

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Daily Mississippian

Journalism and New Media, School of

10-22-2020

October 22, 2020

The Daily Mississippian

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/thedmonline>

Recommended Citation

The Daily Mississippian, "October 22, 2020" (2020). *Daily Mississippian*. 1318.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/thedmonline/1318>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Journalism and New Media, School of at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Daily Mississippian by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Student Voter Guide 2020

Election Day is Nov. 3. Here's what you need to know.

Ballot breakdown
see page 2

Voting at UM
see page 3

Race for Senate
see page 5

Athletic activism
see page 8

As we move closer to Election Day, many students are scrambling to the polls to vote early in states outside of Mississippi, turn in absentee ballots or register at the last minute in their respective states, and 2020 will be the year many students vote for the first time. For students registered in Lafayette County, ballots will be three pages of some of the most-watched races and initiatives in the country.

The Daily Mississippian put together a voting guide for any student looking for more information about this year's upcoming elections. Inside, see coverage of this year's ballot, including the race for a U.S. Senate seat, conflicting medical marijuana initiatives and how the university is educating students on voting.

An unexpected year in Lafayette

Record voter registration numbers
and a return to paper ballots

HADLEY HITSON

dmmanaging@gmail.com

The last time Lafayette County residents took to the polls for the March primaries, they voted on a paperless, direct-recording electronic (DRE) system, but this November, the county will return to paper-based ballots for the first time since 2007.

While DREs were once seen as the most accessible, high-tech voting machine option, concerns about their level of security have arisen over the past decade. Without any paper trail of votes, errors in the machine hardware or software can be difficult to detect, which allows a greater possibility for mistakes or breaches to go unnoticed. Last year, proof of malfunctions surfaced with the AccuVote TSx machines used in Lafayette County.

In a video posted to Facebook last August, a man repeatedly attempted to select Bill Waller Jr. on his Lafayette County voting machine, and each time, the machine would uncheck Waller and

select then-Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves. While the Secretary of State's office said this was the only machine that malfunctioned, The Washington Post reported that 19 votes were cast on it before the county took the machine offline.

A substantial group of voting security experts, including Lawrence Norden, director of the Brennan Center for Justice, agree that paper-based ballots are the only reliable means of verifying votes and ensuring that voting — the cornerstone of the American democracy — remains secure.

According to Norden, nearly 90% of voters in the U.S. will use paper ballots this year. Now, voters in Lafayette County will join the vast majority voting with traceable paper ballots, and county circuit clerk Jeff Busby said that the county is preparing for a voter turnout unlike previous years.

Over 600 people registered

SEE VOTING SECURITY PAGE 12

PHOTO CREDITS
IN
CLOCKWISE
ORDER;
AP PHOTO/
ROGELIO V. SOLIS.
PHOTO COURTESY:
BOB NICHOLS VIA
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE. PHOTO
COURTESY: U.S. FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE. PHOTO
COURTESY U.S. EMBASSY AND
CONSULATE TO KAZAKHSTAN. PHOTOS
COURTESY GAGE SKIDMORE. FILE PHOTO
BY REED JONES.

Navigating the vote

What you may see on the ballot in Lafayette County

ELIZA NOE

dmeditor@gmail.com

For many students, this is the first year where many young adults will cast a vote in national and state elections. This election cycle, Mississippi and Lafayette County voters will have the chance to vote in a new state flag, create a medical marijuana program and elect various officials. Here's what you need to know about filling out your ballot.

If you're filling out your ballot at home to vote early or absentee, you must use a blue or black pen. Avoid felt-tip, and make sure you do not fill out the ballot on a wet surface. Many states will compare your signature to what is already on file, and for most Americans, this will be a drivers' license signature. Take a look at your license while you are signing to make sure they match. When dating your signature, write out the entire date (10/19/2020, instead of 10/19/20). Also, check for your state's recommended "send-by" date to make sure your ballot comes in on time. Finally, avoid taking photos of your ballot or selfies with your ballot; many states — including Mississippi — prohibit these photos and your ballot could be deemed invalid.

The presidential election cycle has come back around since the 2016 win for Donald Trump, and this year, his biggest competitor is former Vice President Joe Biden, who served eight years with the Barack Obama administration. In addition to other candidates, rapper Kanye West will be featured on Mississippi's ballot, which is one of only 12 states to feature the celebrity after he declared himself a candidate in September.

SAMPLE Official Election Ballot

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

2020 General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

TO VOTE: YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY USING A BLACK OR BLUE PEN.

Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil.

Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

For United States President

Vote for ONE

☐ Presidential Electors for Joseph R. Biden Jr. for President and Kamala D. Harris for Vice President

Democrat

☐ Presidential Electors for Donald J. Trump for President and Michael R. Pence for Vice President

Republican

☐ Presidential Electors for Don Blankenship for President and William Mohr for Vice President

American Constitution

☐ Presidential Electors for Brian Carroll for President and Amar Patel for Vice President

American Solidarity

☐ Presidential Electors for Phil Collins for President and Bill Parker for Vice President

Independent

☐ Presidential Electors for Howie Hawkins for President and Angela Nicole Walker for Vice President

Green

☐ Presidential Electors for Jo Jorgensen for President and Jeremy 'Spike' Cohen for Vice President

Libertarian

☐ Presidential Electors for Brock Pierce for President and Karla Ballard for Vice President

Independent

☐ Presidential Electors for Kanye West for President and Michelle Tidball for Vice President

Independent

☐ Write-in

For United States Senate

Vote for ONE

☐ Mike Espy

Democrat

☐ Cindy Hyde-Smith

Republican

☐ Jimmy L. Edwards

Libertarian

☐ Write-in

For US House Of Representatives 1st Congressional District

Vote for ONE

☐ Antonia Eliason

Democrat

☐ Trent Kelly

Republican

☐ Write-in

For US House Of Representatives 2nd Congressional District

Vote for ONE

☐ Brian Flowers

Republican

☐ Bennie G. Thompson

Democrat

☐ Write-in

For US House of Representatives 3rd Congressional District

Vote for ONE

☐ Dorothy Dot Benford

Democrat

☐ Michael Guest

Republican

☐ Write-in

In one of the most-watched races in the country, Republican incumbent Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith faces Democrat challenger Mike Espy again for Mississippi's United States Senate seat. Espy broke single-day fundraising records in September, and Hyde-Smith was endorsed by President Donald Trump during the last election. Espy has repeatedly challenged Hyde-Smith to debates, but she has never agreed to one.

Oxford falls into the 1st Congressional District in Mississippi, so on-campus voters and others registered in the county will choose between Antonia Eliason and Trent Kelly for the seat. Eliason is a University of Mississippi law professor who is running the first Democratic Socialist campaign in the state. Kelly, who has held the seat since 2015, currently serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Agricultural Committee.

TURN BALLOT OVER TO CONTINUE VOTING

Statewide Ballot Measure 1

Initiated by Petition and Alternative by Legislature

Initiative Measure No. 65. Should Mississippi allow qualified patients with debilitating medical conditions, as certified by Mississippi licensed physicians, to use medical marijuana?

Legislative Budget Office Fiscal Analysis for Initiative 65:

The overall cost to Mississippi for the first year is estimated to be \$11,068,150. The anticipated expenses for the first year to implement a medical marijuana program is \$24,068,150 (Plants - seeds to Sale: \$5,000,000; Licensing, Monitoring, Inspection: \$16,220,150; and Cost to Collect Revenue: \$2,848,000). The anticipated revenue is \$13,000,000 (User ID Cards: \$2,500,000; Commercial Licenses: \$500,000 and sales fee at 7 percent: \$10,000,000).

The anticipated expenses for years following the first for a medical marijuana program is \$15,338,000 (Plants - seeds to Sale: \$5,000,000; Licensing, Monitoring, Inspection: \$8,756,000; and Cost to Collect Revenue: \$1,582,000). The anticipated revenue is \$26,000,000 (User ID Cards: \$5,000,000; Commercial Licenses: \$1,000,000 and sales fee at 7 percent: \$20,000,000). The overall annual revenue is anticipated to be \$10,662,000, all of which must be used to support the state marijuana program.

Alternative Measure No. 65A. Shall Mississippi establish a program to allow the medical use of marijuana products by qualified persons with debilitating medical conditions?

Legislative Budget Office Fiscal Analysis for Initiative 65A:

The cost or revenue impact associated with this initiative is undeterminable.

VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER, OR AGAINST BOTH

☐ FOR APPROVAL OF EITHER Initiative Measure No. 65 OR Alternative Measure No. 65A

☐ AGAINST BOTH Initiative Measure No. 65 and Alternative Measure No. 65A

AND VOTE FOR ONE

☐ FOR Initiative Measure No. 65

☐ FOR Alternative Measure No. 65A

Statewide Ballot Measure 2

House Concurrent Resolution No. 47

This amendment provides that to be elected Governor, or to any other statewide office, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes in the general election. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then a runoff election shall be held as provided by general law. The requirement of receiving the most votes in a majority of Mississippi House of Representative's districts is removed.

VOTE FOR ONE


☐ YES

☐ NO

Statewide Ballot Measure 3

House Bill 1796 - Flag Referendum

Please vote 'Yes' or 'No' on whether the following design shall be the official Mississippi State Flag



☐ YES

☐ NO

This year's ballot also features a vote for medical marijuana in the state, brought on by a petition that gained over 200,000 signatures. Initiative 65 would approve an amendment to the state's constitution to allow Mississippians who have one of 22 listed conditions to gain access to medical marijuana as treatment. Initiative 65A, an alternative to Initiative 65 introduced by the state legislature, would allow terminally ill patients to receive medical marijuana and give lawmakers more control over the program. Voters can also choose to reject the creation of a medical marijuana program altogether and keep all uses of marijuana illegal in Mississippi.

Finally, voters will get the chance to complete the process to give Mississippi a new state flag. In a months-long proceeding, the state of Mississippi has removed the old flag, which featured the Confederate battle flag emblem, considered thousands of potential designs and narrowed down the options to the final design featured on the ballot. Several designers came together to create the design, including Oxford resident Kara Giles.

UM works toward having a ‘voter-friendly’ campus

WILL CARPENTER
thedmnnews@gmail.com

The biggest hurdle that college students say they face when it comes to voting in national and local elections is a lack of practical information about politics, according to a recent survey by the Knight Foundation. In preparation for the 2020 election, dozens of organizations and initiatives have cropped up across the nation to close this information gap.

Voting Engagement Roundtable, a nonpartisan group of faculty, staff and students is providing some of this information to students at the University of Mississippi. The group was created in the fall of 2019 under the University of Mississippi Office of Community Engagement in coordination with Brent Marsh, the dean of students, in order to support and educate student voters.

The Roundtable has a goal of making Ole Miss a “Voter-Friendly Campus,” a designation awarded by the Campus Vote Project and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Mississippi State University is currently the only university in the state to hold the designation.

Erin Payseur Oeth, the project manager for community engagement, said a major part of the group’s goal is to help students through a voting process that can be intimidating and overwhelming.

“I do think it keeps a lot of college students from voting. Even if they’re interested in it,” Payseur Oeth said. “They have to go look everything up and try to get their questions answered themselves to figure out what they need to do. It’s time consuming, it can be complicated, it may not be easy to understand. All of those are things that can discourage people from following through.”

Some of the Roundtable’s 11 student ambassadors have virtual drop-in hours for students to get help filling out voter registration forms and absentee ballot requests. The ambassadors also give short presentations to classes on information that ranges from how to fill out a ballot correctly to pictures of an actual ballot like voters will see in November.

“Our voting ambassadors are really our hands and feet,” Payseur Oeth said. “They’re there to walk students through the registration piece, but also just as important, the absentee ballot piece.”

Voting ambassador, senior

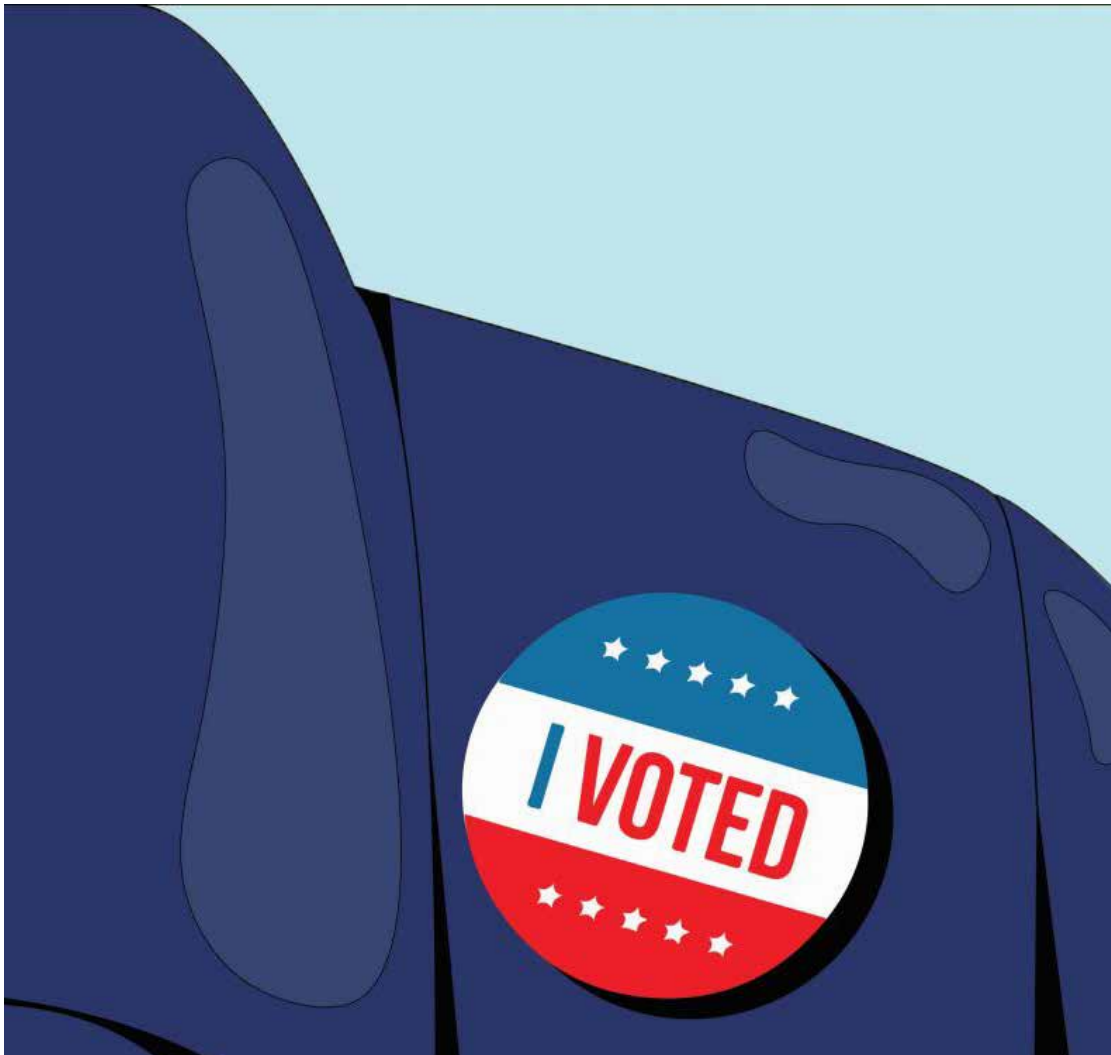


ILLUSTRATION: NATALIE PRUITT / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Jaycee Brown, also serves as their operations specialist. She assumes the duties of an ambassador while also coordinating class visits with professors that request them.

She said that students have shown interest during presentations, and many simply did not know what was required of them to vote.

“They don’t know that in Mississippi you have to fill out an application before you can even get a ballot, or that you have to have a very specific reason (to request an absentee ballot),” Brown said. “It’s been very engaging and kind of amazing to share that knowledge with someone.”

As a voting ambassador, Brown walked students through basic information about how to register to vote in Mississippi before the Oct. 5 deadline, but she now explains to students some of the topics being put to a vote, including the new state flag and medical marijuana resolution.

Through all of this, Brown said she is serious about remaining non-partisan in her presentations, and she hopes for students to be as educated as possible on what they’re voting for.

“We have to know who we’re voting for and the policies that they want to have or want to implement in office,” Brown said. “We’re trying to get out of that

“Specifically in this election year, it’s extremely important. College students are the largest voting bloc right now in the United States, so their votes can completely swing the election.”

- Ciarra Malone
Campus Vote Project state coordinator

party line thing. Like, ‘I’m gonna vote Democrat because my family’s a Democrat. I’m gonna vote Republican because my family is Republican.’”

The Roundtable also plans to provide shuttles to and from the polls on Election Day for students registered in Lafayette County in an effort to increase voter turnout.

Efforts to educate college stu-

dents, like those displayed by The Roundtable, are being practiced on the national level more and more every year.

Ciarra Malone, the Georgia state coordinator for the Campus Vote Project, said she has been busier than ever over the past several weeks working with the organization to educate college voters before the polls close.

“Specifically in this election year, it’s extremely important,” Malone said. “College students are the largest voting bloc right now in the United States, so their votes can completely swing the election.”

The Campus Vote Project has a goal of working with over 250 college campuses to remove the barriers that marginalized groups face when trying to vote. A major

part of that plan is to help make reforms that empower students with the information they need to register to vote.

One way The Project works with universities is through “democracy fellows.” Students are educated about topics including voter laws, policy reform and misinformation. Democracy fellows spread this information among their peers and help prepare the campus.

“There are a lot of restrictions, depending on what state you’re in,” Malone said. “We like to put down the misconception that young people don’t want to vote by simply understanding that there are a lot of barriers in the way of young people being able to cast their ballot.”

The varying state-specific rules surrounding voting may be a big deterrent to college age voters. The Project provides a map of the U.S. on their website with voting guides and the different requirements to vote in each state.

“A lot of people will go to the ballot or they’ll go to the polls, and then something happens,” Malone said. “They’re not able to cast their ballot because they didn’t know about the big registration deadlines or specific ID laws.”

Social media has proved to be a catalyst for voter turnout, with younger demographics publicizing and encouraging their peers to go to the polls. Malone said this access to information has empowered people and allowed them to see that they can make a difference in their community.

“I think a lot of times people underestimate the power that young people have in elections, and the fact that they really will get out there and vote and hold their elected leaders accountable for the change that they want to see,” Malone said. “I think that the more young people understand the power that they have in selection, and what the people in these elected offices have the power to do to change their communities, they’ll be more likely to be engaged.”



Ole Miss students, alumni, faculty, and staff get 10% off every day!

West Jackson Wine & Spirits
2570 West Jackson Ave • 662.236.3400

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN EDITORIAL STAFF

ELIZA NOE
editor-in-chief
dmeditor@gmail.com

HADLEY HITSON
managing editor
dmmanaging@gmail.com

KENNETH NIEMEYER
executive news editor
thedmnnews@gmail.com

MADDY QUON
assistant news editor
thedmnnews@gmail.com

KELBY ZENDEJAS
sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

JAMES MINZESHEIMER
assistant sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

BILLY SCHUERMAN
photography editor
thedmphotos@gmail.com

KATIE DAMES
opinion editor
thedmopinion@gmail.com

KATHERINE BUTLER
art/graphics editor
thedmvisuals@gmail.com

KATE KIMBERLIN
design editor
thedmdesign@gmail.com

ARIANNA SWENSEN
online editor
thedmonlineeditor@gmail.com

When it is decided that The Daily Mississippian will take an editorial stance on an issue, the following positions will make decisions as the Editorial Board: editor-in-chief, managing editor, copy chief, sports editor and opinion editor.

S. GALE DENLEY STUDENT MEDIA CENTER

PATRICIA THOMPSON
Assistant Dean/Student Media

ATISH BAIDYA
Associate Director/Editorial

ROY FROSTENSON
Assistant Director/Advertising

CONNER PLATT
Advertising Sales Manager
dmads@olemiss.edu

SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Cayman Rigdon
Cole Sanford

FOLLOW US



THE DM INSTAGRAM
@thedailymississippian

THE DM NEWS TWITTER
@thedmn_news

THE DM SPORTS TWITTER
@thedmn_sports

THE DM DESIGN TWITTER
@thedmn_visuals

How medical marijuana will look on Nov. ballots

KENNETH NIEMEYER

thedmnews@gmail.com

Medical marijuana will be on the ballot for Mississippi voters in November, but the choices may be confusing.

There will be three options for Mississippi voters on the ballot. First, voters will choose to approve or reject the creation of a medical marijuana program in Mississippi. Second, they will be able to reject or approve Initiative 65 and Initiative 65A. Those who choose to reject the creation of a medical marijuana program will still be able to reject or approve 65 and 65A on their ballots. However, for either of these programs to actually be created, the vote for creation of a medical marijuana program must pass.

Initiative 65 began with Medical Marijuana 2020, a grassroots organization that gained over 200,000 signatures on a petition to put



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

the initiative on the ballot. If passed, it would create an amendment to the state constitution.

Initiative 65 would create a system of self-funded medical marijuana dispensaries administered by the State De-

partment of Health. Patients would qualify by having a consultation with a physician and one of 22 listed conditions. In addition, patients would be allowed to possess up to 2.5 ounces at once, and a sales tax rate of 7% would apply to sales.

The state legislature added Initiative 65A to the ballot as an alternative. Opponents of 65A have claimed the state legislature introduced 65A to confuse voters and split the favorable votes that 65 might gain without it.

Initiative 65A would only allow terminally ill patients to smoke marijuana and does not have specifications for qualifying conditions, possession limits, sales taxes or administering agencies. Funds for medical marijuana would come from the state under 65A, rather than a self-funded system like they would under 65. Proponents of 65A say it would give lawmakers more control over the creation of a medical marijuana program.

38063

Be part of history.

Vote on the *In God We Trust* flag



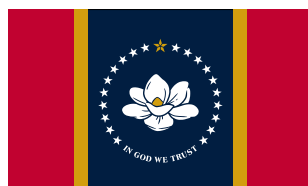
On November 3rd, Mississippians will have the opportunity to vote for a new state flag.

With a magnolia symbolizing our renowned hospitality, and the words “In God We Trust” proclaiming our faith and values, this flag represents who we are and what we believe.

Look for the flag at the bottom of your ballot and exercise your right to make history.

For the full story behind the flag, visit InGodWeTrustFlag.com.

Paid for by Alliance for Mississippi's Future



38055

HONORING THE PAST. EMBRACING THE FUTURE.

On November 3rd, the “In God We Trust” flag will be on your ballot. Before you vote, take a few minutes to learn about the flag and all that it stands for.

Visit mdah.ms.gov/msflag today.

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Presented by the Commission to Redesign the Mississippi Flag

38060

Blazing Fast Internet!
ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY **\$19.99/mo.** where available

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE | **\$59.99/mo.** for 12 Mos. America's Top 120 Package **190 CHANNELS** Including Local Channels!

FREE VOICE REMOTE
The Dish Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet connected Hopper, Genie, or ViVo device. Customer must give voice remote to Dish for all voice features.

FREE SMART HD DVR INCLUDED
*Requires subscriber Hopper and includes Hopper Duo (\$100 discount for 24 months) or ViVo (\$110)

FREE STREAMING ON ALL YOUR DEVICES

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-877-628-3143

Offer ends 1/31/21.
*All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

The faceoff for U.S. Senate: Hyde-Smith vs. Espy

KENNETH NIEMEYER
thedmnews@gmail.com

Mike Espy:

- Supports the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act
- First priority as Senator will be to expand broadband access to all Mississippians
- Wants to expand apprenticeships and job training programs in the state
- Wants the federal government to allow Medicare to negotiate with companies to lower drug costs for citizens
- Supports increasing teacher pay, funding teacher training programs, streamlining the teaching licensure process and expanding federal loan forgiveness
- Recently supported ballot Initiative 65, which will legalize medical marijuana in Mississippi



RIGHT: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN
LEFT: ERIC J. SHELTON / MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith and Democrat Mike Espy will be on the ballot for Mississippi voters to fill one of the state’s two Senate seats on Nov. 3. Hyde-Smith defeated Espy in 2018 in a special election after longtime Sen. Thad Cochran resigned and former Gov. Phil Bryant appointed her to the Senate.

Hyde-Smith previously served in the state Senate as a Democrat, representing the 39th district for 12 years. She then served as the state commissioner of agriculture and commerce for eight years. In 2010, ten years into her state senate service, she changed her party affiliation to Republican.

Espy served as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under former President Bill Clinton. He also

served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1987 to 1993 and was the first Black Mississippian to serve in Congress since Reconstruction. Espy resigned from his position as Secretary of Agriculture in 1994 while being investigated for improper receipt of gifts. He was later charged with accepting improper gifts in 1997, but he was acquitted of all charges in 1998.

Hyde-Smith has refused to debate Espy during this election cycle and has repeatedly said “losing candidates and reporters” are the only people interested in a debate when asked why she would not agree to one. She has run a low-profile Senate campaign and does not speak publicly often.

Espy, who was recently en-

dorsed by former President Barack Obama, has raised a much larger amount of campaign money than Hyde-Smith during this election. In the final weeks before the election, Espy’s campaign is using its surplus of funds to push more advertisements to Mississippians. Political pundits have speculated that Hyde-Smith believes her endorsement from President Donald Trump will carry her through the election.

Healthcare has been at the center of the divide between the two candidates. Espy supports the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare. Hyde-Smith supports the Trump administration’s efforts to eliminate, repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Cindy Hyde-Smith:

- Supports the Trump administration's efforts to eliminate the Affordable Care Act
- Wants a “balanced budget amendment” to discourage the federal government from engaging in deficit spending and increasing taxes
- Supports President Donald Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court and says she will work to appoint conservative judges
- Supports a national electronic verification system to ensure that “American jobs are filled by legal American workers”
- Is in favor of some form of police reform on a federal level and supported the bill that Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina authored earlier this year despite it not passing
- Says she will “support policies that help states, local communities, teachers and parents make decisions to improve education for our children”

SENIORS, IT’S TIME FOR 2021 YEARBOOK PORTRAITS!

when:

NOVEMBER 2-6 & 9-13

where:

STUDENT UNION 3rd floor lobby hallway

SENIORS ONLY • NO DROP-INS ALLOWED

Schedule appointments at www.ouryear.com (school code 141)
Questions? **1-800-OUR-YEAR™ (687-9327)** during normal business hours.

CDC-recommended guidelines will be followed: No-touch posing and social distancing will be implemented. Photographers and assistants will not make physical contact and will keep 6ft distance from subjects, customers & employees. All work areas will be cleaned after each sitting and all clothing (studio-provided attire) will be steam cleaned between each subject. All photographers and assistants will be wearing face masks at all times.

HAVEN’T PICKED UP YOUR 2020 OLE MISS YEARBOOK?



Pickup Location:
**STUDENT MEDIA CENTER
BISHOP HALL
2ND FLOOR**

Pickup Times: Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Masks are required upon entry.
Bring a copy of your student ID so we can verify that you paid student fees for the 2019-2020 academic year.



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Above: Homecoming King Deterrian Jones and Homecoming Queen Lucy Williams.
Below: Tour guides Grant McCullough (left) and Harrison Grimes (right) give facts about Oxford's history. Members of the Student Activities Association have had to adapt to this year's challenges and have events planned for the rest of the semester.



Let the fun begin

HADLEY HITSON
dmmanaging@gmail.com

While homecoming looks dramatically different this year because of COVID-19 guidelines and safety precautions, the winners of the fall personality elections put on by the Associated Student Body are appreciating this year's experience for what it is.

Prior to winning their elections, homecoming king Deterrian Jones and homecoming queen Lucy Williams were acquaintances at best. Through the homecoming experience, though, they have become good friends.

"It took us like three days to become best friends," Jones said. "We have been basically inseparable since."

Rounding out the Homecoming Court is Mr. Ole Miss Cade Slaughter, Miss Ole Miss Lilli Gordon, freshman maid Ruthie Jenkins, sophomore maid Emison Geiger, junior maid Tallulah Jones and senior maid Bella Garofolo.

Campus favorites, who are also voted on in the fall personality elections and celebrated during Homecoming Week, are Courtney Zeidner, Olivia Stokes, Olivia Fox, Avery Sadler, Shelby D'Amico, Austin Newcomb, Land Teller, Mister Clemmones, Kam'ron Bracey and Manuel Franco



: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Mr. Ole Miss Cade Slaughter jousts with another student. The Student Activities Association worked to create a number of COVID-19 safe activities for homecoming week.

Homecoming Week takes on new traditions

HADLEY HITSON
dmmanaging@gmail.com

With Oxford’s continued mask mandate and restrictions on in-person gatherings on campus, the University of Mississippi’s 2020 Homecoming Week has become had the potential to be a reminder of all the ways the world has changed. Instead of its usual daily events, floats and celebrations, . However, the Student Activities Association has worked through COVID-19 restrictions and safety measures to plan a week full of activities and events for university students, preserving as many traditions as possible.

“That’s always been our big picture goal: getting people to come,” SAA director Trevor Davis said. “But now, we have to make sure we only have the certain numbers of people at each event at a time, so we’re making sure we find events that we can do that sort of thing with.”

The main Homecoming tradition that SAA had to adapt because of the pandemic restrictions was the Homecoming Parade. Instead of decorating floats to drive around Oxford and wave at community members, student organizations decorated 8-by-10 wooden boards that are to be displayed in the Grove. “We were upset about (not



CODY FERRIS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Brian Tran (left) and Tiffany Nguyen (right) laugh at a joke from SAA tour guide Harrison Grimes. Double Decker bus tours were given as part of the homecoming festivities.

having the parade), but we completely understand that you really don’t need people gathering on the sidewalk,” SAA Homecoming co-director Ian Pigg said. “That was a tradition that we didn’t really know where we were going to go with, but we tried to innovate.”

All of the “stationary floats” are decorated in accordance with the 2020 Home-

coming theme: Lane, Trains and Automobiles.

“Usually, the theme just comes from brainstorming sessions,” Pigg said. “This year, when we came up with Lane, Trains and Automobiles, it just kind of stuck. We’re really excited to celebrate a new era of Ole Miss football and to celebrate what still makes Ole Miss really good.”

As far as following

COVID-19 guidelines while hosting events, Davis said the organization used Welcome Week as a trial run, and he feels much more confident about being able to safely host events now.

“Sanitation was a big thing, and just making sure all of our bases are covered is something we wanted to make sure we had,” Davis said. “In between Welcome Week and

Homecoming Week we did committee selection. Now we have our full staff of around 120 people, so it’s been a lot more hands on deck as far as keeping everything safe.”

Thus far, SAA has offered goodie bag giveaways, jousting at the newly named Gertrude C. Ford Student Union, double-decker bus tours around Oxford, laser tag in the Grove, lawn games with the Homecoming Court and the newer tradition of Ole Miss Idol.

“All of our events are open air during homecoming week, which we think is a really good safety method,” Pigg said. “Also, most of them are limited capacity — come and go — and the lines are all socially distanced.”

On Thursday, SAA will have bumper cars on the Grove-side of the union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and students can register to attend the drive-in movie showing of The Blind Side in the Oxford Film Fest Lot at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The Homecoming Court will also take a “court-exclusive” double-decker tour around Oxford on Thursday at 5 p.m.

Then on Friday, the final SAA celebration before Saturday’s football game against the Auburn Tigers will be a photobooth and cookies in front of the union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ole Miss prepares for homecoming against the Auburn

JAMES MINZESHEIMER
thedmsports@gmail.com

After last week’s disappointing loss to the Arkansas Razorbacks — their weakest opponent to date — the Rebels are looking to reclaim the praise it received earlier in the season this weekend when they face off against the Auburn Tigers at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

This week The Daily Mississippian sat down with Auburn Plainsman sports editor Jake Weese to hear his thoughts and predictions for the upcoming game.

What does Auburn need to improve upon coming out of last week’s loss to South Carolina?

“Well, to be blunt, a lot. The offense showcased some strong strengths with Tank Bigsby running the ball well, but he only carried it 16 times. He needs to be carrying the ball more, no ifs ands or buts about it. Bo Nix received heavy criticism for his game, probably rightfully so after throwing three interceptions,

but he did showcase some good things against South Carolina,” Weese said.

“On the defensive side of the ball, the defense started out strong but dwindled towards the end and started to let South Carolina score at will. This was an issue against Arkansas, and it (will possibly show) up again against Ole Miss. To beat the Rebels, the Tigers are going to need to be more consistent in all aspects of the game.”

Do you think Ole Miss’s defense will look like last week’s performance against Arkansas, or will it revert to that of weeks 1-3?

“From what I’ve seen, Ole Miss seems to have a pretty talented defense, but nothing to write home about. I personally think it’ll all come down to Auburn’s play calling. If the Tigers start running the ball more and relying on Tank Bigsby, I think they can score enough points to keep up with the Ole Miss offense. But if they try and lean too heavily



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss will face a 2-2 Auburn in Oxford on Saturday. Auburn is coming off a 30-22 loss to South Carolina last week.

on Bo Nix, who attempted 48 passes against South Carolina, I don’t think it’ll go well for them,” Weese said.

There may be a question mark at QB for Ole Miss. Who do you think Auburn should fear more: Matt Corral or John Rhys Plumlee?

“While John Rhys Plumlee presents a lot of dangers with his ground game, (but) even though he struggled against Arkansas, the Auburn defense should fear Matt Corral more.

Especially if Jaylin Simpson, the No. 2 cornerback, is still dealing with an injury, this secondary has looked vulnerable at times,” Weese said.

“Corral and his strong arm is a big concern, especially with Kenny Yeboah out there, as Auburn struggles massively to cover tight ends.”

What is your prediction for the score, rushing yards and passing yards?

“I’m going with Ole Miss, 35-27. I simply haven’t seen enough out of Auburn this

year, especially on the road, to feel comfortable picking them,” Weese said.

“As for rushing yards, I’ll say Tank Bigsby continues his streak, and he runs for over 100 yards for the third game in a row. D.J. Williams and Shaun Shivers help out and the backs combine for around 200 yards of on the ground. Through the air, Nix is more cautious but still throws one interception that proves to be costly, and overall throws for around 200 yards.”

Rebels with a cause

The progression of activism in college sports

KELBY ZENDEJAS
thedmsports@gmail.com

The University of Mississippi continues to experience its long-fought battle between heritage and progress. Thus, one of the leading money-makers for the state — college sports — has spent decades collecting its voice to demand social change in the state of a “de-dixied” Mississippi.

Fall 1982

The first African-American male cheerleader John Hawkins refused to wave the Confederate flag at Ole Miss football games, a tradition that would later fizzle into an unofficial ban on Confederate symbols on the university’s campus.

2003

The university rids itself of the Colonel Reb mascot, not adopting another mascotface for the school until 2010 when the black bear was introduced.

Feb. 24, 2019

After neo-Confederate rallies on campus, eight Ole Miss basketball players became the first male college athletes to kneel during the national anthem.



AP PHOTO: NATHANAEL GABLER / THE OXFORD EAGLE

June 18, 2020

The Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved the relocation of UM’s Confederate monument from the Circle to the Confederate Cemetery. It wasn’t taken down from the Circle until July 14.

June 27, 2020

Linebacker MoMo Sanogo and defensive end Ryder Anderson led student-athletes in the LOUnited march to push for the removal of the Confederate monument on the Square and to protest against police brutality.

At the same time of the march, over 50 Mississippi college coaches lobbied at the state’s capitol building for the removal of the state flag.

Several days later, Mississippi legislators voted for the removal of the Confederate state flag that flew in Mississippi skies for at least 126 years.

1997

Ole Miss running back Deuce McAllister and several other student-athletes brought concerns about the Confederate flag to the university’s administrators, that resulted in the banning of sticks inside Vaught-Hemingway, and subsequently, Confederate flags were no longer waved from the stands.

2015

Ole Miss stopped flying the Confederate flag on campus.

June 6, 2020

Protests erupted throughout the country after the death of George Floyd. Ole Miss coaches, athletic administrators and athletes held a private unity walk for police brutality, the first of many throughout the summer.

Aug. 28, 2020

The Ole Miss football program skipped practice to protest on the Square after the murder of Jacob Blake, furthering the voice of student-athletes against racism and police brutality.



PHOTO COURTESY: MICHAEL FAGANS / UM SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

Volleyball begins season against A&M

RILEY COMDEN
thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss volleyball team starts its 2020 season on its home court against SEC rival, Texas A&M this Thursday. No. 8 Texas A&M has had two big wins against LSU prior to its match up with the Rebels this week.

“(The) first couple matches will be a really big test for us and this new program we’re starting, but the girls are really fired up,” first-year UM head coach Kayla Banwarth said. “I’ve been told that A&M is their biggest SEC rival, so I’m on board with that 100 percent. Not much of an update, we’re ready to compete as always.”

The Rebels will field a very young team with only two returning seniors and seven freshmen. Senior setter Lauren Bars has three years of experience with the Rebels, 2,640 career assists, and is only 187 way from reaching third all-time assists in program history. The Nashville-native earned a sea-

son-high of 53 assists at Alabama in 2019.

Senior middle blocker Bayleigh Scott is expected to make a huge impact on and off the court. Banwarth had nothing but great things to say about the Texas-native.

“She might be the hardest worker on the team,” she said. “She hasn’t missed a practice, is just one of those kids you want to play with and want to be around. I can’t speak any more highly of her.”

For the other upperclassmen, transfer junior setter Gabby Easton totaled over 1,400 assists with the Clemson Tigers last season and is looking to make an impact on the court for the Rebels this upcoming season. In addition, junior Aubrey Sultemeier earned SEC Defensive Player of the Week honors after tallying 17 total blocks at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Collegiate Volleyball Classic last year.

Junior Avery Bugg brings the most experience to the team after competing in all 29 matches last season. Bugg had 10 double-digit dig matches



ILLUSTRATION BY: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

last season.

Returning outside hitter Anna Blair will have a lot of eyes on her after a fantastic freshmen season. Blair was named SEC Freshman of the Week back-to-back weeks in the 2019 season. Blair also ranked second in program history amongst freshmen with 271 total kills in the 2019 season.

Ole Miss will debut seven freshmen in the 2020 season including standout setter Callaway Cason from Georgia. Cason finished her high school career with 4,000 assists

RIFLE

Rebels remain No. 1

RUBY DRAAYER
thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss rifle team took on the Memphis Tigers on Saturday to earn its second win of the season by beating the No. 7 team with a score of 4,711-4,658.

The team score of 4,711 is the second-best score in Rebels rifle history, and the top five finishers in the match were all Rebels.

Freshman Lea Horvath paced the field for the second week in a row, firing an aggregate score of 1,181. Right behind her was sophomore Kristen Derting with a score of 1,178, and juniors Jillian Zakrzewski and Erin Walsh finished with marks of 1,177. Freshman Martina Gratz finished with a new personal record of 1,173.

In air rifle, Ole Miss had a score of 2,369 and had the top eight athletes in the discipline. Horvath led the way again firing a 594, and Buesseler and Derting each fired a 592.

The Rebels will not see action for the next three weeks as they prepare for their matchup against No. 2 Kentucky. It will be the first home match for Ole Miss where they will be looking to knock off the defending GARC Champions.

The match is set for Nov. 7 at the Ole Miss Rifle Range.

DOMINO'S WEST & OLE MISS CAMPUS

1603 WEST JACKSON AVENUE

662.236.3030

DOMINO'S EAST - NEW LOCATION! OPEN NOW!

1920 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
NEXT TO LARSON'S CASH SAVER

662.236.3844

NOW HIRING DRIVERS

Earn \$12-\$18 per hour

Apply in person – 1603 W Jackson Ave or 1920 University Ave or online at jobs.dominos.com

ORDER ONLINE DOMINOS.COM

OPEN LATE! SUN-WED 10:30 AM-2 AM THURS-SAT 10:30 AM-3 AM

Visit campusrec.olemiss.edu for updates on the spring intramural sports schedule

Turner Center Room 212
imsc@olemiss.edu
662.915.5573

38045

LeafFilter

GUTTER PROTECTION

✓

INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter

AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LIFETIME WARRANTY

A COMPANY OF JLHS

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

AND! 10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-866-479-1028

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

38062

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 503 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFF-NW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PAD69383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!

844-316-8630

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

38061

YOU DONT WANT THEM RESPONDING TO YOUR TEXT.

38061

Life is the most important issue on the ballot

LAUREN MOSES
thedmopinion@gmail.com

As we vote for representatives to legislate policy, there are issues on the ballot this year for Mississippians. Among them are healthcare, social programs, policing powers,

and race relations. But the pre-eminent concern of the election come November 3rd is life.

This year, Mississippi made monumental strides in protecting life in its most innocent and feeble state. Over the summer, the state legislature passed a bill making it

illegal to perform an abortion on the basis of sex, race, or ability. With Gov. Reeves signing the bill into law, Mississippi has joined the ranks of pro-life states like Kentucky, Louisiana, and Ohio with the second most strict laws against abortion. Even further, during the COVID outbreak, Mississippi was one of a few states to deem abortion services non-essential, putting a temporary pause on the grievous procedures.

While Mississippi is moving closer to banning abortion altogether, other states are increasing access to late-term abortions. In New York, a new law made late-term abortions legal in the state, citing that a woman can get an abortion for any reason. Some have labeled Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's abortion measures that allow abortion up until the point of delivery as infanticide.

The Democratic Party has effectively pushed out all pro-life advocates. Although there is a growing coalition of Democrats

for Life pushing the party to reject the status quo and adopt less radical policy planks, the current party platform opposes state laws that limit abortion, advocates for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, and calls for restored funding to Planned Parenthood. Abortion would be codified into law and states' say in limiting abortion would be completely eliminated. This is not the party of life.

These realities should scare you. The most fundamental right as an American is the right to life. Without it, no other right can be obtained. And yet, there are radicalized politicians pushing through pro-abortion legislation when the majority of Americans believe that some restrictions should be placed on abortions. In fact, only 8% of respondents to a Harvard study stated that abortion should be legal until the third trimester.

Abortion ends a human life. At conception, a new human being

is formed with unique DNA separate from his or her mother and father. After four weeks, the baby's brain and spinal cord are developing. The organs are also developing, and the heart begins to beat. When ten weeks have passed, the baby has facial features and fingernails. Ignored by pro-abortion advocates, these unborn babies are growing, using energy, and responding to their environment just weeks from conception. All of the characteristics of life are present in the womb from conception.

The most vulnerable of our community are being slaughtered by the thousands every day. It is time to protect innocent life and elect leaders who will do the same. The people elected in November will not only have a direct impact on legislation but on the judicial system, appointing judges who will fight for the most basic human right—life.

Other policy decisions surely divide us, but the right to life is so fundamental that it must be at the forefront of our voting choices this year. Vote for pro-life candidates and help America correct this stark injustice to the least of our society.

Lauren Moses is a senior from Coppell, Texas, studying economics and political science.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY DOMINO'S

NOW HIRING DRIVERS

at BOTH Oxford locations!

Make \$12-\$18 an hour!

Apply @ jobs.dominos.com OR in person!

Domino's East 1920 University 662.236.3844

Domino's West (Campus Store) 1603 W. Jackson Ave 662.236.3030

ACROSS

1- Othello villain;
5- Calendar abbr.;
8- Squeezes (out);
12- Type of gun;
13- Skedaddles;
15- Member of a great Peruvian people;
16- Actress Skye;
17- Aired again;
18- Rifle (through);
19- Impressive;
22- Prompt;
23- Writer Rand;
24- Strike with foot;
26- Former monetary unit of Finland;
29- Mediterranean arm;
31- Actor Linden;
32- John of England;
34- "The Zoo Story" playwright;
36- Env. notation;
38- Gossipmonger;
40- Forsaken;
41- Place;
43- A bit, colloquially;
45- U of U athlete;
46- Wide of the mark;
48- Picks;
50- Rights org.;
51- Unis hero;

DOWN

1- Fertility goddess of Egypt;
2- Riding;
3- Basic unit of heredity;
4- Kind of garage;
5- Novelist Waugh;
6- Andean country;
7- Actual;
8- Frozen Wasser;
9- Slapstick;
10- Beige;
11- Gorge;
13- Honestly;
14- Reptile;
20- Small child;
21- Baltic capital;

SOLUTION TO 10.15 PUZZLE

52- Orchestra's place;
54- Pretend to be;
61- Agitated state;
63- Give a false impression of;
64- Hgt.;
65- Blackthorn fruit;
66- Catches;
67- Slight;
68- Actress Daly;
69- Film director Lee;
70- Not "fer";

25- Red or white, in the blood;
26- Photo finish;
27- Modification;
28- Bikini blast;
29- Cave;
30- Drat!
31- Is afflicted with;
33- Lennon's widow;
35- Chemical ending;
37- Bust maker;
39- Books of maps;
42- Painter of limp watches;

44- Prefix with -drome;
47- Deadens;
49- Picture theater;
52- Hey, over here!
53- Inwardly;
55- Clinton cabinet member Federico;
56- Dash;
57- Diana of "The Avengers";
58- Shake ____ (hurry);
59- Actress Hatcher;
60- Flat;
62- Driver's aid;

CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one business day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday.

Classified ads must be prepaid. All major credit cards accepted. No refunds on classified ads once published.

The DM reserves the right to refuse ads that appear to offer unrealistic or questionable products or services.

To place your ad in The Daily Mississippian Classifieds section, visit: <http://www.thedmonline.com/classifieds>.

SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

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

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

Flatts
AT SOUTH CAMPUS

Steps Away From Campus & South Campus Rec Center

Immediate Move-Ins Available

Walk To Campus Location

1, 2, 3, & 4 Bedrooms

Swimming Pool

Outdoor Lounge & Fire Pits

Furnished Options

Campus Transit Stop

Fitness & Cardio Center

Pet Friendly

Fully Renovated

FlattsAtSouthCampus.com

OPINION

We asked students why they're voting. Here's what they had to say.

The most prevalent issue on the table surrounds Roe v. Wade. It's been mentioned in every debate so far. What people are forgetting is that Roe was initially passed by a Republican-majority court; therefore, it's not always a partisan decision. I believe 100% that a woman has the right to make decisions based on her own body; however, the baby inside her is not her own body. It is a new body with new DNA. Many think abortion and religion are intertwined. Abortion is a life issue, not a religious preference. The outcome of this election, in combination with the Supreme Court nominee(s), will likely play a role in Roe v. Wade's outcome. When faced with a problem, we must make decisions based upon definitions. If abortion is murder, it must be classified as such. We need to make legislative change that helps women have their children, give their children away if necessary, but above all, not murder them.

Tyler Blaylock, sophomore computer science major from Madison.

On Nov. 3, I will head to the polls. Most of the state of Mississippi will do the same. Voting early simply was not an option unless I was over the age of 65 or unable to be in my county on election day. This is typical of a Mississippi election day, except for the fact we are living through a global pandemic, and our governor recently revoked the state-wide mandatory mask mandate. Mind you, we are one of the few states that has not adjusted election day protocol in any way. So, I will head to the polls. And I will wait. And I will worry for the health of my loved ones around the state who are risking their lives to vote. I will vote because I can not accept the negligence and lack of regard for human life and public safety demonstrated by state and national leadership.

Ainsley Ash, senior public policy leadership major from Meridian.

I just turned 18 this year, and I'm tired of people using the phrase "thoughts and prayers" in response to tragedy like that's going to do anything. Prayers will not fix our justice system and guarantee equal rights for every American. I'm voting because real change happens through voting, and not everyone has the opportunity to participate. Don't take advantage of it. Vote.

Sydney Rehm, freshman Arabic and international studies major from Memphis, Tenn.

I am voting to secure Roe v. Wade, to ensure that I don't lose ADA protections for my disability, to do something about rampant police brutality and to protect Black lives, to return to the world stage as a proactive leader and for a strengthened intelligence community. Also, emotionally, Joe Biden and I have the same speech impediment. For the longest time, I thought my stutter precluded me from so many careers. If he wins, the President of the United States has a speech impediment just like mine.

Katie Williamson, junior international studies major from Collierville, Tenn.

Down-ballot voting should be a high priority

JOHN HYDRISKO
thedmopinion@gmail.com

This election season, much attention has been paid to the presidential race. While the importance of the presidency is hard to overstate, we should not forget the tens of thousands of campaigns being waged at the federal, state and local levels. I imagine that most voters could tell me who is competing for the White House or a seat in the Capitol. However, I imagine that most voters could not say who is competing to run their more immediate communities. A vastly disproportionate amount of coverage and attention in both conventional and social media is paid to national elections. Any given local race, however, is often mistaken for a low-stakes event.

The average American tends to interact with local and state governments far more often

than with the federal government. Under the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. States delegate much of this decision-making down to counties, boroughs or parishes and to townships, cities or towns. The problems that plague day-to-day American life — underperforming schools, draconian fines, police misconduct, ineffective overdose protocols, dilapidated housing, urban canyons, poorly maintained buses and potholes — must be solved at the local level. A better life in your community requires a better local government.

This November, voters in Lafayette County will help decide the fate of their state and local communities. This election will determine the senators and representatives tasked with fighting for federal aid when the next su-

perstorm hits Mississippi. This election will install the state supreme court justice who must secure the rights of all Mississippians when they are next in jeopardy. This election will dictate whether or not Mississippi joins dozens of other states in allowing the medical use of cannabis and whether or not it adopts the new state flag. On the ballot are the function, freedom and fairness of future elections in Lafayette County, which depend on the competence and character of election commissioners. On the ballot is the safety of thousands of children, which is the highest responsibility of the local school board during the current pandemic.

Oftentimes, the politics of local and state governments are somewhat removed from the party politics of the federal government. This means that researching down-ballot races can help a voter achieve

a more nuanced voting plan. It is entirely possible that someone supporting Joe Biden might better align with a Republican commissioner or that someone supporting Donald Trump might better align with a Democratic school board member. It is also entirely possible that a voter in one of the thirteen states or territories holding gubernatorial elections this November might want their preferred candidate's party to hold a majority in the legislature.

This year, many Americans will find the mere act of voting to be more tedious or obstructed than it has been in years past. If

you are willing to go through the process of voting, you might as well research down-ballot races and vote in your interest. If you are an especially civic-minded person, consider donating to or volunteering for a down-ballot candidate. A person who votes and a person who doesn't vote — be they unable or unwilling — are equally subject to the decisions made by state and local governments. And these decisions are vital.

John Hydrisko is a senior English, philosophy and history major from Philadelphia, Penn.

Opinion Policies:

Columns do not represent the views of The University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian. The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor, which should be emailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. They may be edited for clarity, brevity and libel. Third-party letters and those with pseudonyms or no name will not be published. Letters are limited to one per individual per month. Letters should include contact information, including relationship to the university, if applicable.

VOTING SECURITY

continued from page 1

to vote in Lafayette County on the last day of eligibility on Oct. 5, he said, and thousands more than expected registered throughout the year.

“Our surges were right before the primaries on March 10 and then right before this election over the past couple of months, but the grand total was 4,127 people that registered to vote or moved their registration to Lafayette County,” Busby said.

From his estimates, around 1,500 new voters register in the county for a typical presidential election year, and in years without presidential elections, Busby said his office usually expects around 300 or 400 new registrations. Before this year, he said a number over 4,000 would have been imperceivable.

To date, absentee ballot re-

quests are also almost double what they have been in previous years. According to Busby, over 4,000 absentee ballots have been requested thus far, while the most the county has seen in the past is approximately 2,300. Voters in Lafayette County can continue requesting absentee ballots through Oct. 31.

“Of course, this year, not only is it a race that’s gotten so much publicity for one reason or the other, but you’ve also got COVID, which I think plays a huge part in that as well,” Busby said. “The numbers for voter registration that we’ve seen this year have not at all been typical.”

Apart from the impact that COVID-19 has had on the political discourse in the country, it has also changed the way many people are thinking about how they want to vote.

Kaitlin Bethay, president of the UM law school’s American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chapter, said she has received

numerous questions from students about COVID-19 precautions at the polls.

“Long story short, if you’re looking for COVID to be an excuse because you feel like you’re vulnerable for health reasons, that won’t cut it,” Bethay said. “You’ll need to be quarantined or caring for someone who is quarantined for COVID. That’s the newest excuse they’ve allowed.”

Other valid excuses in Mississippi for absentee voting include being out of one’s registered county on Election Day, having a temporary or permanent disability and being aged 65 or older.

“If you have an excuse that’s valid, then you can do absentee voting. I would definitely do that just to avoid lines and crowds and to keep yourself and others safe,” Bethay said. “Unfortunately, Mississippi doesn’t have early voting like other states, which is a huge bummer, but that’s just the way it is.”

The county has also offered



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN
PHOTO COURTESY: ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE

There are 18 polling locations in Lafayette County, 5 of which are within City of Oxford Limits. All 18 voting precincts use the DS200 ballot scanner.

the option for curbside voting for years, but this option is reserved for people with disabilities that don’t allow for them to enter their polling place. Still, Busby said the circuit clerk’s office would be willing to help voters who are unable to enter the polling place for other reasons, including COVID-19.

“If you have the coronavirus, then, honestly, I don’t want you going in the polls, and if you call somebody, then we will come out there,” Busby said. “But COVID is not an excuse, not in any part of the election is COVID an excuse.

That was ruled in the courts, so you cannot use COVID as an excuse unless you’re quarantined.”

While registered citizens cannot be turned away from the polls or denied their right to vote for not wearing a mask, the Mississippi Secretary of State office encourages voters to wear a mask and follow social distancing rules.

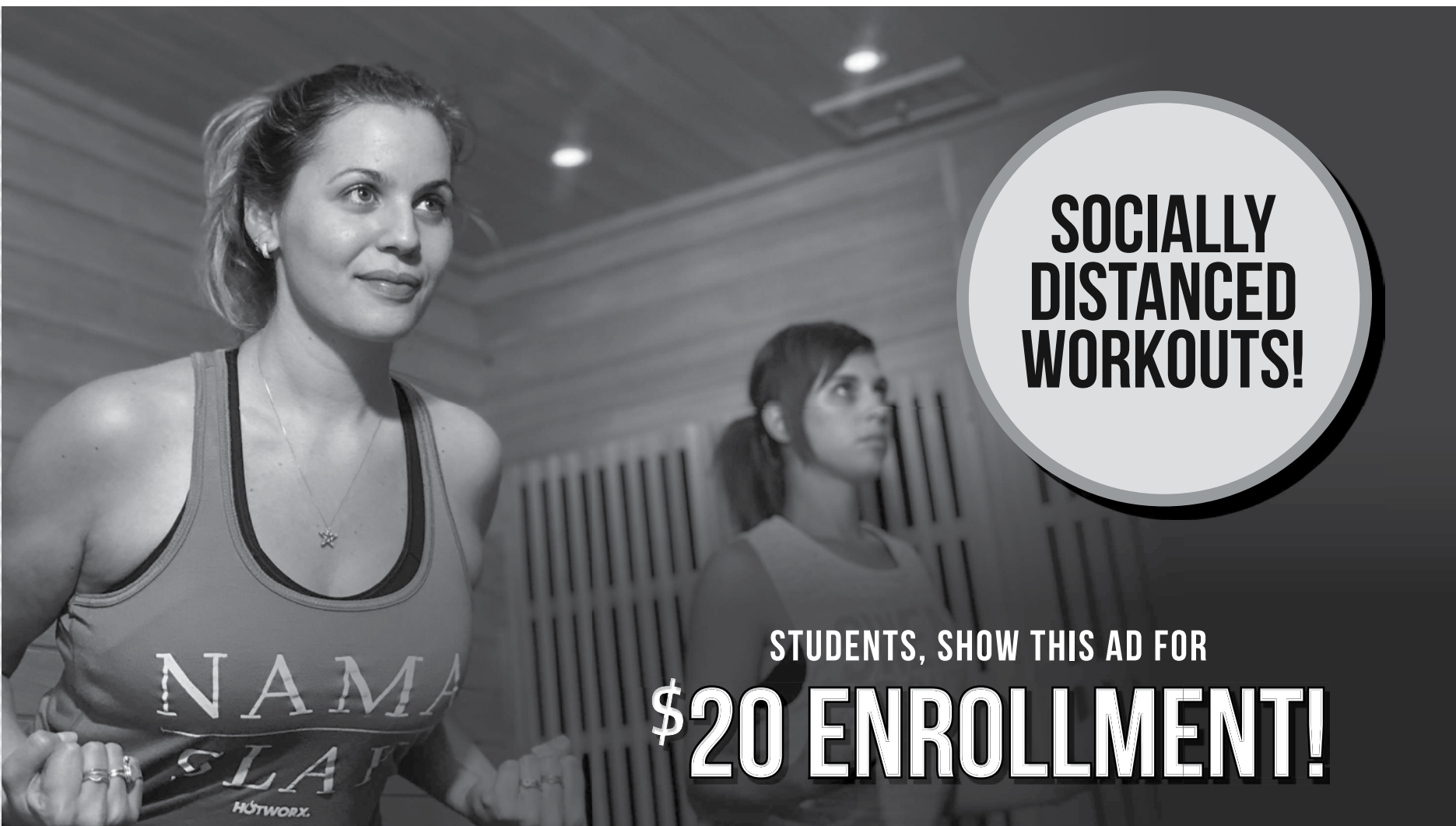
Election Day is Nov. 3, and polls will open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day. To find their respective polling place in Mississippi, citizens can visit the polling place locator on the Secretary of State’s website.

NOW ACCEPTING OLE MISS *Flex*



**PROUD PARTNER
with OLE MISS DINING**
Sun.-Wed. 10:30am-Midnight, Thurs.-Sat. 10:30am-2:00am

28384



SOCIALLY DISTANCED WORKOUTS!

STUDENTS, SHOW THIS AD FOR
\$20 ENROLLMENT!

✂

PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR
ONE FREE WORKOUT
A \$20 VALUE

*Valid for first time, local guests only. Must be redeemed during staffed hours.

916 E JACKSON AVE, OXFORD, MS 38655
(662) 638-3580 ■ HOTWORX.NET/OXFORD

HOTWORX®
24 HOUR INFRARED FITNESS STUDIO

HOT YOGA • HOT PILATES • HOT CYCLE • AND MORE!