

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES?

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As new fiscal year begins, OHS teaches financial literacy

What does College and Career Readiness teach about finance?

- 1 **Methods for reporting personal income**
- 2 **How to develop a reliable personal financial plan**
- 3 **Banking activities used in daily adult life**
- 4 **Strategies to control debt and manage credit**
- 5 **Investing finances and planning for retirement**
- 6 **How to avoid risk and use insurance effectively**

By Rosie Frugé

business manager

For the 2021-22 school year, the state of Mississippi mandated that all public schools introduce a College and Career Readiness (CCR) class that aims to give students skills for success in the real world. As January marks a new fiscal year, now is the perfect opportunity for students to put their financial literacy skills into practice. According to CCR Teacher Kim Austin, the CCR class is the first encounter many students have with the financial world.

"American public education does not put much emphasis on financial literacy, much to the disadvantage of society," Austin said. "Most parents don't think to, or do not know how to, educate their children on financial literacy. Just telling a kid 'live within your means, don't spend more than you make, earn before you borrow and save 20 percent of everything you make' is the most basic of financial education, but most students have never heard that before."

Even though CCR introduces students to many important financial concepts, it remains fairly surface-level unless more information on a topic is requested, according to Austin.

"The curriculum is designed to introduce them [students] to compensation and taxes, credit scores and reports, banking skills, budgeting, inflation, investing, insurance, auto loans and mortgages, identity theft, bankruptcy, finding money for college, living paycheck to paycheck, what wealth is and what is it they value and want for their future," Austin said. "They are introduced to each topic, but we don't have the time to delve too deeply into all of the topics. We will spend more time on one if someone has a deep interest in learning more."

While CCR teaches students skills related to managing their finances, soft skills are not addressed in the curriculum. However, they are essential to students' success in life.

"[Students don't learn] how to manage expectations, how to budget and how to deal with stress. Those three basic skills will get you far in life," Austin said. "I've had kids walk into CCR class as a senior and say, 'I think I want to be a pediatrician,' but they have a 1.65 GPA and 28 absences. That track record shows that the student has unrealistic expectations and can not handle stress. But I can offer them alternative pathways into the medical profession that would better suit their situation, then we work on developing the skills they would need to complete that program/degree."

Out of everything that is taught in the class, Austin believes that the most important lesson students should take away is that everyone's life path is unique.

"Success means many different things to each person," Austin said. "Does it mean a big house and a fancy car? A happy marriage and healthy kids? An older car but bills paid and time to spend pursuing hob-

bies? If I can help a student develop their idea of personal success and then help them develop a road map to reach that in their life, then I have been successful myself."

College-bound or not, Austin is an advocate of the importance of self-discipline and responsibility.

"There is no bell in college telling you when to report to class. There is no one telling you to wake up. Professors don't send out a Remind101 to do your college homework. You are in charge of yourself. You have to be in charge of getting yourself up and to class with completed assignments. That is what so many of my former students have come back and told me they weren't prepared for. It is definitely the biggest culture shock from high school to college," Austin said.

CCR is not the only class that teaches financial literacy at OHS. While not a government-mandated course, Business Fundamentals builds on the skills that students learn in CCR.

"Students in my classes learn the basics of money management through lessons focused on budgeting, saving, debt management, and investing," Business Fundamentals teacher Stacy Murchison said.

Murchison encourages students to create a financial plan for their futures to avoid stress later in life.

"Students should make short term and long term SMART [specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-based] goal plans before going off to college. This is something we work on throughout my classes in planning and visualizing their futures," Murchison said. "It is so important that they understand time management and money management skills to be successful in balancing their classes, work and social life."

According to the Mississippi Department of Education, the CCR graduation requirement can be replaced by Work Based Learning, JROTC III and IV, Dual Credit SmartStart, Online CCR, AP Seminar or AP Research. Murchison believes that early financial literacy education for students is vital for a comfortable living style in the future.

"Having a successful knowledge of financial literacy lays a foundation for students to build strong money habits to help them avoid mistakes in the future that can lead to lifelong money struggles," Murchison said.

Austin hopes that educating students who are on the cusp of adulthood will prepare them for managing their finances in their future professional lives.

"Hopefully none of my students will have to live paycheck to paycheck," Austin said. "I hope I will have prepared them to know how to save and develop skills to make them successful, productive adults living their life to the fullest. After all, a teacher's biggest triumph is a successful former student," Austin said.

the Game of LIFE

How your finances can dictate your future

INSTRUCTIONS

Below, you'll find tips and explanations to increase your financial literacy. If you follow all the rules, you'll be well on your way to success.

SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT

There are two main types of bank accounts used by young adults: checking and savings. A savings account will allow you to earn interest on whatever money you choose to deposit. A checking account is used for transactions on a debit or credit card. You can set up both of these accounts simply by walking into your local bank and providing your ID, Social Security Number, mailing address, and an initial deposit.

CARDS: DEBIT OR CREDIT?

A credit card enables you to borrow money that you do not have. However, if you fail to pay back the money you borrow each month, your loan will collect interest at an extremely high rate. By using a credit card responsibly and paying off your loans each month, you will gain a credit score, which allows you to negotiate for lower interest rates when buying cars and houses. A debit card, on the other hand, is linked directly to your checking account. Once your money runs out, you can't spend more.

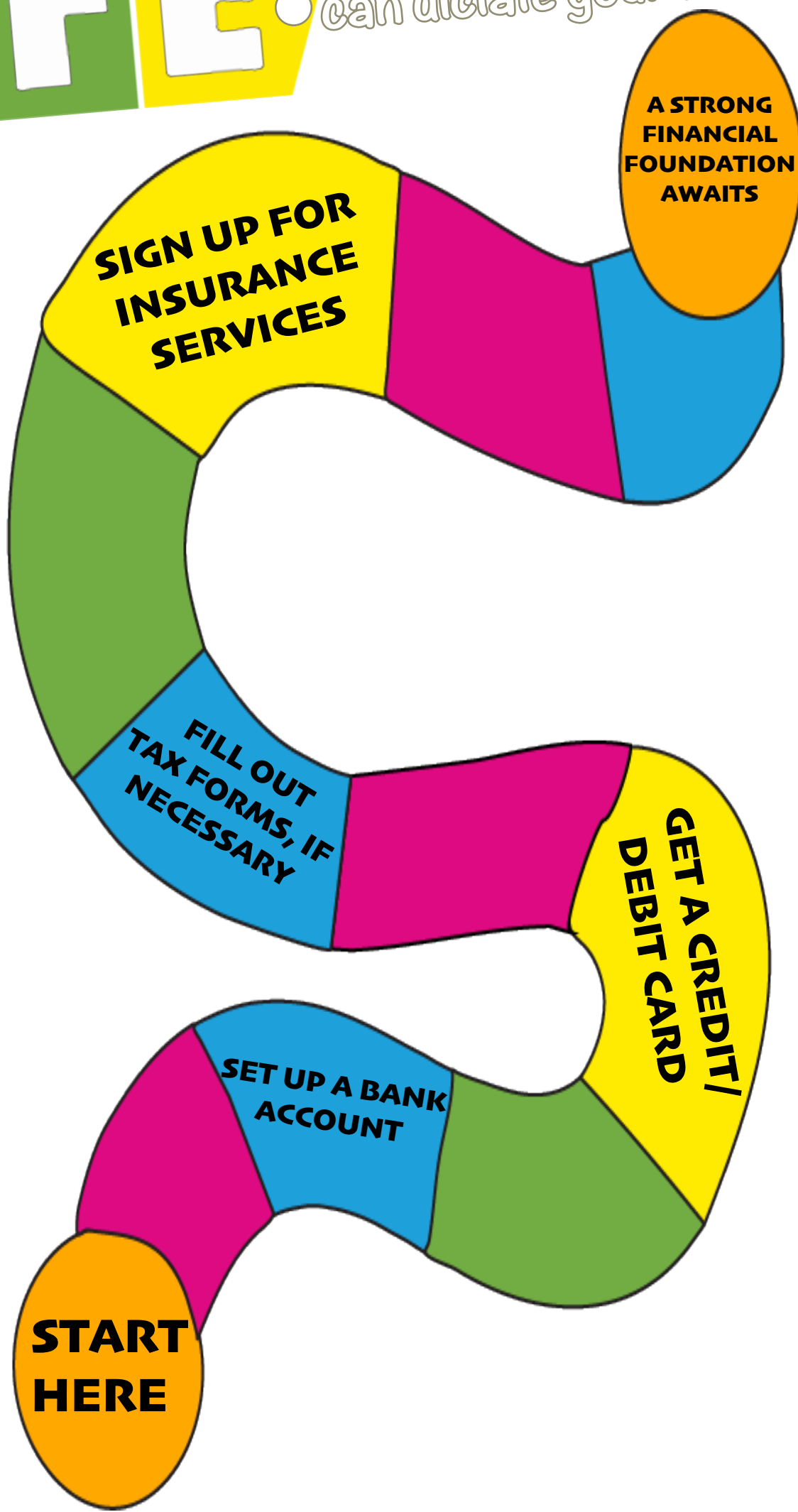
DECODING TAX FORMS

There are three important tax forms that you must fill out when you start making income: the W-2, the 1098, and the 1099. The W-2 is sent to you by your employer annually. It provides information about how much your employer paid you, how much is deducted for tax, and how much is automatically contributed to a retirement fund. The 1098 concerns loans. If you have student loans or a mortgage, you must fill out this form. The 1099 is the catch-all: it is used for other forms of income besides your primary job, like freelance work.

THE USE OF INSURANCE

Insurance is your backup plan. It is one of the most important things to have in case things out of your control go awry. It is essentially a gigantic rainy day fund that will bail you out in case of any emergencies. There are many different types of insurance, but auto insurance is specifically required by law. It will protect you against having to pay full price in the event that you get into a car accident. Insurance is paid monthly and goes into the company's pool, so that they will have enough money from all of their customers to cover you in the event that something goes wrong. Insurance is a necessity for living a safe and successful life.

SOURCE: THE BALANCE



New club TSA for students passionate about STEM

By Vivi Tomlinson and Callie Carter

staff writers

The Technology Student Association, TSA, is a new club at OHS for students who are passionate about the various aspects of STEM. Senior Kara Beth Purdom is involved in the organization.

"TSA is a national career and technical student organization of students who are engaged in STEM fields," Purdom said. "It gives students the opportunity to participate in an organization that competes in many competitions in many different fields."

Purdom has always had a liking for STEM, particularly in engineering.

"I am a part of the Engineering program at Oxford," Purdom said. "As a part of the Engineering IV class, you are a part of TSA. Being in this organization helps demonstrate the skills that we have learned, while in engineering for the past two years and get to compete at a higher level."

TSA provides a creative outlet for students interested in STEM, while also being a resource for students who have little knowledge about it.

"Having an organization like TSA has helped introduce students in our school to many different fields of

study and has helped students get to compete doing things that they like," Purdom said.

CTE Teacher Charles Sabatier is one of the sponsors for TSA at Oxford High School.

"I sponsor the TSA because I'm a CTE teacher, and part of our program requirements is to run a student organization," Sabatier said.

According to Sabatier, students that are a part of TSA get to engage in an assortment of activities, but not all are related to technology.

"There's a variety of different activities. There's a monthly meeting that our members participate in," Sabatier said. "We sponsored a Charger Christmas family, and got them some presents back in December. The competitions that students participate in happen at a regional conference. There's everything from designing an airplane that flies through the air, to building things using CAD (Computer-Aided Design) on the computers, and one group of kids is even designing a board game. Any type of technology, graphics, engineering, coding, computers. A variety of events."

Senior Grant Robinson serves as the TSA President.

"I'm in Engineering III, and we were given the first chance to vote

for the officers," Robinson said. "Our class had an election and I won by one vote. In between the class vote and the actual vote, I looked up what it actually meant to be a TSA President. I saw the leadership opportunities and that's what really drew me to the position and the club."

Students can choose a competition that deals with a wide variety of subjects across STEM fields.

"We have regional and state competitions where our members are given the opportunity to pick a competition that interests them, like Biotechnology Design, Forensic Science, Video Game Design, and many others," Robinson said. "In our monthly meetings, we prepare our members for the competitions by checking in on their progress and providing them the materials they need."


Robinson believes in the potential of TSA, and hopes for it to grow in the upcoming years at OHS.

"Since this is our school's first year participating in TSA, I would like to see the club grow in size," Robinson said. "I believe that in the next few years Oxford's TSA will be one of the larger clubs with its many leadership opportunities. Once our club's teachers get more experience at the competitions, I see Oxford being a

huge contender in the regional and state TSA competitions."

FACTS 2021/22

"LEARNING TO LEAD IN A TECHNICAL WORLD"



The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national, non-profit career and technical student organization (CTSO) of middle school and high school students who are engaged in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Since TSA was chartered in 1978, over 5,000,000 student members have participated through competitions, intracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, community service, and more. TSA is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, 501(c)(3) that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, creed, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, or disability.

MEMBERSHIP: BY THE NUMBERS

250,000+
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MEMBERS

100%
LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

75%
COLLEGE-BOUND

39%
MINORITY REPRESENTATION

3,500+
TEACHERS (CHAPTER ADVISORS)

2,300+
SCHOOLS IN 48 STATES

OTHER COMPETITIONS

Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) is a national STEM based competition—funded by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)—empowering teachers, mentors, and community members to engage 5th to 8th grade students in designing, building, and racing model solar cars.

TEAMS is a STEM competition providing students in middle school and high school the opportunity to discover engineering. Students work together in teams and use practical applications of math and science to answer engineering questions about everyday, real-world challenges.

TSA VEX Robotics is an engaging robotics competition in which students further their knowledge and skills in STEM areas. This competition is a collaborative effort of TSA and the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC Foundation).

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Leadership Program: TSA believes acquiring 21st century leadership skills are critical to the success of young people and integrates these aptitudes in over 70 TSA competitions. These leadership skills are specifically tailored for each competitive event and evaluated based on official rules and rubrics. Additionally, TSA offers its members leadership development activities based on the 21st century skills.

National Service Project: For over a decade TSA has partnered with the American Cancer Society (ACS). TSA chapters around the country raise money to help fund the vital research, education, advocacy, and patient services of the American Cancer Society.

Unité: Funded by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP), Unité is a four-to-six week program held at colleges and universities nationwide during the summer. Unité encourages underserved and underrepresented high school students to pursue higher education and a STEM career path.

DECA gives students opportunity to learn about real-world business

By Vivi Tomlinson and Callie Carter

staff writers

Oxford High School organization Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) is a club for young student-leaders and entrepreneurs interested in a variety of future career sectors. Business Education Teacher Stacy Murchison is the sponsor of the OHS chapter.

"DECA is a CTE student organization at Oxford High School," Murchison said. "DECA prepares students who are interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders."

DECA allows for students to advance their business and social skills through competitions. Thirty-eight Oxford High School students in DECA competed on January 24, 2022, in Olive Branch, Mississippi, with all students advancing to the state competition.

"DECA is a great opportunity for students to develop business skills," Murchison said. "Developing these skills during high school puts the individual at an advantage of understanding the real world and how it works."

DECA also helps improve social skills for future business relations. DECA also encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic conferences and competitions."

According to Murchison, students in DECA at OHS display characteristics that set them apart from their peers.

"Through the success of our DECA program at OHS, our DECA leaders have shown that they are innovative, community-oriented, team players and have a very high work ethic," Murchison said. "It is so important that our students see the value in going above and beyond our traditional curriculum and choose to be involved with DECA at the district, state and national level."

Sophomore Henry Haley serves as Vice President of Leadership in DECA. Haley initially got involved with DECA because of his interest in business.

"I am involved with DECA because of my interest in finance and the business world," Haley said. "I also enjoy the service projects that our DECA chapter participates in so I can give back to my community."

DECA enables students to engage with others who have similar interests, while also furthering their knowledge of different topics. Haley encourages students to join DECA because it demonstrates job opportunities that students may otherwise have never known about.

"Students of OHS should become DECA members to not only be in a club of friendly members and like-minded people, but to also learn more about possible careers that students may have never known much about before," Haley said. "DECA also is a great opportunity for scholarships for seniors that are going on to college and continuing education after High School."

Senior Molly Swingle serves as the president of DECA at OHS, which carries many responsibilities.

"I keep all of the members informed and organized and lead them through what the club offers," Swingle said.

Along with competing in competitions, DECA has participated in service projects with other OHS organizations. One of the projects was making Christmas boxes for children with the OHS Student Council.

"DECA works with a few other service clubs that are at OHS to help put together fundraisers and provide service for the members of our community," Swingle said.

Students in DECA gain beneficial skills that they can apply to future careers and situations.

"DECA impacts our school through preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, apply learning, connect to business and promote competition," Murchison said. "DECA's competitive events program motivates, challenges and inspires members to apply what they have learned to practical business situations. DECA's leadership programs develop our student's talents and capabilities into qualities that will carry him or her into a successful future."



Partner team medalists pose for a picture at the end of district competition. All 38 teams placed, and will advance to state.

NEWLY IMPLEMENTED E-HALLPASS SPARKS CONTROVERSY

By Winnie Wilson
associate editor

The newly implemented electronic hall pass system at Oxford High School has become a highly controversial topic throughout the student body. The e-hallpass system is accessed through a website where students must submit requests to leave the classroom. E-hallpasses allow teachers and administrators to provide hallway permission to students remotely and also to manage activity in the school's hallways throughout the day. The website keeps track of all students with currently approved passes so that administrators have a list of all students outside of the classroom at any given time.

Student body president Hassell Wilkinson mentions that the majority of the student body was frustrated by this decision as it limits personal freedom throughout the school day.

"I can see where the district and administration is coming from in wanting to limit dangerous activity in the hallways and limit students roaming in the halls, but I personally am just not a fan of the micromanaging and wanting to take away from class time," Wilkinson said.

According to Wilkinson, the e-hallpass system is extremely disruptive to instruction. In order to activate these passes, a student must create a pass online and then have a teacher approve the pass by entering in a code.

"In one week, every person in my class that has asked to use [the e-hallpass] has interrupted class and stopped the teacher from teaching just so they can approve the pass, which I think is a big waste of time," Wilkinson said.

While student feedback has been almost entirely negative, some teachers appreciate the new hall pass method. AP Statistics teacher and assistant football coach Logan Dodson has already found great benefits in this system.

"You keep track of students and when they are out and how many passes they

make. You can go back and track students and see where they go throughout the day and also you can keep a tally on students for a safe school and learning environment overall," Dodson said. "We hear people on the intercom saying 'Hey, we can't find this student,' but now we have documentation of who is out and at what time, and we can see when we signed off and when they haven't been back."

However, Dodson also points out that the system has room for improvement, especially regarding accessibility and timing issues.

"There's no phone app which is the worst. Also if a student wants to go see a teacher and make an appointment it has to be 30 minutes before, so I think that may be a little extreme. For instance, if you want to see any teacher, you have to complete the hall pass 30 minutes before you go see her," Dodson said.

Dodson sees the hall pass system as a real-world statistics problem that will have a definite answer by the end of the 2021-22 school year.

"Being a stats teacher, it's too early to determine if the problem is being fixed yet. It'll be interesting to see traffic flow, writeups, and skipping in the fall semester and compare that to the spring semester and see how many [office] referrals we have for skipping then versus now," Dodson said.

Junior Annie Goraya brings up alternate solutions to this problem, as she feels like the e-hallpass system was not the most proficient way to fix the underlying issues.

"I don't really like [the e-hallpass] because I feel like it wastes a lot of time in class and moreover getting only four passes per day doesn't feel reasonable. Every time we need to leave class, we need to take five minutes to first log in to the website and then make the pass, then we need to wait for the teacher to approve it. All of this takes up approximately ten minutes which would be taking out time in class," Goraya said. "There are advantages to it too, but

I feel like one way to solve the problem is to simply have break time for ten minutes for everyone instead of taking out time to assign hall passes for everyone at different times."

Spanish teacher Tuesday Arizaga finds that using the e-hall pass system is more tedious than it should be.

"We've had a lot of problems with students going where they aren't supposed to be going. I get the idea behind [the e-hall pass] and I think it's a very good idea but I don't know if the actual system itself is the easiest application," Arizaga said.

Arizaga also finds that communication regarding e-hall passes has been vague, as each faculty member uses it differently.

"They can be helpful if everyone is on the same page, but not everyone is on the same page. I've noticed that as we've gone on, everyone's been busy and teachers may find it easier to just send an email instead of an e-hall pass. With the e-hall pass, we have a lot going on during the day so it's hard to give them the e-hall pass and make sure they check in and out and all of that. I just don't think that everyone remembers to do that," said Arizaga.

Another area of concern with the e-hall passes is that the administration is imposing a strict school-wide policy when only a few students are actually causing the problem. Junior class president Eli Nordstrom believes that fairness should be prioritized, and the entire student body should not be punished for an issue caused by only a few students.

"Obviously certain kids were doing things that were not in the best interest of their own education, but I don't think that's a matter of the school as an institution intervening. Those kids that were roaming the halls weren't disturbing anyone else's education. The only thing that this e-hall pass accomplishes is that it disrupts everyone's time as opposed to before when there were a few outliers who disrupted their own time by not showing up to class," Nordstrom said.

e-hallpass



"It wastes a lot of classroom time and we could simply have break time for everyone at one time except for having a separate one for everyone at different times."

Annie Goraya
junior



"I don't like them because it they are an extra step that the teachers have to do taking up class time."

Lucy Perry
freshman



"I don't like e-hall passes because it's too much to just be able to leave class."

Ayhuna Campbell
sophomore



"I don't like e-hall passes because they interrupt the class flow."

Grayson Cope
freshman

Hometown hero JJ Pegues returns to play football at Ole Miss

By Hannah Harper

staff writer

On January 18, 2022, former Auburn defensive lineman, JJ Pegues announced his official transfer to the University of Mississippi. The hometown hero's announcement was a huge excitement for fans eager to see him play at home. Pegues made a lasting impression on the Oxford Charger Football team that traveled with him into the collegiate level.

Football has surrounded Pegues his whole life with his father's successful collegiate football career with Arkansas State University, but it wasn't until he started with the buccaneers that he found his passion for football.

"The thing that prompted me to play was my height and weight," Pegues said. "I was a huge kid doing nothing until one day my dad signed me up to play little league buccaneers football, and since then I have just fallen in love with the game."

Pegues comes from a strong family background that has always been his biggest supporter and motivator.

"I would have to say my family has put so much into me and all I ever do is want to give back and allow them to see their son go out and do great," Pegues said. "My Oxford community also motivates me because without them I wouldn't be who I am and where I am today."

Pegues' work on and off the field led to his many accomplishments with the Oxford Charger football team. During his time at Oxford Pegues played a variety of positions on the team, on defensive and offensive. He accumulated 1462 passing yards and 1086 rushing yards during his 4 years with the Chargers.

He also was a member of the 2019 state championship team.

"Oxford helped me in college in many ways, most importantly the education piece Oxford does a great job with trying to put you in classes that you need it also towards what you want to major in at the next level," Pegues said. "In sports, Oxford really provided me with many resources to be successful and the coaches that were put around me were awesome."

Oxford high school football head coach Chris Cutcliffe coached Pegues throughout his highschool career and is proud of his many accomplishments and the impact he made on the Oxford

football program.

"JJ was an outstanding leader," Cutcliffe said. "He was always positive and brought a great work ethic every day. JJ's impact continues to be felt. His concern for others and willingness to do what it takes

for the team's success are an inspiration to others." After leading the chargers to the 6A championship

title in 2020, Pegues officially signed with Auburn University as a defensive lineman. During his time at Auburn Pegues amassed a total of 16 tackles in the 2021 season and has become a widely recognized athlete across the nation. After the season, made his announcement that he had entered the transfer portal, and then later announced his commitment to Ole Miss.

"It was a long and hard thought process but what motivated me to transfer was the opportunity God put in front of me and the circumstances he had me in and I really wanted to take advantage of that which brought me back here and coming home to play in the sip ones at times," Pegues said.

Pegues has a strong relationship with the community of Oxford and is excited about the chance to play for them again.

"I'm more excited about the people and the community than anything," Pegues said. "I feel like I owed this to them to do this again and it means a lot to me when little kids come up to me and have on one of my shrugs it says they are my biggest fan because it makes me feel like I'm not only doing what right on the field

but also of the field as well."

Pegues has become a hero on and off the field for many people in the community and his community is excited to see the impact he will make with the Rebels this year.



Winter Formal 2022



Courtesy of OHS Yearbook

Senior **James Coleman** poses while performing on the 360 camera that filmed videos of students dancing from every angle.



Courtesy of OHS Yearbook

Sophomore **Sarah Kassel** dances and sings with friends during the dance. Winter formal was held in the gym on January 26 from 8 to 10 p.m.



Courtesy of OHS Yearbook

Oxford High School students dance in a circle on the dance floor during a song. DJ Sedrick Robinson played songs for the two-hour-long dance.



Courtesy of OHS Yearbook

Freshmen **Lucy Perry, Sydney Scruggs, Malik Marion** and **Whit Roady** take pictures while jumping around to the well known songs played.

The Weeknd's new album "Dawn FM" surprises fans

By Megan Colley
staff writer

Abel Tesfaye, commonly known by his stage name The Weeknd, released his fifth studio album on January 7, 2022. He is 31 years old and originally from Toronto, Canada. Tesfaye has won many awards for his previous music, including three Grammys and nineteen Billboard Music Awards. Tesfaye has eleven albums on Spotify. Two of Tesfaye's albums, "Beauty Behind the Madness" and "Starboy," saw massive amounts of success. Both explored genres like pop, R&B, new wave, and alternative.

After the large amount of fame these two albums gave Tesfaye, he released two other albums "My Dear Melancholy," in 2018 and "After Hours" in 2020. Both of these were largely overshadowed by the single he released a few months prior to "After Hours," "Blinding Lights." The song is by far Tesfaye's most popular work, with over two billion streams on Spotify. It ranks as the second most played song on Spotify and holds the number one spot on Billboard's Greatest Hot 100 of all time. "Blinding Lights" was released in November 2019, and it became the first song to hold a spot in the Top 10 Billboard hits for over a year. Some of the critiques of Tesfaye's last albums were that his new found fame created an insincerity to his once raw and emotional music. Many have been wondering if "Dawn FM" will be just another pop album or if it will be as dark and grueling as Tesfaye's earlier works.

Because of The Weeknd's growing popularity and previous successes, his fifth studio album "Dawn FM" has been highly anticipated by critics and fans alike.

"Dawn FM" has been teased since May of last year. The album explores pop genres like dance-pop, synth-pop and hip-hop. It is a sequel to his last album "After Hours." "Dawn FM" explores dark and existential themes.

"Picture the album being like the listener is dead," Tesfaye said in an interview with the magazine The Times. "And they're stuck in this purgatory state, which I always imagined would be like being stuck in traffic waiting to reach the light at the end of the tunnel. And while you're stuck in traffic, they got a radio station playing in the car, with a radio host guiding you to the light and helping you transition to the other side. So it could feel celebratory, could feel bleak, however you want to make it feel, but that's what 'The Dawn' is for me."

Actor Jim Carrey acts as the narrator throughout the album. He is the radio host that guides the listener through purgatory. Other features include Tyler the Creator on the track "Here We go... Again," Quincy Jones on the track "A Tale By Quincy" and Lil Wayne on the track "I Heard You're Married". There are a sixteen songs on the album and a total runtime of 52 minutes.

As Carrey's monotone voice speaks over

the radio, guiding the listener through purgatory, The Weeknd sings about both fearing death and making a mockery of it. The bright pop and R&B inspired music starkly contrasts the serious themes the album explores. In the song "Gasoline," Tesfaye sings "Just wrap my body in these sheets and pour out the gasoline/It doesn't mean much to me." On the first listen-through, the album doesn't sound very deep, but after looking into the lyrics and the story behind each song, the significance of the music becomes apparent.

The album takes a very different approach than Tesfaye's recent work. Previously his music, especially "Dawn FM's" predecessor "After Hours," was carefree and discussed a euphoric drugged-out state. Instead of the blissful arrogance of "After Hours," the singer carefully tells a story of depth and despair while still keeping the general ambiance of the music upbeat.

Reviews for "Dawn FM" have been overwhelmingly positive. A review in Rolling Stone magazine wrote "The Weeknd has quit his old haunts and is all the more lucid. That sense of clarity is deeply rewarding."

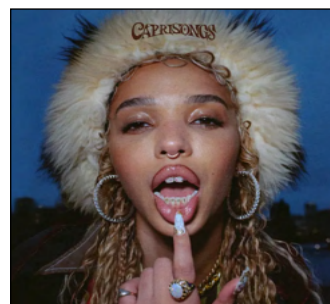
Six songs from "Dawn FM" broke Billboard's top 200 in the albums first week, including "Sacrifice" at number two. The album itself is ranked number two in the United States, with over 173 million streams in its first two weeks. Physical copies including CDs, vinyls and cassettes haven't been released yet. Many critics believe that with physical copies sales added on, "Dawn FM" will have a shot at being number one in the coming weeks. The Weeknd plans to go on tour around the globe during the summer of 2022.

"Dawn FM" has exceeded expectations and undoubtedly will continue to grow in popularity. The combination of pop music and existential lyrics appeals to a wide audience. The story told throughout the album has fascinated fans and critics alike. "Dawn FM" is definitely starting the year off strong in the music industry. There is no doubt that "Dawn FM" will gain more popularity with time.



New Year New Music

New Albums of 2022



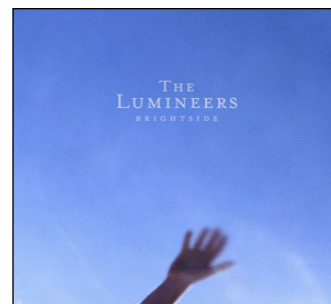
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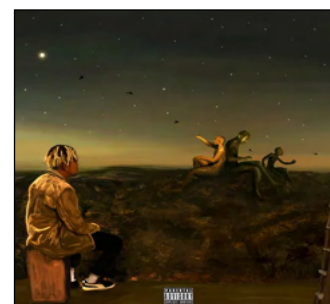
Sorry 4 The Wait-
Lil Wayne



DS4EVER-
Gunna



Brightside-
The Lumineers



From a Birds Eye
View- Cordae

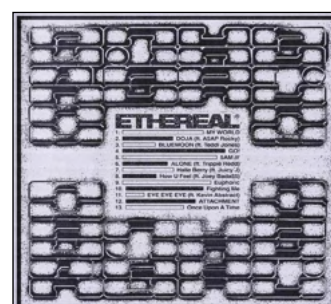


Colors- Youngboy
Never Broke Again

Releasing in February



Laurel Hell-
Mitski
Coming out
February 4, 2022



Ethereal-
\$NOT
Coming out
February 11, 2022

Don't Look UP

By Hannah Harper
staff writer

NETFLIX RELEASES NEW SATIRICAL ALLEGORY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

destroy Earth.

The film opens with Lawrence's character Kate Dibiasky noticing an unknown object, seen through a telescope. Upon further observation, Dibiasky discovered that the object is a comet. Ecstatic by her discovery, Dibiasky shows her professor Dr. Randall Mindy, who is played by DiCaprio. With his help, the scientists formulate the predicted course of the comet, and they are shocked to discover that it is hurtling straight towards earth.

After many peer reviews and checks, Dibiasky and Mindy attempt to inform the president of the urgency to act against the comet. However, the president, played by Meryl Streep, is far more concerned with her midterm ratings than with preventing the end of the world. Streep's character further dissuades the scientist's conclusions by saying they are not qualified enough to make such assumptions, even though they peer reviewed with many highly esteemed scientists. Furious by the president's actions, the two scientists go to the media to bring attention to the problem and call out the president on her actions. However, when they attempt to tell the public, everyone thinks they are hysterical and doesn't believe them. The president quickly reaches out after this event and begins to publicly support the scientist in order to further her ratings in the election.

The president turns the catastrophe into a patriotic event and plots with a tech billionaire, played by Mark Rylance to capitalize off the resources found on the comet. This leads to a major political debate on what to do with the comet. Many fight to spread awareness of comet and beg the government to destroy it instead of mining it, while others choose to not believe that there is a comet and adopt the mantra "Don't Look Up". Even when the comet becomes visible from Earth, people are still in denial that it is actually real.

"Don't Look Up" showcases the political divide in our country over the most obvious problems. Everyone in the movie is so focused on their careers, social media and popularity that they choose to ignore the imminent danger they are in. The director meant to use this movie to allude to the ongoing climate change that is a major political debate in America. The celebrity endorsement, industrial power and political motives either for or against the comet are a direct parallel to our own world's way of dealing with change that needs to be made, for better or for worse.

This film serves as a warning of what could happen to us in the near future if we do not strive to work together against disasters like climate change. At the end of the movie we see that the Earth is destroyed because of the ambition of the president and the tech billionaire because they were more concerned with the value of the comet rather than the clear and obvious danger it posed to the population.

This movie paints a scarily realistic picture of our society's tendency to push difficult-to-swallow truths away in favor of dramatics and catchy phrases. When the scientists announce to the public that the comet is heading towards the earth, they immediately label them as insane or crazy. The public turns them into crazy memes spread across Twitter, and completely misses the message of their warning. This movie leaves the audience pondering the superficiality of our society today and is a fresh wake up call to question our own attentiveness to our home's changing climate. This movie is meant to encourage people to be more aware of what scientists are warning us about and show that it is essential for all of us to work together to protect our planet. It accomplishes that goal.

"Don't Look Up," a recently released Netflix Original Movie, has gained much popularity since its debut on December 5, 2021. The satirical allegory takes place in our current political climate and explores how the government and people are so quickly divided over political opinions.

The two hour and twenty-five minute film was produced and written by Adam McKay, and is packed with a star-studded cast that includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Cate Blanchett, Jonah Hill and many more well-known actors. Since its release, the movie has amassed over 152 million hours of viewership, and it has become the third most popular movie on Netflix.

From politically ambitious presidents and tech-giant billionaires to charismatic newscasters and an extremely divided public, McKay sets the stage perfectly for the protagonist scientists, played by DiCaprio and Lawrence, to deliver the devastating news of a comet that is on course to



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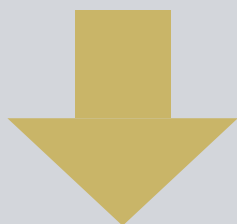
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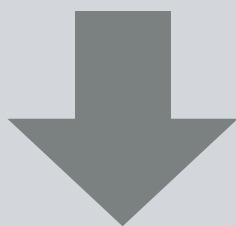
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explosive growth

90 players on nov. 1,
2021



300,000 players on jan. 2,
2022

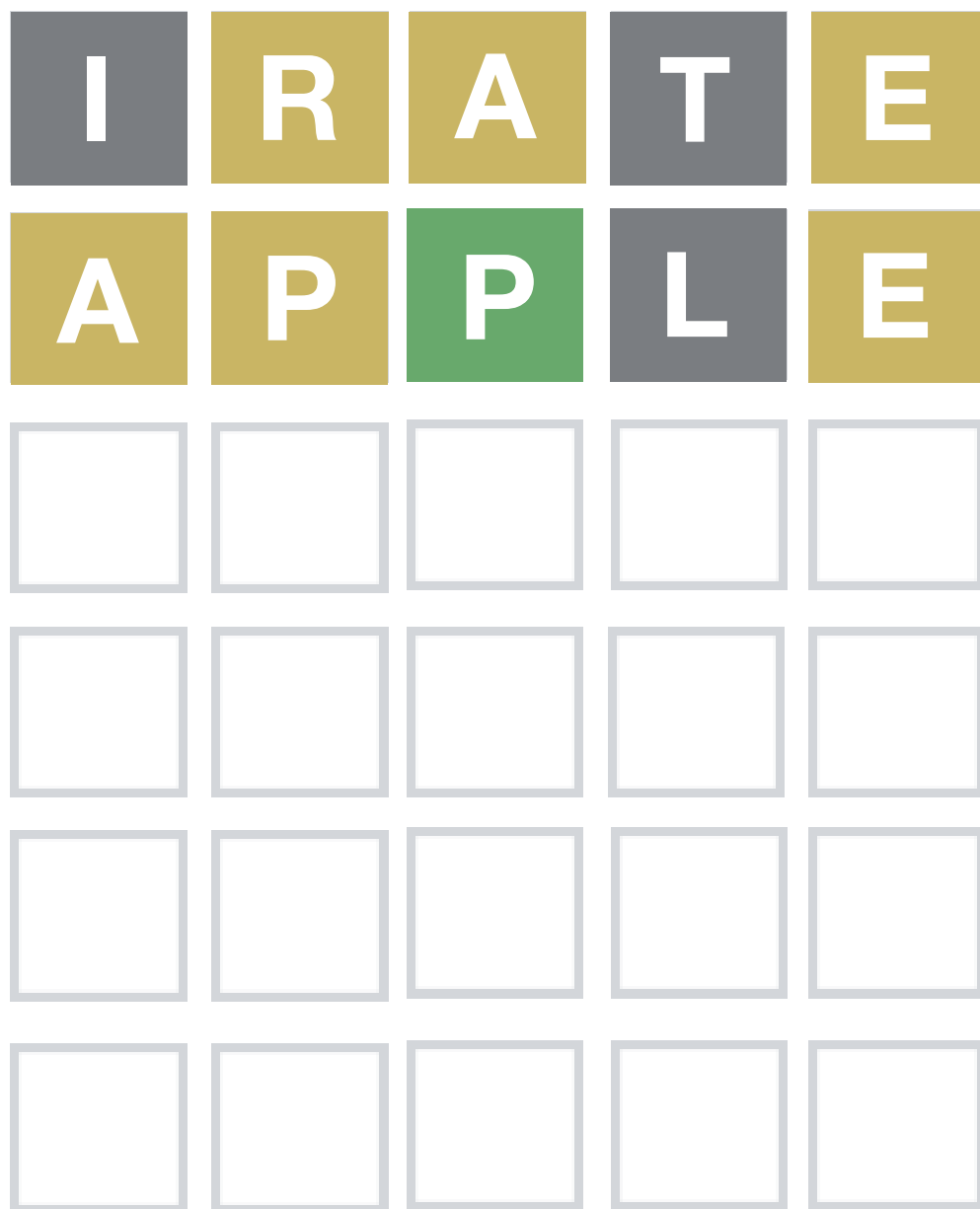


1.2 MILLION players on jan. 13,
2022



>2.5 MILLION players on jan. 21,
2022

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES



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Each guess must be a valid five letter word.
Two words have already been placed on the board.



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correct spot



In the word, in the
incorrect spot



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Removing the state income tax:

Trading the detriment of many for the benefit of a few

By **Hayden Walker**
editor-in-chief

The House of Representatives voted 96-12 on January 12 to pass the "The Mississippi Tax Freedom Act of 2022" which eliminates the income tax. It still must be passed by the Senate for it to be codified into law, but the fact that the House passed it with such an overwhelming majority is concerning. Removing the income tax in our state would harm every Mississippian regardless of how much money they make.

Governor Tate Reeves has been advocating for the removal of Mississippi's state income tax since August of last year. Even though this means that Mississippians may not have to pay income tax on the state level, they will still have to pay federal income taxes.

Mississippi is not the first state to propose this idea. Texas, Tennessee and Florida removed their state income taxes in recent years. Reeves cites them as examples of states that have been successful after removing their income tax because each of those states saw a population increase after doing so. However, the two aren't necessarily related. Each of those states is home to one or more major cities in the United States (and coincidentally, an NFL team too): Houston, Dallas, Nashville, Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa.

Unfortunately, Mississippi is not home to a city of that caliber. Big cities mean a big job market. Job opportunity is a much more likely reason for moving to a new state than evading a tax is. As state representative Hob Bryan from Amory, MS put it: "Do you know a single human being on the face of the earth that would move to Mississippi if only we didn't have a state income tax?" Let's face it—the income tax is not the sole thing keeping people away from Mississippi. The harsh reality is that its removal would not cause a sudden flood of migration to our state.

The most alarming thing about Reeves's proposal is not his faulty logic surrounding the supposed increased im-

migration to our state. Rather, it is the plan to make up for the lost revenue. According to Mississippi Today, a total of 6.7 billion dollars was made from all taxes for the state of Mississippi last year. Removing the state income tax would lower that total to 4.5 billion. This means that the state income tax makes up 2.2 billion dollars of Mississippi's total tax revenue, which is 33 percent of the total.

Mississippi Today also reports that with the removal of the revenue generated by the state income tax, the state would only be bringing in as much money as they did before the year 2010. In other words, Mississippi would be trying to pay for our already underfunded education system, infrastructure and healthcare with the amount of money the state was making more than a decade ago.

So what does Reeves plan to do to fill this hypothetical gaping hole in our tax revenue? Raise sales tax by 1.5 percent, reduce grocery tax by 3 percent and cut the price of car tags in half. There are plenty of reasons why this is a bad idea.

First, Reeves's plan to make up for lost revenue is dangerous because it makes our tax revenue depend on how well the economy is performing. Unfortunately, the economy has not been doing too well recently. The prices of goods and services are extremely volatile right now. The income tax is a much more reliable source of revenue than taxing the price of a car, which can change by hundreds of dollars relatively quickly. If our record-breaking inflation rate is any indication, the state of Mississippi will not be making very much money off of the proposed increased sales tax.

Reeves believes that the tax cut will spur economic growth because of the businesses and high-income people that will supposedly be incentivized to move to our state to escape the proportionally higher tax on their income. However, he also maintains that because of this economic growth, there will be an increase in revenue collection. In other words, more taxes will be collected after the tax cut.

So, in this world, no one is escaping tax. Rather, the burden of who pays the tax is transferred to those who are not as able to pay it.

This is the most dangerous effect of the removal of the income tax: it would disproportionately affect lower-income Mississippians, who make up 19.6 percent (almost one-fifth!) of our population—the highest rate of any state in the Union. Even though taxes on food may decrease, this will not affect these families very much since many qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) aid, more commonly known as food stamps. Food stamps are not taxed anyway, so the decrease in food taxes would have no positive effect. Meanwhile, any time a low-income individual wants to buy something that is not food, like clothes or appliances, they will now have to pay 1.5 percent more in sales tax.

When paying for a new \$2,000 refrigerator, for example, that quickly adds up: what used to be \$140 in taxes is now \$170. Extrapolate that over payments for gas, clothes and miscellaneous items over future years and low-income Mississippians are driven even further into poverty. Most low-income households in Mississippi do not even pay income tax because their income is too low, and actually gain money from the federal government's welfare programs. In fact, The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center estimates that low-income households earn more money back from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) than they would ever have to pay in income taxes anyway, so removing the state income tax would not benefit them. But raising sales taxes would certainly harm them. In essence, removing income taxes for the supposed benefit of lower-income Mississippians would do nothing but cause them to have to pay more for goods and services that are necessary to live life.

Sure, it may be nice to have more millionaires moving to our state, but we have already established that there will not be a sudden swarm of rich people descending on the city of Jackson. And even if they did, would that help fight poverty or reduce the number of impoverished people in Mississippi? Laws should improve living conditions for the most people possible. Trading a few millionaires' gain for the detriment of almost 20 percent of our state's population does the exact opposite.

As midterm elections approach this year, it is our job as citizens to pay close attention to not just the activities of our national legislature which so often dominate the news, but also our state legislature's actions. They can have an even greater effect on our day-to-day lives.

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NIL: CHANGING COLLEGIATE SPORTS FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By **Andrews Mclellan**

staff writer

If you have tuned into college sports in the last few months, you might have heard about the introduction of the NIL (name, image, likeness). The NIL has broken one of the largest barriers of college sports, which is the ability to receive financial compensations from sponsors. This rule went into effect July 1, 2021 and many athletes have benefited since then. Some examples of this include Gonzaga Basketball player Chet Holmgren signing with Topps trading card, Ole Miss Girls Soccer players Molly Martin and Channing Foster signing with Walk-Ons Sports Bistreaux, Ole Miss Football signing with Blue Delta Jeans and many more.

I asked Ole Miss Baseball head coach, Mike Bianco, his thoughts on the NIL. “Any change, it’s a little bit scary,” Bianco said. “It’s a change, and it is a good one for the student athletes.”

The NIL can be a risky new addition to college sports, but so far it appears to be beneficial for the athletes. Though the NIL can be beneficial for businesses, it does not serve as a way of recruitment by college coaches.

“This is their name, image and likeness, not ours, so as a university and as coaches we do not serve as their agent or a middle man in these deals,” Bianco said.

The NIL has also had effects on high school athletes, such as Jadan Rashad (18 year old junior quarterback of Pittsburg High School in California) and Travis Hunter (number two high school football player according to ESPN’s ranking system). Hunter has had a pretty crazy recruitment story, signing with Jackson State University under coach Deion Sanders, and being the highest ranked player to sign with a non-Power 5 conference team. These coaches can’t agent and make direct offers to the athletes, but they can orchestrate deals with businesses in the college’s city to benefit athletes.

“Travis Hunter committing to Jackson State shows the power of the individual in the NIL era,” Blake Lawrence, CEO of athlete marketing company Opendorse, said in an interview with On3 radio. “Hunter will be a superstar in every sense of the word. On the field, in the community and, of course, in NIL earnings.”

When Deion Sanders, coach of Jackson State Football, was asked about the NIL and the top ranked athletes going to his program he exclaimed, “We ain’t got no money!”, “We just kicked your butt!”

Ole Miss football coach Lane Kiffin had some things to say about recruitment being influenced by the NIL in an interview with the Clarion Ledger.

“I really hope for these kids they’re getting all the money they’re being promised at these schools when they get there because there’s a lot of money being promised, so I hope for them that they get it,” Kiffin said. “These guys get promised all this money to come places but they don’t have a contract.”

These players are being promised this money with no contract makes signing with these schools a little risky. These are big amounts of money that would be absolutely devastating to not find its home.

Collegiate baseball players are also being given the opportunity to go straight to the draft out of high school through the NIL, and this will have a great effect on colleges losing their top recruits to

the MLB. The first instance of this was seen at LSU, when the baseball organization lost top recruits Ben Kudrna, Brock Selvidge, Ian Moller and Carter Jensen to the draft. NCAA Baseball obviously doesn’t get the same amount of buzz as football in the money aspect, but the maturity of the athlete and the ability to market a brand and stay true and loyal to what is at hand is something that MLB scouts have been looking for. This is in the same way college coaches like to see a player’s grit and interest in their university and career.

These main sports such as baseball, basketball and football have and most likely will get most of the attention and influence through these NIL deals. This influence in the “main” sports will create a greater separation between these sports and the sports that get less attention. The sports world is unsure so far what this will do to the smaller sports and what the future holds for them in their publicity, but hopefully everything can reach a stable point in the world of sports and publicity each sport receives.

Athletes are also seeing the addition of the NIL affecting them in their social media platforms and followings. Popular Youtuber and ex-football player Donald De La Haye Jr., also known as Deestroying, set an example of the rules of social media for a college athlete pre-NIL. In 2015, he was told by the NCAA that he had to delete his Youtube channel since he was a student athlete at the University of Central Florida. Dee forfeited his scholarship and withdrew from the school and pursued his content creation dream. Deestroying has now

become a multimillionaire through this decision and in his fans’ minds had an influence on the introduction of the NIL. Since then, he has spoken on his choice and what motivated him to make it and encourages athletes to take the NIL as an opportunity for greatness.

To top it all off with the rise of the NIL, we have also seen a greater usage in the transfer portal. For those who don’t know, the transfer portal is where athletes from all three NCAA divisions post notices of their intent to transfer and where coaches can search for players to recruit. Ole Miss running back Henry Parrish Jr. was among the crowd of transfers with his decision to play at the University of Miami under his old coach Kevin Smith. Wide receiver John Rhys Plumlee used the transfer portal to get a new opportunity to play baseball and football somewhere else. Plumlee started as a quarterback at the University of Mississippi, but soon Matt Corral took his place and Plumlee moved to wide receiver. On January 3, 2022, Plumlee declared his transfership to the University of Central Florida to pursue new options and show the impact he can make there.

The NIL has affected many players, college and high school, even though it has only been six months since the implementation. The sports world has already seen the good and the bad of this change. This is a big step for the collegiate sports, and hopefully these businesses treat their athletes right, and keep the players in their best interests. Anything can happen in the world of college sports, and only time will tell how this rule goes.



Ole Miss Women’s Soccer players Molly Martin and Channing Foster with Walk-On’s Sports Bistreaux founder Brandon Landry during a celebratory event in Oxford, Mississippi. Walk-On’s Sports Bistreaux opened in Oxford in November 2021.

Skeet shooting team “Oxford Claybusters” prepares for competitions

By Jordan Solinger

sports writer

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, skeet shooting is a sport in which marksmen use shotguns to shoot at clay targets thrown into the air by spring devices called traps. Skeet shooting is a sport of patience and discipline. Oxford resident Joey Buchanan has made it his goal to spread the sport to young adults in Lafayette County. To accomplish this, Buchanan started the “Oxford Claybusters” in 2018. The “Oxford Claybusters” is a group of 24 disciplined high school athletes who love to compete in skeet shooting competitions around the state. The group practices all year to get ready for the fall season of competitions.

Buchanan enjoys skeet shooting because of the unpredictability of the clay targets’ trajectory.

“Every clay is different, meaning that each clay you shot is different from the one you previously shot and the fact that you can get pretty good at it real fast,” Buchanan said.

For Buchanan, having to think quickly about where to position the gun is part of the challenge.

“The hardest thing for them is for a shooter to focus on the clay and not the gun, to look at the clay and move their gun towards it,” Buchanan said.

According to Capp Anderson, a member of the “Oxford Claybusters,” the team provides an opportunity to teach self-control to its members.

“It’s fun because you’re with your friends and people you know skeet shooting around the courses,” Capp said. “It teaches you discipline and patience waiting for the perfect shot to bust the skeet.”

There are two courses close to Oxford. One is in Sardis, around 40 minutes from Oxford, and the

other is in Jackson. Winning competitions at these two courses allows participants to qualify for the state tournament.

“The best achievement would be winning tournaments and going to state,” Capp said.

Competing teams are split up into groups of three, making eight full groups on the Oxford Claybusters. Scoring is based on the amount of clay disks, or skeet, hit out of 100. The discs are launched in erratic patterns by machines, making them much harder for the shooter to hit. Capp recommends skeet shooting for anyone looking to get into a disciplined and competitive sport.

“It’s not hard to learn but you need to know how to lead or be ahead of the skeet,” Capp said.

According to Buchanan, interested students must take a hunter’s safety course and regularly attend practice and shooters pay for their own shells and clays. Practice starts each summer in mid-August. There are two competitions, one in October and one in November. The top 50 teams in the state shoot in May at the state championship, which will be held at Turcotte Shooting Facility in Canton, Mississippi. There are 89 school teams in Mississippi that compete and two private teams, one of these being the Oxford Claybusters. Over 1,200 students participate each year. Buchanan says Oxford has two of the top ten teams overall this year and they will compete in the Southern Regional in June.

The Oxford Claybusters are part of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Parks and Fisheries. Interested students can contact Buchanan at 662-801-6658 or google Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program for more information.

★ SARDIS

★ CANTON



Courtesy of Oxford Claybusters



Courtesy of Oxford Claybusters

Top: The Oxford Claybusters pose for a picture at Turcotte shooting range in Canton, Mississippi. The team consists of 24 students that are of ages ranging from 12 to 18. The team practices every Sunday for competitions. **Right:** Junior **Wilder Anderson** lines up for a shot. They shoot clay targets thrown into the air by traps when competing. The discs are launched in no specific pattern that makes the sport more difficult. He is one of 24 shooters on the team.

OHS bowling team continues their success against Tupelo

By George Monroe

staff writer

The Oxford High School Bows Bowling team recently defeated the bowling team from Tupelo High on January 20. Faith Ann Douglas, the captain of the girls' team, says the Lady Charger bowlers have been honing their skills all season.

"Over this season, our technique has really improved, and our scores have tremendously increased. Some people have even increased their scores by 50 pins and continue exceeding their top scores," Douglas said.

According to Douglas, one reason the team has improved is because of the friendships that were formed over the course of the season. Douglas believes that the team is having fun each match and that the players are bonding. Coach and history teacher Ryne Bankston, who has been coaching bowling for three years, agrees.

"Our team chemistry has definitely improved. This season, we have a great community. The connectedness has really played a big part in continuing to improve the scoresheets. We're the best versions of ourselves right now, and a lot of that comes from supporting each other, giving each other feedback, or even criticism," Bankston said.

This sense of community and togetherness was something freshman Tommy Nichol felt immediately after joining the team.

"Coach Bankston and my peers have really encouraged me. The whole team is positive and enthusiastic," Nichol said. "They've told me that it's

okay if I don't bowl well sometimes. All that matters is improving and contributing to the team."

Douglas, much like Bankston, thinks this positivity leads to better results at the lane.

"Having a good attitude and a good mentality has certainly improved our skills and our performance. When our level of compatibility and communication is high, we show up and play well," Douglas said.

Bowling is partly a game—like chess or darts—and partly a sport, like soccer or football. Bankston, who also coaches the OHS esports, chess and debate teams, says that bowling is an underappreciated activity with many benefits.

"Bowling is more athletic than most people think. It takes great coordination and strength. And although it's a team sport, you still bowl as an individual. Others don't factor into your performance, and you rely on yourself to perform to the best of your ability," Bankston said.

The Chargers practice and bowl their home matches at Premier Lanes, the only bowling alley in Oxford, which is just down the street from Oxford High School. Parents and class-

mates are free to spectate matches. On January 28, the Charger failed to qualify for the state championship when competing at Southaven regionals. But, as the Chargers end their successful season, the players reflect on what made bowling and their season so special.

"Bowling is the perfect balance between fun and work. It's visible and loud. When you get a strike, the joy you feel is unmatched," said Nichol. "At that moment, when all the pins fall, I think about all of the hard work and practice. It's a lot of fun."



Courtesy of OHS Yearbook

Freshman **Swayze McClure** aims for a strike while participating in a match at Premier Lanes.

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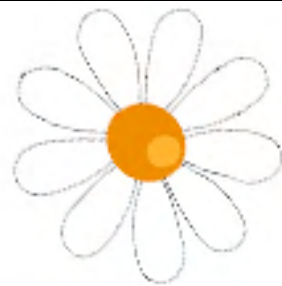


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