

THE CHARGER

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SCHOOL

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LIBERTY VALENCE



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RALLY, COUNTER-
PROTESTS OP-ED



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ARIANA GRANDE'S
"THANK U, NEXT"
REVIEW



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Ocean Bowl wins fourth championship, advances to nationals

By Wesley Warrington
staff writer

The OHS Ocean Bowl Team recently won the Hurricane Bowl in Ocean Springs, Miss. They competed against schools from Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida. The team qualified for the National Ocean Bowl competition in Washington, D.C. this April.

“The team competes for the state title in early February, and if they advance, they compete in the national competition, which varies every year with location and dates,” senior and Ocean Bowl Captain Sharjeel Gul said.

Genetics and Microbiology teacher Nicole Roberson has sponsored and led the team for five years at OHS.

“I kind of guide them. I have to select who will be on the A-team to narrow it down, but I basically make sure they get where they are supposed to be,” Roberson said. “I just try to keep them motivated and keep them from getting frustrated with each other and the material.”

This year’s Ocean Bowl team consisted of five new competitors: Gul, sophomore Edmund Doerksen, junior Bach Nguyen, sophomore Kareem Elgohry and senior Mohamed Marzouk. Marzouk explained that the team members have known each other for a

long time, have worked together several other times in classes they have had and see each other every day, so it was not extremely difficult to adjust.

“All of the schools that knew us as the returning winners didn’t realize we were bringing a completely new five [members] to the competition,” Roberson said. “They had to go in and compete together as a new team, and they really proved themselves and went completely undefeated.”

In preparation for their competitions, the team meets together once a week to practice and focus on answering with the buzzers, go through material and practice the team challenge questions, a question the team has to solve and answer that can sometimes be up to two full pages in length.

“We practice every Friday during power hour; however, as competition nears, we hold more practices both at school and other places,” Gul said.

Although the team is excited, there are new aspects of the competition that the team is inexperienced with that they will be facing in Washington, such as the Science Experts Briefing: a simulation of a Congressional hearing, according to Roberson.

“They’ll have to prepare a Science Experts Briefing, so we’re waiting on the legislature for that one,” Roberson said. “That will be a dif-

ferent hurdle they have to cross, but they’re ready and excited. It’s going to be fun.”

The Ocean Bowl Team is excited to travel to Washington, D.C. for their National competition, according to the team members and Roberson. They are very thrilled to compete and have the chance to make Oxford proud by bringing home the trophy.

“I think that our performance at the national level will make our school proud,” Gul said. “We have the capability to beat many teams at na-

tionals, as long as we put in the work and effort required.”

The team is always looking for new members. So far in Oxford’s history, there have only been male members on the team, but Roberson is constantly working to recruit females.

“I would just like to finish this off by asking people to join the team next year and keep Oxford High School’s streak going by winning the Regional Competition for the fifth time,” Marzouk said.



Karina Patel • theCharger

Ocean Bowl members senior **Sharjeel Gul**, senior **Mohamed Marzouk** and junior **Bach Nguyen** wait to answer an Ocean Bowl practice question read by Ocean Bowl teacher sponsor Nicole Roberson during a practice. Since the Ocean Bowl team won the Hurricane Bowl, they will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Ocean Bowl competition in this April.



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Theatre continues season with western romance

By Anna Barrett
associate editor

As the theatre season continues, Director John Davenport chose a challenging piece to kick off the semester. OHS theatre worked hard to perfect “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence,” which opened on Feb. 14. According to Davenport, it is a relatively new play based on a short story, of the same title, that was written in the 50s, and became a very famous Hollywood film in the 60s.

“Our main character is from New York, and he is traveling outwest. He comes in contact with kind of a rouge group of outlaws,” Davenport said. “He is stuck in this town until he can heal, and while he is stuck there, he befriends some people who don’t know how to read, and he teaches them to read. He eventually starts a school. Since education has come into the area, one of the outlaws, who everyone is scared of because he is supposedly an extremely talented gun slinger, Liberty Valence, makes threats, and our main character even-

tually ends up having to face him. The whole play is the young man questioning whether or not he actually shot Liberty Valence.”

Whether you want to act or work on crew, there is always a place where you can truly feel at home in theatre. It may not be easy starting out, and it may not really get any easier, but if you really want to do it, then just do it.”

Joel Adamson
senior

of all of the characters,” Adamson said. “One of the hardest aspects is trying to find all of our motivations and goals, which is vital to making the characters and the overall story believable. I have taken apart of other shows that are of this same difficulty.

For this show, Davenport carefully chose the cast, with the lead roles falling into the hands of the more experienced actors, such as Joel Adamson.

“This show is another hard piece to produce because of the depths and emotional backgrounds

Shows such as, 12 Angry Men and Romeo and Juliet. Even though the process is hard, the end product is always rewarding and I’m always glad I took part in them.”

To help the actors and actresses get more into character, Davenport recruited the help of U.S. History teacher, Dr. Stella Lindsey.

“I believe historical knowledge enhances and informs all of our experiences—which is particularly true of this play. You take so much more away from the performance when you have some knowledge of the history of the West,” Lindsey said. “I’ve just been lucky to have been invited into Mr. Davenport’s world. Simply put, he’s a creative genius and a gracious and kind man. We have collaborated on theater and history trips to Chicago over the past three years, and we’re always talking about the historical context of different plays or musicals and why they were important at a particular time in history.”

Lindsey helps the characters better understand what was happening historically to help the acting.

“The plot is driven by the changes taking place in the West and in the nation as a whole. Early in the play, each character had been deeply impacted by the challenges of living in a region where power belonged to those who took it through the use of brute force,” Lindsey said. “As the play moves forward, power shifts to the politicians, the courts, the educated, and—ultimately—the “civilized” in society. The gunslinger gives way to the politician, but the question of legitimacy remains an issue.”

The OHS theatre program has rewarded Adamson in different ways, and he encourages everyone to become a part of it.

“There may be some days where the work is hard, but it is always so rewarding and satisfying to see everything come to fruition,” Adamson said. “Whether you want to act or work on crew, there is always a place where you can truly feel at home in theatre. It may not be easy starting out and it may not really get any easier, but if you really want to do it, then just do it.”



Top left: Seniors **Caroline Newsom** and **Jacob Heuer** act out a scene. Bottom left: Senior **Caroline Newsom** walks down the stairs that were a part of the set as she enters into the scene. Middle: Seniors **Caroline Newsom** and **Joel Adamson** gaze into each others’ eyes. They were the lead roles in the play that is considered a western love story. Right: Seniors **Joel Adamson**, **Caroline Newsom**, and **Damarius Wilson** stand around a “bar” having a conversation. This love story opened on Valentine’s Day and closed on Feb. 16.

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Chargerbots to compete in state competition

By **Eli Solinger**
staff writer

The Chargerbots, the robotics team at OHS, participated in the state competition held on Feb. 23 at the Tad Pad where the team placed 19th out of 25 competitors.

“We’ve got a pretty large amount of people on the team; however, we have about six to seven people who consistently arrive and then officially we have 12 members,” senior team member Anneke Buskes said.

According to Buskes, the team competed in two regional competitions before moving on to state, and because of their success, they received an invitation to the state.

“If we get past state obviously there is more, but we do around three competitions a year,” Buskes said.

According to Buskes, there are multiple ways to qualify for

state. Teams can qualify by not only doing well with the success of their remote control

“I really enjoy working with the robotics students. They are extremely talented, hard-working and motivated.”

Amanda Smiley
Chargerbots sponsor

“The engineering journal is how we made it, step-by-step on what each individual did and how the robot works,” junior team member Cooper Crawly said. “Literally, we take pictures of each drawing we do and you have to be good at

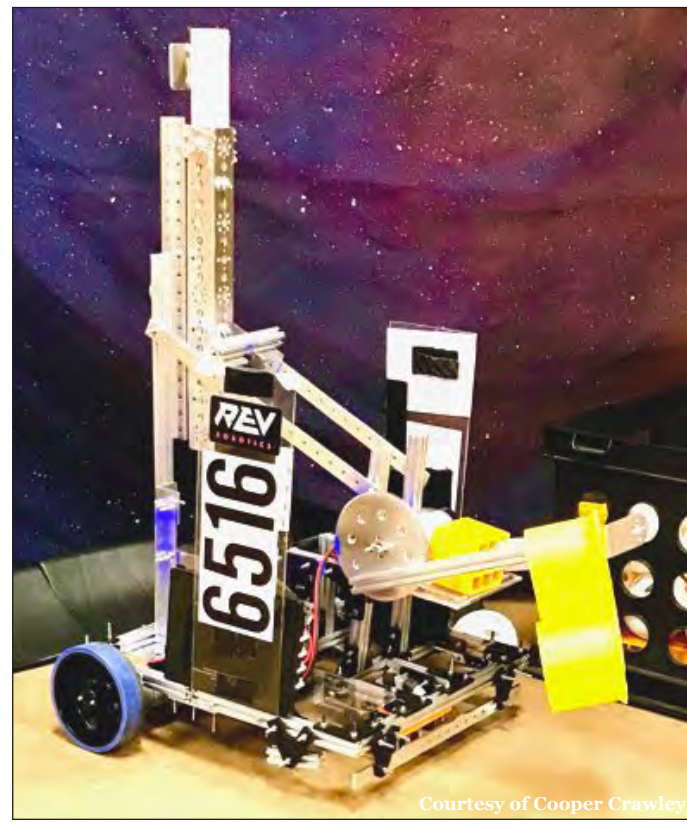
writing, you have to tell about its flaws and advantages, why we kept it or did not keep it,”

According to sponsor of the Chargerbots and OHS science teacher Amanda Smiley, she enjoys working with the team and is having an amazing time supporting the team.

“I really enjoy working with the robotics students. They are extremely talented, hard-working and motivated,” Smiley said. “They fully engage in the engineering process and face every challenge head-on.”

According to Smiley, the state competition is very complicated, but he thinks the team has a chance at winning if they put in the work.

“I do believe that the Chargerbots have chance to win state. The competition is going to be stiff, but if they stick to the strategy they have developed, they could easily win,” Smiley said.



Courtesy of Cooper Crawley

At the state competition on Feb. 23, the Chargerbots competed with their robot named Precious. The team consists of seniors **Sydney Rester, Anneke Buskus, Anders Sinha**, juniors **Bach Nguyen, Donald Rogers, Cooper Crawley** and freshman **Trey Brower**.

By Eve Gershon • For answers go to thechargeronline.com

ACROSS

3. Why hasn't he responded? (He's playing _____)
4. Polygon of shops and restaurants
8. In case the physical version just wasn't enough
13. Saint of love
15. The Facebook of education
16. Derivatives and integrals...it just doesn't add up
17. UM bus system
19. "The Sound and the Fury" author
20. April 6
24. "The Man Who Shot _____ Valence," OHS production
25. Offsides
27. "Bless her _____"
28. School outfit no-no

DOWN

1. First African American student at the University of Mississippi
2. The Southerner's water
3. 2019 Teacher of the Year
5. Mobile activity with two tiers of fun
6. Team with a sea of knowledge
7. "The Shawshank Redemption" actor
9. Oxford's sister city
10. John Wayne _____
11. A yearly epidemic—make sure to wash your hands!
12. 11/27/18?
14. It's not just the sound of a clock
18. School mascot name
21. "Yes, _____" (it's only polite)
22. Mississippi governor
23. A219
26. Southern "you"

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RACISM

& HOW IT'S ADAPTED WITH THE TIMES

“CAUSE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN’”

Klaria Holmes | Opinions Editor

In the 1800s, it looked like the slave trade. In the 20s-30s, it looked like barring blacks from their basic human rights. In the 60s, it looked like vicious cycles of segregation, blacks being hosed and chased by dogs for fighting for the most basic human rights, and protests.

Now? It looks like the face of our country, societal views, and in its smaller form, a red hat that preaches a sort of xenophobic hate.

In less than 50 years, we went from barring a black student from attending a school in our own town to electing a black president for two consecutive terms.

But alas, these were just mirages to the millions of blacks starving from thirst in a metaphorical racist desert.

As we move closer to a time where political correctness and sensitivity are starting to control all aspects of our lives, racism and racists alike have been forced to find more covert ways to rear their ugly head.

Nowadays it looks like calling the cops on black people minding their own business, not returning phone calls to interviewees with names that sound “too ethnic”, having to publicly outlaw lynching—all in 2018 no less.

We saw a scary, steady uprise in police-civilian shootings and also a steady decrease in convictions for those same police. We saw two black men publicly lynched in Ohio. We saw acts of blatant and covert racism everywhere.

It's time to call a spade a spade; racism hasn't left us, it's just adapted to the times. And we've let it.

While yes, we have made tremendous strides as a country, it's important not to forget that just last week an Alabama newspaper stated he believed it was “time for the KKK to night ride again.”

It's important we don't forget that our own town held one of the largest confederate rallies in the country, the irony of it being held during black history month isn't lost amongst most of us.

Don't get me wrong, America has tried very hard to improve race relations, and it's admirable, but the changes they've made are the bare minimum to equality as one can get in America, especially as an American citizen.

In 2016, America gave a platform—and thus a sense of power—to bigotry, hatred, xenophobia, misogyny when they elected the 45th President.

That election brought major changes to how American citizens and the world sees our country, extremely polarized

our country, and pushed our progress backwards. In November 2016, it seemed like after we'd just taken two steps forward, some of us pushed the country 15 steps back.

One of the reasons racists feel justified in their racism is because the leader of our own country feels as though he can say anything about anyone. If the leader of the free world can spew hate speech, that only fuels the fire for racist citizens to do the same, all under the guise of their first amendment rights.

Nowadays, it's easy for the general population to drown out the cries of minorities when they talk about sensitive, racially charged issues with phrases like “we've come so far” or “dwelling on the past isn't effective.”

While both of these statements carry some weight of truth to them, to truly understand racism you must realize the many faces it has taken.

Racism still exists. A black president didn't fix it. Granting blacks the things they marched, sat at restaurant counters and prayed for didn't fix it.

Thinking of racism as a “fixable” issue is naive to say the least because you can't alter someone's thoughts. There will always be someone somewhere with a sense of entitlement that feels as though they're better than their minority counterparts.

On the other hand, you can attempt to fight it.

For starters, we need to stop sending out the wrong messages.

This post-civil rights movement era we're living in has built this portrait that tells blacks to adapt and assimilate rather than embrace their blackness. Assimilation, also referred to as “code-switching” is taught so that you they don't have to change their racist views. You shouldn't have to change things that are out of your control for someone else to be comfortable.

History has shown us time and time again that America has an anti-black attitude, and as the times have changed it has been forced to adapt to the times we're living in.

Exercise your right to vote at every election. Racist practices continue with racist people that have power. You can't stop them being racist, but you can take away their position.

History has shown us time and time again that America has an anti-black attitude, and as the times have changed, it has been forced to adapt to the times we're living in.

From slavery, to Selma, to where we stand now as a society that condemns minorities yet seems to praise racists, we've come a long way, but we have just as long to go.

theCharger

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Confederate rally makes no true change, damages town's image

By Jesse Edge

staff writer

Oxford, Miss., a small town famous for its college football and most infamous for its grizzly integration riots in 1962, felt a familiar presence in its town Square and on its university campus last Saturday, Feb. 23. The University of Mississippi, which lies less than a mile from Oxford's town Square, recently ignited a debate stemming from the proposition to remove a Confederate statue from campus. Those who associate their heritage and roots with the Confederacy began to speak out against the proposition. After months of rumors and whispers, these groups organized a demonstration protesting against the statue's removal.

An organization calling itself Confederate 901 began the distribution of fliers promoting what it called the largest confederate rally in the country with the purpose of "drawing a line in the sand." Soon, groups like Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Hiwaymen who were present at Charlottesville, Va.'s "Unite the Right" rally in 2017, which left three dead and 38 injured, announced they would be in attendance. In an attempt to avoid the catastrophe that Charlottesville was, law enforcement came prepared for the worst.

Supervised by the Oxford Police Department, the University Police Department, the highway patrol and specialized units from all over the state, the protesters began at the Oxford

Square. With Confederate flags waving and men in gray standing proudly, protestors flowed in and congregated around the courthouse that stands parallel to a Confederate statue. Tensions began to rise and fall as chants and slurs were thrown 15 feet over the street dividing the two sides.

More flags, men, women and children piled in around the courthouse. The volume of the Confederate protestors continued to rise until silenced by a man named K-Rack Johnson. Garbed in a Confederate soldier's cap and a leather vest embroidered with the rebel flag, Johnson silenced every person with a rebel flag in their hand. His voice echoed through the crowd calling for his "fellow confederate brothers" attention. He made their presence and purpose clear, to educate and remove the stigma from Confederate statues and symbolism. Once his fiery sermon came to an end, the counter-protestors had grown in size.

After all of the demonstrators gathered, a space cleared out in the middle of the crowd. A man walked into the middle of it all, with all the yelling and screaming, and he called for a prayer. HK Edgerton, a 71-year-old African American man from North Carolina, dressed in a full confederate uniform prayed for everyone in attendance, he gave thanks to plantation owners and what they'd done for black slaves, and Confederates attempts to separate from the Union. As the demonstrators were inspired by his words, counter

protestors were taken back and in shock.

The two sides, divided by the road between the courthouse and sidewalk, grew vicious with aggressive, slurred chants. "Democrats kill babies," "Socialism is the end of our freedom" and "Heritage not hate" reverberated through the winter air. These chants degraded into consistently shouted statements touting their pride in not having college educations. To the demonstrators, this fact was a point of pride, avoiding the corrupt American education system in their eyes was an accomplishment. Counter protestors shouted back across the street ranging from "racism has got to go" to "you don't belong here." They boasted their education levels and civility while contradicting those with offhanded comments towards the demonstrators. The two sides divided in morals and ideals maintained a repetitive energy until moving on foot to the university to carry through the same process.

The demonstration made no change and neither did the counter protestors. The proposition for the statues removal hasn't been revoked, the progressive mindset of Oxford hasn't been changed, and the demonstration did not serve its purpose. Both sides exchanged chants and voiced their opinion but the only thing affected by the march was Oxford Mississippi's image. The parallel between oxford's past and present were met. It's submerged demons of segregation and racism re-emerged for this February day.



Edward Brown • theCharger
An Oxford police officer watches over protesters on the Square. The rally started in front of the courthouse at around 1:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 23.



Edward Brown • theCharger
Participants of the rally stand behind the Mississippi state flag on campus. Members from the Confederate 901, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Hiwaymen attended.



Edward Brown • theCharger
A group of counter-protestors protested the rally from behind police barriers. Groups of counter-protestors showed up to both the Square and campus to protest the ralliers.



Franks named Teacher of the Year for devotion to education

By **Heath Stevens**
staff writer

On Jan. 29, it was announced that Brittany Franks earned the OSD Teacher of the Year award. Franks is an English II teacher at Oxford High School and has been teaching here since 2017.

Franks' family is deeply rooted in public education, especially in Mississippi.

"My mother is a teacher. She's taught math for a very long time now. My dad served on the school board [in Pine Grove, Miss.] for most of my life, so public education and specifically public education in Mississippi is something that my family is really passionate about," Franks said. "My entire family values education, so I knew I wanted to do something that would improve and make a difference in the schools in Mississippi."

One of Franks' favorite things about teaching English is the flexibility of the subject and the different life lessons using the books they read in class.

"I can change my text to fit the group of students I'm teaching or to fit things that are going on in the world," Franks said.

One way Franks has already made an impact at Oxford High School is by teaching a double-blocked English class all year to help students that are struggling in their English class.

"One of the best aspects of her

teaching is her willingness to volunteer and help out kids," Principal Chandler Gray said. "She offered to basically double-block her classes all year long so that she could have more time with those students and help them be successful."

Amanda Witt, leader of the English Department at OHS, believes Franks excels in getting students who may not necessarily care about school or their grades to try in class and enjoy themselves while doing it.

"She's really good at picking books that her students will enjoy and connect to," Witt said. "She knows how to get her students to truly care about English."

Franks started a new club called Writer's Block where the higher achieving students help struggling students with their writing.

"She's done things like starting the Writer's Block, which is a writing lab for students to help other students with their papers and those kinds of things," Gray said.

Witt believes that though Franks may not have been teaching at Oxford very long, she has already heavily influenced the English department at OHS.

"She has added creativity, and she has brought excellent content knowledge in English and how to teach English," Witt said. "She has brought value in that she has really good content knowledge. She knows how to teach English and how to get her students to care."



Junior **Pope Mallette** sits with fellow attendees at the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy. Mallette was nominated by OHS counselors for his good grades and high involvement at school.

Leadership retreat teaches initiative

By **Eve Gershon**
features editor

Juniors Pope Mallette and Grace Logan were nominated for the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, a leadership weekend in Olive Branch, Miss.

"It's a weekend leadership retreat, and the counselors from our school nominated Grace Logan and I to just go for this weekend," Mallette said. "It's kind of to strengthen your leadership abilities and just have fellowship with other people that are similar to you as far as academics are concerned, as far as leadership in their communities are concerned."

Mallette and Logan were chosen because of their strong academic standings and the work they have done to benefit the community.

"I'm the Vice President of the Key Club at Oxford, and I'm a strong member of the debate team," Mallette said. "I'm pretty active as far as sporting events and stuff go, and so I think that that kind of maybe showed people who I was, and then I think that my academics probably made up for the rest."

The program is a weekend in Olive Branch geared toward rising seniors. Counselors Kelsey Dodson and Sarah Breithaupt decided who from OHS would attend based on students they believed would best represent the school.

"That's part of why they got picked to be a part of the rotary is because they are some of the top in their class, and we try to look for leadership and who's academically capable as well as who we know is going to represent Oxford well," Dodson said.

Mallette was not at all expecting this nomination and was excited when he was told he had received it.

"I was in the middle of a Spanish test, and [the counselors] knocked on the door, and they were like 'can we see Pope Mallette for a little bit?'" Mallette said. "I mean, when authority figures come into your door it's like a little bit nerve-racking even though I didn't do anything wrong. And so they came to the door, and they were just like, 'we nominated you for this based off of your academics, leadership, stuff like that.' I was really surprised, really excited."

Mallette said that his involvement and achievement in school has a lot to do with the teachers he has had.

"I have a lot of influential teachers. Mrs. Nash being probably number one as the favorite teacher I've ever had pretty much. She's a great teacher. She really showed me how interesting science is," Mallette said. "I feel like Ms. Maples is kind of the reason I'm active in school. She's just very involved as a teacher, and she's just very active as far as the student pep rally stuff goes."

Spanish teacher Emily Maples has had Mallette as a student for two years and says she has gotten to see him grow a lot throughout this time.

"He, especially in this last year, has really matured as a student, which advanced Spanish makes you do," Maples said. "Really good students can skate by in Spanish 2 without having to try very hard outside of class, and now that the classes are requiring him to do more, he's stepping up and doing more and really has a lot of energy to learn—a strong drive to learn more Spanish and understand things."

Maples believes that Mallette deserves the nomination because of the leadership work he has done at their church and the way he interacts with others on a day-to-day basis.

"He just has a lot of initiative," Maples said. "He's very confident and comfortable talking to other teachers and adults, and that's a sign, I think, of confidence and leadership as well. He takes initiative to come ask you stuff and bring up stuff and even ask you about your life, which is, I think, a very special characteristic of a high school kid to show interest and concern and question somebody else about something they would do. He's someone who takes initiative in the conversation, [which] high school kids don't always have."

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FORMER STUDENTS OF OHS... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MATT FORGETTE

When did you graduate OHS? "2014"

Where did you go to college?

"I graduated from Ole Miss in 2018."

What do you do now?

"I am working in Hollandale, Miss. as an elementary teacher through Teach for America."

What'd you take away from OHS?

"The excellent education that I got from OHS motivated me to work in teaching."

Do you have any future plans?

"I plan to attend New York University after teaching to attend their law school."



Courtesy of Matt Forgette

MAGGIE MALLETTE

When did you graduate OHS? "2015"

Where do you go to college?

"I'm a senior in the Honors College at the University of South Carolina, graduating in May."

What do you do now?

"I'm working on my senior thesis, researching how relationship with the divine and relationship with parents might affect someone's self-efficacy."

What'd you take away from OHS?

"Out of everything I got from OHS, I think my love for the Spanish language has been the most valuable. I have loved deepening my knowledge of the language alongside my cultural competency through my trips to Valencia and Costa Rica."



Courtesy of Maggie Mallette

SUDU UPADHYAY

When did you graduate OHS? "2013"

Where did you go to college?

"Ole Miss and I graduated in December 2016."

What do you do now?

"I am a sports anchor and reporter at WMC-TV in Memphis, Tenn."

What do you like about what you're doing now?

"I'm doing what I've always wanted to do, work in sports journalism."

What'd you take away from OHS?

"The newspaper and broadcast classes I took at OHS gave me the foundation to become a journalist."



Courtesy of Sudu Upadhyay

DAVIS MCCOOL

When did you graduate OHS? "2017"

Where did you go to college?

"Ole Miss"

What do you do now?

"Since graduation, I have acquired a new job on campus, as a Communications Assistant within the Ole Miss Athletics Department. I work day-to-day with the Ole Miss baseball team, writing features, briefs, and stories, as well as doing a lot of social media work, mostly Twitter and Instagram, for the baseball team."

What do you have planned for the future?

"I have scheduled a two-week study abroad trip to Dubrovnik, Croatia and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina."

What do you miss about OHS?

"I miss having an organized schedule and being on a routine from day-to-day."



Courtesy of Davis McCool

SHAWN CHAO

When did you graduate OHS? "2017"

Where do you go to college?

"I am currently a second-year student at MIT double majoring in mathematics and business analytics with a minor in political science."

What do you hope to do after college?

"I hope to work in the finance sector for a few years to gain experience and financial stability and/or to complete a Masters in Mathematics/Statistics."

What'd you take away from OHS?

"Everyone taught me to value diversity. Having listened to varying viewpoints growing up, this taught me how to analyze different stances on issues, which has allowed me to better understand both sides of a situation."



Courtesy of Shawn Chao



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WINTER FORMAL



Rosie Fruge • theCharger

[Left to Right] Senior **Abi-Leigh Doss**, juniors **Stone Tosh**, **Dalton Whitehead**, seniors **Gray DuPerior** and **Shamia Pugues** mingle while dancing at the PowerHouse.



Rosie Fruge • theCharger

Top: Senior **Bo Gatlin** gives junior **Embry Fox** a high five as she walks off the stage after singing a song from "High School Musical" to freshman **John Moore** and reading a letter she wrote.



Rosie Fruge • theCharger

[Left to Right] Seniors **John Seton Perkins**, **Olivia Rychlak**, junior **Embry Fox**, seniors **Jackson Dear** and **Bo Gatlin** dance on the stage.



Rosie Fruge • theCharger

Students "Cha-Cha Slide" during Winter Formal. The dance consisted of many songs to dance and have fun to as well as snacks and a photo booth for students to take pictures of themselves and their friends during the night.

2019

“Russian Doll” is new, improved “Groundhog Day” with grotesque twist

By Livvy Cohen
editor-in-chief

Matryoshka Dolls, or more known as Russian dolls, seem to never stop. Countless wooden dolls buried deep inside one another, just like the story of Nadia Vulvokov’s (Natasha Lyonne) repetitive death scenes in Netflix’s new confusing, overwhelming and downright emotional eight-episode series.

This short new series embodies everything New York—both good and bad. The eclectic parties consumed by drug culture and classic music, late-night trips to the neighborhood bodega, confusing romantic relations, Jewish culture, and struggling to find one’s place in the city. With “Russian Doll,” it’s never ending. Literally. Viewers suddenly find themselves trapped in a “Groundhog Day” style plot line, with Nadia dying over and over and over...and over...and over again on the night of her 36th birthday. Getting hit by a car, falling down the stairs (three or four times at that), a heart attack, crashing in an elevator—you name it, and Nadia more than likely died from it.

Due to this repetitive plot line, it’s only an easy show to watch if you aren’t nauseated by Nadia’s self-destructive, careless personality. I wasn’t, which made this show easy to binge in one weekend. I found a certain emotion in Na-

dia that I haven’t truly seen in many other characters in other shows or movies. Yes, Nadia has smoked enough packs of cigarettes to have the lungs of an 80-year-old man, she repeatedly returns to a toxic, expired relationship and her only true love is the cat she shares with the local bodega, but she’s hard not to love. Her thick New

Yorker accent, progression of coping with her dead mother—who was emotionally abusive to her as a child—, and coming to terms with “righting her wrongs” through this endlessly repeating cycle of death on her birthday, combine to create the dream protagonist. One can easily become extremely tired of Nadia’s persona, but in my

eyes she was one of the most real characters I’ve seen on television in ages. Not only did Nadia make this short series easy to watch, but the soundtrack made it even better. With Harry Nilsson’s “Gotta Get Up” repeating every time Nadia returns to her birthday party after the newest form of death, it adds a strangely monotonous and comforting party feel to the scene, bringing viewers back to why they’re watching—a freakish, lavish New York life traumatized by mortality. Paired with the undeniably beautiful scenes of the city at night, the soundtrack to and cinematography of nightlife, partying and—weirdly enough—death, create an interestingly beautiful show overall.

Now, I won’t spoil the ending, but what I can say is that I was tearful and instantly aching for a second season. Viewers gain insight on Nadia’s character development rapidly, along with her friends, ex-lovers and stand-in mother, creating a bond between the characters and people at home.

“Russian Doll,” created by an all-woman team composed of Natasha Lyonne from Netflix’s “Orange Is the New Black,” Amy Poehler and Leslye Headland, is bound to be Netflix’s newfound success. With one free night, one can be instantly transported into an exciting, chaotic trip with Nadia and her never ending deaths.

RUSSIAN DOLL

Yorker accent, progression of coping with her dead mother—who was emotionally abusive to her as a child—, and coming to terms with “righting her wrongs” through this endlessly repeating cycle of death on her birthday, combine to create the dream protagonist. One can easily become extremely tired of Nadia’s persona, but in my

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PLAYLIST

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. TRY A LITTLE TENDERNESS
OTIS REDDING | 8. SOLO
FRANK OCEAN | 15. NO ONE
ALICIA KEYS |
| 2. FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE
STEVIE WONDER | 9. SEE YOU AGAIN
TYLER, THE CREATOR | 16. IT IS WHAT IT IS
BLOOD ORANGE |
| 3. CRANES IN THE SKY
SOLANGE | 10. MAKE ME FEEL
JANELLA MONÁE | 17. STARS
NINA SIMONE |
| 4. ANGEL
ARETHA FRANKLIN | 11. RASPBERRY BERET
PRINCE | 18. EVERYDAY PEOPLE
SLY & THE FAMILY STONE |
| 5. YOU OUGHT TO BE WITH ME
AL GREEN | 12. LOVELY DAY
BILL WITHERS | 19. UNPRETTY
TLC |
| 6. DOO WOP (THAT THING)
MS. LAURYN HILL | 13. CAN I KICK IT?
A TRIBE CALLED QUEST | 20. INSTITUTIONALIZED
KENDRICK LAMAR |
| 7. THIS IS AMERICA
CHILDISH GAMBINO | 14. HE GOT GAME
PUBLIC ENEMY | 21. BETTER MAN
LEON BRIDGES |

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Pop singer Ariana Grande's "thank u, next" is artistic reflection on dating culture

By Grace Logan

sports editor

Ariana Grande's latest album, "thank u, next," released on Feb. 8, lived up to the hype from social media, but it was not as iconic as some fans might argue. After her very public breakup with comedian Pete Davidson and the tragic loss of ex-boyfriend and rapper Mac Miller, Grande released her second album within a matter of seven months. "Thank u, next" has a different perspective from her previous albums, showcasing her growth as a young woman and artist.

Grande is known for her romantic tone in her music, but with this album, she focuses on her friendships, family and her newfound joy of being single. Tracks such as "7 rings" and "NASA" use the pop sound to portray how being single and alone is sometimes more exciting and exhilarating than being with a significant other. Songs like "bad idea" and "break up with your girlfriend, i'm bored" have a more light-hearted concept compared to the others and discuss having a fun time rather than wallowing in sadness after a breakup. Grande throws shade to previous relationships in "in my head" when she sings that she "invented you."

Lyricaly, I do not agree with what she writes about her boyfriends considering her relationships all involved established celebrities. She mentions that she made them famous, with which I do not agree. Mac Miller, Big Sean and Pete Davidson all had a fan base before dating Grande, so the statement "I invented you" is simply unfair to these already famous and talented people.

While the single "thank u, next" was not

my personal favorite, I believe it was important to release in preparation for the album to come, as it established an objective that she wanted to achieve in her album. Her second single, "7 rings," built upon the "single and happy" tone of the previous single while leading into the rap and pop style she portrayed throughout the album. Additionally, I like the addition of introductions from her grandmother and friends before several of her songs. It adds depth to the topics sung.

Grande suffered two consecutively terrible years in 2017 and 2018, with the Manchester bombing at her concert on May 22, 2017, and her boyfriend of two years, Miller, dying of an overdose on Sept. 7, 2018. In her song "fake smile," Grande describes how she is tired of faking her happiness and would rather be transparent to her fans and the community. She discusses the tabloids and their difficult effects on her mental state. When her engagement to Davidson ended in October, the world was intrigued. The album describes how the relationship broke down through songs like "ghostin" where she sings her apology to Davidson and reveals the difficult time she faced after the death of Miller.

I agree with Grande's decision to release this album at the time she did. It tells her side of the story after being almost silent between October and January. Grande's album provides more entertainment and explanation rather than romanticizing her past relationships and their flaws.

Personally, I did not consider myself a fan of her music before this album. So, from an

outsider's standpoint, this album was pleasant to listen to. After this album, though, I still do not consider myself an "Arianator," but it was enjoyable. I do not believe "thank u, next" was in any way

musically revolutionary, but it's still worth a listen.



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OXFORD FILM FESTIVAL

16th annual Oxford Film Festival embraces diversity, growth

By Ellis Farese

staff writer

The Oxford Film Festival has made an impressive name for itself as one of the most sought-after festivals in the country. The five-day event ran from Feb. 6-10 with films, panels and parties. The 16th annual festival, themed “Sixteen Candles,” brought in the largest number of submissions and largest audiences in the festival’s history, with people from all around the world coming together to celebrate the independent film industry. The categories included Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Documentary Short, Fest Forward, Mississippi Shorts and Features, Mississippi Music Video, LGBTQ and Music Documentary.

The films were open to the public and played throughout the week in various locations around Oxford. A special experience on opening night featured John Rash’s documentary, “Negro Terror,” following an anti-racist punk band based out of Memphis. The film was showed at local restaurant and venue Proud Larry’s with the band playing along live, and it won Best Music Documentary.

Featured on opening night at the Ford Center was “Ghost Light” by John Stimpson. This dark comedy about the conspiracies regarding the Scottish Play found the perfect

balance between horror and humor, winning the award for Audience’s Favorite Film.

Filmmakers wishing to submit into one of the Mississippi categories must provide their connection to the state, or at least 50% of the film has to be made in Mississippi. John Reyer Afamasaga’s “Door Ajar: The M.B. Mayfield Story,” won the Mississippi Feature, and “Roots and Wings,” directed by Hanna Miller, took home the award for Best Mississippi Short Film.

The LGBTQ categories were added within the past few years, showcasing the inclusivity and appreciation of all films at the Oxford Film Festival. Directors Michael Palmieri and Donal Mosher’s film, “The Gospel of Eureka,” found ground between the actors in the world’s largest Christian passion play and drag performers in Eureka Springs, AR, which took home the prize for the Best LGBTQ Film; and Morgan Jon Fox’s “The One You Never Forget” and Will Stewart’s “All We Are” tied for best LGBTQ short.

An emotional documentary about a wrestling team at J.O. Johnson High School in Huntsville, AL reveals the teenagers’ hardships and the importance of wrestling in their lives. Suzannah Herbert and Lauren Belfer’s authentic presentation and raw story that made “Wrestle” won it Best Documentary, and the two women also received the Alice Guy-Blaché

Emerging Female Filmmaker Award.

The winner of Best Mississippi Feature Film exposes interesting facets of southern culture that are often overlooked. Jeffery Dennis’s “Sharde Thomas: Legacy of the Fife,” follows Mississippi blues icon Othar Turner’s granddaughter and her family as they continue his legacy and ensure to keep their culture and traditions alive.

The narrative feature winner “This World Alone,” directed by Jordan Noel, transports viewers to a post-apocalyptic world through the story of a young girl facing unforeseen challenges as she breaks through her mom’s protectiveness. Shot in the northern Georgia mountains, this film shows the simple relationship that human and nature share and enhances the genuine ruggedness of the narrative.

The success of the Oxford Film Festival does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon, and it is obvious why this small southern town attracts filmmakers and filmgoers from across the globe. The literary and artistic history of Oxford is felt in the community and new and old generations of creatives alike are able to embrace it. Not only do people continue to return to the Oxford Film Festival due to the quality of the films, but also because of the hospitality and the very present feeling of union that is shared amongst film lovers.



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Five seniors sign on National Signing Day to play at next level

By Grace Logan

sports editor

National Signing Day did not go unnoticed this year at OHS. Seniors Lamarcus "Red" Faulkner, Ryan Lipscomb, KT Owens, Dede Pegues, and Travien Sims all signed their letters of intent to their prospective colleges on Feb. 6. According to Pegues, who is a Northeast Community College commit, signing on that day was a blessing.

"Most people don't get the opportunity to play at the next level so I just felt good about it," Pegues said.

From a coach's perspective, head coach Chris Cutcliffe is proud of the guys and what they have accomplished.

"We had several guys sign to go play football and several other guys going on to do great things after high school, so really we are proud of that group," Cutcliffe said. "We try really hard to make sure that whatever that next step is when they leave us we want them to be prepared to be successful."

Pegues, who was a part of the class that led the team to their first 6A playoff appearance, hopes to continue success at the next level.

"I just want to get out there and play, win, and keep my grades up," Pegues said.

For Lipscomb, Northwest Community College commit, signing day was a sense of completion.

"Man, it feels good to sign after not being able to sign early because of [sic] injury, but now that it's over I'm just glad to get back to work," Lipscomb said.

Lipscomb chose Northwest because of the opportunity to go play at a "power five school."

"I felt like I had that taken away

from me [due to injury] and Northwest has the ability to get me to where I want to be," Lipscomb said.

While being one of the smallest senior classes overall on the team, Cutcliffe said that that did not change how the players led.

"I thought despite that [the size] they were an outstanding group of leaders and I thought that they were extremely close knit and that they worked very well together," Cutcliffe

said. "They didn't have egos or individual agendas and I think that really benefitted our team."

Lipscomb, like Pegues, sees signing day as an honor that most do not get to do.

"It's special to so many people because it's a achievement that only four percent of high school athletes get to go on and play football after high school," Lipscomb said.

While the players move on to the next level, one thing that both Pegues and Lipscomb agree on is what Oxford athletics has taught them; how to be a better young man.

"Oxford athletics is one of the ripe athletic and highest achieving districts in the state and grades come before anything so it has taught me to get things done in the classroom and then represent your school on Friday night," Lipscomb said.

Besides success on the field, Cutcliffe hopes that the five guys go on to finish their degrees regardless of the school they chose.

"All five guys today signed with junior colleges, so I would love to see those guys continue on to a four year university and get their degree," Cutcliffe said. "That is first and foremost, but of course I would love to see them excel on the football field and continue their careers after junior college on the football field as well."



Seniors **Travien Sims**, **Dede Pegues**, **Ryan Lipscomb**, **Lamarcus "Red" Faulkner**, and **KT Owens** adjust their colleges' hats after signing their letters of intent on Feb. 6.

Boys, girls find success on senior night, move on to post-season

By Preston Hooker

sports writer

The varsity boys and girls basketball teams both emerged victorious over Coffeetown on senior night. The girls team won 65-31, and the boys won 72-62. Boys head coach Drew Tyler was happy with the atmosphere that the student section brought to the game.

"I was pleased. The gym was pretty energized. I think we had one of our best student sections we've had in a long time," Tyler said. "I think it was a good showing for Andre Baskin and Landon Norris."

This year is Baskin's first and last year as a member of the basketball team. Norris has been with the team since his freshman year, and his experience has proven to Tyler that he is a leader.

"I think he's seen me grow up, not just me watching him grow up," Tyler said. "Landon is our senior captain, and he takes care of business and allows me and coach Reed to coach. He's a team player. He's not about himself."

According to Norris, it was exciting to be a part of senior night. However, he is sad to think that his playing career is coming to a close, so he says he is taking in all the experiences he can before it is over. His favorite part about being on the team is taking trips and hanging out with his teammates.

"These four years have been a lot of fun. The whole team always hangs out together when we go on trips and stuff like that," Norris said. "There is never anytime where we are just in certain groups."

Norris has found success under Tyler, who has been the Oxford boys basketball coach for 22 years. He says Tyler is not only a coach, but also a friend.

"He is a fun coach and always helps out with things other than basketball and you know you can trust and call him about anything," Norris said.

Ormon was glad to see the seniors go out with a win. He credits these seniors with working "really, really hard" and sticking with it after some of them didn't get a lot of playing time early in their careers.

"Always good to go out with a win for the seniors. It's a great group, and they deserve a night like that where they got to play a lot of minutes and do a lot of good things on the floor," Ormon said. "We have five good kids, and it's a nice reward for them and the team."

Senior Ashley Epps was glad to get the win, but says she's going to miss joking around and dancing with teammates in the locker room.

"It's bittersweet because we've made it through a lot. We've accomplished a lot this season," Epps said. "You have your ups and downs, but working as a team and building that bond is awesome."

When asked what her favorite moment has been throughout her high school career, Epps cracked a smile that told the whole story.

"The locker room. We have good times in the locker room just joking around and dancing," Epps said.

Ormon has seen this group make a huge improvement from last year. It's the team's second year playing against 6A competition, and their record has improved from 4-24 in their first season to 15-15 this season.

"Last year was tough. We had a lot of injuries. It was just a really tough time. Going into the summer, we kind of got to see what we were like com-

pletely healthy," Ormon said. "The growth that they've shown is what I'm most proud of. Every game we play in we have a chance to win. We have not won them all, and the scores sometimes have not reflected how we've played, but the effort and the attitude are there."

The girls lost to Columbus 64-36 and South Panama 64-55 and were eliminated from the district tournament. The boys were defeated by Tupelo in the district championship but went on to beat Horn Lake 70-66 and Clinton 52-50 in the first two rounds of the 2019 MHSAA Boys Basketball tournament.



Senior **Emonica Booker** dribbles against Lafayette Commodore point guard Karizma Norphlet on Jan. 15.

O'CONNOR FACES ADVERSITY, FINDS SUCCESS IN SOCCER

By Walker Bailey

sports writer

The last time senior Morgan O'Connor took the field for the Oxford Charger soccer team, she knew that it would be bittersweet. A former Mississippi Gatorade Player of the Year, O'Connor faced many ups and downs throughout her high school soccer career. During her freshman year, her mother Jennifer was diagnosed with brain cancer.

"I had just turned 14, so at first I didn't really understand it," O'Connor said. "I was still a kid. I knew what cancer was, but I didn't really understand what was going to happen because of it. I didn't know that she wasn't going to be able to do a lot of things."

The diagnosis was the beginning of many changes for O'Connor and her family. According to O'Connor, life completely changed since that moment. O'Connor's grandmother moved in when she was in middle school and has played an important role in her family.

"Life has been a total 360 since that moment," O'Connor said. "My grandmother moved in from Memphis when I was in 7th grade, and she's probably my best friend now. My mom's definitely different now, and I'm always going to be there for her and watch out for her."

Maturing is an important part of life, and according to O'Connor, she has had to grow up and mature a little bit faster than most. She has had to do things for her family that she never anticipated.

"We started having to help her to the restroom," O'Connor said. "We also had to start feeding her. Also, my freshman year she was able to come see me play a couple of times. Last year, she wasn't able to come to many games, and this year she wasn't able to come see me play at all."

According to O'Connor, her mother was the one

who took her to soccer tournaments on weekends, but that is no longer a possibility.

"We've always been super close," O'Connor said. "She was always the one on the sidelines telling me to get my butt down the field. It's definitely different with her not being there, but every time I'm about to quit or stop trying, there's a voice in my head that tells me to do it for her and that she would want me to keep going."

When O'Connor's mother was diagnosed it never showed in her attitude when she came into soccer, according to head coach Hunter Crane. Morgan's older sister Bailey was a senior at the time of the diagnosis, so she wasn't able to help as much once she had left for college.

"I don't really think she realized it as a freshman," Crane said. "You saw it as a sophomore when Bailey [O'Connor] was gone, that she really had to grow up again. She had to be really mature about a situation when she hadn't really reached that point in her life yet."

O'Connor made the decision in her sophomore year that she would graduate a year early in order to accept an offer from Ole Miss to play Division 1 soccer for the university.

Her decision was what Crane called "the best for her development on the soccer field."

The Lady Chargers soccer team has had a history of strong leadership, and as a senior, it was O'Connor's turn to fill that role. O'Connor was elected as a captain on the soccer team. According to Crane, the leadership role was a big step for O'Connor's growth as a person, both physically and mentally.

"To see her lead as a senior and go through and make the decisions to handle her business the right way was something special," Crane said. "She had never had to lead before,

she had always had an Anna Dennis, Bailey O'Connor or an Ally Shinall to kind of lean on. For her to come in and be a senior captain was big for her in her maturity level and her growth."

O'Connor's leadership didn't go unnoticed by her teammates. According to junior forward Kathleen Myers, her positivity is infectious and made everyone around her a better soccer player.

"On the field and off the field, she's like everybody's sister," Myers said. "She's younger than me and she's still the first person to send texts in our group message and encourage us to work hard or tell us that we had a good practice. She's so much more mature than her age and it shows in her leadership."

Myers and O'Connor traveled together playing club soccer for two years. According to Myers, in the time that she has spent with O'Connor she has learned how to have a much more positive attitude, and she gives a lot of credit to O'Connor for teaching her that positivity.

"She's been through a lot, which is really hard for her," Myers said. "She handles everything with such a positive attitude. Even when you know she's going through something, she always has a smile on her face. Every time you see her, she's just a light to everybody. She never brings anyone down, and I look up to her a lot for that because I wish I had that kind of attitude."

Although O'Connor's experiences have not always been positive, she finds that she's grown as a person and for the better.

"I used to be very immature, on and off the field, and life hit and I grew up. I became more serious," O'Connor said. "I know [college] will be a challenge and a fight to get playing time, but I'm hoping my experience will help make a difference."



Livvy Cohen • theCharger



Courtesy of Morgan O'Connor

Senior Morgan O'Connor poses with her mother, Jennifer O'Connor. During Morgan's freshman year, Jennifer was diagnosed with brain cancer.

STORIES FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE, NOW IN SPANISH

Teatro continúa la temporada con una obra sobre romance occidental

Por Livvy Cohen y Sophia Wheeler

redactor jefe y escritora colaboradora

Mientras la temporada del teatro continúa, Director John Davenport escogió una pieza desafiante para este semestre. Todos en el teatro de OHS trabajaron duro para perfeccionar "El Hombre Que Disparó Liberty Valence," que comenzó el 14 de febrero. Según Davenport, es una obra nueva basada en un cuento del mismo título que fue escrito en los años cincuenta y se convirtió en una película popular en los años sesenta.

La obra sigue a un protagonista de Nueva York y él está viajando hacia el oeste. Allí, conoce a un grupo de forajidos. Él está atrapado en esta ciudad y mientras él está allí, se hace amigo de varias personas que viven allí. Él enseña a algunas personas como leer y pronto comienza una escuela. Desde que la educación ha entrado la ciudad, uno de los forajidos que se llama Liberty Valence, quien a todo el mundo le da miedo porque es un pistolero talentoso, ha estado haciendo amenazas, y el personaje

principal finalmente termina teniendo que enfrentarse a él. La obra es sobre el hombre que cuestiona si o no él realmente tiró a Liberty Valence.

Para esta obra, Davenport eligió cuidadosamente el reparto, con los papeles protagonistas cayendo en manos de los actores más experimentados, como senior Joel Adamson.

Según Adamson, esta obra es otra pieza dura para producir debido a las profundidades y los fondos emocionales de todos los personajes. Él dice que encontrar todas sus motivaciones y metas es vital para hacer que los personajes y la historia general sean creíbles. Adamson ha tomado aparte de otras obras que son de esta misma dificultad, como "12 Hombres Enojados" y "Romeo y Julieta."

Con el fin de ayudar a los actores y actrices a obtener más en el carácter, Davenport reclutó la ayuda de la maestra de historia, Dra. Stella Lindsey.

Lindsey cree que el conocimiento histórico realza todas nuestras experiencias, especialmente en esta obra. Uno puede tomar mucho más de la performance cuando tiene el conocimiento sobre la

historia del oeste. Lindsey dice que ella está agradecida de haber sido invitada a ayudar al Davenport y el elenco. Lindsey y Davenport han colaborado en los viajes del teatro y historia a Chicago, y siempre están hablando sobre el contexto histórico de las diferentes obras de teatro y musicales.

Lindsey ayuda a los personajes para entender mejor lo que estaba sucediendo históricamente para ayudar a la actuación. Según Lindsey, la trama es impulsada por los cambios que tienen lugar en toda la nación, pero el oeste específicamente.

El programa de teatro de OHS le ha recompensado a Adamson en muchas maneras diferentes y él quiere animar a otros estudiantes a que participen.

El dice que si ellos participan, no se arrepentirán. Dice que hay algunos días donde el trabajo es duro, pero siempre es tan gratificante y satisfactorio. Si alguien quiere actuar o trabajar en la tripulación, siempre hay un lugar donde se puede sentir realmente en casa en el teatro. Según Adamson, es posible que sea difícil pero alguien que quiere hacerlo necesita hacerlo.

O'Connor enfrenta adversidades y dificultades durante la escuela

Por Gema Pena

escritora colaboradora

La temporada del equipo de las Oxford Lady Chargers ha llegado a un final. Terminando con una pérdida en contra de Northwest Rankin el día 2 de Feb., la pérdida fue el último juego en la escuela secundaria para Morgan O'Connor. Ella era una jugadora impresionante durante su carrera como una charger, pero no llegó a ser la jugadora que es hoy sin dificultades. Durante el primer año de la escuela secundaria, su mamá Jennifer fue diagnosticada con cáncer en el cerebro.

La diagnosis fue uno de los muchos cambios que iban a tener no solo O'Connor pero toda su familia. O'Connor tiene por seguro que desde ese momento toda su vida cambió. La abuelita de O'Connor se mudó a vivir con ellos cuando ella estaba en middle school y ha sido una gran ayuda y una persona muy importante para su familia.

Madurar es una de las partes más importantes de la vida y O'Connor tuvo que crecer y madurar mucho más rápido que otros. Ella tuvo que ayudarlo a su familia en cosas que ella nunca pensó.

O'Connor dice que su mamá era la única que la llevaba a sus juegos de fútbol en los fines de semanas pero eso ya no es posible.

Cuando su mamá fue diagnosticada, nunca se le enseñaba en su actitud cuando iba a los juegos. Bailey, la hermana de Morgan, dice que ella no pudo ayudar tanto como quería por haberse mudado al colegio.

El equipo de fútbol tiene una historia del liderazgo fuerte y este año era el turno de O'Connor. El entrenador, Coach Hunter Crane, dice que era un gran paso mentalmente y personal para O'Connor. Ella fue elegida como

capitán de su grupo de fútbol esta temporada.

Junior Kathleen Myers y O'Connor viajaban juntas jugando fútbol por dos años. Myers dice que en los momentos mientras ella se juntaba con O'Connor, la actitud positiva de ella era radiante y que le da mucho crédito a ella por enseñarle sobre eso.

Myers explicó que O'Connor ha pasado por mucho pero todo lo arregla con su buena actitud y aunque todos sepan que algo difícil le está sucediendo, O'Connor siempre tiene una sonrisa en su cara. Ella es una luz brillante para todos.

Franks nombrado OSD profesora del año

Por Maggie Livingston y Kevin Quintana

escritores colaboradores

El 29 de enero de 2019 se anunció que Brittany Franks ganó el premio de profesora del año. Franks es una profesora de inglés en la escuela y ha estado enseñando en Oxford desde 2017.

La familia de Franks es muy involucrada en la educación pública, especialmente en Mississippi. Ella ha querido ser una profesora desde que era pequeña para hacer un impacto en los estudiantes y su educación.

Franks dijo que su madre era una profesora y su padre sirvió en el consejo escolar en el pueblo de donde ella era para la mayor parte de su vida y por eso, la educación pública en Mississippi es algo sobre que su familia es realmente apasionada. Ella sabía que quería hacer algo que mejoraría las escuelas en Mississippi.

Una de las cosas favoritas de Franks sobre la enseñanza de inglés es la flexibilidad del tema y las lecciones de vida que ella puede enseñar a través de los libros.

Franks dijo que puede enseñar las habilidades que sus estudiantes necesitan con cualquier libro y ella puede cambiar sus libros

para adaptarse a sus estudiantes o eventos en el mundo.

Una forma en que Franks ya ha tenido un impacto en OHS es por la enseñanza de una clase de inglés de "double-block" para los estudiantes que necesitan más ayuda con inglés.

Según Director Chandler Gray, se ofrecieron clases de "double-block" durante todo el año para que ella pudiera tener más tiempo con esos estudiantes y ayudarles a tener éxito.

Franks es talentosa en trabajar con estudiantes que no se preocupan por la escuela o sus calificaciones y ella puede animarles a que hagan un esfuerzo en clase y disfruten el trabajo. Profesora Amanda Witt dijo que Franks es bueno en elegir libros que sus estudiantes disfrutarán y con que ellos pueden conectar.

En menos de 2 años en OHS, Franks ya ha creado un nuevo club para ayudar a otros estudiantes con su escritora, Writer's Block. Ella lo creó para reunir a estudiantes avanzados con los estudiantes que necesitan ayuda con su escritura.

Franks no ha enseñado en Oxford por mucho tiempo, pero ella ya ha influido el departamento de inglés. Witt dijo que Franks ha añadido mucha creatividad y ha traído el conocimiento en inglés, cómo enseñar inglés y cómo motivar a los estudiantes.

Cinco seniors firman el Día de La Firma Nacional para jugar en el siguiente nivel

Por Joseph Robinson

escritor colaborador

Este fue un año grande para el día de firma nacional en Oxford. Los seniors Lamarcus "Rojo" Faulkner, Ryan Lipscomb, KT Owens, Dede Pegeus, y Travien Sims firmaron sus cartas de intención a sus universidades posibles en el 6 de febrero. Según Pegues, un jugador posible para Northeast Community College, firmando en ese día fue una bendición.

El entrenador en jefe Chris Cutcliffe está muy orgulloso de los chicos y lo que han logrado. Cutcliffe dijo que los entrenadores tratan de preparar los jugadores para tener éxito.

Para Lipscomb, un jugador potencial de Northwest Community College, el día de firma le dio una sensación de finalización. Lipscomb escogió Northwest para tener la oportunidad de jugar en una universidad muy competitiva.

A pesar de tener un grupo muy pequeño de seniors, Cutcliffe dice que esto no cambió cómo los seniors dirigieron el equipo. Cutcliffe elogia el liderazgo de los seniors y el equipo muy unido que ellos ayudaron a crear.

Ambos Lipscomb y Pegues están de acuerdo que los deportes de Oxford les han enseñado cómo ser un mejor joven. Lipscomb dijo que Oxford es uno de los distritos mejores en el estado y él ha aprendido que las notas son lo más importante.

Además del éxito en el campo de fútbol, Cutcliffe espera que los cinco seniors completen sus títulos en la universidad.



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