

THE CHARGER

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HIGH
SCHOOL

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**CHILDREN
HAVING
CHILDREN**

STORY ON PAGE 3

Theatre department wins best production, moves to Southeastern competition

By Anna Barrett
staff writer

The Oxford High School theatre department recently took home the highest award at the statewide Mississippi Theatre Association Competition in Columbus, with its performance of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime."

"In December, the cast and crew of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' traveled to Starkville, Miss. and competed against 17 North Miss. high schools in the North Mississippi High School Drama Festival (North HSDF). To put it into perspective, HSDF was our regional competition and MTA is the state competition," senior Evelyn Smith said. "Our show won the Distinguished Play Award, given to five schools to advance to MTA."

Oxford's group, which consisted of 14 students, had 45 minutes to set up, perform and strike everything back to a bare stage according to Director John Davenport.

"Five schools from the north half of Mississippi and five schools from the south have 45 minutes to perform a show. After performing, the school is then adjudicated by three professional judges that have careers in theatre, whether that be in produc-

tion or directing, etc.," sophomore Prowell Smith said.

At the MTA competition, the show received the Dominic Cunetto Award for Best Production, which is the top award according to Davenport, and some of the actors were awarded individual awards as well.

"I played the main role in the show, Christopher. This was an extremely difficult role, as I had to study the effects of autism and show those effects on the stage," Prowell said. "All of the work and research with this role paid off when I was named the Best Actor in Mississippi. It is an extreme honor, and I am very grateful."

According to Prowell, positive feedback of the show will lead to more success for the production and the theatre department as a whole.

"In many ways, our achievements are easily neglected. I don't think many people realize the enormity of our experience and achievement with this particular show. To put it bluntly, Oxford High School Theatre is the best in Mississippi, and there is a giant trophy in Mr. Davenport's classroom to prove it," Evelyn said. "In March, we will compete in another competition, and we will compete against the top two performing schools from N.C.,

S.C., Tenn., Va., W.Va., Ala., Fla., Ga., and Ky. The last time Oxford High School received the Dominic Cunetto Award at MTA, they placed first place at SETC, which is a national competition."

According to Davenport, the cast and crew are working tirelessly to make sure the show is flawless.

"We will be giving a public performance of our competition piece prior to our final competition in Mobile, [Al.]," Davenport said. "Time and date [of the show] will be released soon."



Sophomore **Prowell Smith** (Christopher) and senior **Emily Toma** (Siobhan) during their performance of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime." The cast won many awards at the Mississippi Theatre Association competition in Starkville.

Blue Ribband Life Event works to break down social norms

By Karina Patel
staff writer

After receiving positive student feedback from the Blue Ribband Life Foundation's event, "If You Really Knew Me," they decided to return to OHS for a second year which began on Jan. 23 to spread their message of togetherness throughout the community.

"Blue Ribband Life is an organization started to partner with the local school systems bringing the community, community leaders and the administrative teams of schools together to provide life skills, team building, anti-bully project opportunities for different concepts to be discussed and help kids understand life in the school arena," Blue Ribband Life founder and executive director Nathaniel Rios said.

Rios started Blue Ribband in 2011 after a turn of events in Columbia, Miss., where Rios was serving as a youth pastor.

"We had a double suicide of a young lady who was attending one of the local schools there. Her boyfriend

had been bullied and committed suicide. When she found out he committed suicide, she proceeded to take her life," Rios said. "I felt nudged to do whatever I could to create some sort of support system that could partner with local schools to help students deal with the different things that life throws our way."

Rios approached Principal Bradley Roberson last year with the idea of holding the event at OHS. Roberson gave 50 students the chance to experience the event last year before having it multiple times this year.

"[Rios] started Blue Ribband because it gave him an opportunity to help students tear down those social norm walls that we tend to build against each other, to fight against bullying and to give everybody a voice," Roberson said.

Roberson believes that the event affirms the "LYP" and "Respect the O" mottos that are known in the school.

"[If You Really Knew Me] puts into action all of the 'Respect the O' characteristics that we are talking about," Roberson said. "About treating each other with kindness, about

forgiving others, thanking people for being an encouragement for others."

According to sophomore Libby Austin, the event opened her eyes to the struggles that others endure.

"This event helped me listen to my peers and get to know them in a way that I had never done before," Austin said. "You don't know what people at school are going through."

The event will be held every Tuesday for the rest of the year as long as enough students sign up.

"It is set for anywhere between 50 and 75 [students]," Rios said. "We break down into small groups later

in the day and create that opportunity for every kid to have their voice heard."

Rios and the Blue Ribband Life Foundation hope that students will listen to stories from other students and leave them motivated to stand up to bullying.

"If they can look into other people's lives and see the strengths of another human being and don't focus on the negative, it can change the environment of a school culture," Rios said. "Now we are approaching life with a clear understanding of our lives and of the people we are going to be connecting with."



Students rush towards the middle of the circle as they participate in one of the many activities the Blue Ribband Life Foundation held as a part of its "If You Really Knew Me" event on Jan. 23.

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Children having children, yet teen pregnancy rate continues to decrease in Lafayette county

By Molly Archer
editor-in-chief

Mississippi has the second highest teen pregnancy rate in the entire country. In 2015 alone, for every 1,000 teenage girls in Lafayette county, eight became a mother. According to Teen Health Mississippi, Lafayette county has the lowest number of teen pregnancies in all 82 Mississippi counties.

Over the last two school years, there have been five confirmed pregnancies at Oxford High School, according to the Abstinence Plus Report given to the school board in June 2017.

"We really try to help teens with good information to make the decision that's the best to themselves," obstetrician and gynecologist Greg Patton said. "There is a certain percentage of teenagers who—even with that information—will choose to be sexually active, and if that's the case, we want them to have the information they need to protect themselves from pregnancy as well as infections."

According to Patton, teen pregnancies in Lafayette County have become less prevalent within the last two decades, but he still sees teenage patients every day.

Not only have the rates decreased in Lafayette, but the teen birth rate in the country in 2015 decreased by 8 percent from the 2014 rate which had set a record low according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Some kids are just going to decide to have sex," Patton said. "If they make that decision and they don't have information about 'Where do I get birth control?' or 'How do I use a condom?'—If they don't have that information then their risk of getting pregnant or getting

those infections just skyrocket.

In 2015, 229,715 children were born to women ages 15 to 19 years which is 22.3 babies for every 1,000 women categorized in that group according to the CDC.

"I WANT TO ENCOURAGE ALL TEENAGERS...TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES THAT BENEFIT THEM FOR THE LONG HAUL IN THEIR LIVES. NOT JUST THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, BUT OUT OF THE RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AND THE PEOPLE THAT THEY CARE ABOUT."

GREG PATTON
OBSTETRICIAN
GYNECOLOGIST

The CDC is not completely sure what the reason for this decrease is but have seen evidence that implies it may be because more teens are choosing to abstain from sex or are using birth

control if they choose to remain sexually active.

"I've been here since 1989, and in the '90s about one in three teenage girls in Lafayette County got pregnant," Patton said. "That number is much less [now] than it was then."

Patton says that pregnancy rates began to decrease in Lafayette county in the late '90s when the community united with health professionals such as himself to implement programming, education and awareness within the teenage community.

According to House Bill 999, all public schools within the state must now have a form of sex education implemented—whether that is abstinence only or abstinence plus classes. Oxford High School teaches absti-

nence plus to students in their health classes.

"The [sex education class] in Oxford is considered one of the better ones with the abstinence plus program where it encourages abstinence, but for those teens that choose to be sexually active, it also provides information about normal physiology, reproduction as well as means for contraception to prevent pregnancy," Patton said. "Studies have shown that those programs are more effective in the long run than our abstinence only programs."

Patton believes that while these programs through the school are necessary and helpful, the school should not solely be in charge of sex education for these teens.

"I think too much responsibility is dumped on the schools. It is critical that the thrust of this information and philosophy come from the parents," Patton said. "Given the resources that the schools have, they're doing about as good as they can."

Teen Health Mississippi says that while the House Bill 999 implemented sex education classes in schools, it did not provide national funding for these classes. The Mississippi State Department of Health along with Teen Health Mississippi worked to get schools involved in the Chart (Creating Healthy and Responsible Teens) program in order to secure federal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) funding which allows schools to teach these classes at no charge.

"I want to encourage all teenagers—guys and girls—to make good choices that benefit them for the long haul in their lives," Patton said. "Not just the spur of the moment, but out of the respect for themselves and the people that they care about."

FACTS ABOUT TEEN PREGNANCY

MISSISSIPPI HAS THE
2ND HIGHEST TEEN BIRTH RATE IN THE U.S.

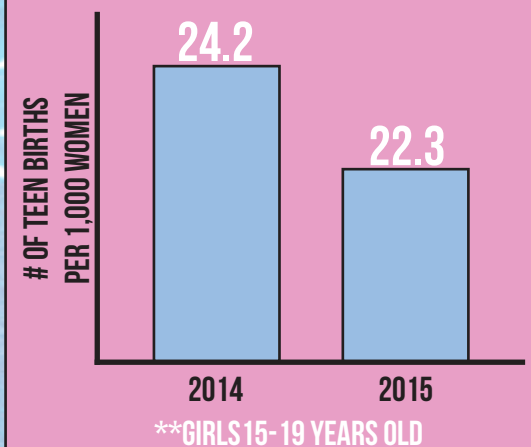
LAFAYETTE COUNTY IS RANKED
82ND OUT OF THE 82 COUNTIES IN MISS. IN TEEN PREGNANCIES

AS OF 2015:

41 %
OF MISS. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAY THEY HAVE HAD SEX

THE AMOUNT OF HIGH SCHOOLERS WHO HAVE HAD SEX DECREASED FROM 54 TO 41 PERCENT BETWEEN 1991 AND 2015

THE TEEN BIRTH RATE DECREASED BY 8 PERCENT FROM 2014 TO 2015



SOURCES: THE CDC, TEEN HEALTH MISSISSIPPI, RESOURCE CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION

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YEAR IN REVIEW

THE VERDICT ON DONALD TRUMP'S FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT

President successful despite controversy

Trump makes poor decisions in first year

By Grant Daniels

sports editor

It has been one year since Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America. In this one year, America is already seeing signs of improvement in the economy, military efforts, immigration reforms, as well as many other areas that were so poor in the Obama administration

April 7, 2017

Neil Gorsuch is appointed to the Supreme Court.

and several other previous administrations.

It definitely hasn't been an easy ride for Trump. For one, he has not been able to get many bills or appropriations past the Senate because of the Democrats colluding against the president. Unfortunately, it takes 60 votes to pass a bill in the Senate, and the Democrats are taking advantage of that. Right now, the Senate minority is filibustering with any type of Republican bill, bipartisan or not.

The media

December 22, 2017

Trump signs new tax reform bill.

has been highly biased against the president. In a study done by the Media Research Center, it was found that both CNN and NBC gave Trump 93 percent negative coverage while CBS was at 91 percent negative.

Despite the obstacles and stumbles President Trump has encountered, he is exceeding expectations economically. Since Trump was elected, more than \$5 trillion of wealth has been added to the U.S. economy.

The economy is surging, with the stock markets hitting unheard of numbers. Dow Jones Industrial has closed above \$26K, which is an all-time record for the market. The Dow is up 32.1 percent from when

the president took over. The Nasdaq is up 32.4 percent, the S&P 500 has risen 24.1 percent and the Russell 2000 is up 18.2 percent. No president in recent history has even been in the vicinity of these type numbers.

Our president has heavily succeeded in bringing more jobs back to America and creating opportunities for Americans to get back to work.

Under President Trump, nearly 1.7 million new jobs have been created and unemployment has fallen to 4.1 percent which is the lowest in almost 17 years. In the manufacturing industry, 159,000 jobs have been created in the manufacturing industry while 57,000 jobs have been created in the mining and logging industries.

In the fight against immigration, Trump is keeping his campaign promises. America has seen substantial increases in arrests of illegal immigrants and the border patrol has cracked down on arrests at the border. Trump has no issue with people from the Mexican border immigrating into our country legally, but we do not want people entering illegally. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates that illegal immigration is costing the economy nearly \$115 billion per year and with our economy, we cannot continue to let illegal immigration happen.

America is making an uphill climb right now. Trump is turning around the economy, jobs and companies are coming back to America and illegal immigration is being more heavily enforced.

I believe he will keep a vital campaign promise, and the wall will be built.

When Trump announced that he would be running for America, he said that this country needed to be fixed. Throughout the next seven years, America will return to prominence.

By Livvy Cohen

editor-in-chief

From the moment President Trump was elected into office, he was met with immediate uproar. On Jan. 21, 2017, the largest single-day protest in U.S. history took place: the Women's March. Men, women and children took to the streets to speak out against the racist, misogynistic and bigoted tendencies of President Trump. One year later, on Jan. 20, hundreds of thousands of people yet again walked the streets of America to take a stand against the current president, due to the fact that he has done an overwhelming, blatant harm to the country rather than any sense of help or a promising future.

Within his first year as president, Donald Trump has managed to expel the very people he should instead be leading with the widely-known "Muslim ban," cultivated an ever-lasting discourse over appealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement—all leading to the suffering of citizens that are not considered part of the top one percent.

And that's just the beginning. This country still has three more years with President Trump, which is scary to say the least. If he's already managed to do this much damage, we can only imagine the possibilities of this country's direction in years to come.

Given the fast facts of the most detrimental actions of Trump's presidency so far, let's look further into it.

Instead of allowing America to be the welcoming country, not to mention the fact that the United States was built off of immigration, President Trump has used his platform to exhibit complete insolence towards Muslim or Hispanic citizens and foreigners. Just one week following being sworn into presidency, Trump signed an executive order

banning entries

to the U.S. of people from seven countries with a majority of Muslim citizens in hopes of protecting national security. To say the least, this ban was blatantly xenophobic.

In addition to placing xenophobic bans into place, President Trump also seems to have no real concern for protecting the youth of our country, whether it means American born citizens or those whose families immigrated to the U.S. Trump would not let go of getting rid of DACA, which according to CNN, "protected young un-

June 1, 2017

Trump plans for U.S. to leave the Paris Agreement.

documented immigrants who came to the US as children from deportation." This inevitably led to a government shutdown earlier this month, due to the fact that Trump and fellow Republicans would rather separate families than decide on an agreement with Democrats to keep them protected and safe inside the United States.

While Trump apparently doesn't feel any necessity to instill protection for many currently in the United States, he also doesn't want to protect future generations through protecting the environment. On June 1,

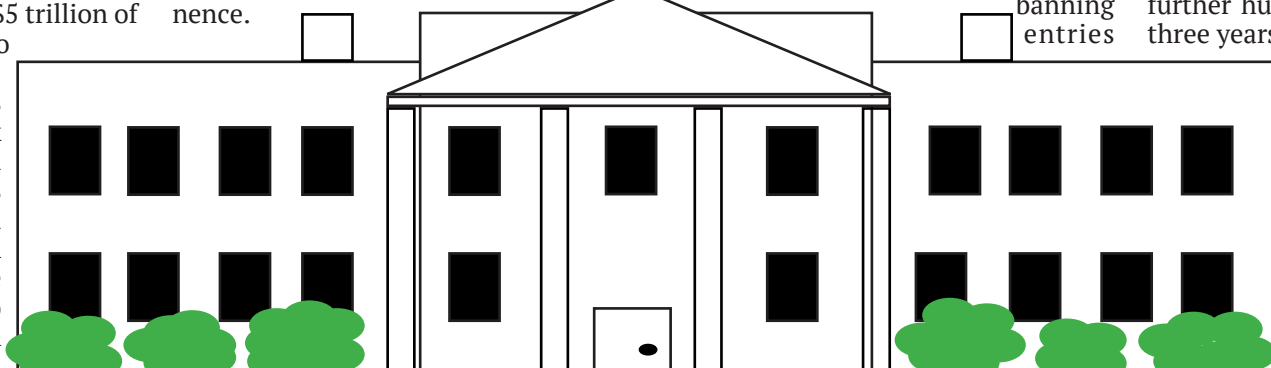
May 9, 2017

James Comey is dismissed from his position as FBI director.

2017, Trump made the decision to leave the Paris Climate Agreement, which was created to help combat climate change. After repeatedly expressing his denial of climate change, we can only wait and see how he further hurts our planet in the next three years.

While, yes, it can be said that Trump has improved our economy, morality should also come into play. A successful country should have a strong foundation of respect and empathy, and I have yet to truly see that message come from Trump's actions.

WHO WON THIS DEBATE? GO VOTE ON THECHARGERONLINE.COM



NO MEANS NO (EXCEPT WHEN IT DOESN'T)

Rape culture degrades victims, praises rapists

By Klaria Holmes

opinions editor

It doesn't discriminate.

Every 98 seconds, it picks its next victim.

Every eight minutes, that victim is a child.

There's no age limit, no favorites, no preferences. It picks its victims as it chooses, regardless of race, gender, social class or employment status.

The narrative for sexual assault and rape has always been teaching people a 'foolproof' method on how to avoid being raped, rather than teaching people to not sexually assault or rape other people. It's ridiculous.

If we gathered all the energy and anger we had about a football game and channeled it into more serious issues like sexual assault cases and punishing perpetrators, numbers wouldn't be as high as they are.

Sexual assault comes in many shapes and sizes, such as sexual harassment, sexual coercion, drug facilitated sexual assault, groping and intimate partner violence.

According to rainn.org or the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim.

Contrary to popular belief, rape and sexual assault are not interchangeable with one another, because rape is a legal term used to describe sexual penetration without consent.

There's a common misconception that women are supposed to be sexually submissive while men are sexually dominant, and because of this, people assume that men can't be and aren't sexually assaulted, leading to a large amount of men not speaking out about their experience.

In America alone, the number of sexual assault cases filed are astonishing. One in every six women and one in every ten men will be the victim of attempted or completed rape in his or her lifetime.

In a survey of high school students by the Department of Justice, the results found that females ages 16-19 are three times more likely to be victims of sexual assault and 18% of sexual assault cases reported are from males.

According to RAINN, 94% of women are diagnosed with PTSD during the two weeks after their assault has occurred, and within nine months of their assault, 30% of women are diagnosed with PTSD. Around 70% of rape or sexual assault victims experience moderate to severe distress, which is larger than any other crime.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, out of 310 sexual assault reports to police, 57 of those reports lead to an arrest, 11 of those cases are referred to prosecutors, seven of them will lead to a felony conviction, and six rapists will actually be incarcerated for their crime.

While the numbers for sexual assault victims or cases continue to increase, the amount of awareness or support groups for those victims doesn't. Society offers more support to reality TV show stars or sports teams than we do

to our veterans or sexual assault victims.

Rape culture is also what fuels the doubt of the mass sexual assault reports due to the "Weinstein Effect." Any time that you belittle or attempt to shame a victim of sexual assault for their assault, you're prolonging the existence of rape culture and giving rapists a voice they shouldn't have.

Rape culture is why you're not surprised at every new rape case in the media because we've been conditioned to it. In American society, we have completely normalized rape and sexual assault, so why is it a shock when it happens?

Even when these cases are reported, perpetrators still might end up with a lenient sentence that doesn't reflect the crime they committed, such as the more recent case of Brock Turner who epitomized rape culture in 2015.

Brock Turner, 19-years-old, was a student at Stanford University, on a swimming scholarship when on Jan. 18, 2015, he sexually assaulted his victim "Emily Doe" who was unconscious at the time. The following year, Turner was charged with three counts of felony sexual assault, with each conviction carrying a potential of a 14-year sentence. Prosecutors recommended that Turner serve six years in a 'moderate' county jail, but Supreme Court Judge Aaron Persky sentenced him to only six months confinement in the Santa Clara County jail, along with three years of probation. Additionally, he was required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Turner's father was famously quoted referring to the incident as "20 minutes of action" which further goes to prove the desensitizing effect that rape culture has on society for him to even think that referring to one of the most traumatizing events to happen to someone as simply "20 minutes of action."

In 2013, Halifax Saint Mary's University came under fire after a viral video of its students reciting a disturbing chant during orientation week. In the video, you can clearly hear the students, male and female, saying "SMU boys, we like them young. Y is for your sister, O is for oh so tight, U is for underage, N is for no consent, G is for grab that a**." All 80 students involved only received sensitivity training and were required to attend a conference on consent for explicitly singing about sexually abusing others.

We should focus on teaching the importance of not sexually abusing others rather than victim blaming with the overplayed excuses or condoning language in songs that illicit situations of sexual abuse.

Victims of rape or sexual assault shouldn't be ashamed or scared to come forward about their assault, nor should we punish the victims more than we punish the perpetrators. Instead of promoting rape culture, we should promote consent culture, in which consent is asked for, can be revoked at any time without shaming or peer pressuring, isn't implied—regardless of how long the relationship—and isn't because of the absence of "no." Ending the trend of victim blaming and lenient punishments for rapists is one step closer to being a better country.

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6 | Features | January 2018 | theCharger | Ligon, Meyers earn 36 on ACT

By Nadeen Al-Ostaz
staff writer

A perfect American College Test (ACT) score was achieved by juniors Gillian Meyers and Jack Ligon.

Ligon scored the highest possible score in each subject, and Meyers received a 36 on everything except for the science portion where she got a 35.

"I wanted to improve my score, but I definitely wasn't expecting to get a 36," Meyers said. "After I finished the test, I felt like I'd done really badly. I expected my score to go down by a lot."

Meyers was at a debate tournament when her mother called her and shared her score after receiving them in the mail.

"I was in the middle of this big cafeteria, with about 60 other people, and when she read out that I had gotten a 36, I let out a little scream and everyone started staring at me," Meyers said. "My parents congratulated me, and then I ran to go find my friends Marawan and Si-

ena and tell them."

Ligon had just come home from a football game when he found out.

"I had just gotten home from the Ole Miss versus Arkansas football game," Ligon said. "My family was upset that Ole Miss had lost after having a big lead, and when I found out about my score, I forgot about the game."

According to Prep-Scholar, only 0.136 percent of people get a 36 on the ACT. Online test preparation company Magoosh says that only up to five questions out of the test as a whole can be missed to receive a 36.

"In a lot of districts, that is not a common thing. Most years we do have a lot of students that actually score close to it [36]," Assistant Principal Chris Bush said. "It is not as uncommon here, but it still is a great thing and something that the school should be proud of those students."

Meyers took an ACT prep course at Ole Miss over the summer. Ligon did not, but he says that

reading a lot of books that interested him helped him to prepare.

"It is important to be well rounded and involved in things like sports and community service," Ligon said.

Meyers took the ACT two years after taking the course at Ole Miss, but she says it may have still helped and would recommend it to other students. She urges a lot of practice to prepare for the test.

"Do a couple of practice tests if you can, or take an ACT prep class," Meyers said. "Do as much prep as you can to feel prepared, but don't do an unreasonable amount of preparation and get stressed out."

The ACT helps students receive scholarships from colleges. Although these students do not have a set college in mind, it is still considered an accomplishment and will help these students once they start applying to universities.

"I am very proud of their achievements," Bush said. "I'm looking forward to see what they will do in the future."



Junior **Maddie Brown** is fundraising for her upcoming summer mission trip to Kenya with her photography business. The photographs above show some of the many pictures that she has taken featuring junior **Meg Anderson** and sophomores **Gigi Yoste** and **Wesley Warrington**.

Students fundraise for mission trip

By Emmie Stevens

staff writer

Several OHS students will be traveling to Kenya this summer for a mission trip. They are going to Karogoto, Kenya, and will be doing a variety of things, including spending some time working on a construction project, working with children in local schools, and getting to know the locals.

"I always love just going over there, and really, and truly being able to get away and unplug," trip leader Lance Reed said. "When you go over to Kenya and you see the joy that the kids and the people have, it's like they have so much joy, and they really don't realize what they don't have. It puts a lot of things in perspective for us here in our country."

Many of the students going on the trip are fundraising in various ways, like junior David Torrent, who is selling baked goods to raise money to pay for the trip.

"I am doing a bake sale," Torrent said. "I'm making a bunch of menu-type stuff that I can hand out. I make them to order, so if somebody says they want banana bread, I'll make them a banana bread. We've got banana bread, snickerdoodle bread, monkey bread, muffins, king cake, apple bundt cake, honey bun cake, and an assortment of cookies. I'm trying to sell them at good prices so

that people want to buy them."

Torrent has baked before, but this is his first time selling his baked goods.

"I used to bake a lot back in middle school and in freshman year. I made the apple cake and chocolate cake all the time, and it was really good, and I just stopped. I guess I just ran out of time," Torrent said. "I'm doing it to raise the money because it's \$4,000 dollars to go, and that's a lot of money, so I had to think of something I could do. I really like it. It's a lot of fun being in the kitchen and just doing stuff."

Junior Maddie Brown is also fundraising for the trip. She is selling t-shirts, hosting a family garage sale, and sending out support letters. She has done photography as well.

"After my trip to Honduras, I realized that I could really see myself in the future being really involved in missions," Brown said. "This trip came to my attention over Christmas break, and I prayed about it for a little bit and made the decision that I wanted to go."

Torrent and Brown are both hoping that, with the support of their community, they can make a difference in Kenya.

"I'd also like to get closer to someone that I've never even thought of meeting, like some of the natives in Kenya, so I'm excited for that," Torrent said.

POP QUIZ!!

1. Who supposedly got a perfect score on their SAT? 2. What percentage of people got a 36 on their ACT in 2017?

- (A) Will Smith (B) Barack Obama (A) 0.02% (B) 1.00%
(C) Bill Gates (D) Peyton Manning (C) 0.136% (D) 0.80%

3. Which was the last college to accept applicants' ACT scores?

- (A) Harvard University (B) Cornell University
(C) Duke University (D) Harvey Mudd College

source: <https://blog.prepscholar.com>

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-D



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MORE THAN A COACH

Reality of living in the spotlight as the child of a coach

By Merrick McCool

contributing writer

Life is different having a SEC college coach as a father. For many current and former students at Oxford High School, this is a reality.

"It's my lifestyle. I've been born into it," Ole Miss head basketball coach Andy Kennedy's daughter, Kaitlyn Kennedy said. "It's hard with adults and stuff watching you more to see what you do and to see how it reflects on your dad."

Kennedy is a senior and one of six Ole Miss Coach's kids currently enrolled at Oxford High School.

"Whatever your parents do it's going to affect your everyday life," Drew Bianco, son of Ole Miss' head baseball coach Mike Bianco said. "Everyone is looking at you not because of who you are, but because of who your parents are. People are always going to know who you are, it kind of adds a target on your back and a lot more eyes watching you."

Drew, also an accomplished high school baseball and basketball player at OHS says that being a coach's kid puts more pressure on him and the expectations others have of him are great.

"There are labels everywhere in the world. Everybody probably thinks that Michael Jordan's kids should be good basketball players because they're Michael Jordan's kids," Drew said. "I'm sure there's a label on me somewhere, but I just try to be my own person."

Junior Dean Mott, son of head girls soccer coach Matt Mott says that he has very similar feelings to

Drew.

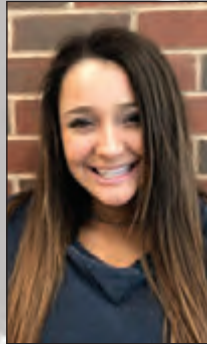
"I feel like sometimes, my coaches expect me to be more serious because they expect a coach's son to be good," Mott said.

An added expectation in the athletic realm is to be expected, but Kennedy says that's not all that comes along with living life as the son or daughter of a college coach.

"People assume that the reason I have more privileges is because of who my dad is not because of who I am," Kennedy said. "I want to make my own name."

Kyndal Madlock, also a senior at OHS, is the daughter of assistant basketball coach Tony Madlock.

"I think that people just assume that because your dad is a coach you feel that you are better than everyone else or upper class, and that's not true," Madlock said.



"It's my lifestyle. I've been born into it."

Kaitlyn Kennedy
Senior

According to Drew, coaches, along with their families not only feel pressure from fans and supporters but also from the national media.

"Coaches have critics all the time," Drew said, "If you are doing good, they want you to get a raise, but if you are doing bad they want you to get fired."

He believes that the best thing for him is to avoid media all together."

"I try to stay away from the media during baseball season because I've been told that if you read it during the good times, that you will believe it during the bad times," Drew said. "I just want to have the people I love believe in me and my dad."

With the variety of media sources in this era, Kennedy believes that it can be difficult to avoiding some of the negative feedback on many social media platforms.

"He doesn't have any social media and so the way he has raised me is to just not worry about it, but it definitely gets me heated," Kennedy said.

With 56 regular season baseball games, as well as practice almost every day, being a coach's kid sometimes means less time together as a family. Sam Bianco, younger brother to Drew, says that his parents do a great job of making sure they have enough family time.

"My parents do a real good job. We spend about two hours playing board games on Sundays to make sure we have enough time together," Sam said. "Even when he [his dad] is away, we'll stay in touch; text, call and for someone that does work a lot it does seem like he is there."

Drew says that if given the option, he wouldn't change a thing about his father's job.

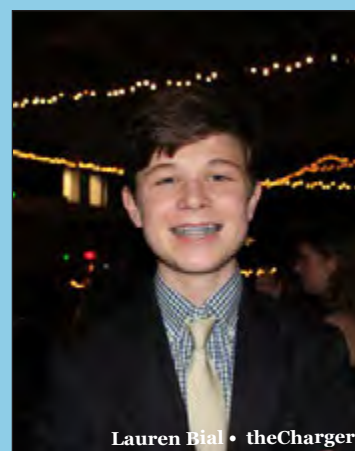
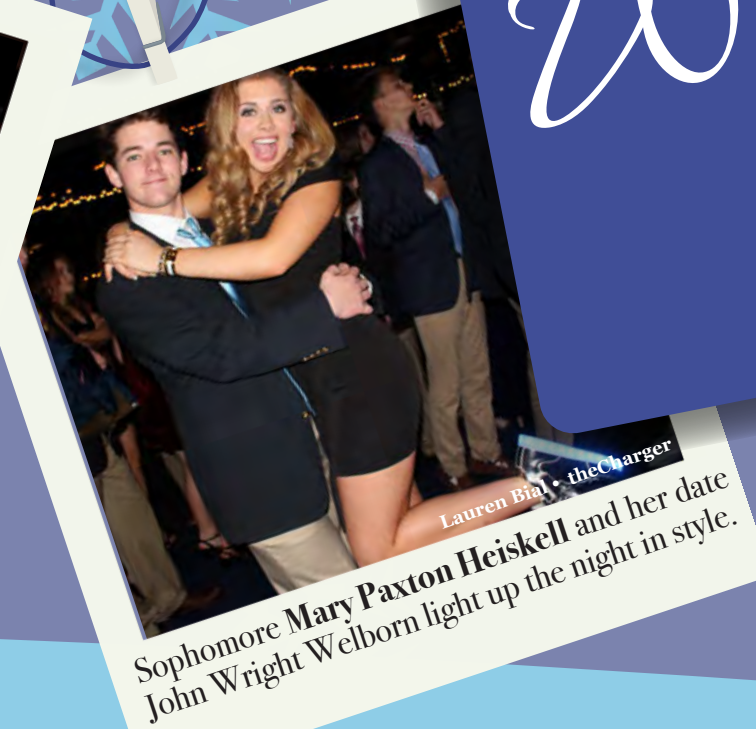
"Everything has its advantages and disadvantages, but I think that being a coach's kid has more advantages than disadvantages," Drew said. "I love what my dad does, and I'm happy that he does it."

KENDAL MADLOCK

DEAN MOTT

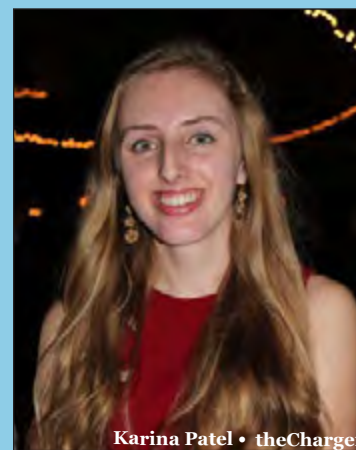
SAM BIANCO





"I enjoyed the social aspect of formal. Seeing all my friends dressed up was nice especially when everyone was dancing."

Jack Green
Freshman



"I am enjoying seeing my friends dressed up and enjoying themselves in a setting different from school."

Patricia Hughes
Sophomore



"I love being able to have fun and dance with my friends."

LilaGrace Lara
Junior



"I'm enjoying spending time with my date and spending time with my friends."

Kobin Ross
Senior

Winter Formal 2018

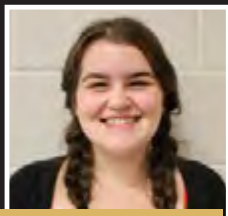
What did these students love about Winter Formal?

best picture

lead actor

lead actress

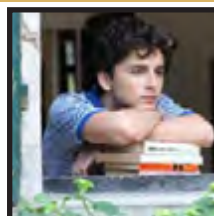
director



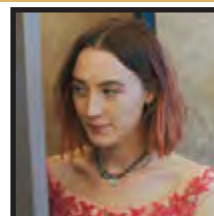
Livvy Cohen
editor-in-chief



"Lady Bird"



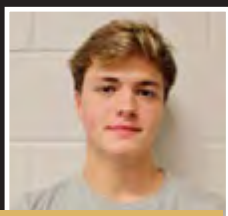
Timothée Chalamet
"Call Me by Your Name"



Saoirse Ronan
"Lady Bird"



Greta Gerwig
"Lady Bird"



William Carrington
staff writer



"The Shape of
Water"



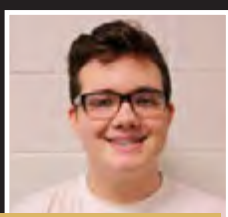
Gary Oldman
"Darkest Hour"



Meryl Streep
"The Post"



Christopher Nolan
"Dunkirk"



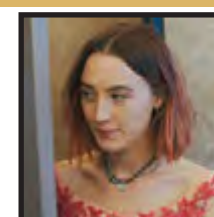
Charlie Zediker
staff writer



"Get Out"



Daniel Kaluuya
"Get Out"



Saoirse Ronan
"Lady Bird"



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End of All Music moves to Square

By William Carrington
staff writer

After almost six years at the location on North Lamar, Oxford's independent record store, the End of All Music, has moved to a new, more central location on the Square at 103A Courthouse Square, upstairs above Nella. Store owner David Swider is excited for the changes the

new location will introduce to his business. "Moving will let us expose more people to more records, and people who have never been in the store will come in here and know that they're dealing with a top notch record store," Swider said. The store's previous location on didn't have any other businesses near it, and its location wasn't conducive to foot traffic, something Swider believes is important for the success of his business.

"I've always loved being able to wander into a record store after hours and listen to whatever's playing and just get lost for a little while," Swider said. "It's been something that I've always wanted to be able to provide, and we're finally going to be able to do that."

The End of All Music will be open until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays to take advantage of the opportunities that its new, more populated location provides.

"On the square you've got tons of restaurants,

bars, a n d other businesses staying open late," Swider said. "People now have a reason to come here at night, so I feel like we'd be stupid not to be open late."

Along with college students and people visiting Oxford, OHS students are excited about the new opportunities for browsing the different music options that the store has.

"I like the location and that more people can access it," junior Matthew Solomon said. "I'm excited to be able to go there more without driving all the way out to North Lamar."

Swider says that the hurdles of the business will stay the same, but so will the vibe of the store. The store's stock will continue to grow into new markets, and Swider says he's most excited to hear new music from Japan this year.

"The hardest part has always been to maintain a good used record stock, and we spend a lot of time and care searching for them and keeping them in stock," Swider said. "We'll still have to really hunt for the used stuff. The store is very similar [to its previous location], you kinda feel like you're in the same spot, which is what we were shooting for."

The new location remains the only independent record store in Oxford and provides the community with plenty of the eclectic music that they have to offer.

"Not much is going to change about the business side of things, but as far as new music, there have been a lot of people reissuing or making compilations of Japanese music, and that's been really interesting because I don't know anything about that," he said. "It's really nice to be able to get those records in, look out for them, and listen to them."

'The Post' brings up important topics with all star cast

By Edward Brown

staff writer

Following the story of The Washington Post and their attempts to publish the Pentagon Papers, "The Post" combines a well-known cast and exceptional writing to create a classic for years to come. With help from the screenplay writing of Liz Hannah and Josh Singer, director Steven Spielberg introduces the viewer to the thoughts and decisions made during this historical 1971 event.

"The Post" chiefly follows the decisions and actions that took place leading up to the publishing of the Pentagon Papers in The Washington Post. With that, the two major characters in the movie are the publisher, Katherine Graham (Meryl Streep), and executive editor of The Washington Post at the time, Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks).

The New York Times first

published these exposed government secrets, but were stopped from publishing anymore of the papers after being faced with legal threats. Employees from The Washington Post were then given many of the Pentagon Papers, which gave both Bradlee and Graham major decisions to make. Confronted with the legality of the situation and pressure from those around her, Graham was forced to make the final decision on publication of the controversial news story.

Helping drive this movie to the success it has seen is the masterful acting, mainly from Streep and Hanks. The two actors have won a combined five Academy Awards, 10 Primetime Emmy Awards, and have starred in numerous successful movies. Some other notable actors featured in the film are Bob Odenkirk, Sarah Paulson and Alison Brie; the film is taken to the next level with everyone's superior acting.

One major issue and topic of discussion brought up by the film is the freedom of the press. The freedom of the press is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution and was a major factor in the publishing of the Pentagon Papers by The Washington Post. The legality of the situation and whether or not they could publish these papers became a major factor in whether or not Graham would allow the publication.

"The Post" is an all-round superb film and is brought together by a trifecta of remarkable acting, directing and writing. Spielberg uses his strong cast

to recreate the historic story involving the Pentagon Papers and The Washington Post. While not every detail of the movie was dead-on accurate, the movie still follows the main events closely and could be beneficial to many by showing a major event in America's history.



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N E R D BY CHARLIE ZEDIKER STAFF WRITER

Hip-hop, rock group N.E.R.D. returns with electrifying album 'No One Ever Really Dies' following seven-year hiatus

After a long seven years, rap group N.E.R.D. has released another masterpiece, "No One Ever Really Dies," a lengthened form of the group's name.

wide range of genres and melodies throughout the album, although the band never really tries to stick to a specific sound. Alongside fellow members of the group, Chad Hugo and Shay Haley, N.E.R.D. makes for a very interesting listening experience for listeners by bringing in refreshing and creative sounds. The album peaked at No. 31 on the Billboard 200, finishing strong in 2017.

During a seven-year hiatus, Pharrell released works of his own, such as the full-length album "G I R L" and soundtracks

Released on Dec. 17, 2017, this is their first studio album since "Nothing," which was released in 2010.

Led by R&B legend Pharrell Williams, N.E.R.D. can best be described as a mix between hip-hop and rock, exploring a

including the "Despicable Me" trilogy and has also appeared on the hit talent show "The Voice." Williams started to work with the group again at the start of 2017, stating during an interview on Feb. 2, 2017 on BBC Radio 1, "It's feeling really good, really special."

The album is well produced, which is not a surprise coming from Pharrell or N.E.R.D., but more notable is the amount of excellent features. Ranging from Ed Sheeran and pop legend Ri-

hanna to rappers like Kendrick Lamar and André 3000, the album definitely benefits from these artists' presence.

Rapper Gucci Mane kills the track "Voilà," adding a moody verse along with William's lyrics. Lamar, featured on "Don't Don't Do It!" and "Kites," uses his usual style of rapping fast and hard, adding a much-needed variation to the heavily pop-influenced songs.

Probably the most notable song on the album is "Lemon," featuring Rihanna. Peaking at No. 40 on the Billboard Hot 100 and going all the way up to No. 18 on the U.S. Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs, this song is clearly the most popular on the album. Personally, I find this album to be one of the best of 2017, not only because of its originality, but for its impact on society with the viral "Lemon Dance Challenge" stemming from the song "Lemon" featuring Rihanna.

N.E.R.D. finished off the year with an admirably made album. With extraordinary production, features and an impact outside the music scene, hopefully the trio will come back soon with another project as progressive as this one.



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Tyler achieves milestone, wins 500th game as coach

By Grace Logan

sports writer

The Charger basketball team reached a milestone with head coach Drew Tyler's 500th win against Tupelo High School on Jan. 5.

The first regional game for the Chargers was not only one of the first games in the 6A division for the team, but also a win for the Chargers.

"There was so much attention of the fact that Oxford was in 6A sports, so I was just trying to be 1-0 in our 6A basketball, Region II," Tyler said. "I was at 499 [wins] and if we could win on the road it would be 500. But those are more of my players' wins rather than Drew Tyler's wins. I do think we answered a lot of doubt because I don't think many people thought we could beat Tupelo so it was a great feeling to beat Tupelo, be 1-0 in the region and that being the 500th win it does draw more

attention to it, so it was a real good feeling."

Because the win was not on their own turf the Oxford community came together to celebrate Tyler's success at Oxford during the game against Coffeeville. The gym was full of several past players from Tyler's coaching career.

"We got a number [of players] back in a short amount of time and I think that means that those times we spent as a coach, as a player, and now as a friend," Tyler said. "I think there is a bond there, and I think I can call on any one of them on anything and vice versa. It was great seeing them. It meant a lot to me."

Tyler made an impact, not only on the basketball program, but also in the lives of his players, including Oxford basketball alumni Stantavious Ivy.

"He inspired me to stay in the gym and stay off the streets," Ivy said. "I want to thank Coach Tyler for being a great person and inspiring me to do my best."

Ivy went on to play football at East Mississippi Community College and is now an Oxford police officer. Along with Ivy, fellow alumni Jeremy Barr's life was impacted by Tyler's words and lessons throughout Barr's high school career.

"He is, first off, a great father, great coach, was a role model and led by example," Barr said. "He also played the game, so he showed us the correct way to do a lot of things."

The celebration of the 500th win was not only special to Tyler, but also to his past players.

"[Tyler's 500th win] represents all the years of his success, and I am just glad to be a part of it," Barr said.

The emotional night included a presentation of a signed basketball from Tyler's players, the game winning ball

from Tupelo and a plaque in honor of the record. For Tyler, the recognition and appearance by the previous players showed one of his goals had been achieved.

"There are some [players] I don't keep in contact with, so I had a surprise look to see some of them," Tyler said. "I think [500 wins] validates what we are doing within our basketball program, teaching life lessons through basketball."

Despite this milestone, the team has to continue to focus on this season's goal: state playoffs.

"Region tournament is at Tupelo, and for us to get back at the state playoffs, then that would be the twentieth year in a row if we can do that this year," Tyler said. "We want to be one of the better teams in 6A basketball, if not the best. We went on the road. Now we have to prove it at home and win at our own turf in these region games. We want to stack wins on top of wins, and I think that will validate what we are doing."

Tyler's 500th win was a symbol for not only wins and basketball skill level but also the personalities that have come through Oxford High School under Tyler.

"You think back about players, see their faces, think about the highs and lows and different times you had with them," Tyler said. "I think teaching and coaching is about building relationships."

According to Tyler, the number "500" humbled him, and he wants to show his gratitude to OHS and Oxford School District for the opportunity to have that many victories.

"I appreciate the loyalty Oxford has shown me. There is a bond between Drew Tyler and Oxford School District," Tyler said. "The longevity here at the school district means, I think, we are doing things the right way here at Oxford."



Madeline Crowe • OHS Yearbook

A GLANCE AT COACH TYLER'S CAREER

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Lady Chargers hope to find their rhythm before playoffs

By Walker Bailey

sports writer

The Oxford Lady Chargers are heading into the home stretch as they prepare for playoffs. Oxford has struggled to stay healthy throughout the season but will be 100 percent when the playoffs start on Feb. 5.

"It's our top priority right now," head coach Hunter Crane said. "That's our number one goal right now is to get into the postseason with a fully healthy roster and be ready to go."

Oxford only has one game in the next two weeks, so they will have opportunities to remain rested, but will continue practicing hard to remain in shape. Sophomore Morgan O' Connor knows that when playoffs roll around it has to be all hands on deck.

"Now is the time to get rested because playoffs are coming," O' Connor said. "When playoffs roll around everyone has to be ready because we need everyone playing well in order to win games."

The Lady Chargers have been focusing on finding a rhythm of late.

Oxford has played some less competitive schools as of late as they beat Desoto Central and South Panola by a combined score of 17 goals to none.

"It has helped a lot," junior defender Addie Thompson said. "We've focused on staying in shape and played in some new formations throughout this stretch of games. We've also worked on switching the field."

The games against inferior competition have given Oxford the opportunity to empty the bench and learn about players that could potentially have an impact throughout the playoffs, and for the future.

"Our starters have only had to play about half of the game," Thompson said. "it allows us to get rest but it also allows other people to get into game situations as well."

Oxford has seen multiple teams that will be favorites to contend for the state title early in the season. The Lady Chargers struggled but a lot of their struggles could be attributed to players missing games for personal reasons or for injuries.

"We just all have to put our heads into it," O' Connor said. "As long as we play hard and play for each other we're going to be fine."

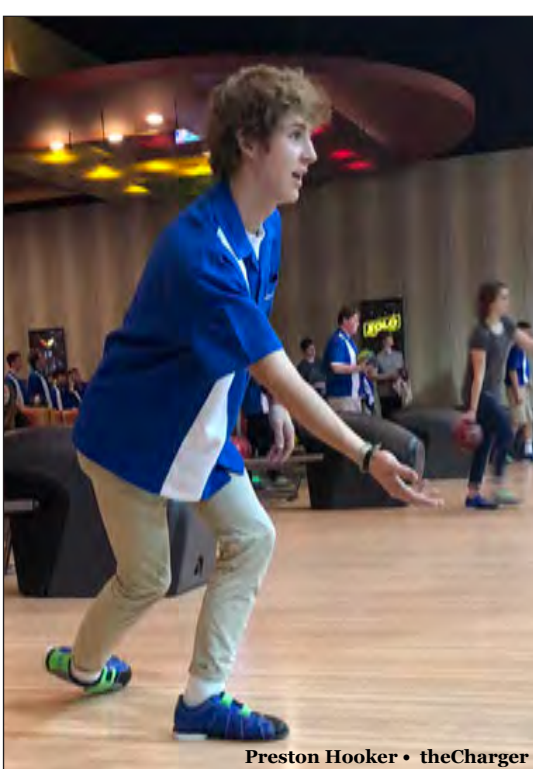
Oxford has struggled to find a rhythm this season and hasn't been able to put together strings of games in a row. The Lady Chargers are hope-

ful that they are finally beginning to click as they near the postseason.

"We really haven't been able to find a rhythm all year," O'Connor said. "We have not clicked like we've wanted to all year long and hopefully when the postseason starts we will be playing our best soccer."



Senior forward **Grace Joyce** attempts a header off of a corner kick against South Panola. The Lady Chargers defeated the Lady Tigers by a score of 10-0 to extend their winning streak. State playoffs will begin Feb. 5 with Oxford hosting the Madison Central Jaguars



Preston Hooker • theCharger

Junior **Jackson Dear** throws a bowling ball down the lane in Oxford's match against Lafayette Tuesday, Jan. 23. The Commodores won the match in overall points.

Bowling team closes out the season versus Lafayette

By Preston Hooker

sports writer

The Oxford Bowling team, after practicing twice a week for almost three months, held their first and last match of the season against Lafayette High School on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Lafayette won by having the most overall points, but Oxford showed its strengths in its first year as an official organization.

The team was led by first year bowling coach Joseph Sabatier. Team members had nothing but positive things to say about his role within the team.

"Coach Sabatier is a great coach and really provided a fun environment for the team," junior Jackson Dear said. "Ten out of ten."

One thing that many people pointed out was Coach Sabatier's energy as one of his most valuable traits.

"What I really liked about

Coach Sabatier was how he was always nice and encouraging to everyone on the team," junior Matthew Swales said. "It really helped build an environment that was perfect for some of the less experienced bowlers on the team."

The general opinion among bowling team members is that it was a success. The team provided an opportunity for students of all ages to improve their bowling skills.

Because this was the first year a bowling team existed, the main purpose was just to learn how to bowl and get better at it. Something that Coach Sabatier preaches is consistency, which many players seem to have improved at throughout the year.

"I think the best skill I obtained from the season is better consistency in my bowling," Dear said. "My average scores have risen dramatically throughout the year."

All of the practice built up to one match against Lafayette. The team lost, but still felt confident about their performance.

"I feel like since we are a brand new team, we still have some work to do, but after our first bowling match I feel that we have plenty of younger students who will end up being awesome bowlers," senior Meredith Grantham said. "I feel pretty confident after our first game."

The match marked the last time the bowling team would get together until next school year. Looking ahead, the team may be looking to cut down the number of members and set up a few more matches.

"I hope next year Coach Sabatier doesn't take as many bowlers for the team, but overall it was a pretty fun experience, and I think there's a lot of potential for next season," junior Frank Yerger said.

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Jaqaun Webb commits to play football for Marshall

By Grant Daniels

sports editor

After three seasons in an Oxford Charger uniform, senior wide receiver Jaqaun Webb has made his commitment to play football at the next level. Listed as a three-star wide receiver, Webb has committed to play for Marshall University in the fall. Webb was a Mississippi-Alabama All-Star Game participant. He is listed as the No. 9 overall player in the state of Mississippi and the 90th ranked wide receiver in the country according to the 24/7 Sports recruiting numbers.

Webb has played at the varsity level for the Chargers ever since his sophomore season. He has totaled for 723 receiving yards on 48 receptions giving him an average of 15.1 yards per reception. Webb has also posted eight touchdowns.

"[Jaqaun] has definitely been the guy who has made a bunch of big plays and long touchdowns with the speed that have been huge in big games," head coach Chris Cutcliffe said.

Webb was also chosen as one of

the four team captains by his teammates. Along with all the success on the field, Cutcliffe is pleased with Webb's role as a captain.

"I think the biggest thing that you can say about [Jaqaun] is that he was voted a captain by his teammates," Cutcliffe said. "What an honor that is, and I think he did a great job with that role."

Webb received a total of 14 offers from Division I programs. Those offers came from Alabama, Arkansas State, Louisiana, Louisiana-Monroe, Louisville, Marshall, Massachusetts, Middle Tennessee, Ole Miss, Oregon State, South Alabama, Southern Mississippi, Tulane, and UAB. Other than Marshall, Webb only heavily considered two other schools out of the ones that offered.

"The only other schools I considered were Southern Miss and Arkansas State," Webb said.

For any athlete, the process of choosing where you want to play your

sport at the next level is not easy. Cutcliffe believed in Webb and was there for guidance in the recruiting period.

"I'm always there to give him advice and to talk to him, but he is a very

they have believed in me," Webb said.

The Thundering Herd have hosted a good number of players in receiving game who have gone on to play at the next level. Some of those include former NFL wide receiver Darius Watts, NFL tight end Lee Smith and NFL legend Randy Moss.

"It means a lot to go in and play after a great

legend like Moss,"

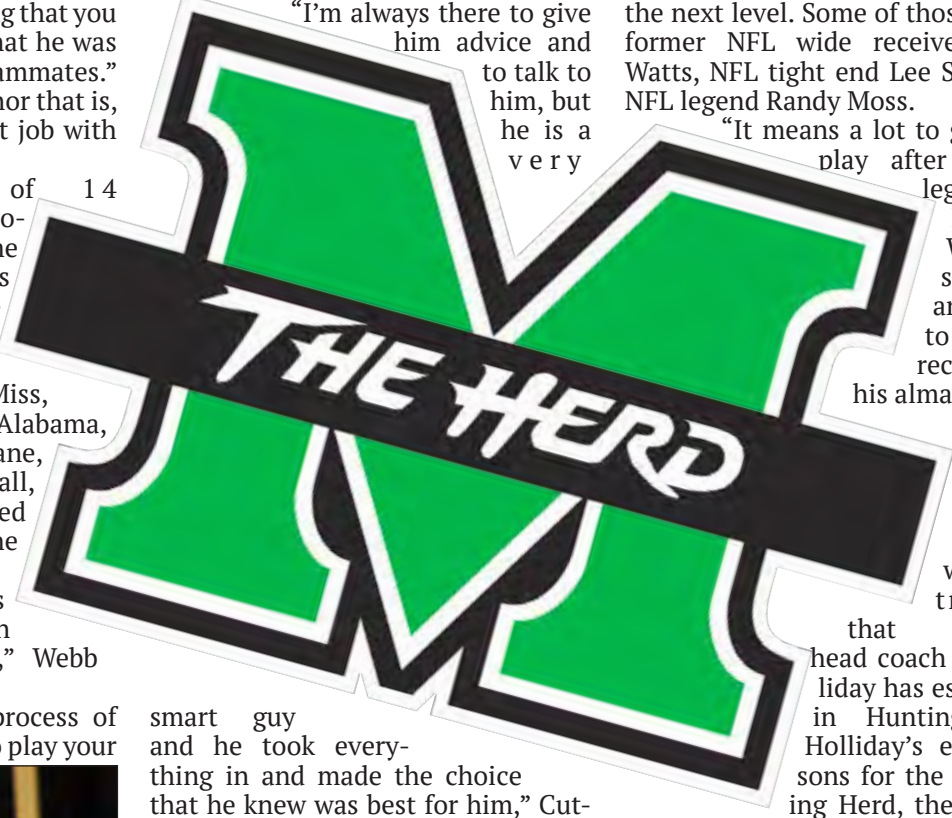
Webb said. "It's an honor to play wide receiver at his alma mater."

Webb will be a part of a strong winning tradition

that Marshall head coach Doc Holliday has established in Huntington. In Holliday's eight seasons for the Thundering Herd, the program

has seen five bowl wins out of five bowl appearances. Cutcliffe believes Webb will fit right in with the program.

"I think he would be an asset anywhere with his speed," Cutcliffe said. "He is going to be able to step right in and be one of the fastest guys there right off the bat."



smart guy and he took everything in and made the choice that he knew was best for him," Cutcliffe said.

In the end, Webb saw Marshall as the right place for him after being recruited by first year Marshall wide receivers coach Dallas Baker. Webb appreciated the fact that Marshall kept their interest in him.

"Marshall stuck with me throughout the whole recruiting process and



Cailyn Brock • OHS Yearbook

Senior wide receiver Jaqaun Webb goes up to catch a pass against a defender for Center Hill last season. Webb is committed to play football for the Marshall Thundering Herd next season.

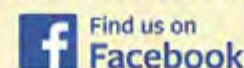
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