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2-6-2019

**February 6, 2019**

The Daily Mississippian

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#### **Recommended Citation**

The Daily Mississippian, "February 6, 2019" (2019). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 130.  
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# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911



## OXFORD FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS TONIGHT WITH LIVE MUSIC DOCUMENTARY

Memphis hardcore band Negro Terror will play a live score to go along with a documentary about their group created by filmmaker John Rash of the Southern Documentary Project. Read a feature on this film and more content with a focus on students in tomorrow's special Arts & Culture section.

SEE TOMORROW'S DM



## REBELS HOST AGGIES ON WEDNESDAY

Ole Miss and head coach Kermit Davis hope to get back on track Wednesday night against a struggling Texas A&M squad.

SEETHEDMONLINE.COM

## UM establishes safety committee after hit-and-run

MCKENZIE RICHMOND  
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The University Police Department has established a Campus Safety Committee with student representatives on the Associated Student Body in response to car-pedestrian accidents that

occurred on campus last semester.

UPD Chief Ray Hawkins said the idea behind the Campus Safety Committee is to partner with student government and create a direct line for students to talk about the issues that concern them when it comes to safety on campus.

“(ASB President) Elam Miller and I met last spring to discuss creating such a committee within his cabinet,” Hawkins said. “In the fall, we met with (ASB officials) Darby Todd, Grayson Giles, Charlotte Shackelford and Drew Perry to start the dialogue, discussing general safety on

campus and the possibility of partnering to host a Campus Safety Week.”

Darby Todd, the founder of the Campus Safety Committee, said “there’s a lot more that needs to be done” about pedestrian safety on campus.

Todd said she hopes to get ideas from the student body during Campus Safety Week,

set for March 4-8, but she wants to have more areas that are lit up at night and have illuminated crosswalks.

Last semester, a hit-and-run on Sept. 15 that left a student in critical condition heightened safety concerns on campus.

The vehicle struck Bailee

SEE SAFETY PAGE 3

## NATIONAL SIGNING DAY 2019 IS HERE.

Follow the DM on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for updates throughout the day.

See [thedmonline.com](http://thedmonline.com) for coverage.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DEVNA BOSE

### NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

## Luke hoping to ink top-25 class on National Signing Day

JARED REDDING  
THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

After all the miles traveled, scholarship money invested and conversations had, it all comes down to today.

Head coach Matt Luke and the Ole Miss football program are looking to add the final pieces to their squad and avoid the Rebel nation's disappointment while doing so. This past December, the Rebels signed a class of 25 players that ranked No. 20 out of all Division I recruiting classes at the time, according to ESPN.com.

On Wednesday, Ole Miss hopes

to sign a few more major targets, particularly in-state ones. This time, they will look to do so with an offensive and defensive coordinator on staff, something they lacked during the previous signing period.

A few recruits will be signing as multi-sport athletes, and one of these is five-star running back Jerrion Ealy from Jackson Prep in Flowood. Ealy was an Ole Miss commit before his senior season began back in August. That all changed on Jan. 8 when he announced his decommitment from Ole Miss via Twitter after a record-setting performance in the Under Armour All-America Game. He did, however, make an

official visit to Oxford on Jan. 26 for both football and baseball. His decision will likely be between Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Alabama and Clemson. He is set to sign Wednesday at 11:15 a.m., televised on ESPN2.

Even after signing today, he will have yet another decision to make. Ealy is widely regarded as a potential first-round draft pick in the upcoming MLB Draft and will have the potential to sign an estimated \$2 million contract.

Ole Miss is also looking to sign four-star dual-threat quarterback John Rhys Plumlee Wednesday. The Oak Grove High School standout from Hattiesburg is, like Ealy, a target on the gridiron

and on the diamond. Plumlee made official visits to Mississippi State, Auburn, Ole Miss and Florida State, and committed to play both sports at Georgia this past June before announcing his decision to flip to be at a multi-sport player at Ole Miss on Monday via Twitter.

Jonathan Mingo is an Ole Miss target from the Jackson-Metro area. The four-star wide receiver from Brandon High School led the state in receiving yards this past season. He has been an Ole Miss commit since July but has visited Mississippi State and Georgia as well since then. If signed, he will join his high school teammate Jay Stanley,

SEE SIGNING PAGE 8

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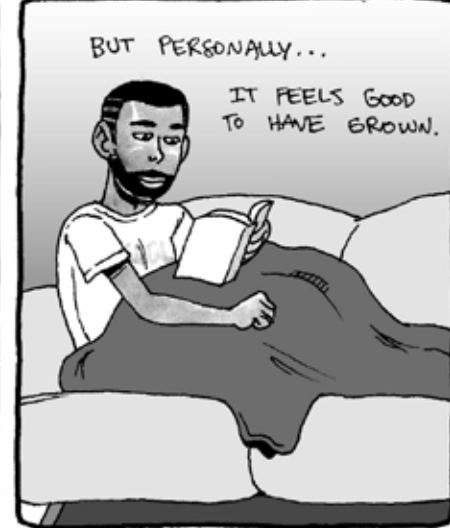
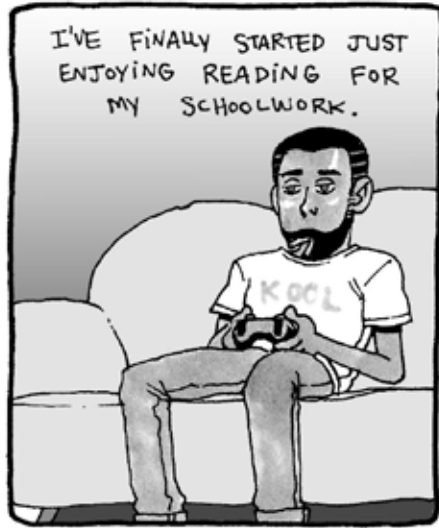
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**BACHELORS**



**COLUMN**

**Mississippi must enact LGBTQ protections**



**LEVI BEVIS**  
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

April 5, 2016 may seem like an uneventful day to most, but this day signified a substantial change in the Mississippi political landscape. On that day, Gov. Phil Bryant signed HB 1523 into law. This legislation protects individuals and businesses with at least one of three “sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions” from government intervention if that individual or business denies services to someone.

The three protected beliefs include the following: that marriage is solely between a man and a woman, that sexual relations should not occur outside of such a marriage and that one’s sex is either male

or female and determined at birth. Rob Hill, the Mississippi director of the Human Rights Campaign told the Clarion-Ledger that HB 1523 is “the most discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ state law in the country,” and rightly so.

Mississippi has consistently refused to enact legal protections for the LGBTQ community. In fact, the Hospitality State is one of 17 states where someone can be fired for being LGBTQ and one of 28 states where LGBTQ people can be denied housing. The state allows conversion therapy, a practice multiple medical associations oppose. Mississippi also does not have a statewide non-discrimination ordinance, leaving Mississippians of all backgrounds vulnerable to discrimination.

By failing to protect the LGBTQ community, Mississippi fails all of us. Members of this community may be our neighbors, friends, classmates, co-workers, fellow churchgoers or family members. LGBTQ people are active members of communities large and small across the state, and we must recognize that.

Whether or not we are aware of it, we all know members of the LGBTQ community.

With this in mind, political leaders and citizens alike are confronted with many important questions that require answers. What does the lack of protections say about Mississippians today? Do they present the best of what our state can offer, or do they show an unwillingness to move beyond our state’s often dark past? If Mississippi claims to be the “Hospitality State,” then what do laws like HB 1523 say about our commitment to welcoming others? After considering these questions and the evidence, it is clear that the state’s actions do not coincide with its professed ideals.

Mississippi can and must align itself with the values it claims to hold. If our state is going to call itself the Hospitality State, then it must be ready to welcome everyone with hospitality, not just those it deems worthy through an arbitrary standard. If our state is committed to moving beyond its troubled past, it must look ahead to a better future instead of looking back

to maintain the status quo. This is not a political issue; this is a moral issue. Treating everyone equally under the law should not be a divisive stance; it should be a universal commitment across our society.

LGBTQ issues, such as equal access to housing and basic services, are not isolated; these are issues that affect all of us. In his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. writes, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” This mutuality continues today as it did then, regardless of race, party affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is time for Mississippi to enact legal protections for the LGBTQ community. We have the power to do it; the question is: Will we stand against injustice, or will we continue to look the other way?

*Levi Bevis is a senior Public Policy Leadership major from Florence, Alabama.*

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MISSISSIPPIAN**

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8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian is published Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in print during the academic year, on days when classes are scheduled. New content is published online seven days a week.

Columns do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or *The Daily Mississippian* unless specifically indicated.

The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



**MISSISSIPPI  
press  
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

**SAFETY**  
*continued from page 1*

Gray, a freshman hospitality management major, at the intersection of Northgate Drive and Sorority Row. The incident left Gray with a fractured pelvis, four compression fractures in her back, a fractured skull and a brain bleed.

A bystander visiting from Alabama who witnessed the incident called an ambulance and held Gray in her arms until paramedics arrived.

Gray said another witness told her the driver got out of his car, saw her on the ground and then drove away.

After Gray's injury, Ole Miss freshman John Walsten turned himself in to law enforcement officials and was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of the accident.

"After the accident I noticed some yield and 'stop for pedestrian' signs out in the middle of the crosswalks," Gray said. "Everyone who's interviewed me has asked me how I feel about our traffic safety, and at first, I didn't see a problem with it."

Gray said she thinks the campus crosswalks are relatively safe, but problems

occur when people don't make use of the crosswalks and walk into the middle of the street in a rush.

Last academic year, there was only one pedestrian injury caused by a motor vehicle. However, from the start of this academic year to the time of publication there have been three car-pedestrian accidents reported to the university.

According to the crime log on UPD's website the car-pedestrian accidents occurred near the Women's Terrace, on Sorority Row and near Paris-Yates Chapel.

ASB Vice President Walker Abel said the Campus Safety Committee is hoping to enact traffic safety measures soon.

"The University Police Department and the safety committee meet frequently to discuss various ideas to ensure student safety," Abel said. "There are a variety of ways that student safety could be improved, especially for pedestrians, such as new crossing signs, light poles. ... This semester we hope to work with UPD and the University to make some of these changes happen."

According to Hawkins, it's important for both pedestrians and motorists to obey all traffic laws in order to minimize traffic incidents.



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

UPD Chief Ray Hawkins will assist the Associated Student Body in creating a way for students to address safety issues on campus.

He also emphasized the importance of patience with school traffic to avoid reckless driving.

Hawkins said the Campus Safety Committee will be conducting "safety walks" to identify areas of concern to students.

"Currently, UPD officers on patrol will identify areas where lights are out or additional lighting is needed and share that information with our crime prevention coordinator," Hawkins said.

Hawkins advised students to download the LiveSafe app and to report suspicious activity directly to UPD. Reports can be made anonymously.

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# PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK: **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**ADAM DUNNELLS**  
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

+ I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man	Muddy Waters
+ So What	Miles Davis
+ What A Wonderful World - Single Version	Louis Armstrong
+ Isn't She Lovely	Stevie Wonder
+ Respect	Aretha Franklin
+ Thriller - Single Version	Michael Jackson
+ Purple Rain	Prince
+ I Will Always Love You	Whitney Houston
+ Let Her Cry	Hootie & The Blow...
+ Survivor	Destiny's Child
+ Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)	Beyoncé
+ Super Bass	<small>EXPLICIT</small> Nicki Minaj
+ Girl On Fire	Alicia Keys
+ Clique	<small>EXPLICIT</small> Kanye West, JAY Z...
+ Thinkin Bout You	Frank Ocean
+ i	<small>EXPLICIT</small> Kendrick Lamar
+ I. The Worst Guys	<small>EXPLICIT</small> Childish Gambino, ...

In honor of Black History Month, this week we decided to include a playlist full of notable African-American musicians throughout history. While this playlist will in no way be a comprehensive history of African-American influence in music, we hope to encapsulate some of the most memorable and influential African-American artists in the past and present day.



PHOTO COURTESY: SPOTIFY

You can't have a history of influential African-American artists and not include Muddy Waters. Born near Clarksdale, Muddy Waters eventually left the South and became the father of modern Chicago blues. This song is one of his most famous, reaching the top 10 on multiple US music charts.



PHOTO COURTESY: SPOTIFY

While Darius Rucker has gained some fame as a country singer under his real name, he initially came to fame as the lead vocalist for Hootie & the Blowfish. This song was the band's second single from their first album, "Cracked Rear View."

SEE THE FULL PLAYLIST AT [THEDMONLINE.COM](http://THEDMONLINE.COM)

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# Fantasy author visits Oxford on 'King of Scars' tour

**ELIZA NOE**  
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Bestselling young adult author Leigh Bardugo peeked from behind a door at the Edison, causing a dull roar from the crowd of loyal fans. The room buzzed with excitement as fans of all ages — some even in costume — waited for the self-proclaimed “beach goth” to speak on her newest book.

Bardugo, creator of the Grishaverse — the setting of her book series that has expanded across six novels — came to Oxford to discuss “King of Scars,” the newest addition to her fantasy series. She offered a 30-minute Q&A session where readers could ask about anything from her writing process to the reasoning behind the outcome of her last book.

Bardugo first visited Oxford while on tour in 2012 for her first installment of the series and freshman novel, “Shadow and Bone.” Sami Thomason, the Square Books, Jr. employee in charge of the event, told attendees that the event was a dream come true since she is a fan of the Grisha novels as well.

“Leigh writes such genuine and amazing characters that I already feel like are my friends,” Thomason said. “Having the person who created Nikolai and Alina and Inej and Kaz here is the greatest thing in the world.”

Earlier this year, Netflix picked up Bardugo’s saga for an eight-episode series. After being asked if she would make a cameo in the show, Bardugo said that she wasn’t sure but that she had a storyline in mind.

“My dream is to just walk on stage and die horribly,” Bardugo said with a laugh. “But I’m sure I’ll end up as something like ‘Partygoer Number 32’ or something.”

After a fan thanked Bardugo for the LGBTQ plotline in “Six of Crows,” Bardugo went on to emphasize the importance of inclusion in literature, especially when it comes to young adult fiction.

“I think that ‘diversity’ and ‘inclusion’ have become these words or ways for people to pat themselves on the back,” Bardugo said. “I think what’s important to remember is



PHOTO COURTESY: LEIGH BARDUGO

that we’re not doing this to be do-gooders. Stories are better when they’re diverse.”

Bardugo also talked about “Ninth House,” her first attempt at an adult novel, which is set to come out later this year. Set in New Haven, Connecticut, “Ninth House” deals with murder, dark magic, the occult and life in secret societies at Yale.

“It’s darker because it’s set in our world,” Bardugo said. “For me, getting to open a whole new world of magic and a different magical system was so thrilling. It’s terrifying because you have to invent new rules and stick to them, but I loved that process.”

When asked about the ins and outs of her writing process, Bardugo addressed the fear and insecurities that come with writing a first novel.

“Finish a draft,” Bardugo said. “Finish a terrible, garbage, unoriginal, messy, full-of-false-

starts-and-placeholders first draft. You have to finish the draft.”

Bethany Fitts, a senior English major, said she’s read Bardugo’s books since she was in high school and was initially drawn to the setting’s rich Russian roots. Despite not initially planning on attending the Q&A and signing, Fitts said that meeting Bardugo was something she is glad she decided to do.

“(Meeting an author) is something I kind of always wanted to do but never did,” Fitts said.

An aspiring writer working on her senior thesis, Fitts said that Bardugo’s advice stuck with her.

“Even hearing her say that she goes through that — not wanting to show her editor stuff — it’s reassuring,” Fitts said.

## Learn more about Winter and Spring 2019 Affiliate and Exchange programs at the Study Abroad Fair!



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## Open Forum PUBLIC MEETING



### State Route 7 LAFAYETTE COUNTY

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has scheduled an open forum public meeting to discuss proposed construction of a roundabout at State Route 7 and State Route 9W in Lafayette County. The meeting will take place from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, at the Oxford Conference Center, 102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS.

Citizens are invited to come and go as they please during the hours of the meeting to view the department’s plans and exhibits and to speak to MDOT representatives concerning design, right-of-way acquisition, and environmental issues.

**The public is encouraged to attend.**

**Monday, February 11, 2019  
 4:00-6:30 p.m.  
 Oxford Conference Center  
 102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS**

Any individual who needs auxiliary aids or special accommodations to attend the meeting should call the MDOT Environmental Division at (601) 359-7920.

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BASEBALL

# Rebels make progress leading up to opening day

**JOHN MACON GILLESPIE**  
THE DMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss baseball began its third week of spring practice on Monday, and opening day is a little more than a week away.

The Rebels' second week of practice ended with three intrasquad scrimmages, as will this week's, in preparation to host Wright State in a three-game series Feb. 15-17.

Although the Rebels' starting pitching rotation is still in question, head coach Mike Bianco was pleased with how his staff pitched in the scrimmages over the weekend.

"We actually pitched it better this past weekend, I thought," Bianco said. "Overall, as a staff, we commanded it much better than we did the first weekend, where I thought about half the guys pitched it well and the other half struggled in the strike zone. This weekend, more guys jumped on

board with that, and I think saw success."

Players like Jordan Fowler saw improvement in intrasquad games last weekend, but Bianco believes the Saturday and Sunday starting roles are still up in the air, which he said is a good problem to have.

"I would say it's still pretty fluid," Bianco said. "I think we want to get through this next weekend before we start naming names. The names haven't changed, and I think everybody knows who's in the running, and that's good. I don't necessarily look at that as a bad thing. If it was so cut-and-dry, you wouldn't have the depth that we're talking about."

One of the biggest storylines of the weekend was an ankle injury to junior shortstop Grae Kessinger. X-rays on Kessinger came back negative, and it is believed that he suffered a sprain similar to one he suffered around this time last year.

"I think (Kessinger feels) good,"



FILE PHOTO: TAYLAR TEEL

Grae Kessinger attempts to steal home base against Winthrop during the final game of last season. Ole Miss won all three games of the series.

who played high school ball with Kessinger, is also hopeful that the latter player will be ready for opening day action. Even if Kessinger is not ready, however, Dillard is confident in the ability of Ole Miss's roster depth to fill the hole.

"I know how Grae is with his ankles, and I think he'll be back for opening day," Dillard said. "Having a guy like (Anthony Servideo), or even Justin Bench or Jacob Adams who can step in there right away just speaks to how deep our lineup is at every position, really. You can almost do that with any position, and we have someone who can step in right there."

Dillard, who has played left field since he arrived at Ole Miss, has worked a lot behind the plate as catcher since his predecessor Nick Fortes was drafted in 2018. Dillard was rated the top catcher in Mississippi by Perfect Game before signing with Ole Miss, so he is familiar with this role.

"I feel like I've gotten a lot better as it's gone," Dillard said. "Just had to knock some rust off (and) get more comfortable back there, but coach (Carl Lafferty) has done a great job getting me and the other catchers as many reps in practice as possible."

As far as replacing Fortes's place in the lineup, Dillard believes the former catcher leaves a bigger hole than just his statistics.

"Nick (Fortes) was kind of a main cog in our offense last year — a three-hole hitter that really made us go," Dillard said. "We're definitely going to have to find a guy to replace him there, not only from a statistics perspective but (from) a leadership perspective. Nick liked to keep things loose in the dugout. (He's) just kind of a funny guy, so having him there was definitely something that kept our heads on straight. It's going to be tough replacing him, but I think we have the bats to do it."

Bianco said. "It happened within a couple days of when it happened last year, (and) all the prognosis is that that's what it's going to be.

I don't want to get too ahead of ourselves, but hopefully he'll be ready for opening day."

The Rebels' Thomas Dillard,

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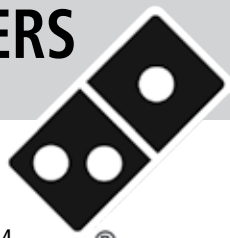
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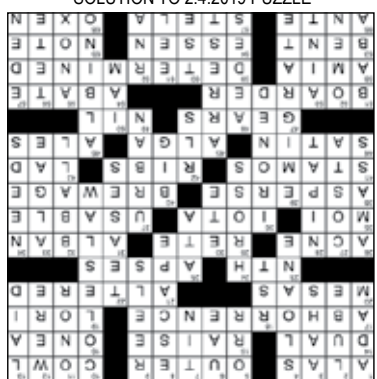
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- 1 Rock star Clapton
- 5 Bar, legally
- 10 Wait
- 14 And \_\_\_ bed
- 15 Toil
- 16 Gen. Robt. \_\_\_
- 17 Chinese weight
- 18 Senseless
- 19 Back part of the foot
- 20 Takes into custody
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- 26 Wheat type
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- 39 Suffix with fail
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- 43 Take advantage of
- 44 Soviet leader
- 45 Bones found in the hip
- 46 As such
- 48 100 yrs.
- 49 Staggering
- 50 Actress Alicia
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- 53 Without any flaws

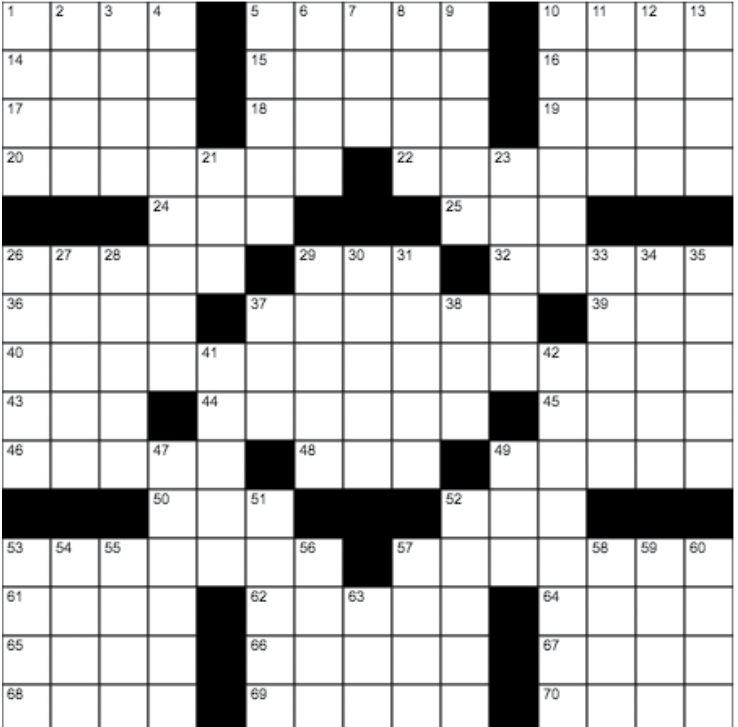
**DOWN**

- 1 Como \_\_\_ usted?
- 2 Stadium din
- 3 Roman road
- 4 Cabbage salad
- 5 Chosen few
- 6 Without
- 7 TV listings abbr.
- 8 A Chaplin
- 9 Gets ready
- 10 Decapitate
- 11 Intestinal sections
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- 21 Concorde, e.g.
- 23 Primp
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**SOLUTION TO 2.4.2019 PUZZLE**



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- 29 Committee type
- 30 Intervening, in law
- 31 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 33 Duplicity
- 34 Bert's buddy
- 35 Kingly
- 37 Broke bread
- 38 Little bit
- 41 Actress Graff
- 42 Firsthand
- 47 Adventurous expedition
- 49 Hoo-ha
- 51 Take the role of
- 52 Cream-filled cookies
- 53 Hemingway sobriquet
- 54 Cupid's counterpart
- 55 Public disturbance
- 56 Ripped
- 57 Adventurous exploit
- 58 Switch ending
- 59 Hay stack
- 60 Start of a pirate's chant
- 63 Poseidon's realm



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

## 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.

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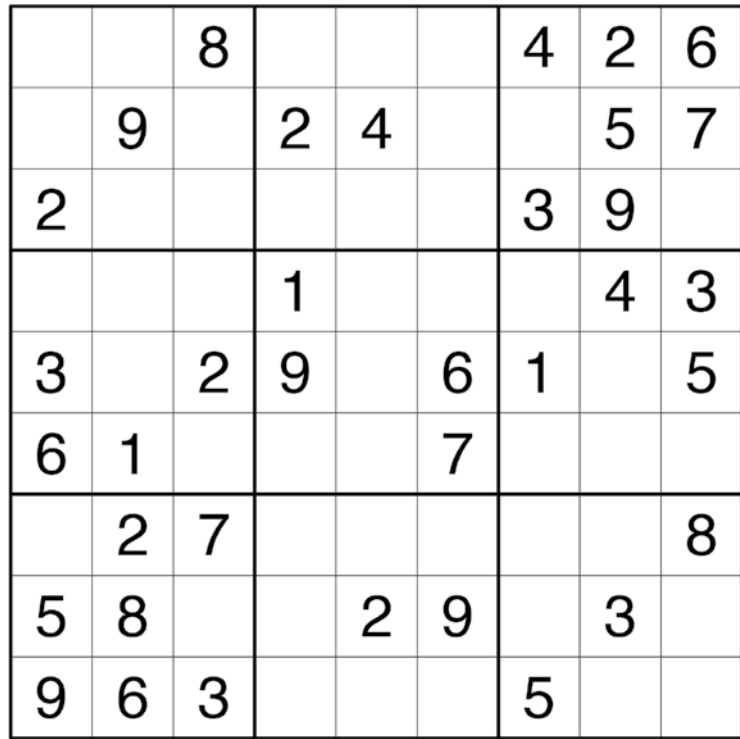
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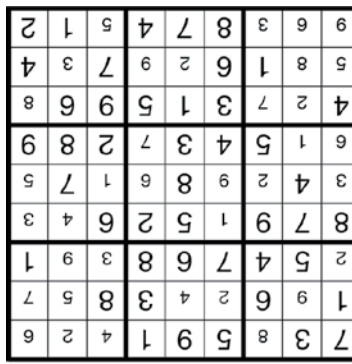
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Puzzles by KrazyDad



**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**

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*Kenneth Davis Jr.*

- Men's Basketball Head Coach



# SIGNING

*continued from page 1*

who signed in December. On the defensive side of the ball, Ole Miss will look to keep and gain a few key prospects. Four-star defensive tackle Ishmael Sopsher out of Amite, Louisiana, will likely choose from Ole Miss, Alabama, LSU and Texas A&M on Signing Day. Defensive end Brandon Mack has been an Ole Miss commit since late December. Mack is a three-star out of Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery, Alabama. In the junior college ranks, four-star linebacker Lakeria Henry out of Dodge City Community College will likely choose between Ole Miss, Texas or Arkansas.

Ole Miss did miss on a few key prospects, however, during the early signing period in December. Five-star linebacker Nakobe Dean and four-star defensive back Raydarius Jones out of Horn Lake are among those players who chose not to sign with Ole Miss. Instead, Dean opted to sign with Georgia, and Jones went with LSU. The Rebels even lost homegrown defensive back Brandon Turnage to the defending SEC champions,



Head coach Matt Luke practices drills with players at practice during the 2018 season.

FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Nick Saban's Alabama.

Despite those big blows, Ole Miss managed to get a bulk of three-star players and a few four-stars, particularly on the offensive side of the ball and in the defensive secondary. Among the most notable players are defensive end Sam Williams of Northeast Mississippi Community College, quarterback Grant

Tisdale of Allen High School in Texas, wide receiver Dannis Jackson of Mississippi's Sumrall High School and Darius Thomas of Jonesboro High School in Arkansas.

Luke also inked 14 other in-state recruits to accompany Williams and Jackson. Tupelo High School standouts wide receiver Jordan Jernigan and safety Tavario Standifer

signed their letters of intent together earlier in the signing period.

Ole Miss also added a pair of in-state offensive linemen in Nanih Waiya's Caleb Warren and Harrison Central's Bryce Ramsey. Linebacker Eric Jeffries signed from Lafayette High School. Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Game MVP Jarod

Conner from Hattiesburg signed as well.

Luke and the Rebels hope to ink a top-25 class on Wednesday. However, Ole Miss will have to get into at least the top 15 to so much as crack the middle of the SEC, with Alabama, Georgia and Texas A&M alone all ranking in the top 5.

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