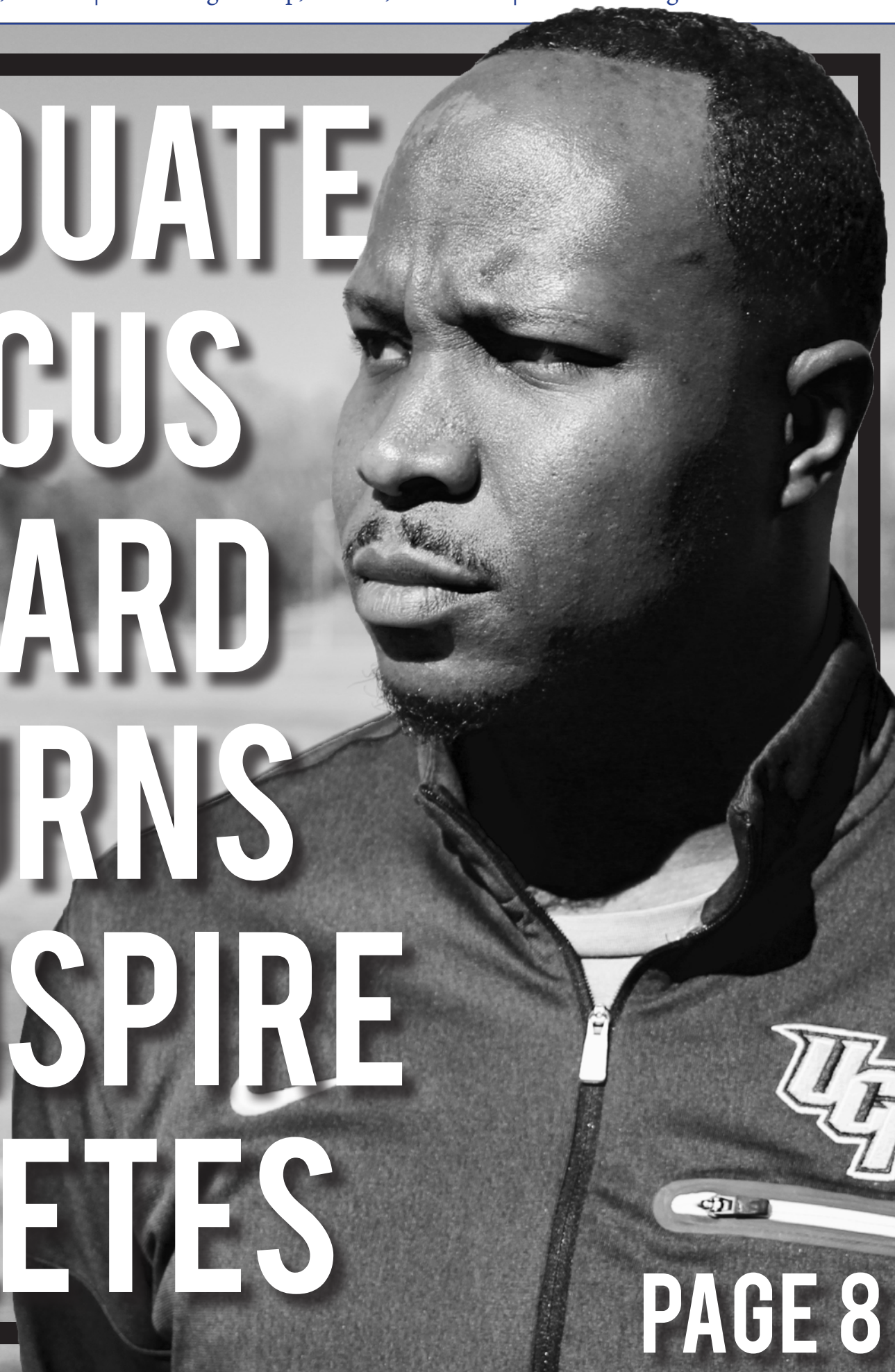


GRADUATE MARCUS HILLIARD RETURNS TO INSPIRE ATHLETES



Community members coalesce for Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit Pantry

By Anna Barrett

staff writer

For the past 14 years, community members of Oxford have come together for an event called "Empty Bowls." The event was held on Feb. 8 at the Oxford Conference Center and had the biggest turnout board members had ever seen.

"I was a professor of art/ceramics at the University of Mississippi from 1980 to 2005. In the mid '80s we formed a student organization, the Mud Daubers," Empty Bowls Board Member Ron Dale said. "They completed projects and held regular sales on campus. They are a long-time fixture at Double Decker. In the early '90s a woman from the Tupelo Empty Bowls Luncheon contacted me about donating bowls to their project. We contributed some bowls for two years. At that point, I decided that we should be supporting our own community."

According to Dale, the first Empty Bowls event was held in 2002 at the Oxford University United Methodist Church. Around 300 to 400 bowls were hand made for the occasion, and

local chef John Currence donated the soup; everything was gone within the first hour. Since then, the event has only grown.

"From 2002, the project grew almost every year with 2018 being the largest ever," Dale said.

Senior Evelyn Smith used the event as a service opportunity for the student members of the Beta Club after being approached about volunteering for the fundraiser.

"I went to the conference center with a couple of others [students] to help volunteer the day before Empty Bowls, and someone explained to me that it's a community event where community members make bowls, and donate them," Smith said. "Anyone can come in, pay twenty dollars, pick their own bowl, fill it up with soup, sit down and just get to know people from Oxford."

According to Lucy Chiniche, granddaughter of Dale, he and some colleagues were able to bring a fundraising idea to Oxford, where it has grown tremendously in such a short amount of time.

"He [Dale] lives here in Oxford,

and just saw it as an opportunity to help others in a way he knew how," Chiniche said. "He makes some of the bowls for the event in his studio at his home."

According to Dale, all of the proceeds from this event are given to the local food pantry.

"We are the only fundraiser for the local pantry with all proceeds going toward food supplies," Dale said.

"It only happens because of the generosity of the Mud Daubers, a few local potters, the many restaurants who contribute, and the army of volunteers who wash bowls, serve soup, wash and return restaurants' large pots, set and bus tables, put up posters and much more. Much of the success of the project is due to the continuity and vision of the board without whom none of it could happen."



Anna Barrett • theCharger

Community members choose a hand made bowl from a variety of colors, sizes and shapes. Over 1,200 bowls were crafted and donated by local potters and artists to support the Pantry of Oxford.

OHS Model U.N. members participate in state competition

By Edward Brown

staff writer

The Model United Nations club, Model U.N., attended a statewide competition on Feb. 22 and 23 in Starkville, Miss. Many OHS students participate in this club.

"The Model U.N. is a conference that is meant to represent an actual meeting of the United Nations," Addy said. "Each participant represents a country that's a member of the U.N."

The club introduces students to global issues and many important topics of discussion. It also helps students improve their public speaking,

critical thinking and debating abilities. OHS teacher Stella Lindsey is the club's sponsor and advisor who helped form the club four years ago.

"The students must present their resolutions along with evidence-based arguments for adoption of the resolutions," Lindsey said. "This involves public speaking, debating, negotiating, and forming alliances with other delegates."

Each student represents a country that is from the United Nations Security Council, and tries to debate, amend and vote on resolutions previously prepared by each country. Senior Annie Forgette helped organize and lead the club this year.

"It's a great opportunity to practice research and public speaking skills," Forgette said. "It also allows students to learn how to maintain a diplomatic and productive conversation with varying viewpoints and opinions."

The club also helps students gain a deeper understanding of contemporary global issues and the challenges facing the international community today. While many students advance directly to college after high school, there is the possibility of some students traveling to other countries to work.

"I graduated from a public high school in the Mississippi Delta with several of my classmates and friends finding jobs that took them to places like

Russia, Germany, Africa, China and even North Korea," said Lindsey. "It's likely that many of our students will be working across international borders with the need of understanding the global transformations taking place today."

Sophomore Lily Hemmins joined the club this year and attended the competition in Starkville. There she witnessed four OHS students win awards. Seniors Lauren Chandler and Forgette won Best Resolution, Addy won Best Delegate and junior Sam Barnard won Best Amendment during the competition.

"The OHS students had good success and won many awards, like best delegate and best resolution," Hemmins said. "Since it was my first year, I learned a lot from the older members throughout the year and in Starkville."

While the Model U.N. club's primary goal is to help students learn more about global issues and help develop many useful skills, students also have fun and enjoy the club.

"Even though the club is about learning and academic stuff, honestly my favorite part of the trip was probably getting to hang out with everyone that went," Hemmins said. "I think that everyone else also really liked going together and hanging out with each other."



Courtesy of Stella Lindsey

Members of the OHS Model U.N. team at the statewide competition in Starkville. Four seniors were awarded at the event.

Shop where trends meet tradition



NEILSON'S
ICONIC OXFORD STYLE

(662) 234-1161
@neilsondepartmentstore
www.neilsondepartmentstore.com

119 Courthouse Square
Oxford, Mississippi

School project? ACE it.



1400 University Avenue
(662) 234-3232
www.sneedsace.com





ROBERSON, GRAY TRANSITION TO NEW JOBS AS SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

By Molly Archer
editor-in-chief

Oxford High School's own Bradley Roberson and Chandler Gray have both been promoted from their current jobs. Roberson will be taking the position of assistant superintendent, and Gray will become head principal starting on July 1.

"I'm excited about the new position, but I'm not excited about leaving [Oxford High School]," Roberson said. "I think if there is one thing that [students] have learned about me over the last three years is my heart is helping kids. I enjoy being in education and being in a platform where I can affect some things, but I will certainly miss the daily contact with students around Oxford High School."

As this school year comes to a close, Gray and Roberson are beginning to make decisions in their new positions. According to Roberson, he has started adding his input on decisions for the district as assistant superintendent while Gray makes decisions for Oxford High School that pertain to next school year as head principal. Roberson still makes decisions that revolve around this year.

"The advantage of Mr. Gray already being here gives us the opportunity to already transition about some decisions moving forward," Roberson said. "It also makes it much easier when you're working with someone that you trust, which is certainly the case with [Gray]. I'm just beginning to dabble in some things with moving in the assistant superintendent's direction simply in preparation for next year just like [Gray] is for Oxford High School."

Roberson says that his leadership philosophy is "Lead as if you have no power," and this is what he worked towards during his time as principal. He believes it is an important mentality to have.

"I want to lead by modeling. It's a situation where I never want to ask [students] to do something that I would not do myself," Roberson said. "Lead as if you have no power" is also a leadership philosophy that tends to focus on the individual instead of this blanket philosophy. It's about building relationships with individuals."

According to Gray, when he started teaching, he had no desire to become a principal, but

changed his mind after meeting Chris Bryce, a fellow co-worker, during his time as the athletic director in North Carolina.

"[Blyce] showed me how much a leader can change a culture of a school. To see the way he interacted with parents and students and teachers and literally changed the culture within a year, it inspired me to be a leader," Gray said. "I realized I can affect more people as a principal than I can as a teacher or a coach. I don't have just 25 kids or 100 kids, I have 1,235 kids that I could, hopefully, have a positive impact on. [OHS is] an awesome school. It's really a school, in my opinion, every principal in the state would want to be a principal of. It's really an honor and a blessing that I get to be able to do this."

I JUST HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION THAT WE ARE GOING AND CONTINUE TO GROW AS KIDS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS AND JUST LOVE EACH OTHER.

CHANDLER GRAY
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Gray wants the community of OHS to continue expanding once he becomes principal.

"What I really want to do is continue the growth of our school and the growth of our kids which has happened in the last three years," Gray said. "There will probably be some small changes, but I just hope that we can continue to move in the direction that we are going and continue to grow as kids, teachers, and administrators and just love each other."

According to Gray, he doesn't believe there will be a big difference in the culture of OHS once students return to school for the 2018-2019 school year.

"[Roberson and I] are so similar, I don't know

if there will be a huge difference that [students] will notice in day-to-day things. [Roberson] has his mottos 'Love Your People' and 'Respect the O,' and that's the same mentality that I have," Gray said. "I think that Oxford has so much to offer. I'm going to take some things that [Roberson] has done and try to take them even further if we can."

Gray is excited for the opportunity to lead the school in the future and see what it can accomplish in the coming years. He said he is ready to step up in his new role as principal.

"It's such a wonderful job, and it's a great school. It's great because of the people that are here. I would not be near as excited to follow up someone who has been as great a leader as Mr. Roberson if I didn't have such awesome teachers and assistant principals that are already here, and because we have great students as well," Gray said. "That makes it exciting to see where Mr. Roberson has brought this [school] the last couple of years and now see where we can take it in the future."

MALCO THEATRES

www.malco.com Hotline: 662-236-4962

Oxford Studio Cinema
1111 Jackson West - Across from Campus

Digital Sound & Projection • 3D Movies
Advanced/Online Tickets • Group Rates
Birthday Parties • Gift Cards

Oxford Commons Cinema
206 Commonwealth Blvd - Sisk & Hwy 7

Theatre Features Live Concerts, Operas & More!

ALL ROADS LEAD TO FUN!

Premier LANES
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
THE AREA'S LARGEST ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
OXFORD, MS

WWW.PREMIERLANES.COM

206 Commonwealth Blvd. - Oxford
Next to Oxford Commons Cinema

BOUTIQUE BOWLING
LASER MAZE
ACTION ALLEY ARCADE
CAFÉ
PARTIES & EVENTS

THE CLOUDY TRUTH

Number of students vaping continues to rise

By Karina Patel

staff writer

The increasing number of students vaping in the U.S. has developed into an issue that schools around the country are concerned with, including OHS.

Vaping has become the new trend seen in high school students across the country. Students have started to vape at younger ages despite the negativity view many adults have on it.

"Unfortunately, I don't know, in the eyes of teenagers, if there is a negativity around it. I think just like with any other fad that comes and goes in the world of teenagers, this seems to be the one that has risen to the top right now," Principal Bradley Roberson said.

Vaping-related suspensions or

incidents have doubled this year from previous years, and students caught on campus are punished according to the school's code of conduct.

Because of the large number of students who have been caught with vapes, the punishment may be changed to prevent further vaping incidents. Currently, the school's policy is that the first offense's punishment is at the discretion of the principal, and the second offense subjects the student to multiple days in-school suspension.

"Based on the number of incidents that we've had this year, I'm considering raising that offense to an out-of-school suspension because we certainly want to deter any kind of behavior that could be harmful to our kids on campus," Roberson said.

Resource Officer Mario Weekly thinks that people may not know that vapes contain a large amount of nicotine in them, and he believes that amount of nicotine can potentially cause students to become addicted and might influence their decisions later on in life.

"Once they get of age, when they can start buying cigarettes, that's exactly what they are going to do," Weekly said. "To me, vaping is a way for kids to get hooked on nicotine and become a smoker as they become legal."

Many

students, like junior Emily Bone, have experienced consequences of vaping but can't bring themselves to quit.

"When I first moved here, I got one because everyone had one. Then, from there, it basically became an addiction. I would do it everyday just when I was bored," Bone said. "I just couldn't stop, and I didn't want to stop."

Many factors, such as peer-pressure or stress, could possibly push students to vape. According to techtimes.com, teenagers' vaping habits are shaped by their family and friends, and they are more likely to vape if they have friends or family members who consider vapes, or e-cigarettes, to be acceptable and trendy.

"If you're vaping to be a part of a social group, then maybe you should reconsider those people that are asking you to do that because there is nothing that should be socially acceptable that could possibly cause any harm, to themselves or to their friends," Roberson said.

Many parents may not be aware of what their child might be doing outside of the house. OHS is making sure that parents are aware of this problem through emails and other sources of communication.

"I sent an email to all parents and all students and all staff members

with an article about vaping," Roberson said. "The next step is to send some visual images of what vapes actually look like, so that parents can have the information and know exactly what to look for in their child's backpack or their child's room because they're all so different."

According to Roberson, many students don't have enough information about the harms of vapes, so the school is in the process of making sure that they have the right information.

"We're going to have to come up with an education plan as a school district to make sure that we're educating not only our kids but our parents about vaping and about the dangers of vaping," Roberson said.

Administrators and staff want students to understand that while vaping may seem cool, it can cause many problems.

"Students have to realize that when you're putting something in your body that's not supposed to be there that it's going to be harmful, and we want our students to be safe," Roberson said.

1 IN 3

seniors reported using a vaping device in the last year.

Oxford High School has had 20 Tobacco/Smoking incidents this year, and 19 of them have been for vaping.

According to the CDC,

11.3

percent of high schoolers used e-cigarettes in 2016.

THE FACTS

source: <https://grownandflown.com/vaping-parents-need-know/>

Get cute and trendy children's clothes at

Belles & Beaus

1005 Van Buren Ave.

(662)236-6880



STABLE TALENT

— recruit with purpose —

www.stabletalent.com

BEING A FEMALE MINORITY IN AMERICA

BY KLARIA HOLMES · OPINIONS EDITOR

"The most disrespected woman in America is the black woman. The most unprotected woman in America is the black woman. The most neglected person in America is the black woman."

Spoken by Malcolm X almost 60 years ago, these statements still ring true.

America has always oppressed someone, whether it be manipulating or killing Native Americans for their land, enslaving people and then later counting them as three-fifths of a person or treating women and members of the LGBTQ+ as subordinates. America has a climate that straight white men thrive in.

Being a minority in America means being on your best behavior 24/7 because you've indefinitely become the "spokesperson" of your race. You must watch how you act, speak, dress and who you associate with because it's a direct reflection of not only how you'll be treated, but how other people of color will be treated as well.

Being a person of color in predominantly white populated and controlled America is hard enough. Being a female in a misogynistic and disrespectful environment for women is even harder. Being a black woman who advocates for the rights of other women and people of color is one of the hardest things to do in America. And all three? A perfect concoction for being called racist, intolerant and sexist.

Women have always struggled with being misrepresented in the media due to countless spreads that promote unrealistic body types that don't even attempt to represent the millions of women they want the support from. And the very few times women of color are represented amongst these spreads, they almost always fall victim to the brown paper bag test.

The brown paper bag test is a form of "colorism," or prejudice against one for having a lighter skin tone, a term mainly used for those within the same ethnic group. It was a ploy used in the early 1900s that claimed all African Americans with a skin tone that's the same color as a brown paper bag were deemed to be 'better' and were more socially accepted than their darker counterparts.

The brown paper bag test is still very much apparent today, leaving younger women of color with little or no other women of color to look up to. Even when a show claims to be culturally diverse, they still manage to fail the brown paper bag test by having minor, 2D women of color characters or women of color actresses within only three shade ranges. The lack of diversity somehow still prevalent in 2018 is shocking and needs to change.

In today's most popular shows like "Empire," "Being Mary Jane" or "Scandal," all of which have leading black female actresses, none of them cast good images of black women. They all feed into the racial stereotypes that black women today are still trying to overcome. While these actresses are amazing people, the way that they are por-

trayed on TV casts a negative, stereotypical image of black women and prolongs the amount of time before we can officially overcome these stereotypes.

"Colorism" frequently raises its ugly head within our own, and when you grow up believing that the lighter your skin is, the better you are and you've only seen light women in the media or bad stereotypes of darker women, it makes you doubt your worth and place in the world.

The media consistently portrays the basic stereotypes of black women: the angry black woman, the 'baby momma,' the gold-digger and the unhealthy, fat black woman. While some of these stereotypes are true, it's unfair to water down an entire race of women to these stereotypes when we are so much more.

It's one thing to be disenfranchised by American society, because for black people, being one of the many disadvantaged groups doesn't come as a surprise. It's something our people have faced since we've been here.

What's absolutely pitiful and shameful is how our own black men, who unironically came from black women, can defend people who explicitly hate black women, or hate black women themselves.

From black men hypocritically shaming black women for dating outside their race to black men publicly stating their distaste in black women, I've seen it all. And on behalf of every black woman, I think we can all agree that we're tired of it.

It's tiring to wholeheartedly stand up for black men and help them fight for justice daily only to have them turn a blind eye or cold shoulder to black women when we need the same treatment.

As a black woman, when I date outside my race it means something completely different than a black man dating someone nonblack. Dating outside my race can get me labeled as a traitor, a "sell-out" and even culturally insensitive.

But a black male? Nothing but praise. Suddenly, #blackgirlsareover, #blackgirlsarecancelled and #whitegirl-sarewinning is trending all over Twitter, for the sole purpose of putting black women down which fuels the flame of internalized hatred most black girls are born with or develop by the time they start attending school.

As a woman, it should be second nature to support your fellow women, because for the most part you're going through the same struggles. The same goes for being a woman of color, supporting other women of color should come easily.

The lack of support by both groups is detrimental for the black community. It shows that we will work to fix any problems we have with others before fixing problems we have internally.

Being a woman of color in America is hard. It means taking outrageous or hurtful comments like a grain of salt. It means working harder than someone of your peers to reach the same goals as they do. But I wouldn't trade it for anything.



theCharger

Oxford High School
101 Charger Loop
Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: (662) 234-1562
Fax: (662) 236-7941

Editors-in-Chief:

Molly Archer
Livvy Cohen

Associate Editor:

Klaria Holmes

News Editor:

Molly Archer

Features Editor:

Eve Gershon

Opinions Editor:

Klaria Holmes

Entertainment Editor:

Livvy Cohen

Sports Editor:

Grant Daniels

Business Editor/

Advertising Manager:

Eve Gershon

Online Editors:

Molly Archer

Livvy Cohen

Staff Writers:

Nadeen Al-Ostaz

Abby Atchley

Edward Brown

Walker Bailey

Anna Barrett

Lauren Bial

William Carrington

Preston Hooker

Grace Logan

Karina Patel

Emmie Stevens

Charlie Zediker

Adviser:

Diala Chaney

dhchaney@oxfordsd.org

The views and opinions expressed on this page are of an editorial nature and do not necessarily represent the views of The Charger staff, advisers, school faculty or administrators of Oxford High School or the Oxford School District.

The editorial board consists of Editors-in-Chief Molly Archer and Livvy Cohen, Associate Editor / Opinions Editor Klaria Holmes, and Features Editor / Business Manager Eve Gershon.

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest columns and articles. Such stories should be submitted to the journalism suite. Visit www.oxfordsd.org for a complete editorial policy.

The Charger is distributed free of charge to all students and is available for subscription for \$30. 1500 copies of each issue are printed.

The Charger is currently a member of the following scholastic press associations: JEA, NSPA, SIPA, and MSPA.

The Charger reserves the right to refuse to print any ad because of inappropriate content.

TELEVISION GLAMORIZES MENTAL ILLNESSES, LEADS TEENS IN WRONG DIRECTION

By Charlie Zediker

staff writer

Many modern media, television programs more specifically, take advantage of serious problems such as mental illness and disorders, unknowingly romanticizing a topic that should be taken seriously for the health of viewers, especially teens, who can be more affected than others by this blatant disregard. These insensitive actions take away from the severity of these illnesses, and often lead teens affected by this media to have a desire of having a mental disorder.

Take "13 Reasons Why" for example, a Netflix original released in March of 2017. Hannah Baker (Katherine Langford) kills herself and leaves mix-tapes behind in her wake to lead the listeners on some kind of scavenger hunt in search of what events led to her suicide. This show is a completely unrealistic and romanticized image of depression and suicide.

The show suggests that other people were responsible for Hannah's suicide. This is not true; it was due

to a mental illness. It also points out that Hannah's suicide changed some of the characters in the show, such as softening a bully. "13 Reason Why" shows that her suicide offered vindication for the wrongs she has done, further glamorizing and romanticizing suicide. This could lead viewers to believe that suicide is a viable option, and is sometimes even rewarded with recognition.

Another program that often leads viewers to believe mental illness is a desirable trait is the recent Netflix Original, "The End of the F***** World." James (Alex Lawther), a teen psychopath, runs away with Alyssa (Jessica Barden)—who is in love with James—with the intention of murdering her to fuel his desire for killing "something bigger."

This show, unlike "13 Reasons Why," doesn't romanticize depression or suicide, as is typically the standard for most television shows. It does, however, romanticize dangerous psychological disorders, such as psychopathic tendencies. Throughout the show, Alyssa appears to find James'

apathy and psychological tendencies attractive and interesting, which could give viewers a distorted view on this mental illness that shouldn't be exposed to teens and viewers altogether.

Many teens deal with mental illness and disorders; according to www.ineedalighthouse.org, an awareness program for depression among teens, approximately 20 percent of all teenagers are depressed and in 2015, 18 percent of teenagers seriously considered committing suicide according to the www.childtrends.org in their data bank about depressed teenagers. Television shows putting an attractive and romantic light on this issue can only do more damage than what is already done. Producers of shows that are geared toward younger audiences must consider the effect they have on these impactable viewers of any age. They must also take into consideration that this romanticization takes away from the severity of these problems and the impact it can lead to, such as serious mental issues or even death.



Camp Hopewell Oxford, MS

Register Now

for Day Camp,
3-Night Mini Camps,
Week long Overnight Camps,
& Type 1 Diabetes Camps

June 4-July 21
completed PK-10th grades



www.camphopewell.com // 662.234.2254

Davenport directs "Fiddler on the Roof" as 100th show

By Emmie Stevens

staff writer

Theatre teacher John Davenport directed "Fiddler on the Roof" as his 100th theatre production with the Oxford School District, which was presented in the Kayla Mize Auditorium from Feb. 15 through 17.

"Most high school directors don't have the opportunity to do so many, so it's special because of that," Davenport said.

Davenport chose "Fiddler on the Roof" because it is relatable, and it is one of his favorite shows that he has done.

"It's a show that I come back to, and every time I come back to it, or every time I reread it, I, myself, personally grow a little older or, hopefully, a little wiser," Davenport said.

The show is a dance-heavy musical with many themes that can be applied to the lives of high school students.

"It's really different because it's a show about challenging traditions and, unlike many other musicals we do, it's relatable today because traditions are being challenged and changed and broken, so it's kind of a different aspect of musicals, instead of being cheery or fun,

it's realistic," stage manager senior Emily Toma said.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is about a poor Jewish milkman, Tevye, in imperial Russia.

"The main storyline is about this man and his daughters" Davenport said. "It takes place in 1902 Russia in a small Jewish village, and the main storyline is about how this particular man faces a changing society and an advancing world while trying to maintain a hold on his culture and the traditions of the Jewish culture and their faith, while the world is rapidly changing around him. His daughters, as it's kind of time for them to get married, are starting to push to change the tradition of how that happens, meaning that the father and the matchmaker arrange a match, but the girls want to do it themselves. Over the course of that, it causes our main character to have to face what's most important to him, so it's about tradition, and how you hold on to tradition in a changing society, but, also, on top of that, there is the overlying fear of knowing what's going to happen to this particular community, that they're potentially going to be evicted from their homes and moved."

Many high school students resonated with the show because of the themes that they relate to in the show.

"Throughout the progression of the story, [Tevye's] traditions are challenged because of his daughters," Toma said. "Each daughter finds a new way to challenge the traditions: his faith, his people, and by the time of the last daughter, it's his highest challenge. It's just about breaking traditions in general and maintaining them."

This production was the fourth time that Davenport has worked with "Fiddler on the Roof" during his directing career. He was excited to get a chance to direct this show again.

"Every time I find something new that resonates with me, and I think, 'that's what makes it a classic and why it's been so popular,'" Davenport said. "It resonates with everyone time and time again."

Students who worked with the show were excited to be a part of this milestone production.



Emmie Stevens • theCharger



Emmie Stevens • theCharger



Emmie Stevens • theCharger

Top: Senior **Joseph Hammer**, senior **Sam Hartnett**, and junior **Joel Adamson** perform a scene with several other cast members. **Left:** Senior **Peyton Schiller** performs a song during the first act. **Right:** Senior **Evelyn Smith** expresses her character's frustration in the show. The show ran from Feb. 15-17, and it was Davenport's 100th show with the Oxford School District.

"It's just a really exciting show because it's Davenport's 100th, which is a big deal for him, and it's a big deal for us to be able to be a part of that," senior Sallie Hardy, the show's choreographer said.

Students involved with the production hoped to create a successful show for Davenport's 100th show.

"It is really special to him because he's directed 99 wonderful productions, and this [was Davenport's] 100th wonderful production," Toma said.

Students spent a lot of time preparing in hopes of making Davenport's 100th show memorable.

"I think all of the work paid off; the show was a complete success," Toma said. "I am so proud to have been apart of such a unique production."

Many OHS students and members of the community showed up to the

show to see "Fiddler on the Roof."

"It's an honorable achievement," Toma said. "The theatre was filled up every night. It's hard to believe that Mr. Davenport has masterminded 100 phenomenal productions, and it's almost even harder to believe that I have been involved in the entire process for that 100th show."

Davenport hoped that "Fiddler on the Roof" would resonate with students at OHS.

"I think that students that come to see it will find many aspects of it that they can actually relate to themselves, particularly the stories of the young characters that are wanting to be independent," Davenport said. "I think they will find themselves experiencing similar thoughts as they're growing up. I think it will speak to their heart. I've never met a person, who has seen this show, or read this show, who dislikes it."



Pick Thai
Fine Thai Cuisine

1101 Frontage Rd. Oxford MS 38655
Tel ☎ : (662)-380-5428

Opening Times
Lunch: Mon-Fri: 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Saturday: 12:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Dinner: Mon-Sat: 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday
Located Next to University Inn



Courtesy of Chris Cutcliffe



Courtesy of Chris Cutcliffe



Courtesy of Chris Cutcliffe



Courtesy of Chris Cutcliffe



Courtesy of Chris Cutcliffe

Left: Karen Cutcliffe (mom), Coach Marcus Hilliard and Coach Chris Cutcliffe take a family photo together at Duke University. **Left Middle:** Hilliard and Chris take a picture at the celebration of Katie Cutcliffe's (sister) marriage. **Middle:** Chris, Katie, Emily Cutcliffe (sister) and Hilliard take a family picture before Chris's engagement party. **Right Middle:** Hilliard plays with his nephew Shivers Cutcliffe (Chris's son). **Right:** Chris and Hilliard play intramural football at the University of Tennessee as best friends and brothers.

LIFELONG FRIEND BECOMES LIFELONG BROTHER

By Eve Gershon

features editor

To be family does not always mean to be blood-related. For head football coach Chris Cutcliffe and University of Central Florida (UCF) assistant athletic director Marcus Hilliard, it means a friendship so strong it turned into an adopted brotherhood.

"Just having a best friend in any aspect is good because you've got somebody that's very similar to you, that really loves you and cares about you, but having a brother—it's refreshing, it's encouraging, and it's an awesome opportunity," Hilliard said.

Hilliard recalls that he and Cutcliffe met at the beginning of sixth grade, the year that Cutcliffe moved to Oxford. Once they met, their friendship took off and has remained strong ever since.

"I was going to the office and ran into him in the hallway, looked like he was lost," Hilliard said. "He showed me a schedule, and he was actually in my class, so I escorted him back to the class and looked at his schedule for other classes. We found a lot in common, and it just kind of moved from there."

Hilliard and Cutcliffe soon found themselves together often, doing everything from watching wrestling matches to playing football, but at the beginning of their freshman year, tragedy struck.

"It's my freshman year at Oxford High School, and my biological mom gets breast cancer and passes away before I start my first class," Hilliard said. "I had other family members in Oxford, but nobody really wanted to take me in, so I was kind of flailing around. I jumped from

place to place, but one thing that remained constant was my relationship, my friendship with my brother Chris."

And soon the brotherhood of their friendship would become so much more. Cutcliffe and his family took Hilliard in and adopted him as a son and brother.

"I was always over there at the house, always hanging out, having fun, so it seemed to me that was the place to go to. That was the place for me to stay," Hilliard said. "It just made a lot of sense, and they welcomed me with open arms, and that's unconditional love."

Recently, Cutcliffe had Hilliard come to talk to his football players about what it means to be part of a team.

"I can't think of a better way for me to introduce what it's like to be a teammate than bringing in my own brother," Cutcliffe said.

During his talk, Hilliard talked a lot about the meaning of unconditional love and brotherhood.

"Being a family member, that's big," Hilliard said. "At the end of the day, they've got your back. They know who you really are."

For any student who finds themselves facing the loss and obstacles that Hilliard and so many others have had to face, he has some advice.

"Whenever adversity comes, you've just got to find a way to persevere—that's standing true to who you are and ultimately fighting through and surrounding yourself around people that love you and care about you and want to support you. That's the biggest thing," Hilliard said. "As high school students, we face different chal-

lenges from other peers and life circumstances, but just fighting through it, remaining tall and not giving into any kind of situation will help you persevere and eventually overcome the obstacle."

Cutcliffe brought Hilliard in to talk to his players because he believes that being a part of a team is very similar to being a part of a family. Because of this, Cutcliffe hopes their bond reaches beyond the playing field and that the players will help their teammates out in times of need.

"Marcus and I, we quickly became best friends, and that grew into truly being brothers, and you're going to do whatever you have to do to help your family," Cutcliffe said. "I think that level of commitment to each other is what also happens on the team as you commit to each other, and you're there to help each other no matter what."

Sophomore and football player D'Marionte Gross agrees with his coach and stands by the idea that a team divided will fall.

"We are one," Gross said. "We are a unit, so we've got to work together as one."

Junior Joel Adamson, also a member of the Oxford Charger football team, truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to listen to Hilliard's story.

"I thought he was a really good speaker," Adamson said. "He had a lot to say about hard-work and what family means because he's been through a lot. It was really interesting. It was really great to hear from someone with his background who's successful."



Get In, Get Out, Get WELL!

1929 University Ave.
Oxford, MS 38655

P: 662-236-2232
F: 662-236-2264

Open 8 AM - 7 PM Seven Days a Week

OMG. Where did you get those shoes?



@lulusoxford

Lulu's Oxford

@lulusoxford

662-234-4111

265 North Lamar Boulevard, Suite V
Oxford, MS 38655

FIFTEEN

Mitchell premieres first short film in Oxford Film Festival

By Nadeen Al-Ostaz and Abby Atchley

staff writers

Director Joe York crafted the lives of 10-year-olds into a short film that would stand as a time capsule. Five years later, sophomore Julia Mitchell made yet another capsule to look back on in years to come.

York made the short film "Ten" five years ago in order to hear how the 10-year-old mind works while also celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Oxford Film Festival.

"[York] just thought it would be fun getting to hear the inner workings of the minds of kids when they were in their most innocent and honest form. When you ask them a question they just answer bluntly and honestly, and it's great," Mitchell said. "I think that was really cool, giving 10-year-olds a voice and what they thought about the world when they were that age."

Five years later, Mitchell decided to make another short film titled "Fifteen" to see how her peers had grown. She submitted it in this year's Oxford Film Festival.

"I had joked previously with Joe York about what if we

did one when the kids were older," Mitchell said. "We joked about doing a 'Twenty,' but I thought that wouldn't work out with college and stuff. I didn't originally think I was going to put it in the film festival. I was just making it for me, and then I realized the times lined up."

Mitchell had impressed many with past film projects, but "Fifteen" is her first submission into the Oxford Film Festival.

"[Mitchell] has been doing amazing," freshman Meriwether Jacob, who was featured in both films, said. "I've seen things posted on Instagram, and they aren't from 'Fifteen,' but if 'Fifteen' looks anything like them it's going to be amazing. Like, she could drop everything right now and just make videos and be a billionaire."

Were it not for the support of those around her, such as sophomore Albert Pham, York and Chad Hathcock, who Mitchell says helped her greatly, she would not have been able to complete this project. Her sister, senior Lily Mitchell, especially pushed her.

"At one point, I told [Lily] I didn't think I was going to put it in the film festival because I had been so stressed and so time-crunched," Julia said. "I didn't think I'd make the deadline

and I just lost my patience, and she sat me down and she was like, 'Look, I'm not trying to make you do it, but you're going to look back on this and really wish that you had done it,' and if we didn't have that conversation, I don't think I would've finished it so she really pushed me to finish it so I give it to her."

Sophomore Kiyon Williams, who was in both "Ten" and "Fifteen," says what he wants to do in life is mostly the same from five years ago; however, he also sees some differences in his personality.

"I have become more mature," Williams said.

Mitchell sees the short film as a benchmark for these students' lives to look back on and learn from. At the end, she presents a comparison between when these students were 10-years-old and now, at age 15.

"You can just see how the kids of Oxford have grown up and how their views have changed," Mitchell said. "I think it's really important to have this time capsule of them that they can look back on when they're older just like they are now looking back at when they were 10."

Creating
healthy, happy
smiles one
child at a time.



C. Hayden Perkins
DMD
2408 South Lamar
Blvd., Suite 1~
Oxford, MS 38655
662-513-4188

OXFORD FILM FESTIVAL

By William Carrington • staff writer

Oxford celebrates 15th annual film festival

The 2018 Oxford Film Festival ran from Feb. 7–11, showcasing movies across town at the Oxford Commons, Conference Center, Powerhouse and Ford Center. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the festival and had a lineup filled to the brim with socially relevant films across genres.

2018's lineup included 204 films, 30 more films than last year's, and more than 60 female directors directed films showed at the festival. This year definitely demonstrated growth within the festival and the progression of Oxford.

This is also the second year that the film festival has included an award in the LG-

BTQ category. Films competing in this category, like Shaz Bennett's "Alaska is a Drag" and Jill Salvino's "Between the Shades," explored necessary conversations in current-day America.

Another notable and thought-provoking film was Cady McClain's documentary, "Seeing is Believing: Women Direct." This film was entirely comprised of interviews telling the story of shifting gender roles in modern filmmaking. By interviewing people from every sector of the shifting industry, McClain told all sides of the complicated history and trajectory of the female lens.

An important and unique

part of Oxford's Film Festival has always been the audience's ability to interact with directors in the panels held after the films show, and the "Seeing is Believing" panel was especially notable. Director Cady McClain and other female directors shared their experiences with the audience, giving a better idea of how the struggles of the industry impacted their individual experiences as directors.

Sophomore Julia Mitchell's film, "Fifteen," also competed in the Mississippi Short Films section of this year's festival. "Fifteen" tells the story of the kids born in the same year as the film festival. By contrasting clips of interviews from with

them at age 10, Mitchell tells a uniquely entertaining story about what it means to grow up in Oxford.

"Alaska is a Drag," "Seeing is Believing" and "Fifteen" stuck out to me as films that exemplified what makes Oxford's Film Festival unique. As the American film industry is always shifting towards more and more blockbusters, it becomes easier for consumers, especially in small towns like Oxford, to only watch the latest Harry Potter or Marvel installment. The Oxford Film Festival gives people interested in artistic filmmaking the ability to see real art being made in their town.

for FRIDAY NIGHT BITES before FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS



101 Courthouse Square

662.234.1968

ONE OF THE "TOP 100 SALONS IN AMERICA"
-ELLE MAGAZINE

ESTD 2005

LA ROUSSE

SALON • SPA • BOUTIQUE

OXFORD MISSISSIPPI

1006 JEFFERSON AVE

LAROUSSSESALON.COM

662.281.0548

Marvel's "Black Panther" provides excellent representation for minorities

By Klaria Holmes

opinions editor

In two hours and 15 minutes, "Black Panther" effectively captivated audiences, making my childhood dreams come true.

"Black Panther" was undoubtedly one of the most anticipated movies to come to theaters, and for good reasons; the movie is an excellent feat for both superhero movies and black people.

The movie grossed an estimated \$400+ million from its four-day opening according to Forbes, and did not disappoint. The film has already earned the spot of best debut performance of all time in the month of February. With its larger-than-life cinematography and excellent cast, the movie lives up to all the hype it's earned for the past nine months.

Director Ryan J. Coogler has the magic touch. He has

the ability to flip any idea into a masterpiece, so when I heard he was directing "Black Panther," I knew it wouldn't be a flop.

The movie is beautifully realistic featuring an authentic African language as title sequences, the majority of the cast being of the minority and Wakanda, the kingdom the story takes

place in.

When the movie starts the audience is introduced to our hero, T'Challa who's played by Chadwick Boseman. T'Challa embodies all the characteristics that good heroes have, offering patience and comic relief in just the right moments.

He resides in Wakanda, a magical city that 'hides in plain sight' and runs off the power of vibranium, the same thing that fuels Black Panther's suit. He's crowned king after the death of his father, which comes with its own set of challenges.

"Black Panther" is not only a stunning superhero movie, but also an amazing, and correct, representation of black people. The cast features characters with depth, something that most black characters lack in several shows.

For years, people have been waiting for Hollywood to finally get it right, and it seems they've done it with this movie. Finally, young minorities have a superhero they can call their own who looks just like them.

Overall, the cinematography of "Black Panther" is breathtaking, transforming Wakanda from a thought to a picturesque village rich with culture and life.

The movie ends with a powerful note, stressing the importance of inclusion: "But in times of crisis the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers." The movie does an excellent job of working political statements into its plot without overdoing them and placing them in the right moments for them to be effective.

For one bright shining moment, there was "Black Panther," which shattered proverbial glass ceilings and challenged common Hollywood myths. Wakanda forever.



MGMT

MGMT return to roots with new release, "Little Dark Age"

By Livvy Cohen

editor-in-chief

After a five-year hiatus, indie-rock band MGMT has retuned stronger than ever in their artistry. Their third studio album, "Little Dark Age," was released on Feb. 9 and was absolutely living up to the hype. As an avid listener and fan of MGMT, my hopes were set extremely high leading up to this album, and I was nothing but impressed.

MGMT hit the scene in 2007 with their hit songs "Kids," "Electric Feel" and "Time to Pretend." They seemed almost invincible. Following their past two releases, 2010's "Congratulations" and 2013's "MGMT," however, their fanbase was dwindling down due to extremely experimental albums that were tedious listens for several fans. With their new album, though, I can listen rest assured knowing that MGMT is back and bet-

ter than ever.

Their freshman release, "Oracular Spectacular" will always stand as one of my favorite albums ever, but "Little Dark Age" is now competing for that spot.

Opening with an usually poppy song coming from a band that typically has a rock, alternative and psychedelic sound, MGMT made listeners aware that they are growing in their artistry and venturing through several genres within their career with no limitations in mind. "She Works Out Too Much" is the perfectly sarcastic song criticizing the dating world in the 21st century, with a heavily pop-influenced experimental sound that I could listen to for hours on end.

This sarcastic tone and criticalness of modern day society was extremely prevalent through the entirety of "Little Dark Age," during my favorite track "TSLAMP"—time spent

looking at my phone—and singles "Little Dark Age" and "Hand It Over," which were written in reaction to President Trump's election into office. MGMT has managed to turn the negative face of society into an exciting new sound, and I'm already looking forward to their next release—and "Little Dark Age" hasn't even been out for a full month.

"Little Dark Age" managed to explore so many different moods and sounds, and all were wonderfully produced. Each track flowed effortlessly into the next and showed how skillful members Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser are. It's evident how much they care about their music and carefully craft each album.

Hopefully, it won't be another five years until their next release, but at this rate of creativity and success, any wait would be worth it for MGMT.

THE BEAT THAT MOVES YOUR FEET



FOLLOW US ON SPOTIFY

All The Stars // Kendrick Lamar, SZA
Love Is Alive // Louis The Child
Yellow // Kevin Abstract
Days That Got Away // MGMT
Maurine // Say Hi
Pretty Woman // Lo Noom
Paracetamol // Declan McKenna
Lethal Combination // The Wombats
Little of Your Love // HAIM
Too young // Phoenix
Love Is Mystical // Cold War Kids
Name For You // The Shins
Baby-Baby-Baby // TLC
american dream // LCD Soundsystem
Nervous Young Inhumans // Car Seat Headrest
Moon River // Frank Ocean

Come For The Food. Stay For The Music.



PROUD LARRY'S

211 S. Lamar Blvd. - proudlarrys.com

CHARGER STAFF VISITS AMERICA'S ESCAPE GAME



KARINA PATEL
STAFF WRITER

Going in, I was nervous about not being able to escape within the hour permitted since the puzzles, questions and information seemed confusing and advanced. This helped us bond as a staff and hang out in a fun and challenging setting. Their staff is incredible and I would highly recommend it, as it encourages team building and bonding in a unique way.



LAUREN BIAL
STAFF WRITER

America's Escape Game is a great addition to Oxford. As soon as you step into the room, you are immersed in the experience. Staff members commit to their role fully which really contributes to the atmosphere, and the experience helped our staff bond and learn to work together as team. America's Escape Game is perfect for something to do with friends when you're bored.



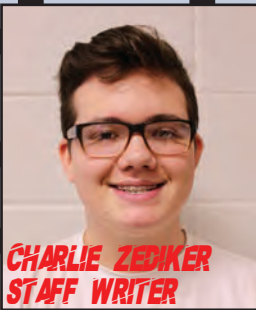
GRANT DANIELS
SPORTS EDITOR

As someone who has never had any escape room experiences, I felt the employees at America's Escape Game provided great information and instructions on how to complete the task at hand. The employee's hospitality and engagement with us was second-to-none. Everyone in Oxford who is looking for something to do, we have found an answer: America's Escape Game.



MOLLY ARCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Before going to the escape room, I knew it would be challenging. As soon as our elite team of Charger staff members started trying to break out of the room we were put in, tensions started to rise. The escape room was challenging and really put us to the test. America's Great Escape Game is the perfect place to spend time with friends or family.



CHARLIE ZEDIKER
STAFF WRITER

America's Escape Game was an amazing experience. The staff was great and they made the experience seem almost realistic. The escape room itself was well thought out; the props and puzzles made the whole thing authentic and exciting. It was a great way to bond with my friends on newspaper. Overall, it was an experience that I would recommend to anybody of any age.



LIVVY COHEN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Having never experienced an escape room before, this was an exciting experience for me... and a little terrifying (in the best way possible). After spending an afternoon here, I bonded with my staff members in a new, amusing way. The staff was involved and welcoming, making our experience that much better. I would absolutely go to America's Escape Game again.

THANK YOU TO AMERICA'S ESCAPE GAME OXFORD FOR HAVING US!
AMERICASESCAPEGAME.COM/OXFORD/ - (662) 638-3411 - 1621 JACKSON AVE W.



Live Oxford. Bank Oxford.

Oxford University Bank

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Fri: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

1500 University Ave
(662) 234-6668

2301 West Jackson Ave
(662) 234-0622

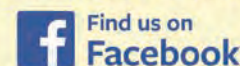
- PREGNANCY TESTING •
- LIMITED ULTRASOUNDS •
- ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS •



662.234.4414

**ALL SERVICES ARE 100%
FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

PREGNANCYOXFORD.COM



Charger soccer teams eliminated in first round of playoffs

By Grant Daniels

sports editor

For the Oxford Charger's 6A debut, the playoffs entailed an early exit for both the boy's and girl's soccer teams. At the beginning of February, both teams were eliminated by Madison Central in the 6A playoffs.

The girls lost at home against the Madison Central Jaguars, 3-2, in overtime. They finished with a 15-7-1 record overall and 6-0 in district competition. The guys' team was defeated 2-0 at Madison Central, finishing their season with a 17-5-2 overall record and 4-2 in district play.

"We competed with every powerhouse we played," senior defender Davis Carwyle said. "I just wish we would have come away with a few more wins against those good teams."

The boys' soccer team featured nine seniors this season with senior forward Keaton Calhoon leading all players with 36 goals in total. Along with Carwyle and Calhoon, John Owen Yoste, Josh Fulton, Mateo Jekabsons, Bennett Shull, James McKey, Brookes Kevin and Gray Jenkins all played in their final season as a Charger. According to sophomore forward Luke Freeman, playing with all of the seniors was enjoyable and helped the underclassmen, guiding them throughout the season and helping them to become leaders.

"Playing with the amount of seniors that we had was really fun because they taught all of us younger guys," Freeman said.

Carwyle and the rest of the seniors on the boys' team look back to last season's state championship run as their best moment.

"My favorite memory was really the entire junior year with the highlight being winning state," Carwyle said. "That year was really special. We played great soccer together and felt like we could never be stopped."

Seniors have played a key role in the girl's side as well. Addison Mills, Arden Davis, Grace Joyce, Ally Shinall, Nicole Wilkins and Miriam Reid were all in their final season as an Oxford Charger. Joyce led all seniors in goals and assists with 11 goals and 14 assists. Junior Katelyn Rock looks up to all of them in preparation for her role as a senior next year.

"The seniors were so important," Rock said. "Not only are they key players on the field, but they are such stronger leaders that kept up our spirit and determination. I believe our season would've been a whole lot different without them. I look up to all of them."

For Rock and the rest of the girl's team, they are already looking forward to getting back on the field to see what next season brings. With an aggressive mindset, Rock is looking to get revenge on the teams that they lost against.

"I'm looking forward to getting revenge on the teams we suffered tough losses to," Rock said. "I'm also excited to have another year of passionate soccer with my teammates, who are like family and have a successful season."



Senior midfielder **Brookes Kevin** dribbles the ball across the field against Madison Central. The Chargers lost by a score of 2-0 in the first round of the MHSAA State playoffs.

Pegues looks to continue family tradition in Oxford athletics

By Walker Bailey

sports writer

Oxford athletics has been an important part of the Pegues family life. Sophomore Jeremiah Pegues currently plays football and basketball for the Chargers. Jeremiah's father, Jerry Pegues, also played football and basketball for the Chargers in 1990.

"Both are so deceptive in the way that they move, they move like guards but you look up and it is a big man's body," Head Basketball Coach Drew Tyler said. "Jeremiah and Jerry were both so team-oriented and that is what made them into the athletes that they are."



Courtesy of Jeremiah Pegues

Sophomore tight end **Jeremiah Pegues** stands with his father Jerry Pegues. The latter played sports at OHS in 1990.

letes that they are."

Both Jeremiah and his father are multi-sport athletes. The Pegues' are also well known for the impact they have on the football field. Jerry went on to play college football, and his son is on his way to playing college football having already collected three scholarship offers.

"My dad has always taught me right," Jeremiah said. "He used to tell me what I was doing wrong and tell me little things I was doing right. I realized after a while that he was just making sure I remain humble."

Jerry has been through the process of being a student athlete before. His experience as an athlete has helped him prepare his son for the future. He does not want to see Jeremiah make any small mistakes.

"I just have to make sure he is doing everything he is supposed to do as far as diet and training," Jerry said. "Everyone pats him on the back for the good plays he makes but I make sure I point out his bad plays to try and get in his head and help him become a better athlete."

One of the similarities between the two men that stood out the most to Tyler was their composure. According to Tyler, they are natural leaders when there is a lot on the line, and there is no moment that is too big for them.

"Neither of them ever gets too high or too low," Tyler said. "They are both calm and collected not only in sports, but in the classroom as student athletes."

According to Jeremiah, his goal is to become the best version of himself that he possibly can. He knows that his father will be a vital piece of him being able to achieve that goal. Jeremiah leans heavily on his father to reach his goals.

"I want to be the best team player that I can be," Jeremiah said. "The ultimate goal is to do everything I can in order to win a state championship both in basketball and in football."

everything I can in order to win a state championship both in basketball and in football."

Having a father who was a star athlete at Oxford has also served as motivation for Jeremiah. He feels as if he is chasing his father as an athlete and trying to live up to his name during his own athletic career.

"I'm expected to go out and be better," Jeremiah said. "It is hard because I have to live up to his name."

Watching Jeremiah play at the high school that he graduated from has been a dream come true for Jerry. Having begun his sports career here it feels like he is going through the process again but is watching his son in his shoes.

"It makes me feel really good inside," Jerry said. "Watching him both on the basketball court and on the football field where I started my sports career is a great feeling."

Jerry also sees a lot of similarities athletically between him and his son. Many of the positives that he felt he had as an athlete he sees in Jeremiah as well. While he sees those positives, he wants to help his son improve and become better than himself.

"I see a lot of similarities and very few differences between me and him," Jerry said. "We run just alike, we have some of the softest hands ever and can grab every rebound in our area code."

Outsiders say that the two men are on the same athletic pace. Jerry does not see that to be true. He supports his son as his biggest fan but recognizes how good he is. Jerry believes his son is special and has the chance to be great.

"As a sophomore, he is where I was in college," Jerry said. "But, all in all, seeing him excel out there is something I love to see, and one thing he should remember is no matter if he doesn't have any other fans, he will always have one in Jerry Pegues."

OHS FOOTBALL PLAYERS COMMIT TO CONTINUE CAREER ON NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

By Grace Logan

sports writer

National Signing Day is a day most athletes who want to play at the college level dream of. For 10 Oxford High School football players, this dream became a reality.

Seniors Jaquan Webb, JT Owens, DaDa Parham, CJ Terrell, Jay Frierson, Hiram Wadlington, Jamar James, Quentin Wilfawn, Will Hollingsworth and Jaquanzi Johnson all committed to their selected colleges to play football on Feb. 7.

"It is a stress reliever because the process is finally over. I am happy with my decision and feel I made the best decision," Terrell said, who committed to East Mississippi Community College, said about the big day finally arriving.

Picking the right school, for Terrell, included factors like academics and family matters.

It felt like family. The atmosphere and their winning program," Terrell

said. "They formed a great relationship with my parents. So It was an easy choice for me and my family."

National Signing Day to Belhaven University commit, Frierson, was a day to recognize himself and his teammates' accomplishments.

"I am proud of myself and my other teammates getting to see them play at the next level," Frierson said. "It's a blessing for any athlete."

Mississippi Delta Community College signed three of the 10 Oxford players who committed on signing day: Parham, Johnson, and Owens. According to Johnson, this was a happy moment for all of them.

"We have been playing since [little league football] so it is going to be pretty exciting to go down there and do it all over again," Johnson said.

According to Millsaps College commit Hollingsworth, he is excited to join former Oxford High School football player and friend Kolbe Leary.

For athlete and Faulkner University commit, James, committing on

signing day was a significant moment for his family.

"I am the first in my family to sign somewhere to play collegiate football," James said. "At my house, I have a notebook, and I have goals that I want to succeed, and [signing] was one of the goals."

As for Wadlington, Itawamba Community College commit, the ability to sign on National signing day was an achievement.

"[Signing] is pretty big, because I went through a lot of injuries during my high school career so just getting to play at the next level is a big blessing," Wadlington said.

All players had a common answer when asked about what they will miss about high school football. That answer is each other.

"I am going to miss these guys. I have played with them my whole life," Wilfawn, a Northwest Community College commit, said. "I hope it will be like that at the next level, but I will definitely miss these guys."

With 10 players from Oxford committing to play college football, this senior class is one of the largest groups in school history to continue playing at the college level, and for head coach Chris Cutcliffe that "is a testament to our school district."

"Our district has prepared these young men for success in the classroom after they leave OHS," Cutcliffe said. "Our community support for our athletic department at Oxford is exceptional, and these young men have certainly benefited from that."

With such a large group of players leaving, Cutcliffe is pleased with the athletes.

According to Cutcliffe, he is proud of their work at Oxford and what they have achieved.

"This group of seniors is truly a special group," Cutcliffe said. "I believe that they are leaving behind a legacy of what it means to be an Oxford Charger, and I am looking forward to watching their continued success."

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO MOST FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL?



"Winning another national championship at East Mississippi and putting my name in recruiting for D1 schools."



"Looking forward to going undefeated with my new teammates and my new family."



"I hope we win games and have a good time and make new friends and work hard."



"Meeting new people, learning new things, getting better."



"I think it going to be a fun season, meeting new people and being in a new environment."

CJ TERRELL

COMMITTED: EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DADA PARHAM

COMMITTED: MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WILL HOLLINGSWORTH

COMMITTED: MILLSAPS COLLEGE

JAY FRIERSON

COMMITTED: BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

HIRAM WADLINGTON

COMMITTED: ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL?



"I am going to miss these guys. I have played with them my whole life. I hope it will be like that at the next level but I will definitely miss these guys."



"Something I am going to miss is all my brothers and playing with them because they make me feel welcomed."



"Everything. Like the effort I put in over here basically."



"I'll miss having people not just people that have talent. They may not be the best but that give everything they got. I am going to miss that."



"I am really going to miss my teammates, the underclassmen, my coaches and all the people in the community that support us."

QUENTIN WILFAWN

COMMITTED: NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JAMAR JAMES

COMMITTED: FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

JT OWENS

COMMITTED: MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JAGUON WEBB

COMMITTED: MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

JAGUANZI JOHNSON

COMMITTED: MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BACK IN FULL SWING

OXFORD CHARGER BASEBALL



24

PERFECT GAME NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL RANKINGS



5

SENIORS SIGNED TO PLAY
COLLEGE/JUCO BASEBALL



8

SENIORS
GRADUATING



6A

FIRST SEASON
IN 6A DIVISION



Riley Merrell • OHS Yearbook

New season gives OHS baseball chance for redemption

By Preston Hooker
sports writer

Even with the jump up to 6A, the mindset seems to be the same for the Oxford Charger baseball team. Head Coach Chris Baughman seems to be ready for the transition.

"It won't be really any different than it's been the last eight years," Baughman said. "Our big focus this year is to make sure we compete day in and day out because the parity in 6A is much greater. You've got to come ready to play every day."

Last season, Oxford went 32-7 overall, making it all the way to the state championship, only to lose against Pearl River Central in three games. This season, they are looking for a chance to redeem themselves.

"I'm looking forward to bouncing back from last year and trying to get back to Jackson," junior Bo Gatlin said. "We left a lot on the table last year, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can do this year."

To make it through the whole season only to lose on the biggest stage was a tough situation for the team, but senior Jacob Melendez is using it as a lesson learned.

"Nothing's given to you. Last year, we were going in kind of cocky because we've never lost in the state championship in Oxford baseball history," Melendez said. "We didn't

necessarily think it was going to be easy, but we expected to win. This year, we've got to realize that we're not perfect and we're going to mess up, but we're gonna be able to bounce back and compete after every pitch."

"We want another ring. We want a ring in the highest division in the state of Mississippi. All we can do is play our brand of baseball and the best possible baseball we can play at the end of the year."

Chris Baughman
head baseball coach

Baughman, however, looks upon the loss more positively, not blaming it on the players but giving credit to Pearl River Central.

"I still in my heart don't believe we lost the game. Pearl River just beat us," Baughman said. "We didn't play bad, but they just outplayed us that last game. They got some timely hits, and we hit some balls that were hit really hard that didn't fall. It's just

the game, so there really has been no focus on not winning that last game of the year last year."

Oxford returns eight seniors and six juniors that make up a team with plenty of experience, but they also have young talent that could be a big part of the season.

"We've got several seniors. We've got several guys that have been through the mix," Baughman said. "We return a good number of players, but I'm really looking forward to some of these new guys stepping in and developing some roles."

The players have a common goal of getting back to the state championship and winning it, and they've put in the work this offseason to help them achieve that goal.

"A lot of lifting, lot of running, lot of hitting, lot of defensive stuff," Melendez said. We push each other in the weight room and try to make each other better. We have a joke going around that when things get hard, Tupelo is probably doing the same thing, or Oak Grove is doing the same thing, so we just try to push each other."

During the fall, about half the team, according to Baughman, played only baseball, so there were many opportunities to work hard to prepare for the new season.

"Since I'm only a baseball guy, I've been here all fall," Gatlin said.

"I've been playing baseball every day after school. I also play with a showcase team, so I've been playing baseball all year and getting prepared for this spring."

The team spends a lot of time together, whether it be playing baseball or just hanging out, so they've become very close and always have fun, sometimes to a fault.

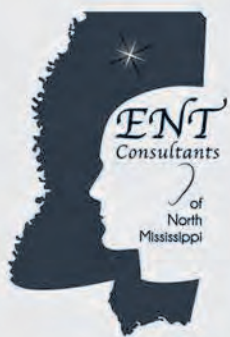
"This group is a very confident, close-knit group," Baughman said. "Sometimes a little too close-knit, and it tends to make us lose focus from time to time. That's one of the things we will have to work on throughout the year is making sure we are taking mature approaches."

Especially with the move to a tougher division in 6A, maintaining focus will be as important as ever for this team to succeed.

"In 6A, there is just so much parity amongst the teams," Baughman said. Anybody can beat anybody on a given day. You can't relax and lose focus in this league."

Despite all the challenges they're facing, Baughman has his eyes on the prize.

"We want another ring. We want a ring in the highest division in the state of Mississippi," Baughman said. "All we can do is play our brand of baseball and the best possible baseball we can play at the end of the year."



ENT Consultants of North Mississippi

Looking for ear, nose & throat specialists?

Most insurance plans accepted, including Medicare & Medicaid

Oxford, MS Office:

497 Azalea Drive, Suite 101
Oxford, MS 38655

Cleveland, MS Office:

810 East Sunflower Road, Suite 100L
Cleveland, MS 38732

Indianola, MS Office:

South Sunflower County Hospital
110 East Baker Street, Suite B
Indianola, MS 38751
Call: 662-887-5530



Call Today:
662-234-1337

For more details, visit:
ENToxford.com

