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2018

Thursday, April 26, 2018

THE DAILY

Volume 106, No. 106

MISSISSIPPIAN

Double

Decker

MUSIC • ART • FOOD

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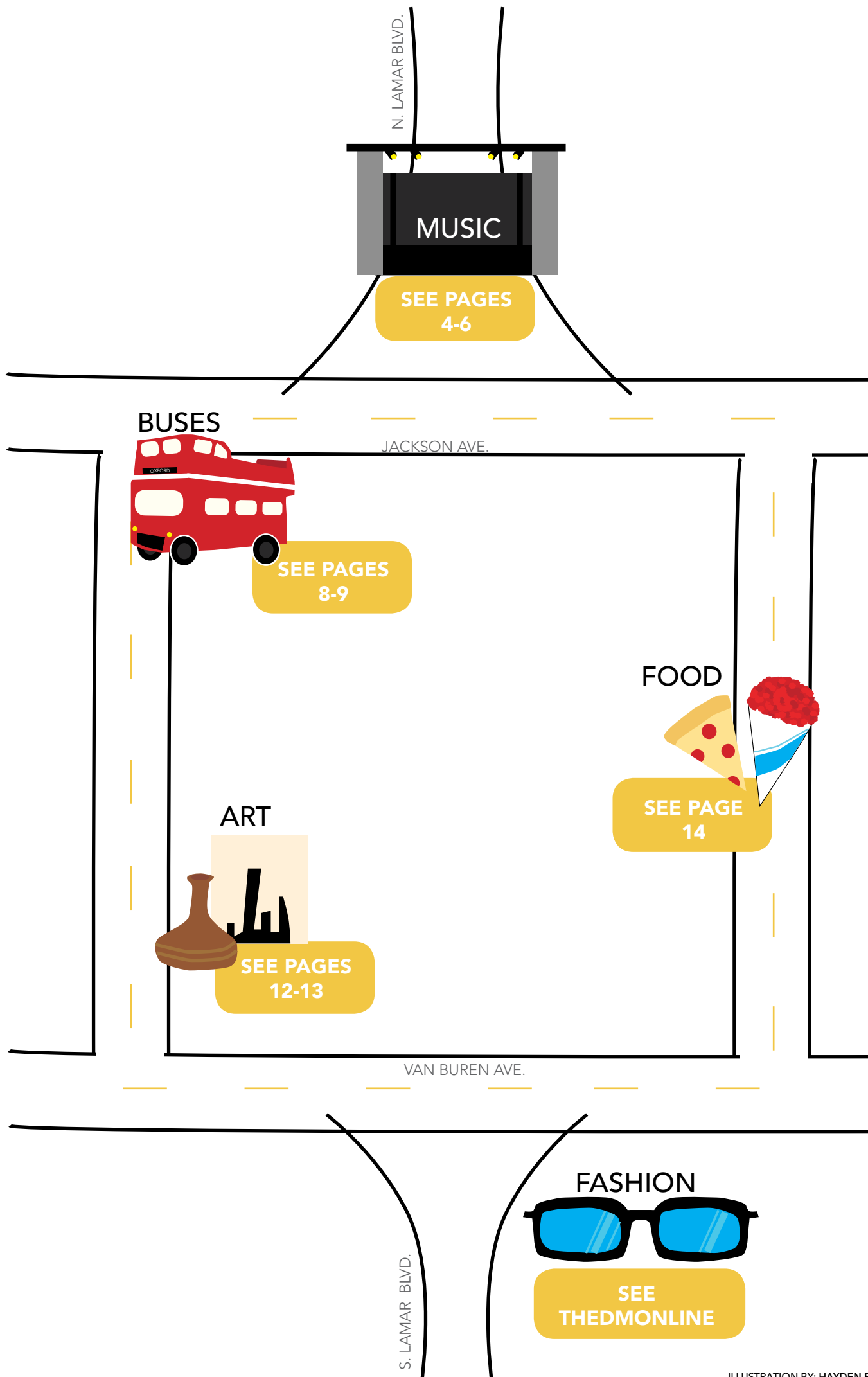
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MISSISSIPPIAN

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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.

ILLUSTRATION BY: HAYDEN BENGÉ



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

City prepares for largest Double Decker yet

JORDAN HOLMAN
 THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Oxford's 23rd annual Double Decker Festival begins Friday and continues a tradition that began years ago when the festival stage was the bed of a pickup truck and the event had only a handful of local artists and vendors.

According to Visit Oxford, the tourist center largely responsible for coordinating the event, the entire Square will be quartered off from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday to accommodate the more than 60,000 visitors who are expected this year.

"Double Decker is a weekend people look forward to every year; it has a little something for everyone," Visit Oxford's Double Decker coordinator Lee Ann Stubbs said.

Stubbs expects this year's crowd to be the largest yet and credits the exceptional weather as well as the weekend's Ole Miss vs. LSU baseball series for the anticipated crowd size.

A festival record-high number of vendors from across the U.S. - 176, in all - will join 147 artists to cater to the 2018 crowd.

"We've been having board meetings all week in preparation for the weekend, as well as volunteer training with our volunteers for the event," Stubbs said.

Visit Oxford is not the only organization preparing for this event - the Oxford Police Department and businesses on the Square are all busy planning for the weekend.

OPD Major Jeff McCutchen said his department started organizing for this year immediately following last year's festivities.

"We met after to discuss what could be done better and what we did well," McCutchen said. "Since the year started, we've been meeting once a month to plan. Besides general safety precautions, we



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

SAA executive director Brady Ruffin helps announce the music lineup for 2018's Double Decker Festival. SAA partnered with Visit Oxford this year to help fund the entertainment.

really want to focus on towing this year. We only towed four cars last year, so we would like to eliminate that problem altogether."

McCutchen said the depart-

ment's towing and safety policies can be found online, and he stressed the importance of visitors following OPD's and Visit Oxford's Twitter accounts, both of which will be

regularly updated with pertinent information about the event.

As community activity increases, McCutchen advises visitors to stay aware of their surroundings and keep in mind that OPD and the local hospital will both have a presence at the festival.

"If any issues come up, OPD will have a Safe (Site) tent open to anyone. We're here to serve, even if that means putting up roadblocks at 4 a.m. on Friday," McCutchen said jokingly.

Businesses on the Square have also been busy preparing for Double Decker.

Proud Larry's general manager Bruce Butler said the restaurant has been ordering more supplies and scheduling more staff for the weekend and is preparing the booth that the restaurant will oper-

ate on the Square during the event.

"We'll have three options at our booth: jambalaya, a roast beef po-boy and gumbo," Butler said. "This option is more convenient for visitors who don't want to take time to wait and sit at our restaurant."

Other local restaurants - including Taylor Grocery, Living Foods and Neon Pig, among others - will also have vendor booths available.

Students are also excited about Double Decker. Senior history major Connor King has attended the event in years past and said he plans to be there Saturday, as well.

"Friday is a difficult day for students to go because of class, so I plan to attend (on) Saturday morning and afternoon," King said. "I enjoy the atmosphere. All the local artwork, food and music is cool."

CELEBRATING FOOD, MUSIC & THE ARTS

ARTS FEST Double Decker

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

PRESENTED BY

23RD ANNUAL DOUBLE DECKER ARTS FESTIVAL MUSIC LINEUP

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

8:00-9:00PM - THE DELTA SAINTS
 7:00-8:00PM - THACKER MOUNTAIN RADIO HOUR
 6:00-7:00PM - LIZ BRASHER

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

8:30-10:00PM - **COLD WAR KIDS**
 7:00-8:00PM - HANDMOUTH
 5:30-6:30PM - WHITEY MORGAN
 4:00-5:00PM - TANK AND THE BANGAS
 2:30-3:30PM - SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
 1:00-2:00PM - DON BRYANT
 11:30AM-12:30PM - COMO MAMAS
 10:15-11:15AM - SHARDE THOMAS RISING STAR FIFIE AND DRUM

ART AND FOOD VENDING - SAT. APRIL 28 10AM-5:30PM

PLEASE NOTE: NO COOLERS! Friday, April 27 at 4am any cars left on North Lamar and Monroe Ave. will be towed. Saturday, April 28 at 4am any cars left on the Square, North Lamar, South Lamar, Van Buren, East Jackson and any City of Oxford or county parking lot will be towed.

Double Decker Arts Festival and City of Oxford are not responsible for any towing fees

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Allyson Rebecca Henke

B.S. IN FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

"An Analysis of Commercial Oxidative Hair Dyes Using Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy"

Directed by Nathan Hamner

Thursday, April 26 at 9:30 am

Coulter Hall Room 200

The defense is open to the public.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Sydney Hamilton Watson

B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

"An Evaluation of Mobile Apps for the Collation of Materials to Propose an App for Type II Diabetes Self-management"

Directed by Joshua Sharp

Thursday, April 26 at 11:00 am

TCRC Room 105C

The defense is open to the public.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Natalie Genevieve Gagliano

B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SPANISH

"Mujeres Modernizadas: Defining the Implications of Modernization for Basque Working Women"

Directed by Miguel Centellas

Thursday, April 26 at 8:15 am

Croft Hall Room

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Music at Double Decker



PHOTO COURTESY: COLD WAR KIDS FACEBOOK

COLD WAR KIDS

DEVNA BOSE

DMMANAGING@GMAIL.COM

Longtime indie rockers Cold War Kids remember Oxford as a “lovely college town” and are excited to return to perform as Double Decker’s headlining act.

“We have played in Oxford years ago at Proud Larry’s. We all went to a football game, and it was very fun. The venue was rad,” frontman Nathan Willett said. “It’s nice to go to a city where it’s not typically one of the major what-people-would-expect-to-be music cities.”

Originally hailing from California, the band formed 14 years ago and released its first album in 2006. Veterans of the indie rock music scene, Cold War Kids’ members have set themselves apart with their blues vibes and thoughtful lyrics from the beginning of their musical journey. Joe Tacopino of PopMatters once claimed they were “worth the trip.”

Willett said the group’s influences lie in punk, rock and roll, gospel and soul, all of which are showcased in its recent album “Audience,” which is a collection of live recordings from a show in Athens, Georgia, last September.

“I’m real proud of [the album]. For having six records, this is a great document,” Willett said. “That’s kind of the most recent fresh thing that is the best version of what to expect [from our show].”

Mostly, though, the band just wants to have a good time and hopes the audience does, too.

“We love to feed off the energy of the crowd and feed off the energy of each other, and when both of those things are strong, we just have a great time,” Willett said.

DEVNA BOSE

DMMANAGING@GMAIL.COM

New Orleans funk group Tank and the Bangas will fill the air on the Square with their signature soulful sound Saturday afternoon.

Founded and fronted by Tarriona “Tank” Ball, the musical group formed in 2011 and released the album “Think Tank” in 2013. Ball’s powerhouse vocals lead Tank and the Bangas’ sound through a variety of genres including rock, folk and gospel.

“[Our sound] goes everywhere, and it’s dynamic and wide ranging because of the people that we have in this band,” drummer and musical director Joshua Johnson said. “We just have fun and collaborate with those dynamics and those ranges and create some very insanely fun music.”

The group gained national attention after winning NPR’s Tiny Desk Contest in 2017, capturing audiences with their “organic” performance. They have been described by Joshua Stein of the Financial Times as representing the “new New Orleans,” playing music that doesn’t “conform to the jazz stereotypes.”

Johnson hopes there “will be a little bit of something for everyone” in the audience.

“I don’t think everyone in the audience is going to know what to expect, and that’s the fun part – taking them on a fun rollercoaster ride,” Johnson said. “We get to tell a story to connect with them. You always want to touch somebody in the audience. That’s kind of the point.”



PHOTO COURTESY: TANK AND THE BANGAS

TANK AND THE BANGAS

ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA

THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Whitey Morgan will bring a grittier kind of country than what the average Mississippi country music listener might expect to the Oxford scene.

The honky tonk artist based in Flint, Michigan, has made a name for himself with his music, much of which the average person can relate to.

His music roots date back as far as three decades ago when his grandfather and mentor immersed him in the scene. He sings with a sense of urgency, straight from the heart, and details the struggle of the everyday person through his lyrics.

“I think my sound is kind of like 70s country music,” Morgan said. “The reckless abandon type, it’s high energy and has a rock ‘n’ roll backbeat to it and three-part harmony.”

He’s played in Oxford “five or six times” over the last few years, but his first performance at a festival will be this weekend at Double Decker.

“I’m hoping that the people are ready for some old school country music,” Morgan said.



PHOTO COURTESY: SONGKICK

WHITEY MORGAN

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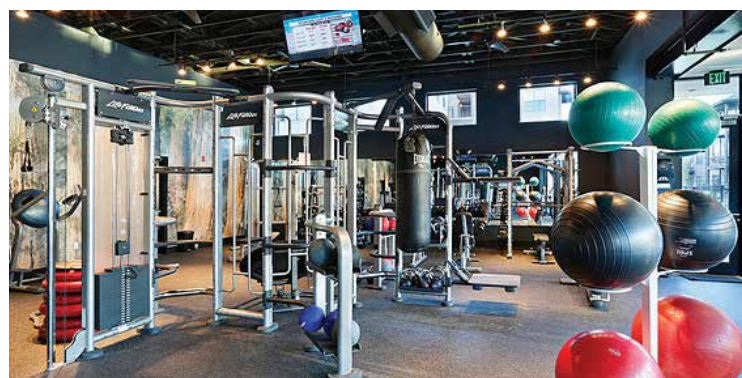
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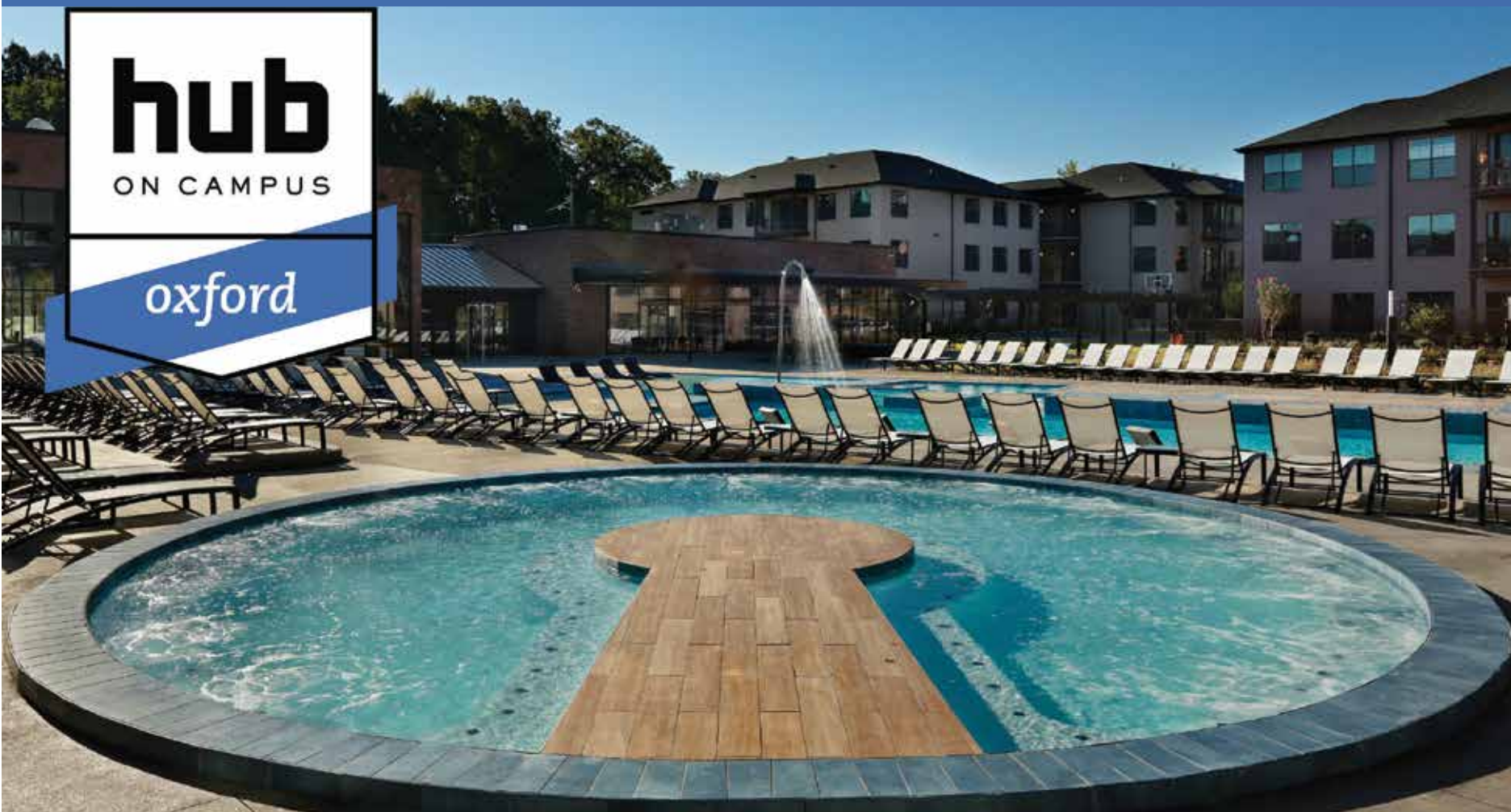
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DOUBLE DECKER MUSIC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Don Bryant knows what it's like to be a versatile artist in the music industry, and he's experienced the "buzz" that comes with being both behind-the-scenes and front and center. Now he's back doing what he loves, performing songs from his latest album "Don't Give Up On Love" this weekend at Double Decker Festival.

Bryant's roots are in the Memphis church where he and his siblings frequently imitated the sounds of his father's gospel group, the Four Stars of Harmony. It wasn't until he started working closely with the former owner of Hi Records music label, Willie Mitchell, that his music career began to take off.

The group he was a part of at the time, the Four Kings, broke up, but he had dreams of persisting in the industry even then.

"I wanted to continue singing, and (Mitchell) said he would give me a chance as a single vocalist, which is how I got started doing my own thing," Bryant said.

He had ambitions of being a solo artist until he started writing for up-and-coming artists such as Al Green and Ann Peebles. After his songwriting success, he took a hiatus but is now back on the road performing his highly-anticipated, delicate and soul-filled album.

"I feel great being back," Bryant said. "To bring the sound back to fruition is what I'm happy about. I'm going to give it all I got and put my heart and soul into it."

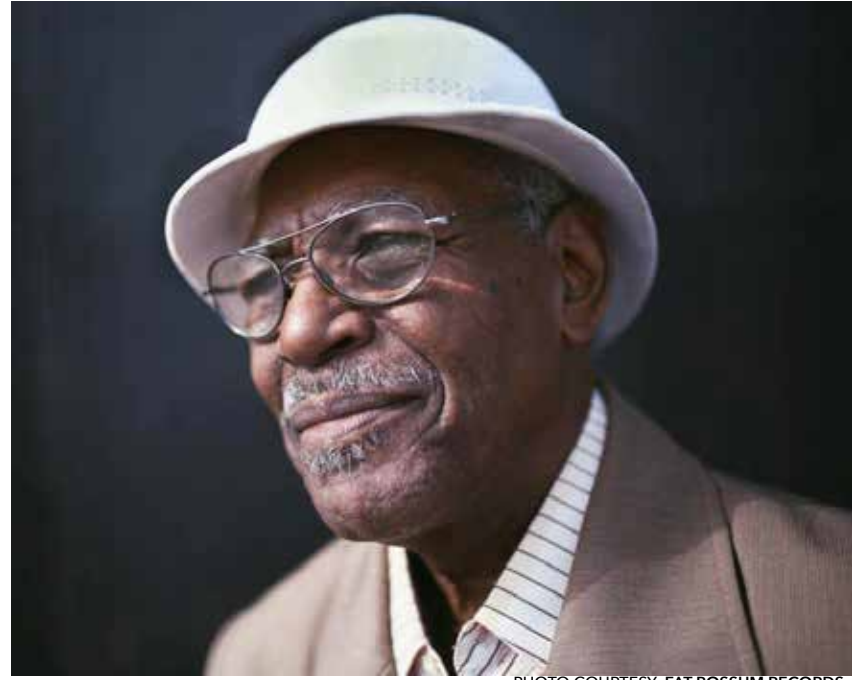


PHOTO COURTESY: FAT POSSUM RECORDS

DON BRYANT



PHOTO COURTESY: DAPTONE RECORDS

COMO MAMAS

ITALIANA ANDERSON
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

For those who grew up going to church on those rural Mississippi Sunday mornings, it is common to get "the Word" from the pastor while the graceful voices of a choir fill the chapel with a holy energy.

A group of three women known as the Como Mamas, who are named after the town from which they hail, offers those early-Sunday-morning vibes at all times with their "take us to church" harmonies.

The Como Mamas are a trio worth hearing. Their angelic, heavenly melodies are the kind of sound that will uplift and get listeners through the rough days. Sisters Della Daniels and Angelie Taylor and their cousin Ester Mae Smith remember singing together as children 50 years ago.

A New York field recorder, Michael Reilly of Daptone Records, got his first taste of this Southern experience in 2005 on a visit to Como. He stumbled upon the group singing at their home church, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, and at that moment, he saw a chance to take this group to the next level.

Reilly was so impressed that his trip resulted in the Como Mamas recording the album "Get An Understanding" with Daptone Records in 2013. Their most recent, critically acclaimed album, "Move Upstairs," came out in May 2017.

Each member brings a different style to the group's music. While the women have a band backing them, the main instruments are their voices. Smith brings raspy, alto sounds, while the two sisters belt it out with their church-bred harmonies.

The Como Mamas bring soul to gospel music with their inspiring tracks that are meant to capture listeners and reach all kinds of people, especially younger generations. The band performs at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

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Aiden Seth Dickinson

B.A. IN PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP
"Healthcare Certificates of Need in Mississippi: Policy Review and Recommendation"
 Directed by Weixing Chen
Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 pm
Odom Conference Room
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Gabrielle Candon Toppin

B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SPANISH
"Catholicism and Feminism: A Chilean Paradox"
 Directed by Katherine Centellas
Thursday, April 26 at 2:00 pm
Croft Boardroom
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Local tour guide brings Oxford's history to life



PHOTOS BY: DEVNA BOSE

Jack Mayfield poses in front of a double-decker bus at the Visit Oxford office.

DEVNA BOSE
DMMANAGING@GMAIL.COM

Jack Mayfield sits in a cushioned chair on the top floor of Square Books with one hand resting on his knee. He speaks assuredly, and his eyes are wise. Pausing every few minutes to cough into the back of his hand, he profusely apologizes, explaining he has trouble speaking now after his bout with throat cancer. For a man whose job relies on conversation and storytelling, this ailment hasn't slowed him down a bit.

"My family history goes back to the beginning, when the county was formed," he starts his story.

Mayfield's great-great-grandmother came to Oxford in the late 1830s as one of the first settlers in Lafayette County. A fifth-generation Oxonian, Mayfield grew up in town and graduated from Ole Miss in 1969. After college he left Oxford, though he didn't get too far. He worked office jobs in Jackson and Memphis for a number of years before returning home in 1990.

"My family has just always been here. I had a home here," he said. "I just always loved Oxford – the slow-paced life, a lot to do, everything you need."

When he came back home, Mayfield decided he wanted to teach, so he went back to school and earned his master's degree in history. A love for the subject is deeply ingrained in Mayfield.

"Lots of people have hobbies like golf or tennis, but mine was history," he said. "I had an aunt who was a history teacher for years, and she would just

buy me history books as a kid. I loved hearing about people and events, so I just love history, and I wanted to try teaching to see what it was like."

After teaching at a few local schools such as South Panola High School and Northwest Mississippi Community College, Mayfield began writing a column for the Oxford Eagle in 2004. He did that for 12 years and wrote approximately 600 pieces before he received a call one day from Visit Oxford director Mary Allyn Hedges, who asked him if he could do a double-decker bus tour for a group.

"I said, 'Sure, I'd be glad to,'" Mayfield recalled. "I made a little itinerary driving around town. It just started from that."

Mayfield has been leading bus tours ever since.

Double-decker bus tours have been an iconic part of Oxford's culture since the buses were imported from England in 1994. Usually starting at the Visit Oxford tourism office, the buses travel up and down the narrow streets surrounding the Square and venture onto campus so that riders can enjoy springtime views of the Grove.

When Mayfield first began giving double-decker bus tours, he brought his grandson. During tours, Mayfield kept a stack of notecards containing important information he planned to mention during the tour, and his grandson wanted to hold the cards. On one of his first ride-alongs, Mayfield's grandson accidentally dropped the stack, shuffling all of the notes. As luck would have it, Mayfield remembered enough

to give the entire tour from memory. Since that day, his method hasn't changed much.

"I say whatever pops in my mind," he said. "You might hear one story one time and one story another time."

Throughout the approximately hour-long tour, Mayfield vividly describes historic events around town, recalls past Oxonians and their stories and cracks a number of jokes about his least favorite collegiate team: LSU.

"When we drive past the Grove, I say we love for our opponents to come by and have a drink with us, except we don't like people who wear purple and gold. They're the most obnoxious people, and they smell like corn dogs," he said. "It never fails – there's always somebody on the bus from LSU. It works real well when we have Texas A&M people in town."

Oxford's double-decker buses

“

My family has just always been here. I had a home here. I just always loved Oxford – the slow-paced life, a lot to do, everything you need.”

-Jack Mayfield, Double Decker tour guide

... it's so nice to put something together about someone you know and someone who was in their family," he said. "It makes it more interesting."

According to Mayfield, he grew up in Oxford during its athletic "heyday," when everyone in Oxford was an Ole Miss fan. He remembers hundreds of fun days on campus, including one time in which he used a car hood to sled down a steep bank.

"Over there by the Student Union, there used to be a football field. It had a bank that came down and had a drainage ditch. When it snowed once when we were teenagers, we started sledding on that incline. When you came to that drainage ditch, you would go airborne and land in the field," he recalled. "When you have fond memories about a place like that, it just pulls you into it, and you become a part of it."

Over the years, Mayfield has seen his town, his home and his campus grow to become, in his opinion, a better and more welcoming community.

"We, in the South, hate to offend, and [contextualization] is a good way to show that we're taking initiative. What we're doing is putting everything in context of what the time and the period were, because then it becomes a teaching tool. You understand the tenor of the people, and I think it shows that we are not ashamed of what happened," he said. "[Oxford has] changed for the good. We're getting more into the 21st century and owning up to our past at the same time."

History isn't the only thing keeping Mayfield here, though. He said the natural friendship and kindness among citizens of a town as charming as Oxford keep him here, and no one loves Oxford more than Mayfield.

"I always tell people we are not like other Mississippi towns," he said. "It's that sense of place. It's where your deep-running vein always travels to, no matter where you go. It always comes back to the one place – everything you know, everything you feel. It's an integral part of your life."

have served the town for more than 20 years and are considered a staple on the Square, especially during the spring. As popular as the buses are, however, local historian Mayfield is just as much of a local attraction as the buses.

"Jack is a true asset and ambassador for the City of Oxford," Hedges said. "He is a wealth of knowledge with an ability for storytelling (that) bring(s) history to life. Jack is a treasure for Oxford, and his bus tours are an experience for both visitors and locals alike."

A true Oxonian, Mayfield lights up when he recalls the history of his hometown and the memories he has made in it.

"[Oxford is] the crossroads of history," he said. "So much has happened here and come through here."

Part of Mayfield's love for Oxford and its story comes from his close ties to the area.

"Growing up here, knowing the family names and family lin-



Mayfield recounts stories about historical buildings and landmarks located on the Square.

Bus drivers: Double Decker's unsung heroes

LINDSAY DAWSON

THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Though the bright red buses attract people's attention, the four men who drive Oxford's double-decker buses make the experience of touring the Square what it is. These drivers, who come from a variety of backgrounds, are all specially trained for the controls on these older buses. Most importantly, they all love what they do.



SHAWN WILLIAMS

"I was trained for 6 hours, and they let me loose!"

Shawn began his career nearly five years ago and said he's always enjoyed driving for the city.

"Driving around, taking people sightseeing, and people and hearing Jack (Mayfield)'s stories over and over again... When people get on the bus, they get so amazed, and this is something you can't see everywhere – only in London and right here in Oxford, Mississippi."

As a longtime driver, Shawn has seen the festival year after year. He describes it as a "wild and crazy" time.

"Double Decker is just what it is – Double Decker weekend. People are everywhere. Everybody wants to ride the (buses) with the top off. When you come up over the hill, come beside City Hall and (you can) see all the crowds of people waiting."

This year, Shawn will once again spend Double Decker weekend driving passengers around in the two-story buses.



DAVIS LONG

A long-time double-decker bus driver, Davis said some of his favorite memories behind the wheel are of driving groups of children on school field trips.

"(They) are screaming and hollering the whole time."

Davis remembers how he came to double-decker driving as a happy accident.

"I was driving an OUT bus, and they asked if anybody wanted to drive a double-decker bus, and I said, 'Why not? I love driving.'"

This surprise opportunity was the start of his weekend career driving an entirely different sort of Oxford bus route. He said he enjoys meeting people on the bus just as much as he enjoys being able to drive the historic buses.



PAUL AUSTIN

Paul started driving double-decker buses after seeing an advertisement in his morning newspaper. He used to work for a school and said he found the driving job a way to keep himself from becoming bored over long summer breaks.

Built in 1962, the buses have a long history in Oxford. Paul said he enjoys when people ask to step inside the bus and take pictures of the controls, which are old and on the right-hand side of the bus, unlike in American buses.

"(The bus is) unique; it's just different. I just love how everyone is always happy. Before I drove this, I drove a school bus, and this was a nice change. Everyone is just always happy to get on the bus."



RICKEY RAIN

Rickey is a newer bus driver, but in his short time operating the double-decker buses, he's fallen in love with driving them on the Square.

"I love the people, helping others out. I just love driving the bus."

His favorite memory of driving a double-decker bus is of a group of senior citizens who rode along for a tour cracking jokes the whole time.

This year is Rickey's first Double Decker, and he is looking forward to everything that comes with it.

"(It's) all the fun, all the activities, meeting new people from out of town and giving them a great experience in Oxford."

How to: Double Decker

JACQUELINE SCHLICK
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

If you have braved the wicked cold of this Mississippi winter and survived (on caffeine and Cook Out, most likely) until the final two weeks of the semester, then the Double Decker Arts Festival is a rite of passage for you, weary traveler. Go delight in your almost-freedom at the quirky and dynamic art show that this town anticipates for months. It will not disappoint.

1

Get familiar with the bands before they perform

We have all been in that situation where a friend drags us to a concert with an artist we've never heard in our life, only to stand there for two hours plus swaying gently back and forth and trying to make out the loud, muffled lyrics everyone else seems to be having an emotional reaction to. Don't do this to yourself. Familiarize yourself with the artists and their music so that you can sing along and get the most out of the experience. Incredible musicians come to Double Decker, so take full advantage of it.

2

Plan to bring some kind of sunblock

If you're anything like me and would rather have the sun itself move into your living room than ever subject yourself to the sticky, fake-beach-scented goop that is sunscreen, plan for an alternative type of sunblock. This can mean a floppy hat, a baseball cap, a shirt that covers your shoulders and/or your favorite pair of shades. You'll be outside for hours, browsing art, listening to music or petting dogs, so just winging it and nursing your sunburn later isn't something I'd recommend.

3

Bring the dog

If you, your roommate, your sister, your brother, your third cousin twice removed or the sweet elderly lady who lives four doors down has a dog, bring the dog. Double Decker is crawling with furry little hug-muffins that beg to be petted and if you have your own, then he/she can play with the others, get constant attention and have a day you both will remember. Also this is still a cliché (but classic) get-the-girl move. And likely will be for eternity.

4

Consider carpooling or walking to the Square

You know how parking on a regular Saturday on the Square is a stress fest that forces you to kiss sweet moments of your life goodbye? Right. Well, imagine that times ten. Avoid it altogether by meeting at a house close to the Square and walking the couple of blocks to the festival or carpooling in a van that fits enough people that when you all exit it's like that skit of 30 clowns tumbling out of a seemingly average-sized vehicle. Or maybe not – because seatbelts are important.

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Thursday, Friday and Saturday



Crawfish
Thursday-Saturday

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UM alumna's design chosen as festival poster

MADDIE BECK
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Over the course of its 23-year existence, the Double Decker Festival has featured a variety of styles in its promotional posters. Seen all over town on bulletins and buildings in the months, weeks and days leading up to the festival, past posters have included both modern and traditional takes on the iconic double-decker bus.

This year, eight local artists submitted poster designs, and a seven-person jury selected artist Sarah Kathryn Dossett's creation to use as the festival's official artwork, according to Double Decker coordinator Lee Ann Stubbs. Dossett's design was chosen for its unique, whimsical approach to the classic image.

"They look to see what's different from years past," Stubbs said. "It has to be eye-catching, and hers was. The official

artwork for the festival is so important because it's what represents us. Because Double Decker has grown so much and we have vendors from other parts of the state, and even out of state, it needs to be representative of Oxford."

Dossett's design includes the shape of the classic double-decker bus with a twist. Within the shape of the bus, Dossett painted notable buildings and landmarks around the Square, such as the red telephone booth and the top of the courthouse.

In addition, she embraced the celebrations of the festival itself by incorporating elements such as a paint palette to represent art and piano keys to represent music. She even has a depiction of William Faulkner, Oxford's claim-to-fame in literature, driving the bus.

Creativity has been a large part of Dossett's life.



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Sarah Kathryn Dossett (right) unveils her artwork for the 2018 Double Decker Festival. Dossett was commissioned by Visit Oxford to create the piece.

A Ridgeland native, Dossett received a BFA in printmaking at the University of Mississippi in 2003.

As an artist, Dossett is not stuck to any one medium. She experiments with mixed media, pen and ink, watercolor and pastels. Her process changes between projects.

"The joy comes from not keeping myself on one partic-

ular shelf, but instead tying all possible outlets for my ideas," Dossett said. "There are times when I wake in the morning and need to create something that I have had on my mind for a few days. Other times, I work on a piece for weeks before there is a breakthrough."

After college, Dossett stayed in Oxford and eventually opened Studio Whimzy in 2010, an art studio off of College Hill Road that hosts creative events here in Oxford. The studio offers acrylic painting and ceramics workshops for adults, an after-school art program, camps and birthday parties for kids.

Studio Whimzy hosted a Double Decker Arts Festival preview party on April 23 in order for customers to browse

new, original works of art by Dossett.

As a reward for her artwork, Dossett will receive booth 72 out of over 200 for free at the festival this year to sell and promote Studio Whimzy artwork.

"I love Oxford. I am blessed to be able to teach and create art in an environment that values both," Dossett said. "I can feel the support of the community daily and hope that my work adds just a bit to this eclectic place that I call home."

Her official Double Decker design will be printed on posters and artwork, both of which can be purchased on the Double Decker website or at the festival itself April 27 and 28.

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ACROSS

- 1 Ladle
- 6 Baby powder
- 10 Somewhat
- 14 Shop shaper
- 15 Iranian coin
- 16 Go it alone
- 17 Composer Bruckner
- 18 Village People hit
- 19 Decorative pitcher
- 20 Hindu Preserver
- 22 Tranquility
- 24 Powdery residue
- 26 Midday nap
- 27 "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse
- 31 U-turn from SSW
- 32 Phase
- 33 Medium of exchange
- 36 Pay stub?
- 39 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
- 40 Belief
- 41 Sow chow
- 42 Trojans' sch.
- 43 Andrea Bocelli, for one
- 44 One cubic meter
- 45 Eureka!
- 46 Lasting all day
- 48 Give a new title to
- 51 Decade divs.

DOWN

- 1 Eastern European
- 2 Child's plea
- 3 Ed and Mel of baseball
- 4 Yikes!
- 5 Nom de plume
- 6 Attempt, a score in rugby
- 7 Intentions
- 8 Shoe ties
- 9 Woodwind instrument
- 10 In ___ (sort of)
- 11 Namely
- 12 Prince Valiant's wife
- 13 Small boat
- 21 NATO member
- 23 Start of a counting rhyme
- 25 Macho guys
- 27 Jacob's twin
- 28 Old Fords
- 29 Not of the cloth
- 30 Turkish general
- 34 Yoko ___
- 35 Dweebish
- 36 Bread spread
- 37 Forsaken
- 38 Take down ___
- 40 One on the same side
- 41 Letters on a Cardinal's cap
- 43 Bangkok tongue
- 44 Methods
- 45 Deer horn
- 47 Shipping magnate
- Onassis
- 48 Like non-oyster months
- 49 Accumulation of fluids
- 50 Creepy
- 52 Think nothing ___
- 53 Film unit
- 55 Senate position
- 56 "East of Eden" director Kazan
- 57 Fast time
- 58 At liberty
- 61 Start of MGM's motto

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

William Grafton Peaster

B.S.CH.E. IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

"A Case Study on the Design and Optimization of an Ethylbenzene Production Plant"

Directed by Adam Smith

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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59					60			61	62			
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

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

SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

SUPER TOUGH

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

Student art group creates, sells ceramics

MEGAN SWARTZFAGER
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Art vendors from all over come to Double Decker Arts Festival every year, but many artists who set up booths for the two-day event are Oxonians or University of Mississippi students. In fact, the Mud Daubers – a group of graduate and advanced undergraduate student ceramicists at the university – have participated in the festival every year for the past 13 years.

The Mud Daubers and the UM ceramics program are led by Matt Long, associate professor of art and graduate coordinator for the Department of Art and Art History. Long received his MFA in ceramics from Ohio University in 1997 and has been at the university since 2005. The Mud Daubers, however, had already been active for many years before Long was hired.

“The Mud Daubers became an official student organization 11 years ago,” Long said. “However, the student organization was started with my predecessor, professor Ron Dale, sometime in the ‘80s.”



PHOTO BY: JOHN SCOTT

An Ole Miss student member of the Mud Daubers makes a trophy for Double Decker.

The group changes often, but there are currently 16 members. Using the university’s ceramics facilities – which include 20 electric wheels, a glaze lab and a kiln pad, among other things – these students are collectively able to produce anywhere between 100 and 500 ceramic pieces per semester.

“(The extensive production is) all in an effort to make stronger, well-crafted and more complex work,” Long

said. “Many of these pieces make it to Double Decker, but only the highest quality pieces are chosen.”

These pieces range from functional to sculptural, using wheel-thrown and hand-building methods. Mud Daubers experiment with a variety of techniques and aesthetics to produce a wide array of objects that vary drastically in style.

Double Decker presents artists, especially student

artists like the Mud Daubers, with the opportunity to connect with the community and build real-life skills that they may not be able to develop in class.

“The experience is great,” Long said. “While the university provides a great education, it does not provide a real-life education in the reality of students working in ceramics.”

The university’s wealth of resources and experienced

faculty give students what they need to develop technical artistic ability and to experiment creatively to develop their own styles and ideas, but the curriculum does not show student artists what it is like to be a professional artist after school.

“This is not only a great opportunity to experience these things – packing work, pricing work, inventory, set up, working as a team, customer service, sales, taxes – but provides the students with opportunities to give back to the community of art, ceramics and Oxford,” Long said.

Long’s only goals for the Mud Daubers for Double Decker are that the students develop these skills and put their best foot forward.

As for the proceeds, individual students keep 60 percent, and the remainder goes into the Mud Daubers’ collective fund to support students attending the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts and to bring renowned artists to campus.

The Mud Daubers will be located at booths 79 and 80 on Van Buren Avenue from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. this Saturday.



4 COTTAGES FOR RENT BEHIND THIS ANTEBELLUM MANSION ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE

2 MINUTE WALK TO SQUARE - 4 MINUTE WALK TO GROVE

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ORIGINAL HOUSE

This quaint cottage features a porch, large bedroom with full bath, large living room, eat-in kitchen, and laundry room with washer & dryer.

THE SHED

This small cottage features nice living area, one bedroom and a full bath.



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Longtime vendors keep visitors coming back

JORDYN SMITH

THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Since Oxford's early days, its great food has made the city a gastronomic landmark. Double Decker Festival is celebrating its 23rd year, making the weekend itself as legendary as the historic restaurants that fuel the weekend's famous cuisine.

Vendors new and old will gather on the Square April 27 and 28 to celebrate the tastes that give Double Decker its signature flavor.

Double Decker dedicates itself to celebrating food, music and the arts. Food has always been an important aspect of Oxford's identity, and Double Decker is the perfect weekend for local restaurants to showcase their most famous dishes.

With 28 vendors participating this year, there is a treat for every taste bud.

"The food variety at Double Decker is so unique and offers so many different options, it's hard for me to pick a signature item," Double Decker coordinator Lee Ann Stubbs said. "I feel like there is a little bit of something for everybody to enjoy."

Charter members such as Sno Biz, Taylor Grocery, Abner's, Proud Larry's, Funky's and Old Venice have been vending at Double Decker since the festival's beginning. Each charter member helps to establish the authenticity of the festival and its

“

"The food variety at Double Decker is so unique and offers so many different options, it's hard for me to pick a signature item. I feel like there is a little bit of something for everybody to enjoy."

-Double Decker coordinator
Lee Ann Stubbs

flavors.

Snow cones on any spring day are a necessity, but the history of Sno Biz makes these sweet treats even more special. Sno Biz has always been the best spot for a refreshing treat in Oxford.

"We have been a food vendor at every [Double Decker]. Sno Biz shaved ice is a great festival treat on a warm and sunny day," owner John Sherman said.

Sherman said the favorite flavors are Sno Biz's

homemade ice cream, wedding cake or any of its flavors with a creme topping. He also added that festival goers can't go wrong with any flavor atop their shaved ice.

Another historic restaurant, Funky's, famous for its daiquiris and pizza, is excited to once again celebrate vending at Double Decker.

"It is an extremely busy but exciting weekend. We work long hours, but it is great to see so many people visiting Oxford and to meet people from all over the country," said Funky's owner Lee Harris. "My favorite part is talking to people who have never been to Oxford and/or have never had Funky's pizza or daiquiris."

Funky's will bring some flavor to Double Decker with its seasonal spicy crawfish pizza and unique mac and cheese pizza. Harris said these dishes are always popular among curious eaters.

No matter how hot the Mississippi afternoon might get, their daiquiris will also be available to cool people down.

Proud Larry's is another eatery that has been an Oxford landmark since it opened 25 years ago.

"Proud Larry's has been a vendor at Double Deck-

er since the beginning, and it has been awesome to see the festival grow over the years," said Bruce Butler, owner of Proud Larry's.

Local vendors have a big impact on the turnout of the festival, and many are excited to display their different dishes. The signature food at the Proud Larry's booth includes a roast beef po' boy, jambalaya and gumbo.

The festival vibe brings a special feeling to each booth and allows restaurants to display their favorite foods some might have never tried.

"Being a local vendor

during Double Decker means we get to showcase our wonderful food in a setting other than our restaurant," Butler said. "Some people may not have the time to stop in since it will be a busy weekend and we are located so close to the festival, but they can always grab something at our booth."

Each vendor adds to the melting pot of flavor, personality and sound that makes Double Decker so special. Those in attendance this weekend are sure to be stuffed full of food straight from the heart of Mississippi.



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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

James Mitchum

B.A. IN BIOCHEMISTRY

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Directed by Nicole Ashpole

Thursday, April 26
at 2:00 pm
TCRC Room 3054

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Fairpark District Downtown @tupelohfest

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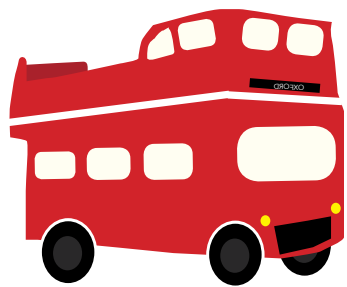
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Oxford's British connection

Coachella was named for the valley in Indio, California, in which the festival takes place. Memphis in May got its name because, well, it is located in Memphis and takes place in May. Clarksdale's Juke Joint Festival is eponymously named for a type of blues venue common in the Mississippi Delta. So how did an arts festival in the hill country of Mississippi come to be named after a mode of mass transit most common in the United Kingdom?



1837



Three pioneers purchase land that would later become the city of Oxford. Shortly afterwards, the land is named for the prestigious English university.

1841



Oxford is chosen for the state's flagship university.

1962



The London Route Master buses that would eventually come to Oxford are built in the United Kingdom.

1994



Led by mayor John Leslie, the city purchases and imports a London Route Master bus from across the pond for a total of \$28,000.

1996

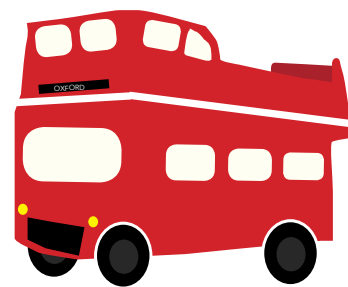


Oxford unveils the city's new bus at its first Double Decker Festival. The headlining act, Bo Dollis Jr. and the Wild Magnolias, performs from the bed of a truck.

2016



Oxford purchases two more of the bright red buses. After making the journey from Phoenix, the buses double the size of Oxford's fleet.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY: HAYDEN BENGE
INFORMATION COMPILED BY: LIAM NIEMAN

OLIVIA MORGAN
THE DM FEATURES@GMAIL.COM

The city of Oxford's Anglo-philic obsession began before either Ole Miss or the city proper existed.

When Mississippi was seeking a location for its flagship university, one northern Mississippi town cleverly tried

to woo those deciding the placement. Its citizens chose the name "Oxford" - also the name of a prestigious university town in England - to elicit a positive response from lawmakers. In addition to mirroring British culture with the town's name, Oxonians soon began co-opting more touches of Britain, such as red phone booths and double-decker buses, to their local

culture.

"The buses are a tribute to our namesake and our tradition of thinking outside of the box to pull people to our beautiful city," said Joseph Scott, Visit Oxford's visitor services coordinator.

The first double-decker "bus" was a two-story horse-drawn carriage crafted in Paris in 1853. By 1857 these horse-drawn buggies had made their way to

England, albeit with a modified style that featured an exposed upper deck, which provided extra seating that could be discounted. London began using automated buses reflective of this style in 1923.

Though double-decker buses have become prevalent in mass transit systems across Europe and the rest of the world, including places such as India, Mexico and South Africa, their symbolic attachment to British culture is, admittedly, the characteristic with which most people would readily associate them.

"The Double Decker Festival is a celebration of all things Oxford and is about welcoming people to come and experience our community and culture," Scott said.

He said part of this culture is the iconic red buses that are modeled after those used in England.

It seems fitting that when the first Double Decker Festival was in the works in 1994, the event's name was chosen to follow the British tradition. The first double-decker bus was brought across the pond that same year.

According to Scott, all the

buses were imported from England, and the two most recent additions had to be driven to Mississippi from Arizona. Currently the city maintains four buses, running them two at a time.

"We also occasionally use them for city events, like the Oxford Art Crawl," Scott said. "We also offer a public tour Fridays before home SEC football and baseball games."

Local historian Jack Mayfield serves as a guide for the double-decker buses' primary use: tourism. The vehicles shuttle visitors from all over the world around the university and town. The buses are also often rented out for private events, such as weddings.

On double-decker tours, visitors hear Mayfield tell stories about the history of Oxford, but the buses themselves also tell an interesting story. Their lives - begun in Britain the 1960s and still going strong decades later after being shipped to a small town in Mississippi - highlight the connection between these distant places that was first established with Oxford's name.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Sarah Thornby Stroup
B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
"Social Evils + Stigma: A Comparative Study of HIV and the Moral Model of Disease in Vietnam, Argentina & Mississippi"
Directed by Katherine Centellas
Thursday, April 26 at 3:00 pm
Croft Board Room
The defense is open to the public.
If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Aynslie Jensen Fritz
B.S.CH.E. IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
"The Development and Optimization of an Ethylbenzene Process"
Directed by Adam Smith
Thursday, April 26 at 3:45 pm
Carrier Hall Room 101
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Mary Kathryn Barry
B.A.ED. IN ENGLISH EDUCATION
"Social and Emotional Learning and its Implementation in a Standard 9th Grade Curriculum"
Directed by Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham
Thursday, April 26 at 5:00 pm
SMBHC Room 114
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