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Thursday, March 29, 2018

THE DAILY

Volume 106, No. 91

MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911  Visit theDOnline.com  @thedm_news

Fox editor Shepard Smith says UM prepared him for career



BLAKE ALSUP
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Before Shepard Smith became the chief news anchor and managing editor of Fox News Channel's Breaking News Division, where he just re-signed a multi-year contract, he was an Ole Miss student.

Smith attended Ole Miss in the 1980s before leaving for an internship in Florida and never returning to finish his degree. Although he has lived in New York City for years, he still considers Oxford and Ole Miss his home.

Smith was last in Oxford around three weeks ago for a baseball series and to visit his dad. He said he will hopefully be back for LSU weekend next month.

"I have lived around there for my entire life, and Ole Miss is always where I wanted to be," Smith told *The Daily Mississippian* in a phone interview. "I don't think it's by chance that we have so many fantastic journalists and literary figures and poets and musicians who come out of our place. It's a wonderful liberal arts education with so much to offer, just so much to offer."

Smith said his time at the university prepared him for the first steps of his career because students were taught a little bit of everything, from editing and writing to directing, anchoring and reporting.

"You came out of there with a sort of broad understanding of what the industry was, and it really, I thought, put me in the position to get that first job and get started in the industry," Smith said. "When I was there, and I know it's

SEE SMITH PAGE 3

PHOTO COURTESY: FOX NEWS

UM Pride honors Transgender Day of Visibility

KARA DUDAS BELLONE
STAFF WRITER

UM Pride Network will celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility with a candlelight vigil at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Lyceum Circle to honor those who have lost their lives because of their gender identity and to pay respect to those fighting for acceptance.

UM Pride Network and co-sponsor Queer People of Color organized the event to have impact beyond just the transgender community. In the past, UM Pride Network and other organizations have held events to raise aware-

ness about the trans community, but not in coordination with an international event such as Transgender Day of Visibility.

"This time, UM Pride's executive board wants to reach further than just our community," Brenna Paola, UM Pride Network vice president, said. "We felt that the visibility aspect required the mainstream public."

The lack of public outlets for transgender people outside of their own community can stem from their fear of being ridiculed, beaten and, in some cases, even killed.

"Lack of visibility comes

from fear to be visible. There are dangers for trans people that cisgender people just don't encounter," Paola said.

These dangers are the reason UM Pride Network President Regan Willis, who identifies as transgender, organized the event.

"I put this event together with the intent of raising visibility about the transgender community, especially the physical harm that too many individuals face," Willis said. "To end a human life because of opposing beliefs on gender identity isn't right."

UM Pride Network members believe raising aware-

ness about what it means to be transgender, what language is most appropriate to use when referring to LGBTQ+ individuals and exercising what can be done to fully include them is the first step toward progress.

"The circulation of that language and inclusion depends on many entities outside of just UM Pride Network," Paola said. "For improvement of awareness, we need allies. Allies can speak out for those with little voice in the dominant society."

Like most other social movements, this push for increased awareness and

equality requires the support of those outside the marginalized group to bring about widespread conversation and actual change, according to event organizers.

"We can't make the difference alone," Willis said. "It takes people who aren't part of the community to learn that we are average human beings, just like everyone else."

Jaime Harker, director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, said though transgender people have gained more

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COLUMN

New state abortion ban contradicts itself



JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD

STAFF COLUMNIST

The Gestational Age Act bans all abortions after 15 weeks in Mississippi, except those that the “good faith” and “clinical judgement” of the physician deem “necessary to preserve the life of a pregnant woman.” Rape and incest are not mentioned at all.

Though this bill is currently blocked from taking effect by a federal judge, it contradicts itself by giving doctors full jurisdiction over women’s bodies, which will greatly increase stress, fear and denial among pregnant women – especially those of color and low income. This could deteriorate their health and, in the words of the bill, cause a “life-endangering physical condition” to arise “from the pregnancy itself.”

More and more studies are identifying the ways social stressors affect health. Research published in 2017 in the Social Science & Medicine journal proves that

“chronic stress, such as in the form of social adversity” elevates cortisol levels, which increases risk of disease and death. Mayo Clinic offers tips to “control your stress” but fails to acknowledge that, for many people, “stress management” is not an option.

Discrimination and low income are both social adversity stressors.

With the highest percentage of black residents in the country besides Washington, D.C., a history of racism that still persists today and 20.8 percent of the population living in poverty (compared to 12.7 percent in the country), black and poor Mississippians are disproportionately vulnerable to the negative health effects of stress.

Domestic and sexual violence are also social stressors.

Women account for 90 percent of adult rape victims in the U.S. and black women experience intimate partner violence at a rate 35 percent higher than that of white women. Because of these stressors, Mississippi’s female population is extremely prone to medical conditions induced by chronically high cortisol levels. These conditions include high blood pressure, which may cause pregnancy complications such as pre-eclampsia.

Medical sexism is another social stressor that makes it difficult for women to trust

physicians. Studies and articles show that American doctors, 66 percent of whom are male, do not take female pain seriously.

With 1,954 clinical trials studying erectile dysfunction on PubMed but only 446 on dyspareunia, vaginismus and vulvodynia, it’s clear that the medical community prioritizes male pleasure over female pain. In addition, doctors often ignore symptoms of endometriosis, which affects an estimated 6.5 million women in the U.S. and Canada.

Chronic stress exacerbates the fear of an unwanted pregnancy, which could cause a woman to deny that a fetus is growing inside of her. One in 400 or 500 women is 20 weeks into her pregnancy before realizing it.

If a woman does not know she is pregnant, she may not take appropriate health precautions, such as abstaining from alcohol, drugs and tobacco – all of which affect not only her but also the fetus. This is an issue in Mississippi, where the infant mortality rate is 8.6 per 1,000 live births, compared to the national 5.9.

A doctor’s “clinical judgment” may be ignorant of the fact that chronic stress caused by discrimination, poverty, violence, sexism and unwanted pregnancy all threaten the life of an abortion-seeking woman.

HB 1510 asserts that physicians who violate the prohibition will have their medical licenses suspended or revoked.

By denying a woman autonomy over her body and by placing her life in the “good faith” of a physician, HB 1510 in and of itself is creating a “life-endangering physical condition” for the pregnant woman because it ignores how the social stressors listed above, combined with the fear of an unwanted pregnancy, could very well kill her.

For every 100,000 live births in Mississippi, approximately 29 white and 55 black women die during pregnancy or a year after childbirth (compared to seven in Canada, which has no restrictions on bodily autonomy).

Jacqueline Knirnschild is a sophomore anthropology and Chinese double major from Brunswick, Ohio.

CORRECTION

An article in Wednesday’s DM previewing the Mule Train conference gave

the incorrect time for a workshop. UM journalism instructor Ellen Meacham will speak from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Reclaimed Building in Marks.

THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN

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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
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

SMITH continued from page 1

still the case, you had to get in and do the job of a journalist.”

Involvement in student media

By the end of his career at Ole Miss, Smith was more than familiar with student media. He said he did a little bit of sports reporting for The Daily Mississippian and started off working in the radio section his freshman year before joining the staff at the campus television station, which was called News12 at the time, as a reporter and anchor.

“I learned to direct and edit there,” Smith said. “Everything that you have to do to be in television news, we were doing on a small scale in a learning way in Farley Hall back in the day. It was invaluable.”

Smith quoted lines from a poem that alumnus Frank E. Everett Jr. wrote about Ole Miss in the early 1970s.

“What is it that they say? ‘The university is respected, but Ole Miss is loved. There are many universities, but there is only one Ole Miss.’ I carry that with me,” Smith said. “My front-porch, Southern upbringing is very much a part of who I am today.”

Smith said he wouldn’t have been able to live out the incredible experience of writing the first draft of history over the past 30 years without all

that he learned and experienced at Ole Miss.

“A lot of people just go to a school and get an education and move on,” Smith said. “That’s not what happens at Ole Miss. It’s part of our lives. It’s part of the fabric of our being. I’m never happier than a fall day in the Grove or a spring day at Swayze.”

Advice to aspiring journalists

Smith said the best lesson journalism students can learn is to listen.

“I think that’s something that’s instilled in us, particularly in Mississippi, maybe better than other places,” Smith said. “It’s been my experience, at least, that we have a tradition of listening to our elders and learning from previous generations.”

He also said that life in the public eye, while rewarding, can also be complicated in many ways.

“Don’t get into this business to get rich and famous,” Smith said. “You may want the former. You probably don’t want the latter, whether you know it or not.”

Great leaders and extraordinary opportunities at Ole Miss are what Smith said he owes his success to. While here, he learned to listen, write, study and have empathy for other people’s situations.

“Everytime you report on something someone is doing, someone’s life is affected by that,” Smith said. “Someone

is hearing that report. It’s related to the people on which you’re focusing. It’s important to remember that we’re talking about people and individuals’ lives and situations, not just about concepts.”

Smith’s career

After leaving Ole Miss in the late ‘80s, Smith worked for the NBC station in Panama City, Florida, before moving to Los Angeles to work as a correspondent for a Fox News affiliate. Around 20 years ago, Smith was told he could move from Los Angeles to New York or find a job somewhere else, so he moved to New York.

“The media capital of the world is New York,” Smith said. “I never really thought about living here. New York was – as it might be to some Mississippians today – back then in the ‘80s, it was this big scary city to me.”

Smith said that as he moved from city to city and became more accustomed to urban life, he realized he could be happy in a city.

He joined Fox News as it launched in 1996 and has since covered stories all over the world, including the 1999 Columbine school shooting, Hurricane Katrina, Princess Diana’s death and more.

Smith said some of the stories he is most proud of in his career happened in his early days of reporting.

“I really enjoyed that local reporting, gumshoe reporting, that I did for 12 years or

more,” Smith said. “I miss it in many ways. I like being a part of local reporting and local community. There’s rich reward in that.”

Smith recalled a memorable story he covered in an Orlando retirement community around 25 years ago. A group of men had been driving around in trucks offering free inspections of people’s roofs. Afterwards, they would intimidate the elderly people a bit and tell them the roof needed \$2,000 of work, and they would write a check.

“Of course, it was a scam,” Smith said. “So we were able to catch them and track them down. Those sorts of people helping people stories are fun.”

Handling criticism

Fox News is a conservative-leaning media company, and Smith often faces criticism from viewers for what they consider to be conflicting viewpoints between themselves and Smith.

“What we try to do is find out what’s happening, get it right, report the truth, and then if people have opinions about that one way or the other, then they’re certainly entitled to those, but I don’t concern myself with that,” Smith said.

Smith believes it’s a difference in perspective that affects the way people react to a story.

“Sometimes, based on your worldview, you’ll see an accurate report and it’ll anger you,” Smith said. “And sometimes, based on your worldview,

you’ll see an accurate report and it’ll please you. Whether you are pleased or angered is not really my primary focus.”

He said it’s not a popularity contest. The job Smith and his team are faced with is delivering news in a fair way so that people can make their own decisions for their own lives.

“Other people come to the table to tell you what they think about things,” Smith said. “I’m supposed to come to the table and tell you how things are, and that’s what we work hard to do every day.”

Smith said he is proud of all that Ole Miss has accomplished and of the opportunity that the university gives students to make Mississippi a better place.

“It’s just vital, the work that’s done at Ole Miss,” Smith said. “We cannot find ourselves in the position of leadership in the state, if we want to be, without the educational experience that comes from the flagship university of our state.”

Smith said Ole Miss is growing at a record rate and successes in the classroom are unparalleled in our university’s history.

“Anything that you need to prepare yourself for life, you can find at Ole Miss, I’m confident,” Smith said. “I know you can, because I was there and I experienced it. And I know Ole Miss has only gotten bigger and better since I was there.”

VISIBILITY continued from page 1

visibility in recent years, their fight for equality is not over.

“I think that there has been a lot more visibility of trans people in recent years in mainstream culture but not as much understanding and acceptance as I would like to

see,” Harker said.

Harker cited the HB2 “bathroom bill” in North Carolina, one of the more prominent topics of discourse in transgender rights, as an example.

“The community struggles combating stereotypes of sexual deviance from lawmakers,” Paola said.

To break these stereotypes, Harker said people every-

where must be exposed to those who are different from them to realize that misconceptions and hate cause more division than identity differences do.

“In my experience, trans people are committed to living their lives honestly, even when that can come at great personal cost, and they simply want to live without ha-

arrassment or threat,” Harker said.

Though this specific event pertains to transgender people and their struggle for equality, UM Pride also recognizes that the trans community isn’t the only community to struggle with gender identity. Paola said there are common misconceptions associated with agender and

genderqueer people, too.

“Gender is a very fluid concept defined by a given culture within a certain time,” Paola said. “There are commonly held beliefs surrounding ‘womanhood’ and ‘manhood,’ which can cause discrimination toward anyone who is gender non-conforming, especially transgender people.”

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PODCASTS of the week

ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA

DESIGN EDITOR

This week I decided to change it up a little with the podcast column. With the three-day weekend approaching, I wanted to know what students on campus were planning to listen to on their rides back home. From "Pod Save the World" to "The Daily," here are some student favorites:

SUNDAY SCHOOL DROPOUTS



For my Easter trip, I'm probably going to be listening to the podcast "Sunday School Dropouts." In this show, the two hosts – the self-described "ex-Christian" Lauren and her boyfriend, the "sort of Jew" – Niko – read through the Bible, book by book, for the first time. Throughout my childhood, I tried countless times to read the Bible. I would stay up all night struggling to finish a certain book of the Bible or a certain chapter, and

I'm listening to this podcast right now to sort of supplement actual Bible reading. What I love about this show is that Lauren and Niko make it extremely clear from the start of every episode that the show is not a Bible study podcast, but they are simply trying to retell the events of each book of the Bible exactly how the Bible tells them. Feels like a good fit for Easter!

— Adam Dunnells, sophomore English major

WORKING



While I usually listen to a number of podcasts on my long drives home, I have begun to listen to "Working" by Slate. The podcasts look to understand how people do their different jobs and what brought them to choose such a career. The series is usually organized by a theme, such as "Baltimore," "Animals," "At the White House," and several people who work in different jobs are profiled. I have come to enjoy the podcast because it exposes listeners' eyes to the different

careers that make our society operate, whether it be a bartender or a pediatric neurosurgeon. One of my favorite episodes was "In Detroit: How Does the Mayor's Chief of Staff Work" because it opened my eyes to the predominant issues faced by those respective residents and highlighted the different facets of a municipality from the Chief of Staff's point of view.

— Alex Crouch, junior public policy major

SEE [THEDMONLINE](#) FOR MORE PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

Easter candies: Best, worst and questionable

MARY LIZ KING

ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Easter is almost here, and if you're anything like me, you've already been filling up on all the seasonal Easter candies that have stocked grocery store shelves since Valentine's Day. Some candies are filled with weird gooey stuff, and others are too sweet, but no matter what size, shape or filling, most people can agree that Easter candy tops the list for the best holiday candy in the game. So, whether you prefer Peeps or Reese's eggs, here's a list of the best and worst Easter candies:

BEST

Reese's Peanut Butter Egg 9/10

A crowd favorite, Reese's peanut butter egg takes the top spot. This candy is delicious, and Reese's knows how to keep it simple. Peanut butter and chocolate is always the right combination. The egg-shaped chocolate is wrapped in cute yellow packaging. These candies provide just the right amount of sweetness, and they are the perfect bite-size Easter treat. Anytime Reese's tries to spice up its shapes, it somehow never fails to get it right, and the egg is no exception.

Cadbury Mini Eggs 8/10

A personal favorite. Bite-size mini eggs have a crunchy candy shell and a yummy milk chocolate center. Cadbury hit a home run with these sweet candies. They come in seasonal pastel colors, and they are even shaped like mini eggs. What could be better? These mini eggs are the rabbit hole of Easter candies; you can't eat one without consuming the entire bag. So don't mind me while I'm stuffing my face with a bag of these – or 10.

Cadbury Creme Eggs 6/10

Cadbury scores another top spot on the list. Honestly, it just knows what it's doing when it comes to Easter candy. The company's creme eggs hold a place in the "best" category, but only by a little. A fan favorite, for sure, but the mystery filling on the inside is strange, and no one quite knows what it is, but that doesn't stop this candy from being delicious and fun to eat. They can only be eaten one at a time because they are so sweet, but creme eggs are still a yummy Easter treat.

WORST

Edible Easter Grass ?/10

OK, what? No one knows or understands why someone took the cute paper grass that fills the bottom of Easter baskets and made it edible. The most common flavors, green apple and banana, honestly taste like sour, shredded strips of cardboard. I'm not sure what was going on when this candy was created, but it absolutely does not work. Do everyone a favor and stick with the decorative grass for Easter baskets this year.

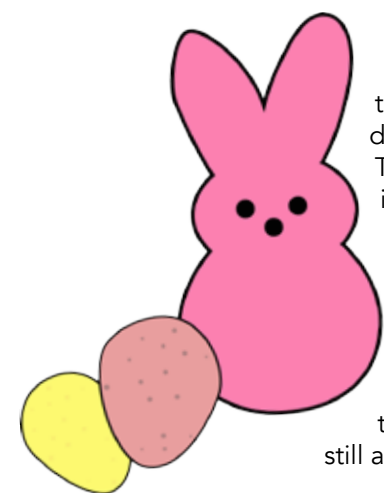
Chocolate Bunnies (solid) 4/10

Chocolate bunnies are a classic Easter treat. Everyone has the typical baby photos trying to stuff a huge chocolate Easter bunny down his or her throat, making a huge mess. As delicious as pure chocolate tastes, chocolate bunnies score a spot on the worst list. They're nearly impossible to eat, and there's just no way to eat them without getting chocolate everywhere. They also take forever to eat. Like, seriously, does anyone ever really finish a solid chocolate bunny? If so, let me know, because he or she deserves an award. Overall, this Easter candy is good in theory, but there really is just no practical way to eat it.

Peeps 2/10

There are just some things that people automatically associate with Easter, and Peeps are definitely one of them. Like candy corn at Halloween, they'll always be an Easter candy staple. But Peeps score a spot on the worst list because they are chunk of marshmallow covered in not good at all. Honestly, Peeps are hope they would taste as good as are sadly disappointing. Decorating, is an excellent use of these cute and they come in a wide variety of animals and colors.

utterly overrated. A sugar – not good, so cute that you'd they look, but they on the other hand, Easter candies,



Whatever your favorite Easter treat is, don't forget to rush to the nearest grocery store Monday to catch those day-after-Easter candy discounts!

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council hosts March art crawl

MIRANDA GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

It's local art fans' favorite time of the month again: Oxford's very own Yoknapatawpha Arts Council hosted its monthly art crawl Tuesday night as residents came together to experience the magnificent art their city has to offer.

For this month's celebration, the double-decker bus took participants around town to five locations: the Powerhouse, Southside Gallery, the University Museum, Uptown Coffee and the Chancellor's House. Featuring art forms ranging from quilting to Greek and Roman antiquities, this March art crawl encompassed a wide variety of work.

The art crawl's central location, the Powerhouse, is located right off the Square. This month, the crawl displayed a large number of pieces created by local K-12 students.



PHOTOS BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Members of the community view various pieces of art done by local artists and children at the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council's monthly Art Crawl on Tuesday.

The art was a beautiful representation of the creativity of youth in Oxford schools. A crowd favorite piece was a large, colorful penguin that was drawn by a talented kindergartner named Perchelle Taylor.

Bars set up throughout the crawl provided participants with beverages, and the Powerhouse put out a food table so people walking through the display could snack as they worked their way through the exhibit.

Also at the Powerhouse was a live exhibit featuring Oxford's Hinge Dance Company. The company gave a preview of its new and upcoming dances. A display of movement and emotion, the performance was both beautiful and intriguing. Sophomore Madelyn Birkelbach, and active member of the company said she thoroughly enjoyed her first experience with an Oxford art crawl Tuesday night.

"Everyone involved has been incredibly supportive and great to work with. But my favorite part of dancing in the art crawl is the fact that we get to interact with so many new people and reach a whole new audience," Birkelbach said.

Another art crawl hot spot was the Southside Gallery on the Square. Here, the fabulous quilting of Anne Strand was showcased downstairs, and an excellent collection



People ride on the double decker bus to various locations around Oxford during the monthly Art Crawl on Tuesday. The bus made several stops at the UM Museum, the Square, on campus and at the Powerhouse.

of student artwork was displayed upstairs.

Strand's work, inspired by the quilts her grandmother used to make, consists of colorful multimedia pieces that represent the feminine spirit as it has existed over time. Many attendees found that this spot was among their favorites on the crawl.

Uptown Coffee was a great stop for a quick break between galleries. Though Uptown always has art on display, it was particularly nice to stop and take a moment to admire the pieces as part of

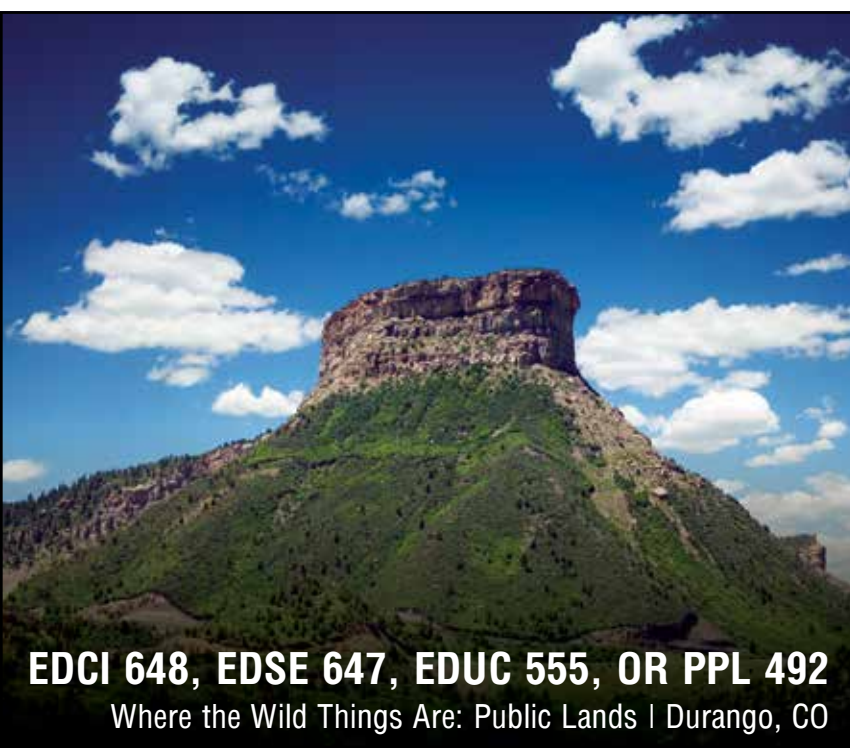
the crawl.

Dietetics and nutrition major Wallis Cronin perfectly summed up this month's crawl.

"The great thing about the monthly art crawl is that in such a small town, it's a special thing to be able to get everyone together to appreciate what local artists are bringing to the table and working on," Cronin said. "Overall, it's just a comfortably enjoyable night that you get to spend with new and old friends, and it just doesn't get much better than that."



People look at pieces of art at the Powerhouse during the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council's monthly Art Crawl on Tuesday. A double decker bus made several stops at the UM Museum, the Square, on campus and at the Powerhouse.



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COLUMN

It's crunch time for Ole Miss basketball recruiting

MAISON BROOKS-TOLLEY
STAFF WRITER

With a new coaching staff comes new challenges, and in his first few weeks as head coach of Ole Miss basketball, Kermit Davis has experienced these challenges firsthand. After meeting with three-star recruit Serrel Smith last week to discuss the future of the program, coach Davis released him from his letter of intent, and Smith will reopen his recruitment.

This week, another recruit has followed suit. Three-star recruit Anthony Higgins was granted a release from his letter of intent by Ole Miss.

Though, on the surface, this is not a positive turn, the reality is that players commit much in part to coaching staffs, and with changes comes reevaluation.

Now that Ole Miss and Davis have settled in and seen where they stand with Kennedy's signees, where do they go from here?

Despite coming in at a disadvantage, Davis and his staff have kept busy sending out offers, conducting in-home visits and evaluating talent for the 2018 class and beyond.

After only five days on the job, coach Davis offered a position to three-star small forward Antavion Collum, from Memphis. Collum, a 6-foot-7, 215-pounder Tennessee Prep Academy star has significant offers from Florida, Georgetown, Iowa State, Kansas State, Maryland, Memphis, Pittsburgh and Western Kentucky.

Keeping with the height, the Rebels are set to host recently reclassified four-star forward Blake Hinson. The coveted forward from Sunrise Christian Academy in Kansas checks in at 6-foot-6, 230 pounds and holds offers from Clemson, Florida State, Memphis, Missouri, SMU and Wichita State.

Though there is much uncertainty in the class, coach Davis and his staff received good news last week when junior college forward Zach Naylor shared his intentions to stay in the Rebel class



FILE PHOTO: LOGAN CONNER

Ole Miss' new men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis speaks during his introductory press conference in The Pavilion on Monday night.

and join the new head coach in Oxford. The 6-foot-7 Houston native played center for Weatherford College this past season and was a force to be reckoned with, averaging 20 points and nine rebounds per game in the 2017-18 season. With the Rebels losing Marcanvis Hymon and Justas Furmanavicius, forward depth is pivotal for this year's class, and gaining Naylor is a big win for Davis.

Following Naylor's announcement, coach Davis and his staff know where their numbers sit for the 2018 class and can begin to target other players on their radar. These players include

Michael Barber and members of Davis' former Middle Tennessee signing class.

As a three-star small forward, Barber is one name that has been under the radar for most of the recruitment cycle. The Jackson Academy star holds notable offers from Ole Miss, Baylor, Georgia Tech, Mississippi State, Ohio State and UNLV. The 6-foot-7 Mississippi native is a top-five player in Mississippi and the No. 76 small forward in the country. Despite his impressive track record and several college offers, Barber is in no hurry to make a decision, so Davis will have plenty of time to make his

pitch.

Making the transition from Murfreesboro to Ox-

ford, Davis will certainly reach out to his former Middle Tennessee class of recruits, who happen to all be from Georgia, and try to sway them to make the same decision to relocate.

K.J. Buffen is a top-200 player who holds many notable college offers. The 6-foot-7 three-star small forward led Gainesville High School to a 24-7 record this season and a state runner-up finish.

Tye Fagan, a 6-foot-3 shooting guard, committed to MTSU back in September after offers from College of Charleston, Georgia, Mercer and South Florida. Fagan averaged 25.3 points per game for Upson-Lee High School and would be a nice addition to the Rebels' back court.

The final member of Davis' former class is Carlos Curry. A 6-foot-11 power forward chose to squad up with the Rebels' new head coach over other impressive offers and take his talents to MTSU. Curry average 13.9 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.2 blocks per game in high school and would provide a much-needed paint presence.

Though it's not impossible that all three recruits follow Davis to Oxford, there are many questions surrounding their recommitment, and after the new coach's recruiting efforts, there may not be enough room.

Ultimately, the air is cleared, and coach Davis and his staff know where they stand. With little time to get their class in order, it's crunch time.

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No. 4 Ole Miss baseball hosts No. 5 Arkansas

CAROLINE MCCRAY
STAFF WRITER

Entering the weekend at No. 4, Ole Miss baseball hosts No. 5 Arkansas in the first game of a three-game series tonight at Swayze Field.

Ole Miss comes into the series with recent history on its side. The last time these two teams faced one another was in April of the 2016-17 season, when the Rebels won a series that included 9-1 and 4-1 wins, and they have not lost a two-out-of-three to the Razorbacks since the 2014-15 season at Baum Stadium in Fayetteville.

History aside, both teams have had notable 2018 seasons and are evenly matched in terms of talent. Ole Miss currently holds a 23-3 overall record and has only lost one game at home this year. Arkansas has a record of 18-7 but matches Ole Miss' 4-2 record in conference play.

However, Ole Miss marks Arkansas' third consecutive SEC opponent ranked fourth or better nationally. Arkansas opened SEC play two weekends ago and swept then-No. 4 Kentucky at Baum Stadium before losing two of three to the No. 2 Gators in Gainesville.

After winning series against Tennessee and then No. 12 Texas A&M, Ole Miss comes off an impressive comeback win in its game against No. 14 Southern Mississippi on Tuesday night. Ole Miss was down 5-0 by the third inning but rallied back to take the game 7-6 behind

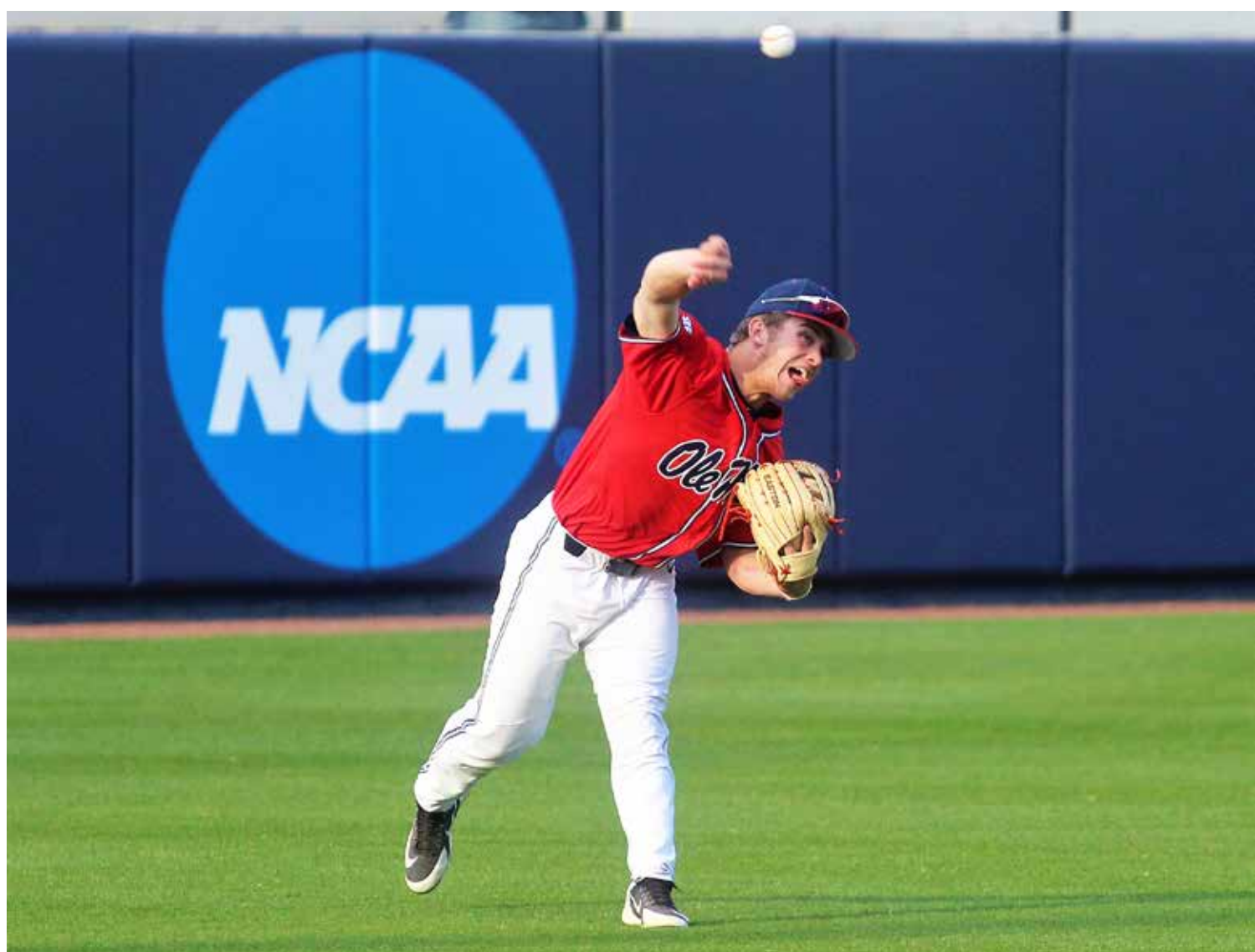


PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Michael Spears throws a ball from deep in the outfield during Tuesday's game against Southern Miss. The Rebels defeated the Golden Eagles 7-6.

a Thomas Dillard three-run home run. Dillard is riding a 15-game hitting streak and looks to extend his streak to 16 games Thursday night.

Additionally, the midweek victory marked the first time the Rebels came back from a 5-0 deficit since their game against

Kentucky on May 14, 2016.

In Tuesday's game, sophomore Greer Holston picked up his first win of the season on his ninth relief appearance, and Parker Caracci earned his fourth save of the season, which now puts him only two behind the team leader,

Dallas Woolfolk.

Arkansas comes off of a similar win Tuesday night when it beat the Memphis Tigers 8-7 in a game that traded leads five times. Redshirt senior Carson Shaddy had a big game that ended with three RBIs. This is the fifth game this season that Shaddy has had three or more RBIs, and in his past 12 games, he holds a .419 average on 18 hits, with 13 RBIs and four home runs. There is no doubt the 5-foot-11 infielder will be a

tough hitter for the Rebel staff to pitch around.

Casey Martin is another Arkansas player the Rebels need to watch out for. Thus far, in his first season with the Razorbacks, the freshman from Lonoke, Arkansas, has a .346 average with 27 hits and seven home runs.

The first pitch for Thursday's game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CST. All of the games in this series will be streamed on SEC Network+.

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