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NEW LEAD, NEW HOPES FOR IMC



Better the second time P.6

'THE EXPENDABLES' DO IT



FREEZE PLEASED WITH P. 12 THURSDAY'S PRACTICE



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THE DAILY FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012 | VOL. 101, NO. 5 MISSISSIPPI The Student Newspaper of The University of Mississippi | Serving Ole Miss and Oxford since 1911

P. 4

Law enforcement agencies at many levels are working together to keep legitimately prescribed medications from ending up in the market as recreational drugs.



BY ADAM FLAHERTY adamflaherty2028@gmail.com

Law enforcement agencies at many levels are cooperating in new efforts to keep legitimately prescribed drugs from ending up in the recreational drugs market.

A program that allows Mississippi residents to turn in unused or unneeded prescription medication was the

TYLER JACKSON | The Daily Mississippian

first of what officials hope to be a series of programs designed to reduce the availability of prescription drugs for illegal use, according to a recent press release.

Last week, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, working closely with local law enforcement agencies, held Prescription Drug Take Back

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Home game heroes

Local, unrecognized heroes throughout Mississippi will be honored this football season.

BY TANNER KUNTZ tskuntz@go.olemiss.edu

day program. This is the first year the uni-

Keeping meds off the street JONES, FRANKLIN WELCOME **OLE MISS CLASS OF 2016**

Best-selling author and fiction writing professor Tom Franklin discussed the importance of doing the right thing at last night's Freshman Convocation, where the 2016 class was welcomed by Chancellor Dan Jones and the Ole Miss faculty.



This football season, The University of Mississippi and the Community Trust Bank are teaming up to honor Mississippi heroes.

"Hero of the Week" will be featured at each of the seven home football games this year. One individual from Mississippi, nominated by the communities in which they live, who has displayed outstanding determination, charity or courage will be presented with the game ball and have their bio displayed on the scoreboard as well as in the official game

versity and Community Trust Bank have joined up for "Hero of the Week," although other branches of the bank around the country have engaged in similar programs with their hometown universities.

"They've done this with Louisiana Tech, and we also have offices in Dallas and Fort Worth," Karen Chain of Community Bank said. "This is our first year to do it with Ole Miss, but we plan to do it every year."

Community Bank first ap-

See HEROES, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian

The Class of 2016 gathered in the Tad Smith Coliseum for the 2012 Freshman Convocation. Students heard from Common Reading Experience author Tom Franklin and received uniquely designed coins commemorating 50 years of integration at the University of Mississippi. Franklin signed books and programs for students who attended the reception.

BY FRANCES ALLISON francestallison@gmail.com

Thousands of freshmen packed Tad Smith Coliseum Thursday night for their first event as the Class of 2016 at Freshman Convocation.

The freshmen filled an entire half of the coliseum all

dressed in their best attire. Programs were given out by members of The Columns Society who also ushered students to their seats. The University of Mississippi Faculty Brass Quintet provided the music for the evening. The welcome was given

by Dean of Students Thomas

"Sparky" Reardon. He announced the processional for all of the schools at the university. They were called out by the years that they have been at the university starting with the oldest.

Following the processional,

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OPINION

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JOSH CLARK | @dm_toons | The Daily Mississippian

COLUMN Lessons learned from Rep. Akin

BY ANNA RUSH akrush1@gmail.com

"If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut the whole thing down."

This statement was made by Representative Todd Akin, Republican from Missouri, in regard to whether abortion is justified in cases of rape. In an interview with KTVI-TV, a St. Louis television station, Akin was asked questions regarding his strict stance against abortion. He stated he did not believe that President Obama suggests, it the beltway. a pregnancy could even re- does not make much sense to sult from a rape. Representa-tive Akin has been rightfully chastised from both political parties for his outrageous statement and apparent lack of understanding of basic human biology. Obama President and

presidential hopeful Mitt Romney both sounded off on Akin's statement. Romney, a fellow Republican, said that he could not defend what Akin said or defend Akin himself. President Obama said in regard to Akin that this an example of "why we shouldn't have a bunch of politicians, a majority of whom are men, making health care decisions on behalf of women.

Akin's statement and the fallout that followed can teach us several things. As have panels made primarily of male politicians make critical health care decisions on women's issues. This shows the importance of having a strong female voice in D.C. and in local politics to ensure that women's issues and rights are well-represented. While each term brings

more women into the political realm, the glass ceiling has yet to be broken. According to the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics, women only make up 16.8 percent of Congress, or 90 out of the 535 seats in the 112th US Congress. With women's issues, such as abortion, constantly in the foreground of politics and campaigns, now, more than ever, is the time to bring more women into

Another thing Akin's statement teaches us is that we should hold our elected officials to a strict level of scrutiny. As outrageous as they might be, it is better to hear these sort of opinions from officials so that we are more informed of their beliefs and

know exactly whom we are voting into office. It is much more telling of a congressman's character when they speak candidly and off-thecuff than when they simply regurgitate the same political rhetoric that is expected to help with elections. Honest answers, no matter how scandalous or offensive they may be, are much more enlightening than simply reading an election-time script. They show the actual beliefs of those we are putting in office.

For this wake-up call, we thank you Representative

AMY SAXTON administrative assistant

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Akin.

Anna Rush is a second-year law student from Hattiesburg. She graduated from Mississippi State University in 2011. Follow her on Twitter @annakrush.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. 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. Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



MEMBER NEWSPAPER

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Imagine, you walk outside to a small portion of the 2000 plus public acreage where you work to take a break. You sit down at a location that once was a designated smoking area. Currently warnings are the only penalty for smoking on these public grounds. You look around. Not a window open in sight. Not a soul within yards of you. You light a cigarette, read a newspaper, relax. Your intent is not to stay long as you are extremely busy with the Fall semester. As you are packing up a police officer drives up, walks directly to you and warns you that you should not be doing something that is perfectly legal if you are over the age of 18. You dispose of your cigarette in a trash can then walk back to work. This is not the first time. Others, nonsmokers, as a matter of fact, have warned you to watch the movement of blinds in nearby windows. There are spies and they will inform. There are large signs displayed now all over this public acreage stating that it's a non-smoking area. You wonder, why were there no prominent signs displayed when there were designated smoking areas? You think, good question. Currently you can walk to your car to smoke, but you have been told that this, too will eventually be banned. Not even in your own personal car? Oh, yes! You imagine Nazi sirens when neighbors are encouraged to turn in neighbors and when you cannot do something that is legal inside something that belongs to you. You ponder Democracy, freedom and free-will. No kidding.

Jeanette Wells Bursar Office

COLUMN

ionesalexander18@gmail.com

When Ronald Reagan ran for president he asked Americans if they were better off than they were four years ago. Americans can answer that question for themselves this time around. The Republican Party poses a much more urgent question this election cycle: How much worse will you be in four years if Barack Obama still resides in the White House?

Believe whatever you want about Mitt Romney, but Paul Ryan is the smartest choice for vice president in nearly 60 years.

Picking Paul Ryan says a lot of things to Americans. Once and for all it says that Mitt Romney ought to be taken seriously.

More importantly, it makes this election about the issues rather than the childish narratives of victimology and more government freebies. It defines two starkly different ideological paths for voters.

Choosing Paul Ryan takes Republicans off of defense and turns the issue to the failed policies of the Obama administration. It doesn't attack Obama; it simply defines him for what he is.

The Obama administration has been on the attack for months trying to create a lineup of imaginary victims. America is at a turning point and cannot afford to have politicians pandering to specific voting blocs at the nation's expense. The truth is that the tide has lowered for all of us over the past four years, and we need to address why.

Reducing the size of government is the most compassionate way to care for our fellow Americans. Barack Obama's health care law is thinly-veiled socialism that adds trillions to the deficit and makes \$716 billion in cuts to Medicare, and no Democrat in the land is willing to repeal it.

The alternative that Paul Ryan advocates uses the power of the free market to put money back in the hands of our elderly and disabled. Quite frankly, it could afford to be even more conservative.

Leftists can attack Republicans on the Medicare issue but they're simply throwing stones while living in a glass

house.

Your next vice president: Paul Ryan

The Paul Ryan budget not only preserves Medicare but also strengthens it. It saves health care for our elderly and disabled by wasting less taxpayer money. The Democrats and their health care law offer about as much compassion and efficiency as your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

As a disclaimer, I should note that Paul Ryan isn't perfect. He is a product of the Bush administration's big government boondoggles. Ryan voted for the auto and Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) bailouts, No Child Left Behind, Medicare Part D and a slew of other bills that have hurt America.

Even his budget doesn't make enough cuts and will not balance for another three decades. Either way, his ideas are a much-needed step in the right direction.

I happened to run into Ryan while visiting Washington D.C. this summer and realized he has exactly what Americans should seek in a vice president. He was friendly, concise, focused and humble.

He's a policy wonk, but that's exactly what we need from the man who will preside over the Senate and

work closely with the president.

He doesn't have the arrogance of Joe Biden or the doubtfulness of Sarah Palin. He doesn't have the secrecy Americans perceived Dick Cheney to have. He certainly doesn't have the delusion of Al Gore. He even knows how to spell potato.

Paul Ryan isn't out of touch with the American public – just about every other politician in America is.

Ryan will be the next vice president of the United States because he proves to those whom doubt that the Republican Party is serious and has solutions.

Romney didn't pick some freshman senator like Rubio to secure the Latino vote and win Florida. He didn't pick Portman to simply tie down Ohio. He chose a running mate whom most closely embodies the philosophy needed to fix our country.

Ryan is a candidate who has ideas and solutions - exactly what the country needs right now. Without them, we have to wonder if we'll even recognize the America we once knew four years from now.

Alec Jones is an accountancy junior from Catonsville, Md.







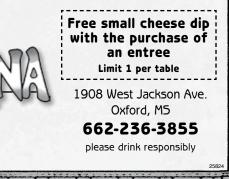
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NEWS

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New lead, new hopes for IMC

Scott Fiene, who heads the new Integrated Marketing Communications major at Ole Miss, stresses communication as the key to succeeding in the work force.

BY AUSTIN JONES

acjones1@go.olemiss.edu

Scott Fiene, the new head of the Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC) major, is determined to prepare IMC students as much as possible for the world outside of Ole Miss.

The IMC program combines journalism, business and liberal arts studies together to give students a background in all areas of communication.

"Every single touch that an organization has sends a message," Fiene said.

Fiene, who has been here since this last fall, said he hopes to convey this message to the students in the program. It is offered as both an undergraduate major and a postgraduate degree. He described the major "as much of a mentality as it is a discipline and the students will have this mentality because the program is very hands-on," which gives students experience in many fields that allows them to approach the subject matter from many perspectives.

Will Norton, dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media, said "media is at the heart of everything," and the focus of the IMC program is the use of media to implement strategies. That is why one of Fiene's goals with the IMC is to teach students how to make an impression using media tools such as advertising and interaction.

Fiene said communication, intentional or not, is connected to every part of a company, like public relations and selling. Norton also said the program will teach students how to brand themselves, which will improve their job chances in this unstable job market. Some of the areas of work Norton said would be a fit for an IMC graduate would be business, law or politics. Fiene added that public relations, advertising and sales would be excellent employment options for IMC students as well.

"I love the creativeness of it and just how much it has to offer," Skyler Herring, a senior IMC student, said.

Herring said he believes that the variety offered by the program will open many doors and hopes to use the degree to get a job in marketing or public relations for a record label or in sports marketing.

"Fiene is doing an amazing job as director," he said.



Scott Fiene, the new head of the Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC) major

MEDS,

continued from page 1

Day, which provided residents a safe means to dispose of old medications at nine locations across the state. Residents turned in medication to law enforcement officials.

Other safe disposal methods described in the press release, included mixing medications with unappealing garbage items such as coffee to innocuously dispose of the drugs.

Prescription drug use is a serious problem both nationally and in Oxford. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), in 2010, a study showed that there were approximately seven million non-medical users of psychotherapeutic drugs alone in the U.S. Pain relievers were the most commonly used drugs of this class, with 5.1 million users, followed successively by tranquilizers (2.2 million users), stimulants (1.1 million users), and sedatives (.4 million users). All of these drugs target the central nervous system. The problem is especially prevalent among adolescents.

Nearly one in 12 high school seniors reported non-medical use of Vicodin; one in 20 reported abuse of OxyContin, according to the NIDA website. The reason for this appears to be availability.

"When asked how prescription narcotics were obtained for non-medical use, 70 percent of 12th graders said they were given to them by a friend or relative (MTF 2011)," according to the website.

"The number obtaining them over the internet was negligible."

The NIDA website also lists misconceptions about safety and varied motivations for abuse as factors that make youth prone to using these types of drugs. NIDA cautions that users of prescription drugs expose themselves to serious risks. Users of opioids could become addicted, face complications from an overdose, and are at an increased risk for contracting HIV. It shares the two former risks with central nervous system (CNS) depressants. Stimulant users could develop an addiction or face health problems such as psychosis, seizures and cardiovascular problems. Captain Keith Davis of the

Oxford Narcotics Unit points out that Oxford is not immune to illicit prescription drug abuse. He also said the department sees an increase in prescription drug trafficking and use when students return from break, but he attributed this to an increase in population, not a tendency for Ole Miss students to use these drugs at a higher frequency than the rest of the population.

"The department has handled 38 cases involving prescription drugs since January of this year and has seized 712 pills in relation to these cases," he said. "These have included Focalin, Xanax, Vyvanse, Lortab, Oxycontin and many other drugs."

Davis said enforcing prescription drug laws is just as challenging as enforcing laws involving drugs like marijuana, crack and heroine. He also said programs that help reduce the availability of prescription drug definitely aid the work of his department and that reducing unauthorized prescription drug use increases public safety.

"People take these drugs without knowing anything about them and risk overdose," he said. "We see people from every demographic unnecessarily risking serious harm by luring themselves into a false sense of security." HEROES,

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proached the Ole Miss athletics department with the idea last year, and the athletics department immediately loved the plan, as it highlighted the high level of community involvement for which the university is known.

"We spoke with a lot of staff over there (at the athletics department), and they are very excited about it," Chain said. "It's a great program."

Students are also excited about the program.

"It's great," Katie Strevel, music sophomore, said. "Ole Miss is working with the community to show the actions of people who really deserve to be recognized."

"Hero of the Week" kicks off Sept. 1 at the season opener against the University of Central Arkansas.

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Friday Dinner Menu

Friday Lunch Menu

Carving

Grilled Flank Steak Carved to Order

Entrée

Southern Style Fried Fish Oven Roasted Red Potatoes Grilled Mixed Vegetables Eggplant

Produce Market Bacon & Tomato Bruschetta Old Bay Chips Mustard Potato Salad Penne Pasta Salad Action Shrimp Scampi

Cooked to Order Soup French Onion Soup

Dessert Bread Pudding

Assorted Cookies & Brownies Peach Pie– Sugar Free Carving Honeybaked Ham Carved to Order

Entrèe Santa Fe Chicken Macaroni & Cheese Black Beans and Rice Broccoli and Cauliflower Blend

Produce Market Bacon & Tomato Bruschetta Old Bay Chips Red Potato Salad Penne Pasta Salad Action Lasagna Cooked to Order

Soup French Onion Soup

Dessert Bread Pudding Assorted Cookies & Brownies Sugar Free Desserts



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FRESHMEN,

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Dr. Morris Stocks, provost, spoke for the academic convocation portion of the event.

"This freshmen class is the brightest incoming class in the history of The University of Mississippi," he said. "Freshman Convocation marks the beginning of a new journey. Each of you shares this one moment. You are among a unique group bound together as you begin together."

The charge to the class was then given by Chancellor Dr. Dan Jones. Jones then told the freshmen of the events on September 30, 1962 when James Meredith, the university's first African-American student came to the campus. This year marks the 50th anniversary of that day when he was harassed by students and others in the community who did not agree with his admittance.

"This year opportunities will be available to reflect on injustices of the past," Jones said.

He then introduced Tom Franklin, assistant professor of fiction writing and best-selling author. Franklin's book, "Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter," was chosen as the 2012 Common Experience book. This book was given to every freshman at orientation.

"Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter" is a story about two men – one African-American, Silas "32" Jones, and one Caucasian, Larry Ott – who were torn apart by circumstance and reunited by tragedy in a small Mississippi town.

Franklin based the story on life experiences for Larry, while Silas was a reference to one of his best friends in high school named Wayne.

Franklin went on to tell the cellor and the Deans.

that Wayne and himself endured due to the fact that Wayne was African-American. They could not sit together at lunch due to segregation, and Wayne could not even afford to go to movies with him. Later in Franklin's life he was looking forward to seeing Wayne at their 30th high school reunion since he had not seen him in a very long time. The only communication they had was one phone call shortly after graduation when Wayne told Franklin that he was going to join the Navy.

freshmen class the struggles

"When I walked in, the first thing I wanted to see was Wayne," Franklin said.

He then found out that Wayne passed away shortly after they shared that phone call because there was a board of all of the classmates that were deceased. Franklin told the freshmen that he wishes he could go back and go to a movie with Wayne or even sit by him during lunch.

"Class of 2016, it's inevitable that by the time you graduate you will look back and have regrets. But I tell you that you will never look back and have regret doing what is right," Franklin said.

After Franklin spoke, Dr. Brandi Hephner LaBlanc, vice chancellor for student affairs informed the students that they would be receiving their class coins. The coins featured the James Meredith statue. Coins were passed out in silence to show respect for the importance of the coin.

Associated Student Body President Kimberly Dandridge then led the freshmen in the university creed followed by the singing of the Alma Mater. Students then stayed after to meet Tom Franklin as well as the Chan-





TOP: Tom Franklin signs books at the end of the Freshman Convocation. BOTTOM: Students participate at the event.



Dwight N. Ball

A wise man once said, "Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body." Ecclesiastes 12:12 NIV

Whether you are a freshman or an upperclassman you probably know firsthand the truth of that statement! However, there is one Book that especially deserves our attention, the Bible. It is not just a book of the month; it is the Book

of the ages. What are we saying when we say the Bible is inspired? We are saying that the Bible is God telling it like it is! Here at First Christian Church of Water Valley we believe, teach, and preach that the Bible is the Word of God.

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LIFESTYLES

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WELCOME WEEK



MOVIE REVIEW COLUMN 'The Expendables' do it better the second time around

BY JOSH PRESLEY joshpresley551@gmail.com

"The Expendables 2" is a big, loud, thrilling, overblown ride that, once it really gets going, never lets up.

Despite my love of Sylvester Stallone, 80s action flicks and explosions, I was pretty underwhelmed by the first "Expendables." The movie that promised to have all my favorite action stars fighting side by side was actually pretty dull and uninspired, and most of the stars were relegated to cameos.

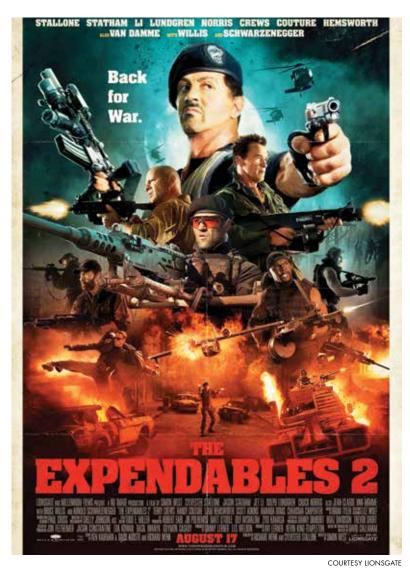
"The Expendables 2" is everything the first movie wanted to be and more.

After a ridiculously overthe-top action sequence to get us reacquainted with all the characters, Barney Ross (Stallone) and his gang of muscled miscreants are called upon by Bruce Willis (honestly does his character's name even matter?) to recover a map that leads to a huge stockpile of plutonium before the bad guys get to it.

However, the evil, and boy do I mean evil, Jean Vilain (Jean-Claude Van Damme) shows up and steals the map. So it's up to our heroes to stop him before he gets the plutonium and, I don't know, blows up the world or something.

The problem with the first "Expendables" was that the plot was almost too simple. So simple, in fact, that I don't even remember what it was. I didn't care about any of the characters, therefore I didn't care what they were doing. It tried to do too much, which actually accomplished very little.

Stallone handed over the directing duties for this one to Simon West, whom did a much better job of reigning in all the characters and allowing each actor to have He speaks French and wears it four chrome skulls out of their moment. Sure, they



still butcher the English language, but they're all much more interesting this time around.

At 66 years old, Stallone is really too old to be doing movies like this but thanks to steroids and growth hormones he still is. This might have been OK if they went the Clint Eastwood route and acknowledged the fact that he's old, but Sly is still running around like he's Rambo.

Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger's roles are increased greatly and it really helps the film. I'd forgotten how much I missed hearing Arnold's groan-inducing one-liners on the big screen.

Jean-Claude Van Damme is a lot of fun as the villain. his sunglasses inside, so you five.

know he's the bad guy. He looks like he's having a great time though and breaks out a few kicks just for kicks.

I'm not ruining anything by telling you that Chuck Norris is in the movie. His cameo could have been considered one of the all-time great surprises (a la Bill Murray in Zombieland), but they put him in the trailer and on the poster. Why couldn't they just keep it a secret?

In the end, this movie is completely ridiculous but also great fun. The hour and forty minute runtime flew by, and the packed theater seemed to be having a great time as well.

That's really all I ask from my action movies. I give

TOP: Andrew Baker, Tripp Rich, Alex Hayhurst, Davis Rogers and Rob Pillow collect cans for the University of Mississippi Food Bank at Sigma Nu's table Thursday; CENTER: Sophomore Jamie Hitt signs up to volunteer for Theatre Oxford's Steel Magnolias; BOTTOM: Freshman Rebecca Walton talks to Erin Mauffray about the VISTA program.

PHOTOS BY ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippi



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SPORTS

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Women's soccer begins lengthy home stand Sunday

The Ole Miss women's soccer team hopes to keep their momentum alive as they begin a six-game home stand this weekend.



LEFT TOP AND BOTTOM: Junior midfielder/forward Mandy McCalla; RIGHT: Sophomore goalkeeper Kelly McCormic

PHOTOS BY TYLER JACKSON | The Daily Mississippian

BY JAKE THOMPSON jcthomps@go.olemiss.edu

After defeating Troy 5-0 Wednesday, the Ole Miss women's soccer team (3-0) return home this weekend to begin a six-game home stand that starts with a 1 p.m. match against the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (1-0) on Sunday.

"We were wanting to be 3-0 coming into this home stand," head coach Matt Mott said. "We are going to try and build up some momentum."

With the Ragin' Cajuns coming to Oxford, it will mark the first meeting ever between the two schools, which presents a challenge to Mott in terms of preparation.

"(Louisiana-Lafayette) has been a solid team in the Sun Belt for a number of years," Mott said. "We don't know a whole lot about them. This time of year it's really hard to get any information on anybody. So we are going to focus on ourselves."

Coming off its overtime victory over McNeese State, Louisiana-Lafayette will host Prairie View A&M Friday night before heading to Oxford.

Riding a three-game winning streak, Ole Miss can give much of the credit to its freshmen. Each of the three wins have been a result of good play from those freshmen, with the most significant contribution coming against Troy in which four of five goals were scored by freshmen.

"Based on the way they played in preseason it doesn't surprise me," Mott said of the freshmen. "You look out on our field and you can't tell who is a freshman and who is a returner. That is important to us."

What is also not a surprise is the play of juniors Mandy McCalla and Brazilian stand-

Co,

OXFORD, MS

out Rafaelle Souza. They lead the team in scoring with three goals apiece and look to be rounding into midseason form early this season.

"They've both been very dangerous in all three games," Mott said. "I like the way they are playing. It's clicking right now for sure."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss soccer, follow @thedm_sports and @WildRebel27.



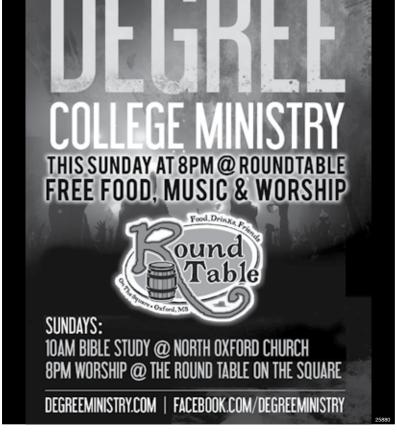




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PRACTICE,

continued from page 12

through some practices here before we play where we take care of it totally."

Freeze said that the only mishap of the day was a decision made by sophomore quarterback Bo Wallace that he called a "poor decision," and that "we've got to coach him better."

Epperson finding his way after switching to defensive end

Senior E.J. Epperson joined the Ole Miss football team as a tight end, but felt he was not seeing the field enough. Therefore, the 6-foot-2, 250-pound Epperson made the switch to the defensive side of the ball.

"It's been very difficult," Epperson said. "I put a lot of work in during the summer."

Epperson said that since it is his senior year he wanted to play more than he would have if he had stuck with tight end, and he has seen reps at defensive end with both the first and second teams.

"I was really the backup tight

end," he said. "I'm a senior and I don't want to be a secondteam guy. I just want to go out there and help the team and make some plays. I just want to be out there and play football."

Epperson also said that the defensive line as a whole has really pushed each other both on and off the field, but he also looks at himself as a leader for the younger guys coming in.

"It's competition," he said. "I've got to come in every day and work hard. Once the competition gets going within the film room, the team gets better."

Despite the tough transition, Epperson said that he feels he has progressed well on the defensive side of the ball.

"I'm getting better every day," he said. "[Defensive line] coach [Chris] Kiffin is coaching me as hard as he can, and I've just been all ears and I'm being humble and just take things one day at a time."

Offensive line picks things up

After having to learn a new offense and new blocking schemes, the Ole Miss offensive line has gotten better and, according to Freeze, they continue to get better every day.

"I think the understanding of what we're trying to do, and [offensive line] coach Matt Luke being able to be with them for long periods of time certainly helped," Freeze said. "Aaron [Morris] and Pierce [Burton] are playing really well right now, and we've got to get a few of them healthy. They are definitely playing better as a unit now than at any time before."

Junior offensive lineman Emmanuel McCray said that the offensive line is also adapting well to the new pace that Freeze and his staff are attempting to install.

"[Strength and conditioning] coach [Paul] Jackson in the summer got us in good shape," McCray said. "It's still different from being game shape and that is what camp did for us, but definitely toward the end of camp we were moving just fine."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @thedm sports and @SigNewton_2 on Twitter.

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SPORTS

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Lady Rebs set to open season

Attempting to bounce back from a dismal 2011 campaign, the Lady Rebel volleyball team will open up their season tonight in the Hurricane Invitational hosted by the University of Miami.



Senior outside hitter Allegra Wells

BY CAMAL PETRO cppetro@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss women's volleyball team is set to begin the 2012 season with a tough schedule this weekend at the Hurricane Invitational on the campus of the University of Miami. The Lady Rebels will open up play against the host school Miami at 6 p.m. tonight. They will also face Samford and Wofford on Saturday at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively.

"Knowing we had a good team, I went out and scheduled very aggressively," head coach Joe Getzin said.

The Lady Hurricanes posted a 26-5 record this past season, while the Samford Lady Bulldogs had an impressive 29-5 record and the Southern Conference championship. The Lady Rebels' schedule is littered with experienced tournament teams including Miami and Samford, as well as Xavier, Marquette, Rice and SWAC powerhouse Alabama A&M. "I want to see a lot of different styles of volleyball that help us prepare of SEC competition," Getzin said. Getzin set up these matches with the help of three tournaments -- Hurricane Invitational, Xavier University Tournament and the Magnolia invitational -- with solid competition in each of them. Getzin knows the importance of these tournaments when the RPI rankings come into play at the end of the season. "You've got to win those matches," Getzin said. "It doesn't help you to play a

FILE PHOTO (ALEX EDWARDS) | The Daily Mississippian

No. 15 team if you don't win. We've scheduled aggressively, but we also think they're all very winnable matches."

The Lady Rebels had a disappointing season last year, finishing 11-17 and 7-13 in the SEC, with injuries plaguing most of the season.

"We were a little disappointed with last year's results," Getzin said. "We were pretty injured at the beginning of the season, and knock on wood, we've stayed healthy through the preseason."

Last season Ole Miss finished the nonconference portion of their schedule at .500 with a 4-4 record before disaster hit. They started conference play with a 1-9 record, but battled back to finish the season, winning six of their last 10 games.

However, last year's results do not stop Getzin from having high expectations for this season.

"We have the pieces of the puzzle, and from a physical standpoint, we can compete with anybody in the league we feel," he said. "We should be competing for an SEC championship."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss volleyball, follow @ thedm_sports and @CamalPetro on Twitter.

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STARKVILLE (AP) – Mississippi State says it is working with the NCAA because of a "potential recruiting irregularity" in the football program.

Mississippi State says it is working with the NCAA because of a "potential recruiting irregularity" in the football program.

The school says the examination has lasted several months and that it is close to finished.

NCAA spokesperson Stacey Osburn confirmed the NCAA and Mississippi State were "working cooperatively," but did not have any further comment.

Mississippi State receivers coach Angelo Mirando resigned his position on Sunday, citing "unforeseen personal issues." It is unclear if Mirando's departure had anything to do with the current investigation. Head football coach Dan Mullen has not elaborated on the reason for Mirando's resignation.

Mississippi State opens its season with a home game against Jackson State on Sept. 1 at Davis Wade Stadium.



Sophomore linebacker Keith Lewis

LEWIS, continued from page 12

when they said everyone was big, fast and strong, so you've got to match it equally," Lewis said. "I'm about 239 (pounds) right now. So, I like that. I can run with it and maintain my gap

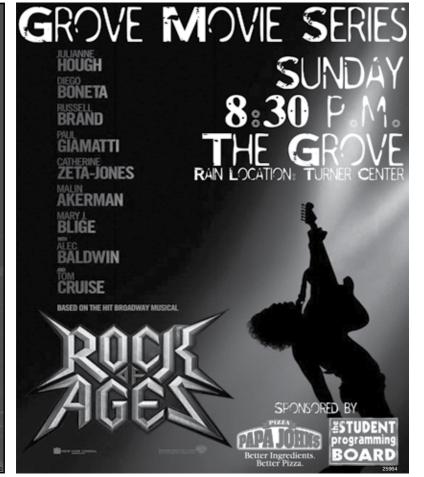
with it, so I like it." In addition to giving him a crash course of how to be physically ready to play in the Southeastern Conference, last year's rough season for Ole Miss

QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian

taught him some additional lessons.

"I came here to develop as a young man and better myself, so as the season was ending, I'm still here and I've got to get better," Lewis said. "You've got to leave it all on the field. Our season wasn't that well last season, but just stepping up, becoming a leader and having more confidence out there, that's the key."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @thedm_sports and @bennetthipp on Twitter.



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SPORTS

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Freeze pleased with Thursday's practice

Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze has emphasized that he wants his team to get better every day. If Thursday's practice was any indication, he's getting what he asked for as the Rebels have a good practice in preparation for the season opener next week.

BY MATT SIGLER

mcsigler@go.olemiss.edu

With just over a week before its first game, the Ole Miss football team is kicking things into high gear to prepare for Central Arkansas. Head coach Hugh Freeze was pleased with the effort his team put into Thursday afternoon's practice.

"It was good," he said. "Thought the energy was really good. We were pretty crisp."

Freeze also stressed the importance of quarterback play and taking care of the ball.

"Right now, it's about that ball and taking care of it," he said. "We're hoping to get

See PRACTICE, PAGE 10

Lewis working his way up the depth chart

While the rest of his teammates spent spring practice working under a new coaching staff and practicing in a new scheme, sophomore linebacker Keith Lewis had to stand by and watch.



Sophomore linebacker Keith Lewis

BY BENNETT HIPP

jbhipp@go.olemiss.edu

While the rest of his teammates spent spring practice working under a new coaching staff and practicing in a new scheme, sophomore linebacker Keith Lewis – who was dealing with a shoulder injury – had to stand by and watch. The injury kept Lewis out for the entire spring, and he was forced to spend his time learning the new defense from the sidelines.

"Me and D.T. (Shackelford) would be out here every day with our playbooks, coming in right behind the coaches, giving the signals, too, and learning it right with them," Lewis said.

Lewis used the summer to get back into the swing of things, so when fall camp rolled around, he would be ready to go. Practicing for the first time under new linebackers coach Tom Allen, Lewis was given the responsibility of learning three linebacker spots during the Rebels' recently completed fall camp.

That time spent learning the playbook seems to have paid off now that Lewis is 100 percent healthy, but, according to Allen, there is an adjustment period he has to deal with.

"Well, it's one thing to sit in the meeting room and watch it," he said. "Then you see live bullets flying, and it's a lot more difficult. I think he thought he had a good grasp of it, and then once we got into the actual scrimmages it was a little more difficult. He's picked it up and he's gotten better every day."

Lewis has been working at the middle, strongside, and weakside linebacker spots during camp and says the transition has gone well thanks to the coaching staff.

"We've got great coaches," he said. "Just come in anytime we need to come and learn, they're there to help us, so it's not too difficult."

When asked if he had a preference in terms of position, Lewis said he doesn't have one.

"I just love to hit, so it really doesn't matter," he said.

Part of what allows Lewis to work at all three spots is his size and versatility, something that Allen knows will be an asset down the road.

"He didn't play in the spring, so we're bringing him along," said Allen. "As his confidence grows he'll be a guy that's got the best combination of size and speed out of all our linebackers."

After a freshman season in which he played in all 12 games - including one start - and recorded 11 total tackles, Lewis already knows what is required of him physically.

"They weren't lying to you

See LEWIS, PAGE 11



Sophomore guarterback Bo Wallace

