

VAPING IN SCHOOL:

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HALLUCINATIONS,
VISITS HOSPITAL

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OF BOBBY
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Influenza vs. Coronavirus

About

- The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that is caused by the influenza viruses. There are multiple strands of the influenza virus. These strands spread in people and are responsible for the flu that is spread during flu season.

Symptoms

- Fever over 100.4 Degrees Fahrenheit
- Aching Muscles and Cough
- Fatigue and Weakness

Parts of the body affected

- Lungs
- Nose and Throat
- Kidneys
- Ears

Treatment

- Prescribed antiviral medication
- Getting rest and staying hydrated

Prevention

- Get the Flu vaccine
- Wash hands
- Cover your mouth and nose
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

About

- The coronavirus is a respiratory disease. The coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in different species of animals. The animal-to-person spread has been traced back to a large seafood and live animal market in Wuhan, China; the disease is also contagious from person-to-person, including touch or any form of contact.

Symptoms

- Shortness of Breath
- Fever
- Cough

Parts of the body affected

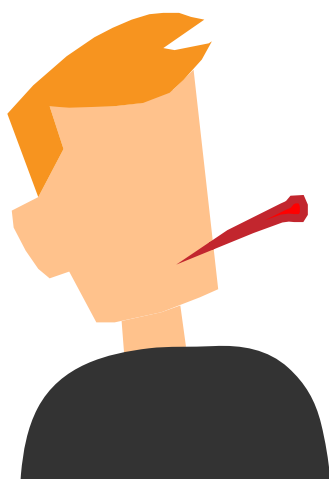
- Lungs
- Stomach and Intestines
- Liver and Kidneys
- Heart and Blood Vessels

Treatment

- Treatment options are still being explored

Prevention

- Avoid traveling to areas where the virus is known to be
- Cover mouth area
- Washing your hands frequently



Local club plants trees at OHS, other schools to help fight climate crisis

By Nadeen Al-Ostaz

features editor

As the climate crisis expands globally, a community effort has been put together to fight back. Hill Country Roots looks to plant trees all around the city and county in order to reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Their current project is at OHS, where they plan to plant native trees according to club member Ann Phillippi.

"I think our meetings began in October when we didn't even have a name yet, but it quickly began to be clear that we all agree that tree planting was going to be a very important mission for our group—it was quickly clear that the tree planting would be a major emphasis and especially in light of the fact that Oxford and all of North Mississippi is clear cutting native forests daily," Phillippi said. "Our worst examples are in Oxford where developers are given free reign to clear cut before they build, so planting trees to replace what we are losing is an admirable and lofty goal. We exceed the need throughout all of our county but see Oxford High School campus as a perfect place for a pilot project to see how we're going to succeed."

Grounds supervisor Jamie Cregar decides where the trees and which trees will be planted. According to Phillippi, people can donate \$70 for native trees and \$40 for fruit trees. Many parts of the community have already begun to take part, whether it be five or six year olds, college students or retired members, according to club member Tim Dolan.

"We've got students, professors from Ole Miss. We've got people in the community. We've got people from the Oxford Tree Board. Some school children," Dolan said. "We'd like to partner with more, so we're really interested in educating the public and getting property owners and businesses and getting lots of people involved and just getting excited about having more trees and planting more trees and make it an educational process."

Among its first members is OMS student Hank Dolan, who is in charge of the technological side of the project. He currently runs their Facebook page and has set up a GoFundMe. He wants to make a page for the club further down the road in order to better spread the word and give out information.

The climate problem first struck him in the fourth grade during the 2016 presidential elections when climate was brought up during debates.

"I'm always worried about climate change, and trees are a good way of bringing [down] carbon dioxide," Hank Dolan said. "I want to fight back against that because that's the thing that needs to be taken care of right now, and there's not a lot being done against it."

According to Phillippi, Hank Dolan would actually be able to see the fruits of this project since he will be attending OHS soon, and he sees that the community will benefit from this as well.

"I really wanna gain like that I work with climate," Hank Dolan said. "This may be a bit more personal, but let's say I'm applying for a job and I wanted to try to help out with a company trying to program things for climate change, and I'd say like, 'I worked with the Hill Country Roots for six years planting trees in a small town in Mississippi,' I mean that could be good for me, but I really want Oxford to have more trees and things to look better with more trees, and I'm not sure how much a dent it would put in climate change, but it's still a dent nonetheless."

Phillippi says that there is currently a threat of clear cutting and a current member, Deanna Kresiel, is working on a petition to fight back against that. After the OHS project, Phillippi says Hill Country Roots will be working on planting trees in Lafayette schools and other places in the community.

"I mentioned at our meeting about the prospect of maybe moving to Lafayette schools as soon as we finished Oxford High School campus," Phillippi said. "There was a consensus that would be a nice second project, so I think we're trying to be super realistic, and so, we're going to finish one project before we move on to the next, and once we get that momentum going, we can expand our geographic coverage."

Hank Dolan says he has seen many more people partake in this effort than he would have expected to. Word is spreading quickly according to Phillippi, and she says Hill Country Roots is not going anywhere.

"We have three projects going very well with commitment, very intelligent, dedicated people, and this is not a fly by night organization. We are

a group of I think there are 60 people now that are committed to doing good for our tiny little piece of the planet," Phillippi said. "I believe that nobody is just approaching this with anything else than utmost sincerity and dedication to a goal of making the world a better place, and our world is here. We're here to stay. Hill Country Roots is here to stay."

Mia Kaup, an Ole Miss graduate student, leads the group meetings. According to Phillippi, Phillippi was the first one to speak up about wanting to plant trees, but there is no leader for their group. She says it is a community effort and encourages everyone to partake in it.

"People are alarmed by the removal of trees in our community, and also, they're alarmed by the global climate crisis that we're in, and our community is comprised of very educated, thoughtful people, and most people know that trees might be able to get us out of this tragedy that we're currently on the road to, so we can act individually or we can act as a community," Phillippi said. "In this effort, the answer is both, individuals can help and collectively, the whole community can help."

Superintendent Brian Harvey believes that it is important that we take care of our planet and give back to it.

"I think anything that we can do, and I'm a firm believer that we have to take care of what's been given to us," Harvey said. "That is our Earth and that means recycling, it means planting trees, it means being cognizant of what can happen if we don't manage what's been given to us."

Harvey believes that this effort will bring many benefits to the OHS campus, including lower temperatures, a more beautiful campus, a reduction in runoff, a canopy around the school and a bigger push in our community to work together.

"I think it's a way that we can get students and community members involved and working towards something that's positive," Harvey said. "So many times there are, you know we're hit with so many negative things with what's not going right, and I think it's an opportunity for us to say, 'Hey, here are some things that are going right.' People are willing to help and be positive forces in society."



Courtesy of Milly West



Courtesy of Milly West



Courtesy of Milly West



Courtesy of Milly West

Left: Co-chair of the Oxford Tree Board Cowan Hunter demonstrates how to plant a tree at a workshop. The workshop took place on Feb. 16, 2020. **Top middle:** Ann Phillippi proudly holds her tree. **Bottom middle:** Ole Miss graduate student Maya Kaup leads Hill Country Oaks before they get ready to plant trees. **Right:** Club member Frankie Wilson and her two children happily hold their free trees. Each person who went to the workshop recieved a free tree to plant in their own yard.



GET OUT AND VOTE!

With the upcoming 2020 election, many students are getting ready to exercise their right to vote. Here are some steps to make sure you are good to go on voting day and hopefully answer your questions about voting.

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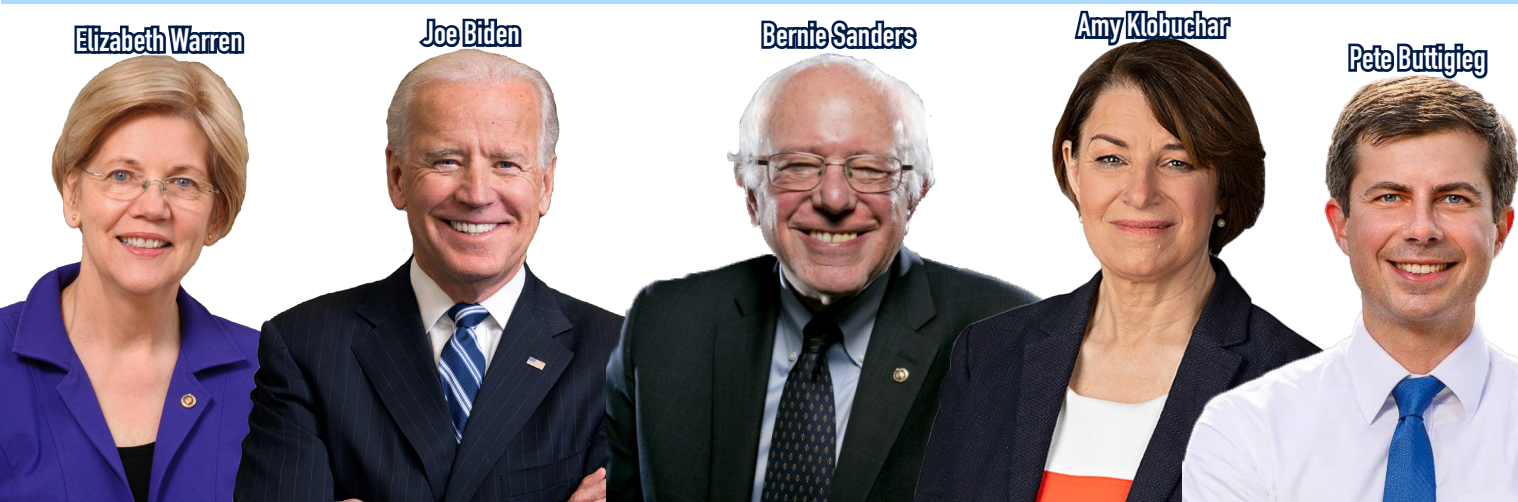
HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

Mississippi only allows mail in or in person voting registration. Contact your county's circuit clerk to see if you're eligible to get an absentee ballot.

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WHAT TO BRING ON VOTING DAY:
A state or government issued photo ID

WHO TO FOLLOW IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES:



ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3, 2020

State of the Union shows booming economy, redemption of American spirit

By Brooks Williams
contributing writer

In his third State of the Union address, President Donald J. Trump delivered reports of economic success, military revival, health care improvement for millions and the uplifting of millions of Americans out of poverty. For whatever reason, our nation's revival and leap back into the planet's superpower made Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats angry and lead Pelosi to rip up the President's speech. For such "advocates of free speech," this really is shocking and borderline disturbing.

Out of the several inspiring patriots Trump invited to the speech, the legitimate president of Venezuela Presi-

dent Juan Guaidó was a huge move in the international political landscape. Showing clear partnership and siding with him has given the oppressed people of Venezuela hope.

The economy was Trump's strong point boasting 5.1 million jobs added, record lows for unemployment and record lows for African-American and Hispanic-American unemployment. A secure border is what Trump promised in 2016, and a secure border is what he has been delivering. With more and more border wall being constructed every day, apprehensions at the border have gone up 36 percent since taking office. Trade deals were also under many of the promises Trump has delivered on as NAFTA was

broken up, and a new trade deal has been replaced by the USMCA (United States Mexico Canada Agreement). Trump's approval rate also has risen to its highest point since taking office at 49 percent.

With impeachment coming to an end and Trump continually setting new highs, as a young American, I feel comfortable and excited for what is to come over the next four years. The President has made the future of America his priority by asking Congress to invest 50 million dollars in opportunity scholarships, 50 million in neonatal research to help improve the medical care for prematurely born babies and asking Congress to ban late term abortions.

Also on the President's agenda is allowing citizens

to sue sanctuary cities for the loss of loved ones and innocent lives due to illegal aliens that should have been stopped.

As election season starts to heat up, this address gives President Trump and the GOP a huge boost of morale in the midst of the ongoing impeachment hearings. Trump announced the request for funding to put another man and the first woman on the moon and have the American flag be the first planted on Mars. Putting millions of Americans at rest with very reassuring news, the president aims to ride this surge into this election year and aims to get reelected and continue his work in making America the greatest force for good in the world.

theCharger

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School project?
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OHS alumna returns to teach science, meets new people

By Heath Stevens

staff writer

OHS recently welcomed a new teacher after former science teacher Tabitha Beard took up teaching math in January. OHS alumna Alana Moorman started in February after working as a methodist church preschool teacher earlier this year.

"I was teaching preschool from August until January, then I started back work at OHS," Moorman said. "I like them both. They are just very different. 4-year-olds and 14 to 18-year olds are a lot different, but I like high school."

Moorman initially applied for a job as an elementary science teacher at Della Davidson but based on previous teaching experience was contacted for the position as a science teacher at OHS.

"I applied for a different position at Della Davidson, but with my past work history at Lafayette and in Cleveland, where I taught high school and middle school science, it got sent to Mr. Hamilton," Moorman said. "[Hamilton] then emailed me and asked me if I would come inter-

view for the science position."

Science teacher Nicole Roberson taught Moorman while she was attending OHS as a student. According to Roberson, it has felt weird but has overall been a good experience.

"It is kind of strange. It's starting to happen the longer I've been here. This is my 19th year, so the majority of the people I've taught are now adults and in the workforce," Roberson said. "It's really cool to see everything come full circle."

According to Moorman, despite not being in the same building that she went to high school, it is still strange to work at the place where she went to school.

"The building is new to me, but it's different when you see all of your old teachers and now you're colleagues with them," Moorman said.

According to Roberson, Moorman had always been intrigued by science when she was in school.

"She was very interested in science and in general and was a very good student," Roberson said. "She was always really hardworking, and she always worked well with every-

body else in the class."

Moorman says she's happy to be in Oxford again, and she's glad that the timing allowed for her to teach in Oxford.

"I'm from Oxford, so I definitely wanted to be back. I taught for two years at Lafayette after college. Then, my husband was from Cleve-

land, so I moved back [to Cleveland] for two years. Then, this summer, he got a job in Batesville, and so we moved back to Oxford, and I was hoping to get a job in Oxford," Moorman said. "I didn't know there was an opening until Mr. Hamilton emailed me about it. It was definitely a surprise."



Heath Stevens • theCharger

Alana Moorman teaches students during her Earth and Space Science class. Moorman graduated with the class of 2011 before attending Delta State University where she majored in physical education with a general science teaching endorsement.



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Student hospitalized due to vaping comes forward, urges others to quit

By Hayden Walker

staff writer

A record number of vaping-related incidents have occurred at OHS since the new year, all of which took place late January in quick succession. Since that time, the City of Oxford and the Oxford School District have both taken steps to combat the vaping epidemic.

One OHS student who was hospitalized due to vaping has come forward to share his experience and to warn other students about the effects of vaping. The student, who asked to remain anonymous, received the device from a friend. After hitting the vape, he had a reaction to the chemicals it contained.

"So, when I got the device and I hit it, I was like, 'Okay. I know what that is. It's a brand of juice. CBD oil,'" the student said. "I was like, 'Okay, it's a nice little buzz.' Then it started becoming more than a buzz. I had to sit down to catch my breath, and as I was catching my breath, I had to lay down. After that, I just blacked out."

People often mix vape pods, or cartridges that contain nicotine and other chemicals, in order to experience a more powerful buzz when they inhale the vape. Because people share devices, it is difficult for them to know exactly what the vape has in it. Some people can have adverse reactions to certain chemicals that vapes contain. The student believes that the friend who gave him the vape lied about what was in it.

"I believe he does [know what was in it], but it wasn't what he said it was," the student said.

After blacking out, the student began to hallucinate. As he was hallucinating, the student crashed headfirst into a bookshelf in the school library, which resulted in needing staples in the back of his head.

"I still could see the library, but it was distorted. Everything was in different places, and in my mind, I'm in some type of maze. And so I'm trying to get out of it," the student said. "So I'm trying to go left, go right. I was thinking that if I went left, I'd get out. But I already went left. And it just kept playing over in my head."

The student was somewhat aware of his surroundings, but he kept fading in and out of consciousness.

"I think that was when the officers came, and I was on the bean bag, and I remember hearing officer Zach's voice," the student said. "He was like, 'It's okay bud. We're here, just calm down, calm down.' I could hear him, but in my mind, I'm on the bean bag lay-

ing on my stomach, and my head is facing towards the bookshelf, and I didn't know it was a bookshelf. I couldn't tell because it was distorted and messed up, and in my mind, my vision would zoom in on it, and it would go black. It was like I was falling down this pit, this endless black pit. It was like being in a fireless hell, and that kept replaying over in my head, and then I would come back, and I'd hear officer Zach's voice again, and then I'd go right back into the hole, and it just played over and over. After that, I think that's when my mom came, and I could hear her voice, and I remember her putting me in her lap, and she was talking to me. She was like, 'It's okay sweetheart. I'm here, I'm here.' But when I was trying to look at her, I would recognize her shirt, jacket, and right when I got to her chin and her mouth, I would fall back into the hole. I never could see her face, and that just kept replaying over and over. It was hard, I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy. That 30 to 45 seconds of that buzz isn't worth your whole life."

Administrators and School Resource Officers (SROs) are the first responders to any medical issues that occur on the OHS campus. OSD Director of Security Sgt. Zach Anderson believes that there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of medical emergencies due to vaping. Since the effects of vaping aren't always immediate, Anderson thinks it is hard for kids to realize how harmful it can be.

"Kids think they're invincible.

They always have," Anderson said. "And because of that, I think it leads [them] into poor decision-making sometimes. Some of the substances that are used in these vapes, you

have no idea where they're being made or who's making them. And when I say it puts you in peril, it truly puts you in peril."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the amount of kids who vape has doubled since 2017. Since talking with other SROs, Anderson has concluded that schools all across America are having to deal with the same problems that OHS is facing.

"I've had Tupelo officers call over here, and they're all seeing the same things," Anderson said. "These kids are hurting themselves. So it's not just localized here. We're seeing it all over. And it's scary. Not necessarily for my sake, I'm scared for [the students] because this isn't normal."

After the string of incidents in January, Anderson put together a public service announcement (PSA) about the risks of vaping. He hopes the PSA will encourage kids to quit before they are fined.

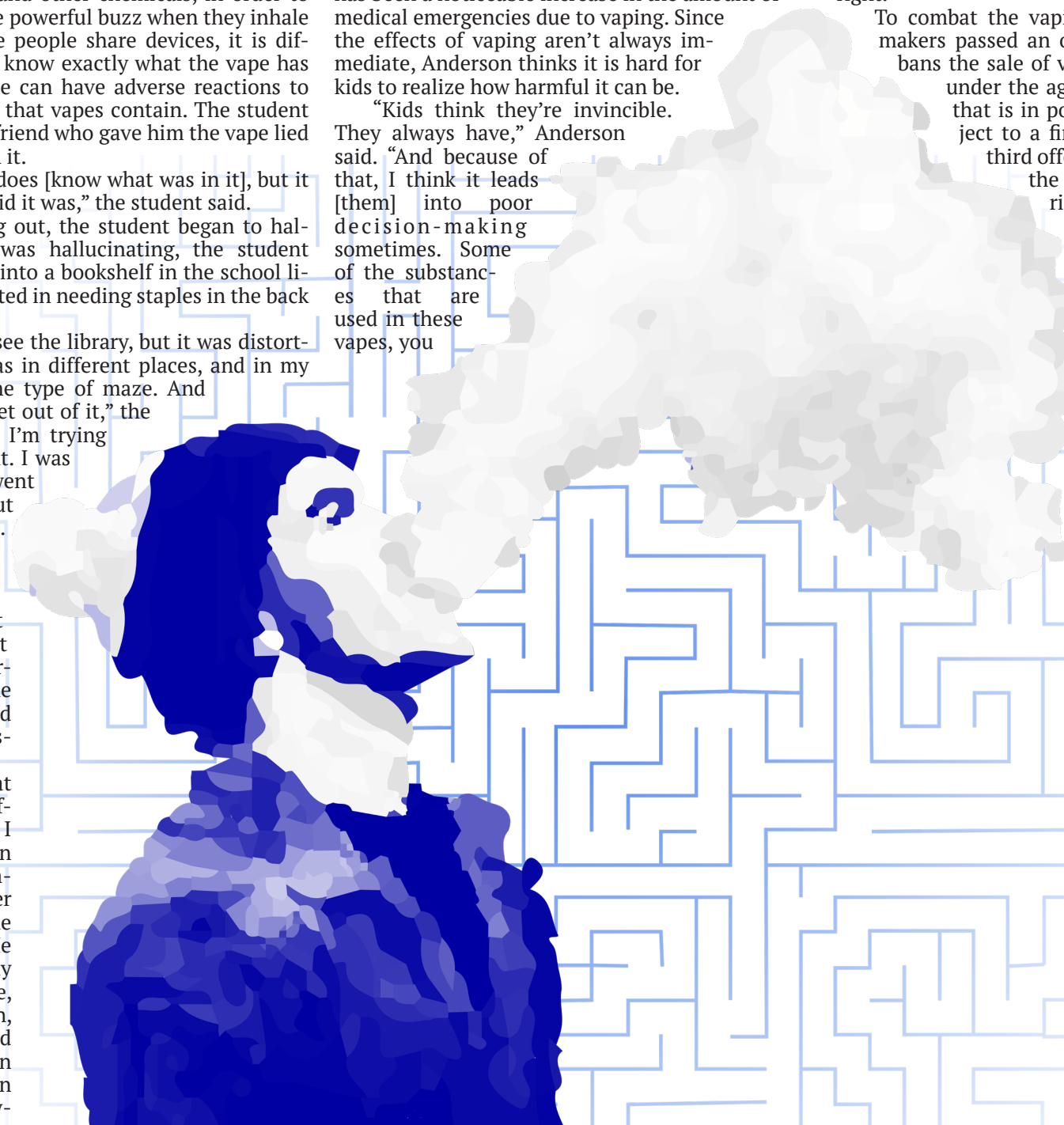
"What I saw scared me. I do not want to do a funeral for a kid. I don't want to be a part of that. So the PSA was birthed out of compassion. I'd rather you stop it than me have to fine you," Anderson said. "Just make the decision to do right, and this would be simple. Do right because doing right is right."

To combat the vaping problem, Oxford lawmakers passed an ordinance on Feb. 19 that bans the sale of vaping products to anyone under the age of 21. Anyone underage that is in possession of a vape is subject to a fine of up to \$100 on their third offense. Anderson thinks that the new law is a step in the right direction.

"[The ordinance] has given us some teeth. I think if we make a decision for zero tolerance, then let's stick by it," Anderson said. "I'm not here to ruin your day, or stop your fun. I'm here to protect you, and that's my job. And sometimes people don't like it when they're protected. At the end of the day, you're going to make your own decision, and I pray you make the right decision. But here, we've got to be able to control the school environment."

Since his experience, the student has quit vaping and urges others to follow suit. According to him, there are many other ways to find happiness in life besides drugs.

"That pleasure, that high feeling that you get from it, you can find that in other stuff. It's not worth it," the student said. "It's not worth putting your life on the line for those few seconds."



OHS Theatre Department opens second semester with “God’s Favorite”

By Ada Grace Perry

staff writer

OHS Theater Department started off the second semester with comedy that featured a contemporary morality tale called “God’s Favorite,” a very meaningful play to the department, which played at the Kayla Mize Auditorium on Feb. 13-15.

“‘God’s Favorite’ is a contemporary version of the biblical story of Job. Joe Benjamin is a wealthy man living in New York with a family that’s not very bright and a son who doesn’t share his faith in God. A messenger comes to test his faith in God, and the family is put to a test while Joe has to suffer to prove to God he loves him,” senior Haeden Overby said.

Each audition process is unique, and the audition process for “God’s Favorite” was short according to Theater Director John Davenport.

“The audition process was quick. We did a general audition, callback for a couple days and then, we cast the show,” Davenport said. “It had to be cast rather quickly because rehearsals needed to start because the rehearsal period was just a few weeks, but it is only a cast of eight.”

While there is always a significant amount of students that audition for upcoming plays, for this play, Davenport enjoyed not only having experienced students in the play but many new students involved.

“My favorite part of this play has been the use of new actors. The majority of the cast are new to our department, so that has probably been the most exciting part of it: introducing new actors to the stage,” Davenport said.

According to Davenport, the play, “God’s Favorite” was very well fitting to the theme of this theater season, Season of Significance, where each play holds some significant value

of the Kayla Mize Auditorium, located on the campus of Oxford Middle School, before the theater department moves to the new fine arts facility next school year, which will include a new auditorium on the OHS campus.

“This entire season’s shows are shows that have significance to the theater we are in since it is our last season in this theater before we move to the new one,” Davenport said. “We chose this show because this is the show we were working on in 2005 when we lost Kayla Mize, the student director of the show.”

While this play may have been the first play for some cast members, it was Overby’s last show as an OHS student.

“This was my last play as a student at OHS, and the play itself is one that I had already read before and liked,” Overby said. “It was a real pleasure to get to perform in such a great piece for my last show at the high school.”



Ada Grace Perry • theCharger



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Bottom: Sophomore Cassidy Rock, junior Aranxa Sanchez and freshman Luke Newsom watch as senior Haeden Overby ponders his thoughts during a production of “God’s Favorite.” **Top Left:** Senior Haeden Overby talks to junior Neil Cipkowski as he sleeps. **Top Right:** Senior Haeden Overby and freshman Eli Carter act out a scene. **Right:** Senior Haeden Overby looks worried as he talks on the phone.

THE BACHELOR: WHO WILL WIN?

The Charger staff predicts the winner of Season 24 before finale on Mar. 9



Madison has been a front-runner since she got the first one-on-one date, where she met his family. She is down to earth and showed very genuine feelings with Peter. Madison is one of few girls that didn't participate in the drama or cry in every episode. Madison expressed her goals for the future, including how important her family and faith is to her. However, the big twist with Madison's father might not result in a ring, but that doesn't necessarily mean that it is the end of their relationship.

Karina Patel
news editor



'The Bachelor' is one of the worst TV shows. The fact that it has been renewed for 24 seasons now is a mystery. Those 24 seasons are all very similar and make the show predictable. The show doesn't even work. Out of all 23 previous seasons, only two couples are still together. That being said, Hannah Ann is definitely the one Peter will choose.

Heath Stevens
staff writer



I think Hannah Ann will win the bachelor because is a very great fit for Pete. I think she is a very likeable character because she is very smart, but also playful and seems like a great wife. Her and Pete have a great bond between each other and seem to get along very well on their 1 on 1's. She is the best contestant left in the show and I believe it will end up with her and Pete getting engaged.

Jake Kamman
sports writer



Madison is going to be the winner of this season. Peter and Madison have always had a connection. She has avoided the drama and always been a fan favorite. She is kind, smart, and has a personality unlike some of the contestants. She is also mature and has respect for herself and others. Madison deserves to find love with Peter. Hannah Ann is too young and Victoria F. is definitely not ready for a relationship.

Grace Logan
sports editor

PARASITE

Parasite sets records, notches four wins at Academy Awards

By Edward Brown
editor-in-chief

At the 92nd installment of the Academy Awards, South Korean film "Parasite" capped off a historic night by being the first ever foreign-language film to win Best Picture. The film and crew were nominated for a total of 6 Oscars, coming away as victors for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Foreign Language Film and Best Original Screenplay.

Leading up to the Oscars, Bong Joon-ho's film was considered an underdog in the race for Best Picture. Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," World War I film "1917" and the ever-popular "Joker" were all more popular picks to win Best Picture. "Joker" alone had 11 nominations and was a favorite to win Best Picture, having already won Best Actor with Joaquin Phoenix. Yet the South Korean film, in an English dominated community, without an actor or actress nominated for an award, came out victorious.

First premiering at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, "Parasite" also made history at multiple other award

shows. The film became the first South Korean film to be nominated for Best Director at the Golden Globes, any BAFTAs award and the top honor at the Cannes Film Festival, the Palme d'Or.

Bong first envisioned the idea of "Parasite" in 2013 while working on and directing "Snowpiercer," a film starring Chris Evans. Bong's experiences tutoring a boy from a wealthy family in Seoul, South Korea helped him write and direct the story. The plot follows a poor South Korean family, the Kims. The Kims essentially con their way into working for a rich family, the Parks. The Kim's deception and new lives become threatened by greed and class differences as chaos ensues.

Throughout the film, the plot line brings up themes of class conflict and wealth inequality. Dubbed a dark "dramedy" by some critics, Bong brings up these themes of class conflict and wealth inequality within the two families by having the Kims vying to be hired for different jobs by the Parks, and what comes from these jobs. The Kim's desire and willingness to do anything for their own gain further signi-

fies the differences in their class and the Parks' class.

After its success at the award shows, "Parasite's" numbers at the box office skyrocketed. Over the weekend after the Academy Awards, the film showed a 234% increase in ticket sales and collected \$5.5 million, according to variety.com. In total, "Parasite" has grossed over \$49 million in the United States and Canada and over \$161 million in other ter-

ries. In total, the film has grossed over \$210 million.

Being the first foreign-language film to win Best Picture, along with being the first to be nominated for many other awards, "Parasite" has paved the way for future foreign-language films at big award shows.



Bieber returns with “Changes,” album disappoints delivering shallow tracks

By Ellis Farese

entertainment editor

Justin Bieber began as a teen-pop sensation and has lived his whole life in the limelight, with his debut album *My World 2.0* launching him into stardom back in 2010. A decade later, and Bieber has managed to remain relevant—of course with a few obstacles along the way. Although Bieber has managed to miss out on the washed-out childhood-star adulthood that many young entertainers face, he has had his fair share of trouble with the law, including a DUI charge, vandalism charges and his infamous peeing in a restaurant’s mop bucket. It’s been five years since Bieber’s last studio album, *Purpose*, and during this time, it has appeared he has finally turned over a new leaf once and for all—opening up about his regrets and current struggles, vocalizing the importance of his faith and marrying Hailey Baldwin. With this new album many were anticipating a new era of Bieber, excited to see what an adult album would look like from him. Being a life-long Bieber fan I really, really wanted to like this album. Unfortunately, it is just not very good.

Bieber announced that he would

be releasing his fifth studio album in December 2019, solidifying his remarks made at the 2019 Coachella Music Festival suggesting a new album is coming. Later on the *Ellen Degeneres Show*, Bieber confirmed his album “Changes” release date to be on Feb. 14. Also in December, Bieber released a trailer for his 10-episode YouTube Originals documentary “Seasons,” which debuted Jan. 27. With a new album and documentary coming at the same time, both revolving around changes in Bieber’s life, Bieber is suggesting he is about to become more vulnerable than ever before. On Jan. 3, the first single was released, “Yummy.” I was hoping for maturity in Bieber’s lyrics and sound, but instead “Yummy” delivered almost next to nothing, giving a catchy beat paired with a chorus reminiscent of a 13-year-old boy’s notes to his crush. If the goal was to appeal to the over-saturated, almost comical “Tik-Tok” market then the song may be able to be deemed a success, but I was hoping for more from Bieber. I tried to stay optimistic for the album to come, but my expectations were lowered after hearing “Yummy.”

“Changes” relies mainly on a soft, electronic sound and acoustic ballads, paired with Bieber’s short, airy lyrics,

overall delivering a very anti-climatic album. Most of the tracks are not memorable and they begin to fade together, all echoing the same pillowy electronic sound. I recognize Bieber’s attempt to produce a more honest and authentic album, and I give him credit for sticking with subdued, mellow beats challenging common mainstream pop, and his past approach which often correlated with pop trends. Bieber’s Christian faith and his love for his wife Hailey are by far the most prevalent themes throughout the album, while he still includes superficial, expected pop subjects. Opening the album with “All Around Me,” one of the many love songs to Hailey, Bieber expresses his need for Hailey that now seems crucial to his survival. Empty lyrics are not able to capture the emotions Bieber is attempting to deliver in “All Around Me,” such as “Room for you in my coupe, let me open up the door.” In “Running Over” (ft. Lil Dicky) Bieber sings elementary lyrics over a catchy, repetitive beat, “Then you made me laugh with personality / When you said goodbye that was a tragedy.” Multiple features including Post Malone, Clever, Kehlani, Lil Dicky, Quavo and Travis Scott attribute very little to the tracks, resembling the lyrical blank-

ness throughout the album. At the end of the track “Changes,” Bieber speaks in a soft voice, “Uh, people change, circumstances change / But God always remains the same,” incorporating his religious beliefs that have become increasingly stronger in the public eye, although not doing it in the most effective way, seeming to have just stuck this phrase in at the end of the song. One of the more successful tracks would be “E.T.A.” which delivers a solid chorus over guitar riffs, combining the electronic sound with R&B inspirations. It makes for an easy, enjoyable listen. “That’s What Love Is” features only acoustic guitar, which I prefer over Bieber’s electronic, EDM sound. Bieber sings short and sweet phrases, showing the potential of this track, but the lyrics still lack substance, “Hey, it’s a blessing that you’re in my life / Make me look even better / When we shine, we shine together.”

Bieber’s over exposure to fame at a very young age has resulted in him enduring hardships most do not understand, and I am glad he has found new passions to fuel his work. Sadly, “Changes” was mediocre—and I say that generously—as I was left very unimpressed. In the future, I hope for more compelling work from Bieber.



Death, legacy of former Oxford student Bobby Holcomb

By Edward Brown

editor-in-chief

On top of a little hill in the Saint Peters Cemetery of Oxford, MS. sits a grave marker, accompanied by a miniature statue of a football player. The marker reads, "His fearless buoyant youth will always live, revealing love and truth and radiant joy."

Bobby Holcomb was born on May 21, 1932 and grew up in Oxford, attending and playing football for University High School. Tragedy struck in early Oct. of 1951 when, during a football game, Holcomb suffered a fatal injury. In an interview with HottyToddy.com writer John Cofield in 2017, former friend, teammate and well-known Oxfordian Angelo Mistilis recalled the incident.



Courtesy of Frances Abernathy
Bobby Holcomb, Nov. 14, 1950.

"We were playing Amory, and one of their boys with the ball got turned around and Bobby slammed into his back, head first, with all he had," Mistilis said.

"The sound of it was terrible, and everyone stopped and looked. Within moments, the coaches and refs knew there was a tragedy unfolding. You could have heard a pin drop; the game didn't matter."

Holcomb passed away later that night in the hospital on Oct. 12, 1951. He was 19 years old.

"In the small hours, the high school held a vigil at the hospital when, with the doctors who had been back there knowing, the town was told at around 2:00 in the morning to go home and get some rest," Mistilis said. "I awoke to Mother sitting on the edge of the bed crying. Bobby had died in the night."

The undefeated University High School Colonels played Amory High School on that fateful night, in a game that was crucial to win the Little Ten Conference. Holcomb was the co-captain of the Colonels. On Oct. 18, 1951, the Oxford Eagle published an article in remembrance of Holcomb's life.

"Football was Bobby's way of expressing himself," the Eagle said. "Physical courage can be a beautiful thing in itself. Bobby was smaller than average and he had to play harder. He loved the acclaim of the crowd; he loved 'being somebody' as the star back and the co-captain of the UHS Colonels."

Holcomb's tragic death shocked the small community and town of Oxford at the time.

"Over the week-end, business and community affairs slowed down to a standstill while we attempted to comprehend the tragedy that had struck,"

the Eagle said. "Youth was shocked at the actuality that one of their friends could be taken away so quickly. To the majority of our children, this was their first experience with the tragedy of death."

With the sadness and mourning that came with Holcomb's death, his peers and community were also able to celebrate his memory.

"Quiet, dependable, respectful to his elders, he was loved by every one of the high school youngsters who he, in turn, respected so much," the Eagle said. "So in his shortened life he contributed more and accomplished more than will be contributed or accomplished by the great majority of men who live to three score and ten."

In remembrance of Holcomb's life and tragic passing on the field, the football field at Oxford was named Bobby Holcomb Field. In addition, on Oct. 19, 2001, his classmates dedicated a plaque at Bobby Holcomb Field to remember him, as well as let others know of his story.

"As a community, we have been brought closer together by the mutual loss," the Eagle said. "Bobby has formed a bond between us that can never be broken."



New baseball season underway with high hopes for playoffs

By Jake Kamman
sports writer

The Oxford High School baseball season is starting up as the Chargers look to play this season to win a state championship and compete at a high level throughout the season.

"I think we will play with a lot more confidence this year," senior pitcher/first baseman Eli Wicker said. "Last year, we had a lot of guys that haven't started before and it took some time adjusting to playing in big time games. This year, we have a lot of guys that played last year, so we know what to expect going in to the year."

Part of the reason towards the confidence in the success for this upcoming year is the depth and the experience of the senior class.

"Our seniors will play a huge role in the success of our season this year," junior pitcher/first baseman Hays Roth said. "Almost all of the seniors will be contributing on the field and their play will affect the outcome of most of the games. If the seniors perform well the team will perform well, and I have no doubt they will carry us to a successful season. Everyone knows about Sam Bianco and

Eli Wicker from their contributions in past seasons but this year other seniors will be in the mix and make a huge impact."

After being knocked out in the quarterfinals to Desoto Central last year, the Chargers want to come back and make it to the top and win a state championship this year.

"I definitely believe we can win a state title," Wicker said. "We all have a very deep pitching staff with all three starters returning. Our lineup will be dangerous and we will score a lot of runs. Every time we step on the field we know we are the better team."

The Chargers are scheduled to play 29 games this year, excluding playoffs, facing many teams they have played in the past. According to Roth, the experience from this years team could send them a long way.

"Probably experience is the big thing," senior outfielder Sam Bianco said. "We had very young team last year, but pretty much everyone that will play this year, played last year and learned a lot from that experience. We have probably the biggest senior class in team history this year with 11 seniors. All of us want to win and we are all devoted to doing what

we need for that to happen and I think that makes a big impact on the younger guys."

As players, most have someone they look up to and craft their game around. For Roth, he has one in his brother Houston Roth. Roth pitched at Ole Miss for three years and eventually was drafted after his junior year to the Baltimore Orioles.

"Obviously I look up to my brother Houston when it comes to baseball due to his success as a pitcher in high school and college," Roth said. "Another person I look up to is Eli Wicker. I look up to him because when I came up as a freshman he was the only left handed pitcher other than myself and we immediately became friends and competitors. We make each other better and we look up to each other and strive to make each other the best baseball players we can be."

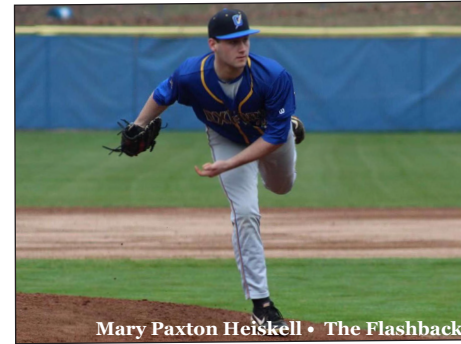
The team is not worried about the rankings or the predictions, they believe they can do whatever they put their mind to, according to Roth.

"I don't think there is a limit to how far this team can go this year," Roth said. "We are a team that can do everything well with lots of guys that can make it happen at anytime. We may not be high up on any rank-

ings but we have the opportunity to prove those wrong, and I truly believe we can beat anyone in the state. The goal is always to end the year holding up a state championship trophy and if we play our best baseball we can make it happen."

The one and final goal of the team this year is to bring home a state championship for the fourth time in school history.

"We have all the elements of a good team," Bianco said. "We just have to go into this season ready to play. I'm looking forward to the memories we are gonna make and being with my teammates. But, mostly I'm looking forward to dog piling in Pearl in May."



Mary Paxton Heiskell • The Flashback

Senior **Eli Wicker** pitches during a home game. Wicker threw a no-hitter against Kosuth in the first game of the 2020 season.

CHARGERS NSD 20

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY 2020

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KYON WILLIAMS



DUDE PERSON



JAVIAN

GIPSON-HOLMES



KYLAN BLACKMON



CLAY CROMWELL



BYRON PEARSON



AJ TOLIVER



SCOTT NORPHLET



CALIYA TOLES



Soccer programs' seasons end after progressing to second round

By Aidan Patel

sports writer

The OHS soccer season has come to an end for the boys' and girls' teams. Both soccer teams finished first in the district, but lost in the second round of the playoffs.

Boys' head coach Charles Sabatier was proud of the team becoming district champs and how far they went in the playoffs.

"I am proud of this team setting the goal of being district champs and winning it," Sabatier said. "I am proud of how well we played in the first round of playoffs, that was a beautiful soccer match to watch. I was proud of the team making it to the



Mary Paxton Heiskell • The Flashback

Senior midfielder **Stone Tosh** runs to get the ball while blocking the Olive Branch defender during the season. Both the boys' and girls' soccer team hosted the second round of 6A playoffs.

second round of the playoffs too."

Sabatier gave more detail on the season itself and the team's chemistry throughout the season.

"We became more consistent defensively, we passed better as a team and we were more creative in our attacking patterns throughout the season," Sabatier said.

Senior forward Luke Freeman also spoke on how well the season went.

"I am proud of the team for making it as far as we did," Freeman said. "We made it farther than any other boys team has in 6A yet."

Freeman talked about leading the team in goals this season with 15, which was down from his mark of 20 last season.

"It feels great having led the team in goals but I am most happy about the amount of assists I got this year compared to last year," Freeman said.

Freeman also gave his perspective of how he thought the season went.

"In the beginning I thought we were not going to be very good, but as the season progressed I saw that we had a chance to go all the way," Freeman said. "An area I think that could have improved in is our defense. We played really well in the playoffs but in the regular season I felt like we struggled a bit."

Girls' head coach Hunter Crane was proud of how well the team worked all season and the way each girl played from their respective class.

"I believe the girls took a huge step forward with their confidence and were playing really well at the end of the season," Crane said. "We had a big mix of older girls and younger girl the dynamic of that can be hard at times but this team worked on that all season and it was good to see the entire team cheer for each other no matter who was on the field," Crane said.

Crane talked about achieving the goals set for the season to win the division.

"We will work on getting over the hump next year and making it deeper into the playoffs and competing for championships," Crane said.

Senior Kathleen Myers talks about her experience this year on the soccer team.

"This season was one of the best I've ever been a part of," Myers said. "I made some of the best relationships with my teammates and Coach Crane and Coach Macon made it a lot of fun for all of us. There was always lots of encouragement on and off the field."

Myers said her time at Oxford has certainly left a mark on her soccer career and her future.

"Getting the chance to play with these awesome hard working girls this year has impacted me so strongly, Myers said. "Whether that is my knowledge of the game or adding more weight in the weight room. This team and these coaches have pushed me and encouraged me so much and I'm going to miss them more than they know."

OHS basketball programs conclude seasons in first round of 6A playoffs

By Grace Logan

sports editor

OHS boys and girls basketball seasons concluded after first round playoff losses in 6A Region II. It was the girls' first playoff appearance in program history and the boys' 22nd under head coach Drew Tyler.

"The season was a great group of guys. Every season ends in a locker room somewhere, home, away, in a neutral sight, for 23 years it has ended that way," Tyler said. "We fell short of our realistic expectations. That hurt because we want to prolong that season."

The girls finished the season 14-15 while the boys had a record of 22-9. For Tyler, his team consisted of seven seniors, five of which being his entire starting line up.

"Looking seven senior players in the eyes and helping them understand that that was the last time this group will be together is tough," Tyler said. "I've done it 23 times with a group of seniors but looking back at in-state tournaments, and out of state tournaments, our trip to Washington DC and the Great Eight in Missouri, we made great memories and learned a lot of life lessons through the journey. This senior group is a competitive group and I know they wanted their season to go further so I know that was hard to digest as far as that first round playoff loss."

Senior guard Kylan Blackmon,

who played the Clinton game on a broken foot, said the last game was a tough one.

"It made me realize that my high school days of basketball are finally over. 4 years went by quick," Blackmon said. "I cherished every moment though. I have no regrets because every game I gave everything I had in me. I just maintained focus by remembering all the good basketball has brought to me and that every loss is a lesson."

In 23 seasons as head coach, Tyler and his team have made 22 playoff appearances. While the team did not complete the goals they set for themselves, Tyler said they must divert the focus to the future.

"What I hope they've [underclassmen] learned through this season is that the work is put in way before the first game in November," Tyler said. "They've got to have a business mindset in the weight room and on the court. These seniors have been a great example of that and I hope the underclassmen have learned from that. Because we've got to buckle down and get to work."

The Lady Chargers suffered a 45-36 loss from Madison Central. The boys maintained a lead against Clinton until the fourth quarter.

"We won the game for 31 minutes but it's a 32 minute basketball game but Clinton outscored us in the fourth quarter," Tyler said. "All year we tried to really shore up our defense and rid

our game of giving points in bunches. It costs us. We did not defend late in the game and it got us. Our nucleus didn't have their best performance, and that's okay. The analogy I'll use is you don't have to get a hit, just don't strike out. We did some things on the defensive end that was sporadic and was a head scratcher for Coach Reed and myself."

With these seven seniors, they collectively have a record of 93 wins and 32 losses in four years. According to Tyler, these seniors have been a great example for the younger players.

"For 23 years, Coach Bell and myself have run the program in a way where I have not had to rebuild. There have been some years where there was a learning curve and we had to take some early losses. But, we had guys that were able to grow up, toughen up and by Christmas time they were playing a year ahead," Tyler said. "With this group, there is a lot of question marks. This eighth grade group, upcoming freshmen, will be thrown in the fire and play varsity games. There will be some games where we may not score as many points as our opponent on the score board but we will actually gain ground and gotten better so those few upperclassman that I have will really have to be assistant coaches and bring these guys along. Across the board, this will be the youngest group I have ever had."

Blackmon has committed to play

basketball at Northeast Mississippi Community College. As he reflected on his time at Oxford, Blackmon praised the school.

"I just want to thank Oxford High School for everything they have done for me and believing in me," Blackmon said. "I especially want to thank Coach Tyler and Coach Reed because they've played a big part in my development as a student athlete on and off the court."



Riley Merrell • The Flashback

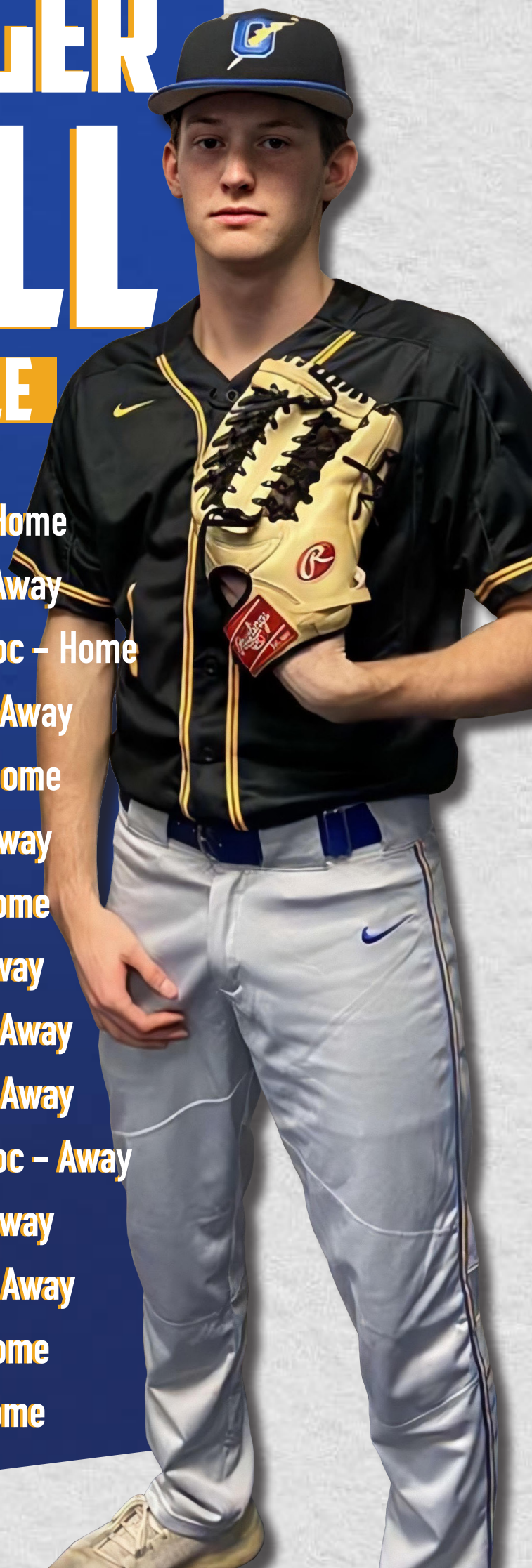
Senior guard **Kylan Blackmon** passes the ball to senior teammate **Tykel Owens** during a home game this season. The boys team went 22-9 and made it to the first round of 6A playoffs. The girls also made it to the first round.

OXFORD CHARGER BASEBALL

2020 SPRING SCHEDULE

2/20 – Clinton – Away
 2/22 – Kossuth – Away
 2/22 – Water Valley – Away
 2/25 – DeSoto Central – Away
 2/29 – Jackson Prep – Away
 2/29 – Tupelo – Away
 3/3 – Lafayette – Home
 3/6 – South Panola – Away
 3/10 – Biloxi – Away
 3/11 – Jackson Academy – Away
 3/11 – Germantown – Away
 3/14 – Hoover – Away
 3/17 – Horn Lake – Away
 3/20 – Horn Lake – Home
 3/21 – Houston – Home

3/24 – Hernando – Home
 3/27 – Hernando – Away
 3/28 – North Pontotoc – Home
 3/31 – Southaven – Away
 4/3 – Southaven – Home
 4/7 – Horn Lake – Away
 4/9 – Hernando – Home
 4/10 – Grenada – Away
 4/14 – Southaven – Away
 4/17 – Lewisburg – Away
 4/18 – North Pontotoc – Away
 4/21 – Lafayette – Away
 4/24 – Collierville – Away
 4/25 – Munford – Home
 4/27 – Houston – Home





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