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THE DAILY SISSIPPIAN

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

SPECIAL TO THE DM

DUI arrests in city rise as population grows

BY MALLORY BAILEY

mmbailey@go.olemiss.edu

Following a rise in population, driving under the influence arrests are at a high in Oxford compared to recent years, which has required local law enforcement to become more equipped to deal with drivers under the influ-

An average of 10 to 20 DUI arrests are made every week in Oxford, according to Oxford Police Chief Joey East. He said the student population has grown the most over the years; however, the age range of individuals charged with DUIs has varied.

"We have two guys who do nothing but dedicate 12 hours a day to work DUIs," East said. "They don't answer calls; they do nothing but ride around and work traffic while looking for people under the influence of alcohol to try and take care of it. Right now, the number is high because of the group of officers who are more attentive to it, unlike a few years ago when I patrolled."

While the DUI arrests in Oxford continue to grow, University Police Department reports show little change in DUI arrests over the years.

Thelma Curry, UPD cap-



The Oxford Police Department designates two officers each day to strictly patrol DUIs.

tain of support operations, said the use of taxi services has helped lower the amount of DUI arrests made by UPD

"Compared to the number of bars downtown and the accessibility of alcohol, the numbers could be a lot worse on campus," Curry said. "They are bad enough though. One is bad, but compared to our student population; the number could be a lot higher. The Oxford policemen have their hands full downtown."

With the concentration of bars on the Square, the Oxford Police Department has developed a routine in monitoring the area, especially on high population nights.

"We're not looking to arrest people. We don't have the manpower to do that," East said. "On average we have about four to eight people patrolling the area of the Square at bar closing. So if we were all out and working traffic, I think that number would at least double. If you get arrested on the Square on the weekend, you have to be really doing something."

The penalties for DUI charges range in severity, depending on the case, but every DUI results in a suspended

license. First-time offenders will face up to 48 hours in jail, along with a fine. They also must complete a fourweek class called Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program. Victor Carmody, a Jackson-based attorney, said college students are his primary business throughout the year. Carmody is the only attorney in Mississippi who is certified by the National College of DUI Defense, which is a non-profit organization Carmody said has some of the most experienced DUI lawyers in the country. Unlike many attorneys, Carmody was a police lieutenant for seven years, prior to becoming an attorney.

"I've seen both sides of Mississippi DUIs, and I know there are so many jobs today that are affected by a DUI charge," Carmody said. "It so adversely affects the students that we as attorneys refer to it as a roadblock to the future."

According to Carmody, not all DUI cases make it to trial. The attorney's first job is to find all of the evidence and see if trying the case in court will help the person who is charged.

"If you take a test for law enforcement such as a Breathalyzer, you are sign-See DUI, PAGE 4

Eight UM women compete in Miss Mississippi

BY LACEY RUSSELL

dmeditor@gmail.com

Eight women from The University of Mississippi are among 41 contestants competing this week for the title of Miss Mississippi at the 2014 Miss Mississippi Pageant being held in Vicksburg at the Vicksburg Convention Center.

The preliminary rounds are currently being held through Friday night with each contestant group competing in tal-

ent, swimwear, evening wear Caroline Conerly and an on-stage question.

On Saturday night, the top 10 will be announced and the finalists will again compete in all four categories, resulting in the crowning of Miss Mississippi 2014.

Ole Miss contestants include:

Morgan Burnett

Miss Rankin County University of Mississippi Medical Center student

Miss Deep South Graduated general studies major Emmaline Johnson

Taylor Cos

Miss Metro Fackson Junior broadcast journalism ma-

Emily Hall

Miss Pontotoc Sophomore pre-pharmacy major

Anna Beth Higginbotham

Miss University Graduated broadcast journalism

Miss Historic Crossroads Sophomore civil engineering and business marketing major

Ivey Swan

Miss New South Senior integrated marketing and communications major

Shaniqua Wesley

Miss Grenada County Graduated social work and psychology major

Miss Mississippi is a scholarship pageant, and winning is necessary to advance to Miss America. The contest began in, and provides more money than any other scholarship pageant in the Miss America Organization.

Saturday night's competition will be broadcast on television starting at 8 p.m. It also will be available through live stream and the app available on the website, missmississippipageant.com.

OPINION:

IN PRAISE OF WORKING **STUDENTS**

INHERITED ATE

See Page 2

KNIT1 OXFORD RELOCATES TO JACKSON AVENUE



THE DM WILL PUBLISH ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY

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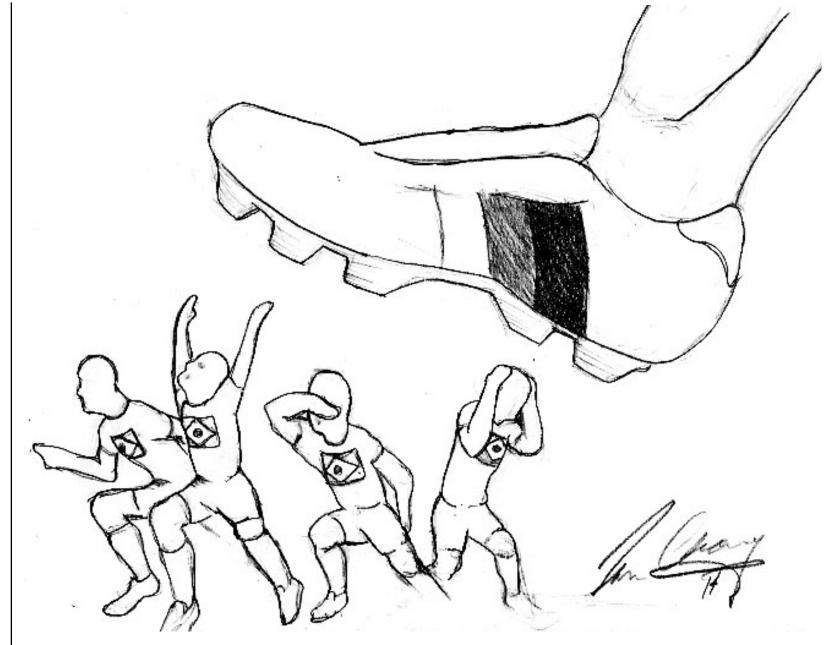
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In praise of working students

BY CHARLES MCCRORY crmccror@go.olemiss.edu

At my freshman orientation, I felt like a piece of flypaper for collegiate cliches. One proverb I heard from an upperclassman has stuck with me: "School; friends; sleep: pick two." Obviously, whoever coined this saying did not have to work

through school.

For six months of my sophomore year I worked in food service with a group of people who debunked all the myths I'd heard about my lazy millennial generation. One of my coworkers was studying to complete her English education degree while clocking in 30 hours a week and arriving early on weekends to help with catering orders. A B.F.A. art student and dear friend of

mine organized her 18-hour work schedule around studio hours, independent art projects and community service for the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

My short time at that job gave me only a taste of the friction that can arise between work and school. After closing shifts I often found myself nodding off in classes I thoroughly enjoyed taking (a fault, partly, of my own planning; scheduling has never been my strong suit). I couldn't count on long unoccupied hours to squint at the microscopic print of a Norton anthology.

One fact kept occurring to me as I rinsed vegetable containers at night and rode the bus to class in the mornings: that, for a large portion of the college population, a siz-

able amount of time, often as long or longer than time spent in class, goes not to improving one's GPA or building one's resume, but merely to working for the chance to afford a seat in a classroom.

Many of us do not have the luxury of deciding whether we will spend the afternoon pre-gaming or editing a paper, cultivating an abusive relationship with Netflix or pursuing an extra-curricular activity. In these purportedly most stimulating years of our lives, when one is supposed to be soaking up every available social and to study without the baggage intellectual opportunity, working students must accept a disadvantage.

And that disadvantage persists after college. I don't need to inform anyone that student debt in this country is outrageous. Too many students are working merely to tread water until the albatross of loan payments is slung around their necks with their graduation cords. Scholarships and minimum-wage paychecks can only cushion the blow so much until then.

If you, reading this, are currently working to support your education, you deserve mad respect. I hope you feel that you have earned every inch of your degree progress. If you are not, be grateful for whatever circumstances have allowed you of a job. We should all take pride in being members of an academic community; it hasn't come easily for all of us.

Charles McCrory is an English major from Florence.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

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

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

COLUMN

Inherited hate

BY RYAN FELDER rsfelder@go.olemiss.edu

I'm draping a swastika flag off my Grove tent this fall and I promise I'm not racist. It's just that I'm feeling quite void of heritage these days, so I'm just going to order one for twenty-five dollars on the Internet. I want to feel German, and what a glorious time in that country's history! Do you know how much the Nazi Party did for Germany? Have you seen the Olympiastadion?

I know I can pick any other time in German history to be proud of. Charlemagne was all right. Hell, I might even take pride in being a modern German. Did you see that victory over Brazil at the World Cup? No, us Germans had it made back before that war ruined everything.

So the Holocaust was bad. That was almost seventy-five years ago, though. The people who actually lived the negative history of the Nazis are dwindling. Who is left to be offended? The sensitive, attention-seeking liberals? It's time to let go of past grievances and celebrate what's good with the world; let me focus on triumphs of my German heritage. It's heritage, not hate.

Using the Confederate flag as a symbol of your Southern heritage is kinda like being a secondhand Neo-Nazi because you believe the swastika represents the "golden age" of Germany.

It's nice that you want to be proud of something, but I'm not sure you understand what you're saying.

Of what South, exactly, are we supposed to be proud when we look at the Confederate Battle Flag? I cannot think of one Good Old South that does not in some way depend on the institution of slavery and the racial oppression of African Americans, yet using the flag that completely embodies that time in our history is not even remotely racist?

I'm really curious about the non-racist interpretation of the Confederate Battle Flag.I want to believe that it represents something positive about the South. It just offends so many people, and I am not sure why people still won't admit that.

If you want it to mean something else, change it. No real attempt has been made to

cleanse the Confederate flag of its terrible history, however. We can't keep pretending that it's not racist.

Ryan Felder is a public policy major from Philadelphia, Miss.







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DUI,

continued from page 1

ing a confession that you are drunk," Carmody said. "They are doing these tests to gather evidence to use against you in trial."

A new state law that would allow certain DUI cases to be dismissed by the court is set to take effect on Oct. 1, 2014. In order for a person to become eligible for case dismissal, they will first have to plead guilty to the DUI charge. The record showing that the individual plead guilty to a charge will still be on the individual's record. However, the actual charge will not be viewable by the public.

"I can tell you that applications for law school, pharmacy school, military and so on will have those records where you plead guilty to a charge. It won't help you," Carmody said. "Having said that, it will help some people under certain circumstances. It will definitely allow those who have received a DUI the ability to get accepted into an undergraduate program."

This new law would also require individuals to install an ignition interlock device on the vehicle. This is a device that requires the driver to blow into the machine in order to be able to crank the car. In order to prevent other bystanders from blowing into the machine to start the ignition, the device takes a picture of the driver while he or she is blowing into the machine.

"The machine analyzes your breath to see if you are impaired and should not be driving," said Tammy Childress, vice president and executive director of Correctional Counseling of Mississippi Court Watch, a company with several DUI prevention pro-



FACT: In 2010, there were 42 first-time DUI arrests made, which was up from the 2009 total of seven.

From July 1, 2013 to April 16, 2014:

- there were 55 first-time DUI arrests
- one second-time DUI arrest
- four DUI arrest refusals
- five DUI arrests of individuals driving under the influence of other substances than just alcohol

*All information provided by the University Police Department

GRAPHIC COURTESY MALLORY BAILEY

grams. "It will even beep while you are going down the road, and you have to pull over and within 60 seconds and give a 'rolling test,' which means it tests you while you are operating the vehicle."

Although this particular law will only be effective in Mississippi, DUI charges do face varying court processes among different states.

"Many states do not have the same appellate procedures as Mississippi," said Clark Trout, Oxford criminal defense attorney. "In Mississippi, the individual has a right to appeal the case to the circuit court and the conviction is basically set aside. The individual gets another trial on appeal.

"The appeal process in most states does not allow the suspension of the judgment and the punishments start after

conviction and are carried out in the home state even though the convicted has been set aside by the appeal in Mississippi."

Although DUI statistics in certain areas are at a high, many Mississippians are working to not only punish drunk drivers, but also provide treat-

Our theory is that if a person has a true alcohol problem and they go to jail for a DUI, then they will still have that same alcohol problem when they get out of jail," Childress said. "We try to help people with their alcohol problem so that they can avoid jail and avoid losing their jobs or having to drop out of school. We just want to help save their lives and prevent them from taking others by getting behind the wheel intoxicated."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miss. voting records suit refiled in Jackson

A federal lawsuit seeking voter records has been refiled in Mississippi's southern district federal court.

Texas group True the Vote and 22 Mississippi residents refiled their lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Jackson against Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann and the state Republican Party. The new version of the suit adds election commissions in Copiah, Hinds, Jefferson Davis, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Simpson and Yazoo counties.

The plaintiffs say federal law requires authorities to release voting rolls and poll books without erasing voters' personal information. They also say the law doesn't allow fees for redaction, saying at least one county wanted to charge \$1,400.

Mississippi authorities say it's proper to remove birth dates and make requesters pay for removal.

The group first sued in Oxford, but dropped that action Tuesday after U.S. District Judge Mike Mills ordered plaintiffs to explain why the suit shouldn't be handled in Jackson.

True the Vote is looking for people who voted in the June 3 Democratic primary and then illegally crossed over to vote in the June 24 Republican runoff between U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran and challenger Chris McDaniel. Many of the 22 residents who joined the lawsuit are vocal McDaniel sup-

The lawsuit states that authori-

ties "should be ordered to produce the voter rolls in unredacted form."

"Should the voter rolls support election fraud, the votes should be recounted, subtracting those unlawful double votes."

Though the plaintiffs say a federal judge should strike illegal votes as a violation of equal protection under the 14th Amendment, Mills wrote that crossover voting did not appear to violate federal law.

McDaniel's campaign is also looking for illegal crossover votes, as well as other ballots that might be questioned. According to the count certified by the state Republican Party, McDaniel lost to Cochran by 7,667 votes.

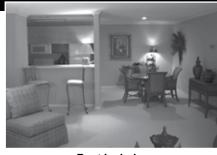
Hosemann said again Wednesday that he doesn't have the records and should be removed from court action.

"The state still does not have the records requested by the re-filed lawsuit and should be dismissed," he said in a statement. "The Mississippi Legislature enacted a law to protect your birth date and Social Security number from public dissemination."

Hosemann continued that True the Vote shouldn't be able to access birth dates and said the group should pay the costs of redaction and copying. "Your locally elected circuit clerks are following the law," he said.

State Republican Party Chairman Joe Nosef has also said that the state party doesn't have the records and wants out of the lawsuit.

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LIFESTYLES | 10 JULY 2014 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 5

Knit1 Oxford relocates to Jackson Avenue

BY GRACE LOVVORN

eglovvor@go.olemiss.edu

The city of Oxford is home to Knit1, the only store in town which caters to fiber enthusiasts interested in knitting, crocheting, weaving and more. For the past four years, Knit1 Oxford has resided just off of Courthouse Square on North 13th Street. Knit1 reopened Monday at a new location on West Jackson Avenue.

The quaint, standalone building is located next to DocuMart and has been used for multiple businesses, included a hookah bar and a t-shirt printing shop. The building is situated in front of the Jackson Avenue Center and only feet away from the Fraternity Row intersection.

The Knitl Oxford staff, including owner Patsy Engelhard and manager Lynn Wells, believe the business' new location will increase visibility compared to its previous location, which was situated behind the Square with no neighboring businesses. Beforehand, the occurrence of a customer going to Knit1 Oxford without previous knowledge of the store was a rarity. With the move to Jackson Avenue, more people will be exposed to Knitl Oxford, especially with its eye-catching storefront.

Inside the new store, customers are greeted with an inviting atmosphere that is perfect for Knitl's fiber classes. Owner Patsy Engelhard has given a comfortable feel to the store by not only selling fibers and handmade goods, but also inviting those interested in knitting to come and learn the methods behind fiber-based creations.

Although Knitl Oxford is the only store of its kind in the area, its unique busi-

ness model brings customers in and keeps them coming back. The sense of community is strong and has created a strong customer base since the Knitl Oxford's original opening.

"People feel as though it is their store," Engelhard said on the community atmosphere at Knitl Oxford. The Chicago native opened the store after falling in love with knitting, but realizing there were no stores in Oxford which catered to enthusiasts like herself. After Knitl Oxford's opening in August 2010, the town became a haven for people who shared Engelhard's love of knitting and other needlework.

For those frequently involved with Knitl Oxford, knitting itself has proven to be extremely beneficial. Not only is it a method to express creativity and artistic ability, but it is also a way to bond with different people from the area.

"Knitting is a wonderful way to meet people you would usually not encounter," Wells said about the social aspect of Knitl Oxford.

Indeed, all walks of life frequent Knitl Oxford, women and men, old and young. There are several days when groups of knitters will spend entire afternoons in the shop with each other. From Wells' observations, the knitters share not only skills and techniques, but also life advice and stories.

The West Jackson Avenue location is open and ready for business. The store is open Monday through Saturday with different classes offered throughout the month. Look out for a grand opening of the new location in August, correlative to Knitl's fourth anniversary.



GRACE LOVVORN | The Daily Mississippia

Knit1's new location on Jackson Ave.



FILE PHOTO (LOGAN KIRKLAND) | The Daily Mississippi

Owner of Knit1, Patsy Engelhard, poses for a photo.

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Proud Larry's performance kicks off Andrew Combs' tour

BY GRACE LOVVORN

eglovvor@go.olemiss.edu

Proud Larry's hosted singer-songwriter Andrew Combs Wednesday night.

Combs, based in Nashville, Tenn., but originally from Dallas, effectively brings his Texas heritage and current Tennessee environment into his lyrics and instrumentals. His music can be described as a blend of vintage country and folk, tied together by eloquent songwriting. This genre of music is due to a country-folk renaissance coming from Nashville by artists like Combs.

In 2012, Combs released his debut album, "Worried Man," after starting his career with the EP titled "Tennessee Time" in 2010. The album brought Combs out of obscurity, and has given him a name in the singer-songwriter world. "Worried Man" did not get unnoticed by major publications. It earned a spot on American Songwriter's Top Albums of the Year list. Southern Living magazine said about Combs' debut, "The Nashville-dwelling, Dallas native is well on his way to becoming a preeminent voice in his genre."

Although Combs has yet to release his sophomore album, he has not stopped progressing since "Worried Man." This

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year has been significant for the singer-songwriter. Combs signed with London-based record label Loose Music earlier this year. Since then, Combs has been in Nashville with producers Skylar Wilson and Jordan Lehning. The team has been producing and crafting Combs' newest work into an upcoming sophomore

Along with a new record label and the development of a new album, Combs will be touring the United States and United Kingdom. Wednesday's performance at Proud Larry's was just the beginning of a summer tour.

After performing at venues in Memphis, Dallas and Guthrie, Okla., this weekend, Combs will then team up with Joe Fletcher and Ron Gallo for the Beach Binge tour, which will continue through the end of July. The trio of artists will be performing in cities along the East Coast.

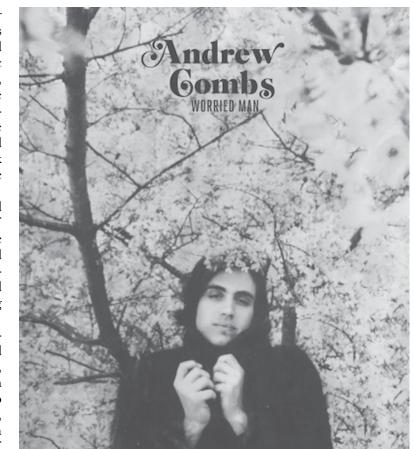
In August, Combs will change directions and tour in the Midwest with Amanda Shires. He will finish touring in the U.S. on August 24, and will then start touring in the U.K., with performances in eight cities.

With new music planned for release in the near future and a flourishing summer tour, Combs will receive not just regional popularity, but international recognition. Not only will his music draw

attention to Combs himself, but also to the folksy singersongwriter genre that has blossomed through the work of Southern musicians.

Whether you saw Andrew Combs perform at Proud Larry's or not, be on the lookout for the rising artist. Any lover of modern folk music will appreciate Combs' intricate blend of musical elements, which can easily be considered a recipe for success.





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SPORTS | 10 JULY 2014 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 7

NBA free agency talk

BY BROWNING STUBBS

bbstubbs@go.olemiss.edu

It's been a very quiet 2014 NBA offseason, as none of the major superstars have signed with teams yet. Usually, the top stars have verbally agreed to sign with teams before the July 10 deadline, which is the date by which free agents may officially sign with their new respective teams.

A report from the New York Daily News has surfaced that free agent Carmelo Anthony has agreed to a five-year, \$129 million contract to stay with the New York Knicks. Nothing has been announced vet so the deal is not official, but if the rumor is true, this would be the first major domino to fall in the free agent market.

You might be wondering where LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade, Pau Gasol, Lance Stephenson, etc. will end up. Other guys like Eric Bledsoe, Paul Pierce, Luol Deng, Gordon Hayward and Greg Monroe will also be coveted in the big free agency class. One of these players has to sign soon— we just don't know who it's going to be yet. Let's break down all the scenarios of where these guys could go.

LeBron James - The twotime NBA Champion has a reason to feel frustrated after the Miami Heat got embarrassed by the San Antonio in five games in the 2014 NBA Finals. James seemed like the only one showing any heart for the Heat. His options simply come down to returning to Miami, or going back home to Cleveland.

Most superstars in NBA history play for only one or two teams. Tim Duncan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson,

etc. all played for one team, while Michael Jordan, Karl Malone, Hakeem Olajuwon, etc. played for two teams. If James wants to go down as one of the all-time greats, then he doesn't need to keep trading teams.

If he stays in Miami, he alongside Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, could make another run at an NBA Championship in the weak Eastern Conference. James could return to Cleveland and join the young nucleus of Kyrie Irving and Andrew Wiggins to compete for a championship. Either one is a good choice, but he may not win a title right away in Cleveland.

Chris Bosh - The Heat star currently has a four-year, \$88 million contract on the table to sign with the Houston Rockets, where he would fit nicely next to Dwight Howard. Bosh has made it clear, however, that he wants to stay in Miami to continue playing with LeBron James. If James leaves, then there's a slim chance Bosh would stay in Miami. He has two great options, and he could win either place. It all comes down to what James does in order for Bosh to make a decision.

Dwyane Wade - The Miami Heat have been loyal to Dwyane Wade his entire career. He won them their first championship in 2006, and he was the second best player on their titles in 2012 and 2013. Sadly in 2014, Wade only played 54 games in the regular season, and did not look like himself in the 2014 NBA Finals.

In order for the Heat to resign Bosh and James, Wade will have to take a big paycut. Wade is nowhere near the player he once was, and he will have to sacrifice to keep his buddies in South Beach. If Bosh and James leave the Heat, the only other place Wade could reasonably go would be the Chicago Bulls, the hometown of Wade.

Pau Gasol - The Spaniard has been through a rough last two years with the Los Angeles Lakers, as he did not fit well into Mike D'antoni's system. Pau Gasol has many options, as he could follow James wherever he goes, join Carmelo in New York, or he could join contenders like the Chicago Bulls and the Oklahoma City Thunder who are missing a key piece, like Gasol, to bring them over the top.

Lance Stephenson - The controversial young shooting guard made headlines after his antics in the 2014 Eastern Conference Finals. After blowing in LeBron James' ear and slapping him in the face, many analysts believe Stephenson may have lost some money in free agency. Stephenson turned down a five-year, \$44 million contract to stay with Indiana. That's an offer he should take in a heartbeat.

If teams like the Lakers miss out on big free agents, then they might be a team that throws money at Stephenson, as they have a lot of cap room. His best choice would be to stay with the Pacers, who are just a few tweaks away from staying in contention in the East.

SEC,

continued from page 8

Auburn QB Nick Marshall was named the top quarterback on the preseason all-SEC team. Who else can challenge him? Ole Miss QB Bo Wallace is the other proven starter to return in the SEC. Can he make the transition and improve to be the best quarterback in the SEC?

Many SEC teams are going through a transition period at quarterback, but Auburn and Ole Miss seem to be set.

3. How will Alabama look when the season starts?

Many questions face the crimson tide after a disappointing 2013 campaign. Who will start at quarterback? Decorated starter AJ McCarron is now in the NFL. The QB battle should come down to Florida State transfer Jacob Coker and senior Blake Sims, but who gets the nod? How will the defense look after losing seven starters? Will the kicking game still cause nightmares after losing both the starting kicker and punter? Does Alabama have the best runningback/wide receiver combo in the country in TJ Yeldon and Amari Cooper? Head coach Nick Saban once again built the number one recruiting class in the nation and Alabama will undoubtedly be near the top in the conference once again.

4. Who is the favorite in the SEC East?

No one picked Missouri last season to win the SEC East. Can they do it again? The usual suspects will be back again to fight for the division title with Georgia, South Carolina and Florida all looking for the top spot.

If I had to pick a favorite, it would be South Carolina.

Senior Dylan Thompson finally gets the starting QB job after backing up Connor Shaw and filling in for him nicely when Shaw went down with injuries. The Gamecocks return eight starters on offense and look to be loaded at the running back and wide receiver positions. Running back Mike Davis is looking to be tops in the SEC and the country. The defensive line was ripped apart because of the NFL draft, most notably number one pick Jadaveon Clowney, but head coach Steve Spurrier always has talent waiting.

Don't sleep on Georgia and Missouri fighting for the SEC East crown also.

It will be interesting to see who the coaches think is the favorite next week.

5. Which head coach will steal the spotlight and say something absolutely ridiculous?

The odds-on favorite for me is South Carolina head coach Steve Spurrier, who always has something on his mind and is not afraid to say it. LSU head coach Les Miles is the runner up. The dark horse is Alabama head coach Nick Saban, who always has something controversial to say.

Follow @drubino11 and @ thedm_sports on Twitter for live coverage of SEC Media Days, starting Monday.



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COLUMN

Questions surrounding SEC Media Days

BY DYLAN RUBINO

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There's no Johnny Manziel to steal the spotlight this time around.

The main storyline last year in Hoover, Ala., was former Texas A&M quarterback and current Cleveland Brown Johnny Manziel being kicked out of The Manning Passing Academy for missing meetings and "oversleeping" his meetings and camp activities.

It's a new year and a new batch of storylines for the 2014 SEC Media Days in Hoover. The 2013 football season in the SEC was arguably the most exciting and the most improbable season in the history of the conference.

In 2012, the Auburn Tigers had a tumultuous season, finishing 0-8 in SEC play with a 3-9 overall record. This led to the firing of head coach Gene Chizik, who just won a national championship for Auburn in 2010. Former offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn was hired in 2013 to turn the Auburn program around and did just that, go-

SEC and losing in the national championship game against Florida State. Auburn was picked in the preseason to finish near the bottom of the SEC West and ended up representing the SEC in the national championship game. And who can forget the Iron Bowl — an instant classic.

Are we in for another turnaround in the SEC this season?

There are many storylines and questions surrounding the SEC this season that reporters and programs are looking to answer. Here are five storylines I'm following.

1. Can Auburn and Missouri build on their successes from last season?

Both the Tigers of Auburn and Missouri did a complete 180 on their 2013 campaigns. Both programs were picked to finish near the bottom of their divisions, but came out on top to represent the SEC West and East in the conference title game.

Auburn lost some key play-



FILE PHOTO (AUSTIN MCAFEE) | The Daily Mississippian

Bo Wallace is one of two proven SEC starting quarterbacks returning for the 2014 season.

runningback Tre Mason, offensive tackle Greg Robinson, defensive end Dee Ford and iron bowl savior/cornerback Chris Davis. Even with these losses, Auburn will not skip a beat, as they return nine starters on offense and seven on defense. A question I have about Auburn is: how will Nick Marshall handle the pressure of being picked to finish as the top quarterback in the SEC preseason poll and will he have a more expanded role in the passing game and

running game will look without Tre Mason.

Missouri will face a tougher road. Starting quarterback James Franklin graduated, but redshirt sophomore Maty Mauk is ready to take the helm, as he played great filling in last season for Franklin, who sat out four games due to injury. Missouri loses two of its top three wide receivers so the passing attack is a cause for concern. The stout Missouri defensive line loses its top two pass rushers in Michael Sam and Kony Ealy, but

the holes for pass rushers and fill in nicely.

2. Who is the premiere QB in the SEC?

For the past couple of seasons, there were household names at seemingly every quarterback position in the SEC. Most of the big names are gone, including AJ McCarron, Aaron Murray, Zach Mettenberger, Connor Shaw, Johnny Manziel, James Frank-

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