports editors have to say about this week's matchup.

Londyn Lorenz, Opinion Editor: I think we will win, I'm worried it will rain though. Snoop Conner will have a breakout game and Matt Corral already has great games, so nothing new there. Get ready for Tony the Landshark to swim all up in that Green Wave.

Dennis

Editorial Adviser: Tulane has an explosive offensive and everybody has been raving about our defense, but they're really going to be tested this weekend. But, a big, easy win for the Rebels.

Moore,

Maddy Quon, Editor-in-**Chief:** It sounds like Tulane is going to bring the rain and the pain. Ole Miss has a history of third quarter blemishes, so hopefully history doesn't repeat itself. We'll win the party for sure (and hopefully the game).

Violet Jira, News Editor: I'm really excited to see if the Rebels can keep up their winning streak. I don't know anything about Tulane.

Jacob Meyers, Managing Editor: I hope Tulane loses because I'm afraid of their mascot.

Kate Kimberlin, Arts and Culture Editor: To quote my king Dani Rojas, "Football is life." While I can't say anything valid about how the team will play, I agree with our fearless leader. We will definitely win the party.

## **Rebel Recap: Ole Miss Football starts out 2-0**

### AIDAN GALLARDO

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After an impressive victory against Louisville in Atlanta, Ole Miss kept up the momentum going into their home opener against Austin Peay, winning 54-17 in a game.

Matt Corral had another impressive start, throwing for 281 yards and 5 touchdowns with no turnovers. Corral was eventually taken out of the game in the 3rd quarter for safety reasons and replaced by backup quarterback Luke Altmyer.

Corral had а few opportunities to use his legs to scramble out of the pocket, ending the game with 35 rushing yards. Corral has looked quicker and more nimble on his feet than a season ago, and it'll be interesting to see how the season winds up looking for him in terms of his ability to not only be a pocket passer.

Wide receivers Dontario Drummond and Jonathan each had stellar Mingo performances. Drummond had six catches for 107 yards and two touchdowns. Mingo ended up with seven catches for 99 yards and two touchdowns.

"I feel like I'm playing faster and more confident than last year," Mingo said following the game. "I'll just try to build on that, week by week."

The run game was very crucial for the Rebels' offense. They ran for 336 yards and had a touchdown as well. Running back Henry Parrish Jr. led the way with eight carries for 72 vards.

Again, the Rebels created a

lot of quick drives that resulted in a score. The quick, almost "no-huddle," Ole Miss offense seems to put any defense on their heels. The fast-tempo offense causes defenders to have miscommunications and exhausts the opposition as the ball is quickly getting snapped over and over.

Ole Miss was just 5 for 14 on third down and relied on converting on fourth down to keep the drive alive, going 4 for 6 on fourth downs.

"We weren't very good on third down again for the second week in a row on offense," head coach Lane Kiffin said. "We go for it, luckily, on fourth down and that saves us, but we gotta improve on third downs."

Ole Miss created a total of 630 yards on offense while holding Austin Peay to 374 yards. The Rebels' defense was able to hold Austin Peav to 17 points and also forced a couple of turnovers.

Austin Peay quarterback Draylen Ellis passed for 226 yards and a touchdown, passing to receiver Baniko Harley in the 2nd quarter.

Austin Peay's rushing leader was running back CJ Evans Jr. Evans ran for 74 yards and one touchdown on seven carries.

Ole Miss defensive lineman Sam Williams led the defense with five tackles including two sacks and two forced fumbles, one being a scoop-and-score for a touchdown.

"Coach (Wilson) Love always says 'see ball, get ball," Williams laughed when asked about his touchdown on his strip-sack. "So I put that into action, I guess you can say."





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Ole Miss wide receiver Jonathan Mingo charges toward the endzone.

Linebacker Chance Campbell had another great performance, ending up with four tackles and a fumble recovery on a kickoff return in the second quarter.

Something that Kiffin wasn't happy about was the amount of penalties Ole Miss gave up during the game. The Rebels had 12 penalties for 130 yards, most of them being pass

interference calls.

"I felt like there were some early that were definitely questionable, but we're turning and are arm barring the guy before we get our head around and block him off," Kiffin said when asked about the pass interference calls. "It's a penalty. They're not going to pick it up, so we've got to coach it better."

The Rebels will look to keep up their momentum as they host a Tulane team that is hot on offense, putting up 35 points against Oklahoma in week one and 69 against Morgan State the following week.

Kick-off is slated for 7:00 p.m. CST on ESPN2 this coming Saturday.

### Football pick 'em: Week 3

### THE DM SPORTS DESK

thedmsports@gmail.com

Let's get after it Week 3. With some great SEC and nonconference matchups taking place this weekend, here's a look inside the minds of our sports desk.

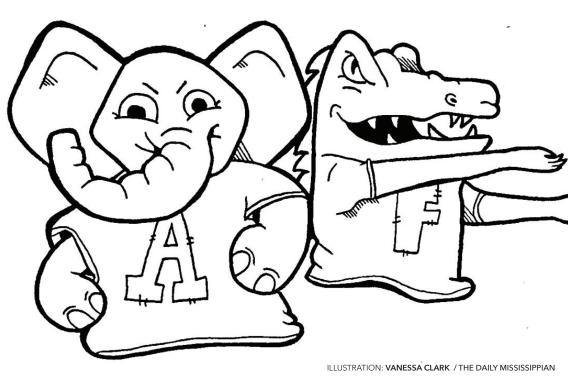
#### #1 Alabama at #11 Florida: Owen Pustell Final Score Prediction: Alabama 38, Florida 24

Oh boy is this gonna be a fun game. The undisputed No. 1 team in the nation going on the road to one of the loudest, most energetic stadiums in the nation? Yeah, I'll take my Saturday to watch that. The Tide rolls in boasting yet another high powered offense, outscoring their first two opponents 92-27. In his first year under center, quarterback Bryce Young has looked sharp and composed, throwing for 571 yards and seven touchdowns in a pair of blowout wins. However, Young has yet to face a defense with the swagger and energy of the Gators. Backed by 88,000 fans in what will be a sellout at the swamp, expect the Florida defense to hit fast, hard, and early. On the offensive side of the ball, quarterback Emory Jones is under a lot of pressure to perform. Not only is he facing a star-studded defense with a tendency to force turnovers, but he himself is fighting to keep the starting job after tossing two interceptions in each of the Gators first two games. The fans are clamoring for backup Anthony Richardson to see more time after he out-passed Jones in both yards and touchdowns on just three attempts against USF. Jones likely knows that head coach Dan Mullen is close to making the move. If the pressure pushes him to perform then Alabama could be on upset watch, but if Jones cracks under the spotlight, it will be a long day in Gainesville.

#### Tulane at #17 Ole Miss: Ruby Draayer Final Score Prediction:

Ole Miss 49, Tulane 28

Of all the non-conference matchups that Ole Miss has on the schedule this year, this is the one that I'm the most worried about. Tulane is sitting at 1-1 after a very close season opener loss vs Oklahoma and a blowout win over Morgan State. The former SEC member is not a team that should be taken lightly. I think a lot of people are expecting another blowout win from Ole Miss, but I would advise against that approach. Wave's quarterback The Michael Pratt has thrown for 420 yards and five touchdowns this season, and while it doesn't touch Matt Corral's numbers, it is worth noting. While Tulane is fairly intimidating, I do think the Rebels come away with this one. They're the better team and we have home-field advantage this weekend. Head coach Lane Kiffin has stressed the importance of our fans showing up, and it will be crucial for the



win on Saturday. Let's lock the Vaught together and also lock the students in the student section so they can't leave at halftime.

### #19 Arizona State at #23 BYU: Aiden Gallardo

Final Score Prediction: BYU 28, Arizona State 17

Both teams are coming into this contest 2-0. Arizona State had blown out their first two opponents by a total of 54 points. Granted, they were against low level opponents in Southern Utah and UNLV. BYU had just come off of an impressive victory over Utah last week and they'll be looking to keep their momentum going against Arizona State.

It'll be tough for Arizona State to get the ground game rolling against an excellent defensive BYU team. Arizona State revolves around the run game. They ran for 287 yards last week against UNLV, led by running back Jayden Daniels who carried the ball for 122 yards. As for BYU, in their victory against Utah last week, they ran for 219 yards and sophomore quarterback Jaren Hall threw for 3 touchdowns.

This will be the first real test of the season for the Sun Devils, as they travel to LaVell Edwards Stadium in BYU. In order for Arizona State to win this game, they'll have to be dominant in the run game. But, it'll be difficult to see that happening considering BYU has a stellar run-stopping defense.

### #22 Auburn at #10 Penn State: Catherine Jeffers

Final Score Prediction: Auburn 28, Penn State 24

The all too well known annual White Out in Happy Valley will bring in the Auburn Tigers this year, with Penn State favored to win. Two words: War Eagle. Say what you want about who Auburn has played thus far, but any team that can outscore their opponents 122-10 through two games is a team to watch. An atmosphere like Happy Valley is none to overlook, but the Tigers have had success as both the underdog and the visiting team in the past. Auburn has proved to be one of the top defenses not only in the SEC, but in all of NCAA. While they have only played the likes of Akron and Alabama State, they've held their opponents to 182 yards per game, averaging 3.01 yards per play. On the other side of the field, Penn State's passing game has shined with quarterback Sean Clifford throwing for 247 yards in their 16-10 win over Wisconsin. It was a game of defense against Wisconsin, with Penn State held to only 50 rushing yards. Against the wall that is Auburn's defense, Penn State will struggle to establish a run game, and Auburn's 1,151 total offensive yards will grow, earning them the underdog victory in Happy Valley.



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### Ole Miss soccer shuts out Western Kentucky University

### JANE ROB PANNELL

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss soccer team came out with a 1-0 win against a talented Western Kentucky University (WKU) team on Sunday afternoon in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Rebels (4-1-2) were able to hand the Hilltoppers (5-1-0) their first loss of the season.

Ole Miss came out ready to get on the board early. In the seventh minute of the contest, Channing Foster almost put one in with a header, but it was just wide of the goalpost. The Rebels dominated possession throughout the entire match, outshooting WKU 12-3. They made smart passes, helping the Rebels keep the ball in Hilltopper territory for 74% of their possession time.

After yet another assist from Bowling Green native, Haleigh Stackpole, the Rebels were finally able to put one in the back of the net. Stackpole fed Molly Martin at the top of the box, and the senior settled it and struck the ball in the back corner to put the Rebels up 1-0 before halftime.

The second half consisted

of many scoring opportunities for the Rebels, but they had no luck. The Ole Miss defense stayed strong throughout the entire match and were able to keep the Hilltoppers off of the board. Ole Miss goalkeeper Ashley Orkus snagged her first shutout of the season.

The Rebels will be back in action on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in Oxford. They will be looking to recreate their win streak against Alabama in the opening game of conference play. The match will be streamed live on SEC Network +.



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Taylor Radecki takes control of the ball in a match against Middle Tennessee on Aug. 26.

### Ole Miss soccer opens up SEC play vs. Alabama

#### **RUBY DRAAYER**

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss women's soccer team opens up SEC conference play this Thursday against Alabama.

The Rebels are currently sitting at 4-1-2 on the season and are coming off of a win against Western Kentucky. This team has had a successful start to the year, with their lone loss coming from UCF at home last week.

They have 13 goals on the season and are averaging 1.86 goals per game. With all of their previous opponents being non-conference, Ole Miss will have to step things up offensively if they want to compete for the SEC Championship.

The Rebels are sitting in third place in the SEC West with Alabama in last place.

Alabama (4-4-0) is not off to an ideal start coming into this matchup and is looking to get a big win on the road. In their last game



Shea O'Malley takes a shot against Middle Tennessee in a match on Aug. 26.

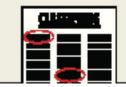
against in-state rival UAB, the Tide had 16 shots on goal in comparison to UAB's 10. The Tide were able to get the midweek win before heading down to Oxford. Ashlynn Serepca leads the team in goals for Alabama with three, but there are nine goal scorers so far this season.

Molly Martin leads the Rebels in goals this season with five and she has had the help of Haleigh Stackpole. Stackpole has assisted on each of Ole Miss' last seven goals. She has been dominant in setting up opportunities for the Rebs to score and will be needed greatly this Thursday.

The last time these two teams met, Ole Miss was able to get the win over Alabama. Rebel goalkeeper Ashley Orkus held the Tide to a shutout and will look to repeat that again this year.

You can watch Ole Miss on SEC Network+ or at home this Thursday at 6 p.m. CT. Come support your Rebels at their SEC home opener!

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# Volleyball looking to make a splash in the SEC

### **DILLON CADER**

thedmsports@gmail.com

After a rather disappointing season a year ago, the Ole Miss Volleyball team has started out the 2021 campaign red hot, winning its first eight matches for the first time since 2007 and securing its first top 15 win since 2010.

Just one year removed from an underwhelming 1-19 season, second year head coach Kayla Banwarth and her Rebels find themselves 8-0 with only three matches to play before the beginning of conference play.

The Rebels entered last weekend 5-0 before sweeping the Holiday Inn-University Plaza Invitational, which included a win over the 15th nationally ranked Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

Junior Anna Bair has been an absolute force for the Rebels so far this season. The junior outside hitter leads the team in multiple categories, including 28 sets played, 99.5 points and 94 kills.

Bair's dominance has been accompanied by a string of impressive outings from sophomore middle blocker Sasha Ratliff, who was rewarded for her recent success by being named SEC Player of the Week and SEC Offensive Player of the Week after recording 36 kills in three matches.

"It's really exciting to see (Ratliff) play the way she has, especially being one of Banwarth's first pickups last year," said Jennifer Saxon, the Ole Miss sport supervisor for volleyball.

Although Bair and Ratliff have been the standouts of the team so far, many people within the program feel like this team is stacked from top to bottom. The Rebels feel that not one person is bigger than the team.

"I think all of our athletes have the capacity to be dominant, we're all just waiting on that moment



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Sasha Ratliff reaches to block a spike from Northwestern State in a match on Sept. 4.

when one player breaks through," Saxon said.

In just her second year as head coach, Banwarth has already had success unlike many other coaches have had in Oxford.

"She's a winner, if you look at her track record, it shows that," Saxon said. "She's a student of the game. We celebrate a win and she's back at it immediately."

"I feel that coach Banwarth has really done an amazing job with us in pushing us on and off the court. She has really been able to show everyone of us what it truly means to be an Ole Miss rebel," said rebel right-side hitter Samantha Schnitta.

For Banwarth, turning the program around has been no easy task. She said she has had to really focus on building a winning team and changing the culture of the program.

In order to build a winning team, Banwarth decided the Rebels would need to hit the transfer portal during her first offseason if they were to turn this thing around.

"We added nine new players to the team this year," Banwarth said. "Those new players are making a big impact."

Banwarth says the new players along with it being her second year of teaching her system has made a huge difference.

Banwarth has her newly built team playing like a completely different one from the year prior.

"This team has been committed to doing the little things and focusing on the basics," Saxon said. If you watch this team, when there's a long set, they never give up. They correct mistakes immediately and constantly focus on getting better."

As far as changing the culture goes, players and coaches are hopeful that students and fans will buy into Banwarth's program just as much as the players have.

"We want to make sure there is not an empty seat in the house," said Saxon."We are constantly striving for a better environment."

Putting the early season success behind them, Banwarth says her team will continue to train hard and try to get better everyday.

The Rebels will be in action this weekend at the Indiana Invitational, playing Chicago State on Thursday and both Alabama A&M and Indiana on Friday. This will be their last three matches before the long grind of SEC play begins.

"There are a lot of things we still have to get better at if we want to make waves in the SEC," Banwarth said. "So, we get after it in the gym every day and we compete hard to learn and improve daily."



### Thacker Mountain Radio Hour holds season premiere

#### KATE KIMBERLIN

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The Thacker Mountain Radio Hour hosted its first live show since June at the Old Armory Pavillion on Sept. 9. The show included music by Mark "Muleman" Massey with former Amazing Rhythm Aces keyboardist Billy Earheart, local Afro-Blues band Afrisissppi and author Heather Cass White, promoting her new book, "Books Promiscuously Read: Reading as a Way of Life."

Historically, Thacker Mountain has always been a local live event hosted at Off Square Books, but with the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations going against live events last fall, the radio show was not able to hold their annual fall season. However, Executive Producer and Director Katherine York said how excited everyone was to be back.

"I think it has been such an adventure trying to figure out

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where and how to do things and how to make things work," York said. "In fact, it's such a part of our community that really getting started in person felt right."

The event will temporarily be held at the Old Armory Pavilion, to accommodate for the CDC's recommendations. The pavilion will have marked off designated, socially distanced squares that patrons can put their lawn chairs in. While masks are not required in the outdoor space, they are highly recommended when moving around the pavilion. York said the safety of the artists and the audience was important to the Thacker Mountain Board, so she was glad that they could bring the show back in a safe way.

"We were able to partner with the Yokatawpaha Arts Council to have the use of this pavilion for a first show, which meant we were safe," York said. "We were live, we were in person and everything was, I think, pretty amazing."

Cass White, the author



KATE KIMBERLIN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Mark "Muleman" Massey performs at the Thacker Mountain Radio Hour on Sept. 9. The radio show moved locations from Off Square Books to the Old Armory Pavilion to accomodate for COVID-19 guidelines.

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at the premiere, was able to read excerpts from her new book, "Books Promiscuously Read: Reading as a Way of Life." Dees also moderated a discussion on the book, in which Cass White mentioned the research she did, as well as where she drew from her



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own personal learning.

"The only thing I care about, the one thing I want you to leave here with today is my never, ever want you to feel guilty about reading," White said.

Mark Massey and Affrissippi, the accompanying artists, both said how delighted they were to be back on the stage. While neither of them were prompting new music, both leads separately expressed their excitement to be back with the radio show.

"Keep an eye out for Affrissippi, they're starting to play here and there," Dees said.

The show was able to have a special event on the Grove Stage in June, but this show marked the return of the show's annual fall season. Host Jim Dees said how excited the crew is to get back to performing, despite the change in venue.

"[The Old Armory Pavilion is] a larger space where people

**SUDOKU<sup>©</sup>** 

Q

can spread out and feel safer. For our first show last week, our audience took the move in stride and showed up in force," Dees said.

However, Dees said that the show's 24th year will present some challenges.

"This is probably the most challenging year we've had. A lot of authors have curtailed their travel so it makes booking difficult. Still, we have a fun line-up coming up," Dees said.

Dees encourages all students to come out and attend the next live show on Thursday. Sharde Thomas and the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band and singer-songwriter Michael Jay Hughes will perform, and Mary Katherine Backstrom will be promoting her book "Holy Hot Mess, Finding God in the Details of this Weird and Wonderful Life."

"I guarantee you'll have a good time," Dees said.

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# OPINION

# So the world is on fire. What now?

#### **ABIGAIL MYERS**

thedmopinion@gmail.com

"That's a problem for future generations." I have heard this line from many of my peers every time climate change is brought up. Claims that the "sea level will rise 1-8 feet by 2100," or the Arctic is "likely to become ice-free," which are likely not going to be a reality during the majority — or even any — of my life or my peers' lives, lead many to believe that climate change is an ignorable problem, or maybe not even a problem at all.

Not only is this mentality incredibly selfish — family and friends may live beyond you but it is very wrong. Climate change is affecting our lives right now. Take, for example, the Australian wildfires that devastated people, property, animals and the environment around the country. Researchers say that "humancaused climate change made those fires at least 30 percent more likely to occur."

If Australia is still too far away for UM students to care about, then what about the California fires or, even closer to home, Hurricane Ida?

Ida made landfall on Aug. 26 at a whopping 150 mph, tying Hurricane Laura (2020) and the Last Hurricane of 1856 as the strongest storm to hit Louisiana. The hurricane devastated huge areas of Louisiana and very literally hit close to home for me as a New Orleans native. Ida not only affected Louisiana but had severe consequences for many other states, including New York and Mississippi. The hurricane destroyed homes, left entire cities without power and drowned people in their homes.

I began to really notice climate change over the summer in New Orleans. Many of my days were filled with heavy rain that almost instantly flooded my street and my garage. While rain is common in New Orleans, especially during the summer, this degree of this rain is not. In fact, by August, New Orleans had already exceeded its annual average of rain with four and a half months left in the year.

Climate change is more than just ice melting. It is not a future problem, but something that affects us more and more as each day passes. "As Earth's sea levels rise, so does the potential damage from storms, storm surges, and extreme weather events," including increasingly colder winters and Southern snowstorms, like the one that shut down campus for around a week in February.

My peers disregarding climate change is incredibly frustrating. The world is changing around us, and that change cannot be ignored. Abnormal things are happening, like Texas freezing over and a hurricane causing destruction from Louisiana to New York. The world we know and love is changing before our eyes because of our conscious actions. We need to start taking a more active role in trying to save our planet. We need to start changing our actions to be more eco-conscious and start demanding big corporations to stop polluting our planet. We only get one world, and persevering it is a problem for every single generation.

Abigail Myers is a sophomore majoring in English and psychology from New Orleans, Louisiana.

### Don't let Elon Musk control the economy

#### HAL FOX

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Popular with college students, tech-savvy libertarians and dark web drug smugglers, with undoubtedly some of these groups overlapping, Bitcoin's storied history as the first and foremost cryptocurrency started a new chapter when El Salvador recently adopted it as the official currency alongside the U.S. dollar. The first country to do so, El Salvador's experiment with Bitcoin could shape attitudes towards cryptocurrency the world over. That being said, the move is, frankly, a horrible idea.

Salvadorans can access their Bitcoin and instantly exchange it with U.S. dollars at the market rate through an app called Chivo. In a country where only 34% of the population use the internet, the adoption of Bitcoin as an online currency only really affects city dwellers with access to the internet — and only those that can afford to purchase a smartphone. The fact that many people aren't able to participate in the Bitcoin program, however, might be a good thing for their pocketbooks.

Bitcoin is famously unstable – that's kind of the point. With rapid and heavy price fluctuations since it first made the jump from \$0.0008 to \$0.08 in 2010, Bitcoin investors ride the speculation and uncertainty in hopes of making millions. Additionally, over 60% of college students and graduates believe bitcoin is a good longterm investment, including students at the University of Mississippi. The recent irregularities in the stock market, such as the explosion of Gamestop stock and the rise of Dogecoin, were fueled by college students all across the country.

downs of crypto is fine for those with disposable income to do so. In El Salvador, however — one of the poorest countries in South America the volatility that can make millionaires is more likely to wipe out the savings of millions of Salvadorans. While the Chivo app allows users to convert their coin to USD, if they miss a downturn in the market, all of their money could go down the drain.

With the goal to generate sustainable economic growth and encourage investment, national currencies should be stable and reliable — not tied directly to one of the most historically volatile economic platforms in the history of the world.

Part of the appeal of Bitcoin is that it is not regulated by an economic body. This means no one can set interest rates or control supply, which are tactics used by banks and treasuries to maintain the stability of the currency. El Salvador was already outsourcing this work to the U.S. Treasury, who can reliably navigate the markets and stabilize the U.S. dollar.

There is no captain at the helm of the Bitcoin ship, however, and with no one to stabilize and manage the currency, domestic prices for goods could fluctuate dangerously, endangering the wellbeing of millions of Salvadorans.

Adopting Bitcoin as the national currency of El Salvador will prove to be a dangerous mistake, staking

### **Opinion Policies:**

the lives and livelihoods of an entire nation on the whims of crypto investors and Elon Musk tweets. Nations of the world, I beg you: don't make Bitcoin your national currency. I, for one, would like to not be forced to care what Elon Musk says on Twitter.

Hal Fox is a sophomore majoring in Chinese and international studies from Robert, Louisiana.

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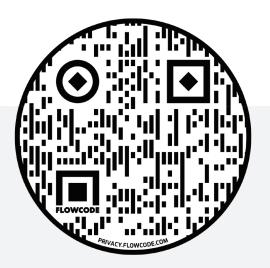


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