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Are they ready?



TOP AND RIGHT: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | LEFT COURTESY: OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss modified original plans for the party section due to safety concerns. The party decks will feature TVs, phone charging stations and fans for students to enjoy during the game. The above photos were taken on yesterday afternoon.

Athletics confident that party decks will be ready

JOSHUA CLAYTON
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With 72 hours until kickoff, the Magnolia Rental and Sales crew continues to install the student party sections in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

Gil Bridges, owner of Magnolia Rental and Sales, said the company providing the tents for the student party area, said the crew will be on a tight deadline for the home opener this weekend as they've only had a few weeks to plan and build the section. The company still yet to install tent covers and install cooling fans, televisions and charging stations around 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Ole Miss's push to improve fan experience in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in response to falling season and student ticket sales has been a long and complicated one for the university.

The biggest change for the students was the revealing of new student party decks. The temporary platforms presented in early August would hold 800 fans at the top of the stands in the north end zone with cooling fans, televisions and charging stations.

However, soon after the news of alcohol sales in the stadium being approved by the university, Ole Miss Athletics announced modifications to the original party decks. Capacity for the decks increased from 800 to over 2,400 and the area would be entirely general admission with no lottery for student groups as originally planned.

In the last few months, Ole Miss has announced several different moves to give fans a more entertaining experience during football games in the 2019 season.

The university has confirmed fewer on-field presentations, 15 new concession areas with new partners, enhanced Coca-Cola Rebel Fan

SEE PARTY DECK PAGE 8

City knew of racist FB posts, gave \$106k contract

GRIFFIN NEAL
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Gail Brown, president of MS Critterz, the organization contracted by the city of Oxford and Lafayette County to run the Oxford animal shelter, has a history of racist Facebook posts dating back to 2014.

Brown used a litany of racial slurs and repeatedly attacked former President Barack Obama, calling him a "mussie" and claiming that he was the leader of ISIS. MS Critterz is located less than .3 miles from an Oxford mosque.

The city of Oxford awarded MS Critterz a contract to take over the animal shelter in October 2018, and the city pledged to pay the shelter \$106,000 annually for the contract.

Before founding MS Critterz, Brown was on the board of the Oxford Lafayette Humane Society, the organization previously tasked with maintaining the Oxford animal shelter. The Daily Journal reported in 2018 that Brown left the board to explore options for a no-kill shelter.

However, Natalie Marrar Estrada, a former member of the OLHS board, confirmed that Brown was expelled from the board for racist and inappropriate Facebook posts.

According to OLHS Board meeting minutes from Oct. 2, 2017, in which Alderman Janice Antonow was present in both the meeting and the executive session, the board voted 7-1 to expel Brown from the board for racist and inappropriate Facebook posts.

SEE RACISM PAGE 8



ARKANSAS VS. OLE MISS: COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S CURSED RIVALRY

The Ole Miss-Arkansas rivalry is one of the most mysterious in college football, marked by an allegedly ineligible player, a game with seven overtimes, a 4th and 25 miracle (or tragedy) and Houston Nutt.

SEE PAGE 6



IHL HOLDS CHANCELLOR LISTENING SESSIONS

Members of the IHL Board of Trustees met with students, faculty and alumni to hear what the university's stakeholders want to see in their next chancellor.

SEE PAGE 3

Place your bets

Students use the internet to illegally gamble on sports

ERIN KILLION
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Over 128 Division I schools and hundreds of others took the field last weekend, signaling that after a nearly eight-month hiatus, college football is finally back.

Gambling on college football is, too.

Some Ole Miss students are using websites and third-party “bookies” to place their bets on everything from the final score of the game to what the singer of the national anthem will be wearing. (The students are being identified only by their first names.)

Nathan, an economics major, said he uses an out-of-state, third-party bookie who places all his wagers for him.

“He’s a physical person who sets up shop and holds the records and everyone’s cash, basically like a honeypot of money, and he’s the one that distributes the winnings and basically controls everything,” he said. “Basically, it’s his own system. You have to really trust him because they could take your money and run with it.”

Other students use websites to place their wagers. Tyler, a general business student, uses a website with an anonymous username given to him by another user.

“A friend asked me if I wanted to do sports betting, and he just had a guy that sets you up. The guy just sends you your information, your username and your password,” he said. Tyler said he has to renew his account information every year.

The amount wagered can vary, and students have reported wagering up to \$80 on a game or match.



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

“It depends on the match-up, but if it’s like this weekend, I would put like \$40 or \$60 just because it’s two close teams so your winnings are going to be pretty profitable,” Tyler said. He said he’s won \$200 on a boxing match by betting against the odds.

While many Ole Miss students admit to participating in online sports gambling, there is confusion among participants about the legality of it.

Ben, a finance major, said he only gambles on websites he believes to be operated by state-approved books and casinos.

“The laws are not very clear, but it is not illegal to wager online in the

state of Mississippi, operating an online sports book is,” Ben said.

Other students said that they knew online sports betting was illegal and that it didn’t bother them.

some types of on-site gambling is legal, using the internet to gamble on sports is not.

“All kinds of online gambling in the state of Mississippi are illegal,” Godfrey said, though he recognized

“I would bet against Ole Miss. I bet against them for this past game (against Memphis),”

- Nathan
Senior Economic Major

Allen Godfrey, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC), said that while

that many college-age students do use the web to wager on sports illegally.

According to MGC regulations, sports gambling on a mobile device requires that wagers be placed within a facility approved by the executive director for mobile gaming. Approved facilities include any area within the property boundaries of a casino that has been determined legal for gambling by the MGC.

Eleven states currently host legal, active sports wagering. Mississippi, although included in these 11, only allows sports betting on-site in casinos. Six states have legalized sports betting online.

On May 14, 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, which outlawed sports betting nationwide, violated the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Sports wagering is popular with Ole Miss students, and those who participate report different reasons for placing their bets.

Nathan said he bet on sports for fun and entertainment purposes, while other students said that having money on games makes the boring games more interesting.

Considering the recent performance of the Ole Miss football team, students said they are less likely to bet on the Rebels doing well in games.

“I would bet against Ole Miss. I bet against them for this past game (against Memphis),” Nathan said.

Students said their loyalty to the Rebels doesn’t affect whether they would wager against them.

“I try to be as unbiased as possible when making wagers, so the performance of the football team hasn’t affected my willingness to wager on an Ole Miss game,” Ben said.



Khaleif Martin

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What should the next chancellor do? Students, faculty weigh in

KENNETH NIEMEYER
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The Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning held their second in-person listening session on Thursday to gain input from different groups in the UM community in their search for the next chancellor. The IHL held the first listening session in June at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Each session was divided into sections to address specific constituencies.

No students attended the first listening session in June. Thursday's session had a large turnout of students who voiced their opinions on the chancellor search as well as the recent issues concerning racism on campus.

One student, senior public policy leadership major R.G. Pickering, listed three qualities

he thought the board should consider in their search. He said the next chancellor should be connected to the 'soul of Ole Miss,' have a diverse background and be an effective communicator.

"It is important to have a chancellor that understands the university and who communicates exceptionally with students and stakeholders," Pickering said.

Several students said they did not think the next chancellor should prioritize issues involving race on campus, and others said that moving the confederate monument should be paramount in the new chancellor's mind.

"It's not about erasing history," senior political science major Sergio Brack said. "It's about understanding that some history doesn't need to be put on a pedestal."

Douglass Sullivan-González, dean of the honors college,

encouraged the IHL board to keep their search simple and compared recent chancellor hires to former Chicago Cubs player Bill Buckner's tenth inning error in the 1986 World Series.

"If he had stuck to the fundamentals, the curse would have been lifted, but instead the curse remained in the 21st century," Sullivan-Gonzalez said.

Some members of the community voiced their frustration that the IHL was not providing feedback during the listening session.

Ford Dye, vice president of the IHL board and chair of the Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee, said that the listening session was set up for the IHL to hear the concerns of the public so that the IHL can use them for input in their interviews of candidates. Dye also said that there would not be a time for the public to receive



MAGGIE BUSHWAY / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A student expresses concern at the chancellor listening sessions. The sessions were designed for students to give input about the next decision on the new chancellor.

feedback during the session.

At the previous listening session in June, several members of the IHL did answer questions from the crowd. Provost Noel Wilkin, who was in attendance at the session in June, also answered questions about the university's efforts to recruit students from Mississippi.

Sociology professor James Thomas, who was recently granted tenure by the IHL after a controversial tweet, expressed his frustration with the lack of feedback several times during the session.

Thomas asked that the IHL board for a definition of "academic freedom" and asked that the board keep the standards of academic freedom in mind in their search for candidates. He was frustrated when the board would not respond to any questions. Several other faculty members from the history and sociology departments also said that academic freedom should be a priority for the new chancellor.

"Having been to several sessions now, I'm not convinced that this is the best way to convince campus publics and get the best information for the search," Thomas said. "It feels coming before the microphone, like you're coming before a court."

Barron Mayfield, Associated Student Body president and member of the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee, said that the listening session would be helpful for him when trying to flesh out candidates for nomination but might leave the community frustrated.

"I don't know if it's the most effective way in terms of connecting with the community," Mayfield said. "You're going to get helpful information and good feedback ... but I don't think it makes the community feel super involved in the process. That's been frustrating, but I do think it will be helpful in the end."

The IHL is also holding an online listening session for students, faculty and staff and alumni to voice their concerns. The online listening session closes on September 6.

The first round of interviews will begin on Oct. 2. There will be a second round of interviews mid-October and the IHL hopes to have a candidate in place by the end of the month.

One alumnus asked the board what they would do, if after finishing the search process, they still could not agree upon a candidate.

Dye said they would "cross that bridge when they get to it."



MAGGIE BUSHWAY / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A panel of community members from Oxford and the university sit in during the chancellor listening sessions. The sessions were designed for students to give input about the next decision on the new chancellor.

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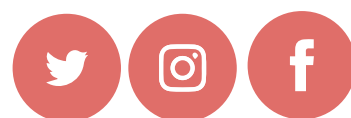
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Rebels looking for rebound win over Arkansas

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After falling on the road at Memphis and struggling offensively, the Ole Miss Rebels are coming home. They'll open SEC play against the Arkansas Razorbacks at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on Saturday.

The Razorbacks have won four of the last five in the series against the Rebels. Their four-game winning streak in the series was snapped last season with a 37-33 Ole Miss victory at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas. Both teams are looking to emerge out

of the SEC West basement, finishing in the final two spots in last season's standings.

For Ole Miss, their 15-10 season-opening loss to the Tigers was laced with offensive ineptitude in new coordinator Rich Rodriguez's debut. The Rebels were only able to muster 173 yards of total offense and 13 first downs, held scoreless until late in the third quarter.

The Rebels' young offensive line gave up 10 tackles for loss and three sacks against Memphis's constant pressure throughout the afternoon.

"We just struggled up front with them and their movement at times early on. We



BILLY SCHUERMAN/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Jerrion Ealy (9) stads in the end zone waiting to return the kickoff against Memphis. Ole Miss will play Arkansas next on Saturday.

had a couple of bad decisions. We stayed behind the chains and couldn't get going," head coach Matt Luke said following the loss.

Quarterback Matt Corral finished 9-19 for 93 yards. Scottie Phillips was quiet for most of the game, but ended up with 19 carries for 62 yards and a touchdown.

The new look Rebel defense led by Mike McIntyre kept them in the game with a few turnovers on downs and third down stops. They were left on the field for 38:41 of the game and cost them on Memphis' final offensive possession to milk the clock.

"They played a lot of snaps. I thought our conditioning was good, but I'm sure it took its toll," Luke said.

Josiah Coatney, Keidron Smith and Lakia Henry each led the Rebels with seven tackles a piece. Benito Jones provided their only turnover with an interception. The Rebels' next opponent will provide another heavy run game for them to deal with.

It also wasn't easy for the Chad Morris-led Arkansas Razorbacks, but they managed to escape FCS opponent Portland State 20-13 at home to open the season. Running back Rakeem Boyd

led the way for the Razorbacks offensively with 18 carries for 114 yards and a touchdown. Devwah Whaley also had a rushing touchdown. Their probable starter at quarterback, Ben Hicks, completed 14 of 29 passes for 143 yards.

Defensively, Arkansas was led by McTelvin Agim and Bumper Pool. Each of them had six tackles. Joe Faucha was one of three Razorbacks to get an interception last week. Faucha also had a tackle and two pass breakups.

Kickoff time is set for 6:00 p.m. and is televised by SEC Network.

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MASON SCIONEUX
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Ole Miss students who bought football season tickets may have noticed a change in the ticket delivery method from previous years.

For the first time since before the 2010 football season, student tickets were not loaded onto the student ID cards, and such cards will not be suitable for entry into Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

Rather, each season ticket holder received an email Tuesday afternoon that included seven individual links for their tickets to each home football game. The links brought them to a digital ticket, which could be placed in either their Apple Wallet or Google Pay.

Ole Miss Athletics decided to make the change to add convenience to the game day entry process for students.

Katie Wisdom, the director of ticket operations, said that the switch to digital tickets was

made to eliminate the problem of students having to hold onto their IDs to enter the stadium on game days.

"Sending mobile tickets to students is easier to manage because they are no longer tied to their student IDs, which can be lost, misplaced on game day or stolen, resulting in the inability to enter the stadium," she said.

The change is also expected to ease the stadium entry lines, as well as make it harder for unauthorized ticket sharing or swapping.

"Contactless tickets will allow for easier and quicker entry into the stadium," Wisdom said, "as they are not barcoded and the user simply needs to tap their phone to the handheld scanner to enter. Students will also be less likely to lend out their phones, as opposed to lending their student ID to someone."

While the student ticket transfer process has not changed, fan reaction has been mixed.

Alex Ligman, sophomore engineering student and two-year student season ticket holder, said that this is just a case of fixing something that is not broken and brought up the possibility of cell phones dying prior to kickoff. This would leave students virtually ticketless, as opposed to the IDs, which did not rely on personal phones.

"Leave it to the university to take something that worked perfectly fine and screw it up," he said.

Sophomore exercise science major Sara Hoffman agreed that the change may be unhelpful to students.

"Students are going to find it (the change) to be an unnecessary inconvenience, since no one really seemed to see a problem with the old way."

Overall fan reaction is yet to be heard, as the Rebels take on the Arkansas Razorbacks in the first home game Saturday evening at 6 p.m. This will be the first game under the new ticket entry system.

College football pick 'em: Week two

College football is back in a big way. After an entertaining week one, there's another slate of marquee matchups on the buffet this weekend. Sports Editor Joshua Clayton and News Editor Griffin Neal guide you in the right direction.



No. 12 Texas A&M at No. 1 Clemson (-17.5), O/U 64.5

Joshua: The Aggies looked solid last weekend against North Texas, but this is big-time football, gentlemen. I can never pick against Trevor "Sunshine" Lawrence, Travis Etienne and the boys. Clemson wins but it'll be a close one.

Griffin: Drive to the bank, find the nearest ATM, drain your bank account for all it's worth and hammer the Texas A&M spread. The Aggies nearly defeated Clemson last fall, if not for a failed two-point conversion as time expired. They looked strong against North Texas, and Trevor Lawrence is en route

to a sophomore hangover. Clemson wins, but the Aggies cover.



No. 6 LSU (-6.5) at No. 9 Texas, O/U 55.5

Joshua: The Texas boys got a little petty wearing those DBU shirts. Big mistake. HUGE. Joe Burrow tosses three touchdowns and Grant Delpit gets a pick. The Bayou Bengals cover this one.

Griffin: Texas is back, back, back, back and gone! After drubbing Louisiana Tech last weekend, there seems to be some legitimate optimism in Austin that Texas might actually, finally, be back. But it's a flash in the pan. The Bayou Bengals will waltz into Darrell Royal on Saturday and walk out

with at least a 17 point win. McConaughey can't save you, horns.



Southern Miss at Mississippi State (-16.5), O/U 51.5

Joshua: This game will be close, but the Bulldogs will win. They didn't look good against Louisiana- Lafayette in the Superdome, but I think Kylin Hill will be too much for the Golden Eagle defense. Whatever, who cares?

Griffin: Mississippi State was my lock of the week last week, and they failed me, miserably. They barely squeaked by an average Sun Belt team in ULL, but I'm not giving up on them yet. Back at Davis-Wade, where they won't

sell alcohol (lol), I think State hangs 45 on Southern and covers that spread.



Arkansas at Ole Miss (-6.5), O/U 51

Joshua: I'm not a gambling man, but if I was... I wouldn't touch this game with a 10-foot pole. Would anyone actually watch this game if they weren't affiliated with either school? I wouldn't. I refuse to believe this Ole Miss offense can outscore anybody until I see it. I don't think Memphis is a good team and

everyone saw that game. That SEC front could be trouble for the Rebels.

Griffin: I am a gambling man, and I am laying the points here. Ole Miss is back in Oxford, and despite the gut-wrenchingly poor performance against Memphis, I think the Rebels respond forcefully. After all, Arkansas barely eked out a win against Portland State last week. Corral throws for over 300, Jonathan Mingo breaks onto the scene with five catches and a touchdown, and we're all singing the fight song Saturday night with arms locked and smiles on our faces.

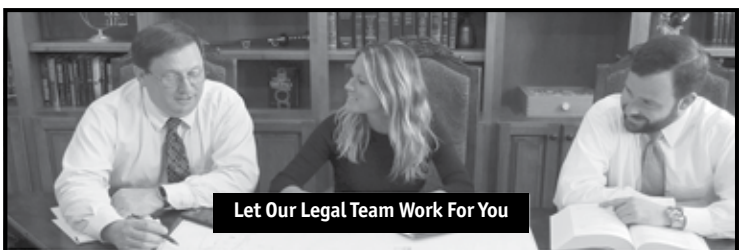
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Ole Miss vs. Arkansas: College Football's cursed rivalry

JOHN MACON GILLESPIE
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The Ole Miss-Arkansas rivalry has been marked by an allegedly ineligible player, a game with seven overtimes, a 4th and 25 miracle (or tragedy) and H**ston N**tt.

The Rebels and Razorbacks first met on the gridiron on October 10, 1908, a game Arkansas won 33-0. These two schools have met 65 times total since then.

In this strange conference rivalry, there isn't a consensus on the actual series standings. If you ask Arkansas, they lead the series 36-28-1, but according to Ole Miss, the Razorbacks lead the series 35-29-1.

The game in question between these two schools came in 1914, a game that, according to Arkansas, saw the Rebels utilize an ineligible player. Ole Miss denies the ineligibility of a player, thus chalking up the game as the

13-7 win reflected by the scoreboard.

That's the least abnormal thing about the rivalry that has become a circus, especially in the last half decade.

Before last season, Arkansas had won four straight games over the Rebels. Take a look at the results stemming from 2014:

2014: Arkansas 30, Ole Miss 0 (Fayetteville, Ark.)

2015: Arkansas 53, Ole Miss 52 (OT) (Oxford, Miss.)

2016: Arkansas 34, Ole Miss 30 (Fayetteville, Ark.)

2017: Arkansas 38, Ole Miss 37 (Oxford, Miss.)

2018: Ole Miss 37, Arkansas 33 (Little Rock, Ark.)

Arkansas won a 53-52 overtime game in Oxford in 2015, the infamous "4th and 25" game, essentially ending Ole Miss's shot at winning the SEC West and appearing in the SEC Championship game in Atlanta. Arkansas won the next two years as well, 34-30 and 38-37, respectively.



NATALIE PRUITT/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The 38-37 game in 2017 was in Matt Luke's interim head coach season. The Rebels led at one point by as much as 31-7 but an Arkansas comeback spurred by late first half heroics and an improbable second-half performance led by Cole Kelley, an offensive tackle masquerading as a quarterback, and his gang of tight ends. The Razorbacks used a Jordan Ta'amu fumble and a last-second, go-ahead field goal to beat Ole Miss.

Arkansas's previously mentioned 4th and 25 conversion in 2015 wasn't their only overtime win over the Rebels. In 2001, an Ole Miss team quarterbacked by a young Eli Manning forced the Hogs to seven overtime periods (an NCAA record at the time) before succumbing 58-56 in Oxford.

That game featured a combined total of 988 offensive yards and four 100-yard rushers. Last season, Ole Miss got revenge on Arkansas's recent good fortunes, ending a streak of four straight wins by the Razorbacks with a come-

back of its own on a rainy night in Little Rock, finishing the Hogs with a 37-33 final score. The last four games in this series have been decided by a combined total of 10 points.

Needless to say, this rivalry has seen its fair share of crazy finishes, and the two programs even have a past head coach in common in Houston Nutt. Nutt left Arkansas following the 2007 season and came to Ole Miss, where he coached through the 2011 season.

This year, the Rebels and Razorbacks meet uncharacteristically early, doing battle in week two of the season. Neither Ole Miss nor Arkansas are believed to be overly talented this season with Ole Miss falling to Memphis last week and Arkansas narrowly escaping Portland State.

Still, the sky isn't the goal for these programs, but progress is. Ole Miss has not made a bowl game since the 2015 season due to NCAA sanctions and disappointing seasons. Arkansas has not made a bowl trip since the 2016 season and finished with the horrific mark

of 2-10 last season. Both head coaches, Matt Luke and Chad Morris, are looking for any kind of positive step to reignite support amongst their respective fanbases, and a bowl game would definitely be a good start.

Still, in order to reach a bowl, this game almost has to be a win. For teams lacking in talent like Ole Miss and Arkansas, there are a limited number of winnable games on the schedule, and in order to reach the threshold of six wins and bowl eligibility, you need every win you can get. Ole Miss already let one slip away in Memphis last week, so this Saturday's game against the Hogs is of the utmost importance if the Rebels hope to take the next step as a program and reach a bowl game.

This game historically gets weird quickly, and that will probably be the case again this weekend. Neither team blew critics away last week, so mistakes and sloppy play could lead to another crazy game in this rivalry.

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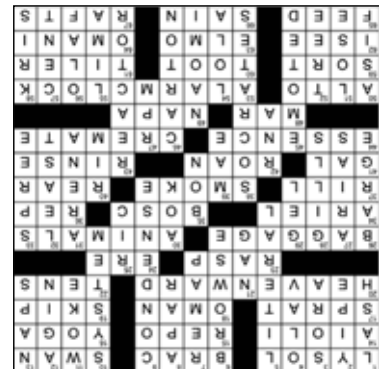
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- DOWN**
- 1- Quantity of paper;
 - 2- Golden Rule word;
 - 3- Jellylike citrus preserve;
 - 4- Suffix with Capri;
 - 5- "Speed" star;
 - 6- Young boy or girl;
 - 7- Hearty partner;
 - 8- Came down;
 - 9- Get thee _____ nunnerly;
 - 10- It had a part in the Bible;
 - 11- As _____ resort;
 - 12- Dressed to the _____;
 - 13- Milk source;
 - 22- Small batteries;
 - 23- Big name in insurance;
 - 25- "You are _____";

SOLUTION TO 9.4.19 PUZZLE



- 26- Uncle Remus title;
- 27- No way;
- 28- It's frowned upon;
- 29- Orgs.;
- 30- Goes (for);
- 32- Freshly;
- 33- Abductor;
- 34- "Metamorphoses" poet;
- 35- Biological bristle;
- 37- Medium of exchange;
- 38- Iridescent gemstone;
- 39- Town near Santa Fe;
- 43- Having special ability;
- 44- Criminal charge;
- 45- Flowerchild;
- 46- Nest of a bird of prey;
- 47- Dreadlocks wearer;
- 48- Gives in to oxidation;
- 49- Give temporarily;
- 50- Seaweed;
- 51- Chess piece;
- 53- Air;
- 54- Imitated;
- 56- Long-tailed rodent;
- 58- Hockey great Bobby;

Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

				8				2	5
7				5	9			8	3
5			4		2	6	9		
			4		3				1
				5		4			
8				7			5		
	7	5	9		3				6
3	1		8	2					9
9	4			6					

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

EASY

2	5	3	1	6	7	8	4	9
9	4	7	5	8	2	6	1	3
6	1	8	3	9	4	5	7	2
4	3	5	6	1	7	2	9	8
8	6	2	4	9	5	7	3	1
8	9	7	1	3	8	4	5	6
7	9	6	2	8	3	4	5	1
5	8	4	1	2	6	9	3	7
3	8	9	6	5	1	7	2	4
4	6	9	3	8	7	1	2	5

OPINION

Trending: Twitter reacts to first pictures of party decks

@RebelNutt18

Me: I want a party deck!
Ole Miss: We have a party deck at home
Party deck at home:

@VictoriaHeim

By this standard, get ready for recruitment- party decks in front of every sorority house.

@Bama6895

My goodness. It's a freaking tent.

@danfmiller

Lawd a-mighty that is saddest-looking thing ever. What, did they hire somebody's brother's Grove tent business to set that up? Absurd.

@isahellya

not even fashion nova could get away with this

@chumleekillorin

You vs. the guys she tells you not to worry about

@EdwinSkye

Gonna give the athletic department the benefit of the doubt here and say this isn't what the finished product will look like... this can't be what they're calling party decks... right?!

@HHatcher628

Oh lord

@Wawlfinebaum

What funeral home is sponsoring those funeral tents?

@KinseyKay_

Ole miss literally fyre fest-ed us with these party decks



OLE MISS ATHLETICS

The university released the rendering on left in early August. Since then, athletics had to modify the design due to safety concerns. The image on the right was taken on Wednesday afternoon. Work has continued in preparation for game day, including cooling fans and TVs.

Student activists fabricate their outrage

JOSH BAKER

thedmsports@gmail.com

The culture of “social activism” seen around Oxford is manufactured rot, a silencing of reason, run by a minority of radicals that fearmonger the majority into pretending to agree.

I have no doubt that simply speaking out against these progressive activists, a term that has become so self-righteous it's laughable, will lead to outrage against this piece. The Daily Mississippian is littered with people searching desperately to find racism to be upset about, and look hard for it. And when they can't find it, they make it up. See the opinion article published by the DM: “We all need racial sensitivity training.” No steps to inform the entire campus? Are you ignoring the dozen or so historical contextualization plaques around campus? Or the statue of James Meredith in front of the most frequently visited buildings on campus?

Not a semester goes by without an explosion of public outcry against a perceived social injustice on our campus. The vast majority turn out to be slanderous attempts at glory by childish ideologues patting themselves on the back for attempting to destroy the reputation of people who disagree.

Take, for example, the scapegoating of Ed Meek: a gracious and generous philanthropist for the university who, within minutes of posting a vague criticism of Oxford's party culture, was accused of being a racist (though exonerated by Ole Miss faculty. See: professor Smith's “Dr. Meek brought calm and reason to conflicts”).

Or, the marches to advocate for the removal of a statue memorializing the men who died, though for an immoral cause, for Oxford. There's also the weak-spined, unanimous decision by the Associated Student Body Senate and Faculty Senate to remove it. This is sweeping unpleasant history under the rug

because we're afraid to face it (frighteningly, that might make us unable to learn from it).

The statue represents an unflinching resolve to face and accept the ugliness of our history, not to take pride in it.

There are countless examples of these opportunistic outrages, carried out by a tiny minority of self-righteous and resentful zealots. Ole Miss students are pressured through these public shaming events to be involved in the cause of the week (or in the extremists' opinion, weak). Not participating in these events brands one as the bigoted and ignorant enemy (God forbid you have a different perspective). Dissent is no longer allowed.

Participating can gain one the prestigious title of woke (read: mindless follower).

These movements have become degrading to minorities. Progressives (read: Regressives) act as though historically oppressed groups need to be placed on a pedestal, protected

and coddled by whining victimizers instead of treated as neighbors, equals.

Displays of pity for “oppressed” groups have inspired fraudulent behavior in the centrist majority. Donning the guise of caring immensely about every perceived sensitivity of those with different skin colors (all they seem to see), instead of looking for concrete problems to solve. Being outspoken or honest about one's opinion leads to incredible reputational damage or physical violence (See: Andy Ngo, Berkeley Antifa Riots, Portland Antifa Riots).

No hate on the left indeed. It is concerning to see so many convinced of their superiority for their underdeveloped stances on topics that are never challenged by others. And clearly, it is dangerous. You want to debate the left's ideas? They want you to hurt.

The current trend of prefer-

ence falsification (People lie about preferences that differ from what they genuinely want to appear more socially acceptable) will implode as the harsh truths of reality pierce through the lies of the self-perceived champions of the downtrodden (many of whom have known nothing but privilege in their lives). Or, more simply: if you keep sweeping dirt under the carpet, there will be more dirt than carpet, and no one will be fooled.

In a culture of lies and facades, the truth has never been more valuable. Sit across from those who you disagree with and consider that they know something you don't. May the best ideas win.

Josh Baker is a senior economics and mathematics major from Houston, Texas.

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RACISM

continued from page 1

When asked if she was aware of Brown's history of racism before unanimously voting to approve the contract, Antonow could not be reached for comment.

Frank Estrada, husband of Natalie Estrada, emailed Antonow on Oct. 1, 2018 to inform her that he was resigning from his position as an animal control officer, writing that he "cannot and will not work for Gail Brown."

Another individual closely involved with the OLHS at the time confirmed that Brown was removed from the board for her racist posts, and that both Antonow and Lafayette County District 4 supervisor Chad McLarty had knowledge of the reasoning.

The individual also added that following Brown's departure, Antonow requested police presence at the following two meetings in fear of Brown returning.

Antonow was not a voting member of the board, but she served as liaison between the shelter and the Board of Aldermen. As liaison, Antonow was tasked with keeping the Aldermen and the Mayor informed with the proceedings of the

OLHS.

Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill told reporters yesterday that neither she, nor the city, were aware of Brown's Facebook posts when they awarded MS Critterz the contract in 2018 but did acknowledge that they were made aware of them in January of 2019 when screenshots were mailed anonymously to both her and Lafayette County Board of Supervisors President Jeff Busby's office.

Three months after the packet was mailed to her office, in May 2019, the city of Oxford extended the contract with MS Critterz until Sept. 30.

It is unclear whether or not Antonow shared the reason for Brown's departure from the OLHS board with Tannehill before awarding MS Critterz the contract. Tannehill did not respond to repeated calls requesting comment.

In a public statement, MS Critterz said that the organization does not discriminate.

"The organization MS Critterz is non-discriminatory on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry) disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status, in any of its activities or operations," the statement read.

This is a developing story.

PARTY DECK

continued from page 1

Fest and, most notably, alcohol sales in the final three home games of the season.

"There is no question that our students are absolutely critical to creating a home-field advantage at the Vaught, and we look forward to giving them an experience that makes them want to get there early and stay until the end," Interim Athletic Director Keith Carter said in a statement.

When approached with questions about the new party section, Associate AD for Marketing and Fan Experience Jason List directed further questions to the athletics communications office, who directed us to the official statement released on Friday.

According to that statement, the modifications were made after it was evident the original construction plans would cause safety issues for students.

"In regards to the platforms, safety concerns were identified during the construction that forced a change in plans," Carter said. "Safety will always be our top priority, and we will never compromise on that. Fortunately, these alternate plans will actually allow us to keep the same amenities and accommodate more students."

Ole Miss released another statement on Wednesday revealing survey results that put Ole Miss among the top schools in the SEC for fan experience. That survey also maintained that full amenities would be included in the decks starting with the Arkansas game. The survey was sent to football season ticket holders in December of 2018.

"Our mission will always be to deliver the best game day in college sports, and we are committed to maintaining our status as a 'bucket list' experience," said Deputy Athletics Director Michael Thompson. "These surveys have generated invaluable data for improving fan satisfaction over the years, and we are grateful for the insight that Rebel Nation has provided us by participating."

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