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MISSISSIPPIAN

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

news

The best and worst stories of this week

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lifestyles

Fourth annual beerfest kicks off this weekend

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Rebels prepare to take on the Bulldogs

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First two cases of Zika virus reported in state

ALEXIS NEELY
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The Mississippi State Department of Health reported and confirmed two cases of Zika virus in Mississippi last week.

The virus, a short illness characterized by fever, rash, joint aches and red eyes, is spread through mosquitos.

The Mississippi victims were located in Madison and Noxubee County and both had recently travelled to Haiti.

Although the Zika virus has officially spread to Mississippi, Thomas Dobbs, state epidemiologist at the Mississippi State Department of Health, said there is no cause for great alarm.

Dobbs said travelers to countries with active Zika transmission should take every precaution to avoid mosquito bites, and pregnant women should avoid travel-

ing to those countries.

“There is currently no treatment or vaccine for Zika,” Dobbs said. “The illness is usually relatively mild and resolves on its own in a few days. Zika infections have been implicated as a cause of microcephaly and severe congenital deformities when pregnant women have been infected. That is why it is so important for pregnant women to avoid infection.”

Microcephaly is a condition in which a newborn baby’s head is significantly smaller than expected as a result of abnormal brain development.

In a small number of cases, the Zika virus may also be associated with Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a usually temporary auto-immune paralytic illness in which the immune system attacks the nerves.

Due to the spread and detrimental health effects of the virus in Latin America, Dobbs stressed the importance of lowering the risk of Zika contraction and transmission here.

Though the illness is short, men may remain contagious through sex much longer.

Men who have traveled to an area with active Zika virus transmission but did not develop symptoms should wait at least eight weeks after last exposure before attempting

Big Event begins Saturday

TOUSLEY LEAKE
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Oxford’s biggest day of community service is this Saturday.

The Big Event was created in 2011 as a way for students at the University to give back to the Oxford and Lafayette County while building positive relationships with the communities.

Volunteer participants split up into groups and travel to different projects around town. Projects include painting, yard work, washing windows, cleaning, assisting the elderly and more.

There are more than 140 projects planned for Saturday and at least 1,600 students registered to participate. Walk-ins are also welcome to come on Saturday.

Junior public policy major Austin Powell is this year’s assistant director for the event.

Powell ran into an upperclassman who was involved in the Big Event during Rebel RoundUp at orientation before his freshman year and participated every year since.

“She made Ole Miss seem like the students were just as concerned with the Oxford-Lafayette community as I was in high school about the Corinth community,” Powell said. “Her enthusiasm and genuine passion made me feel like I aligned with Big Event’s mission statement.”

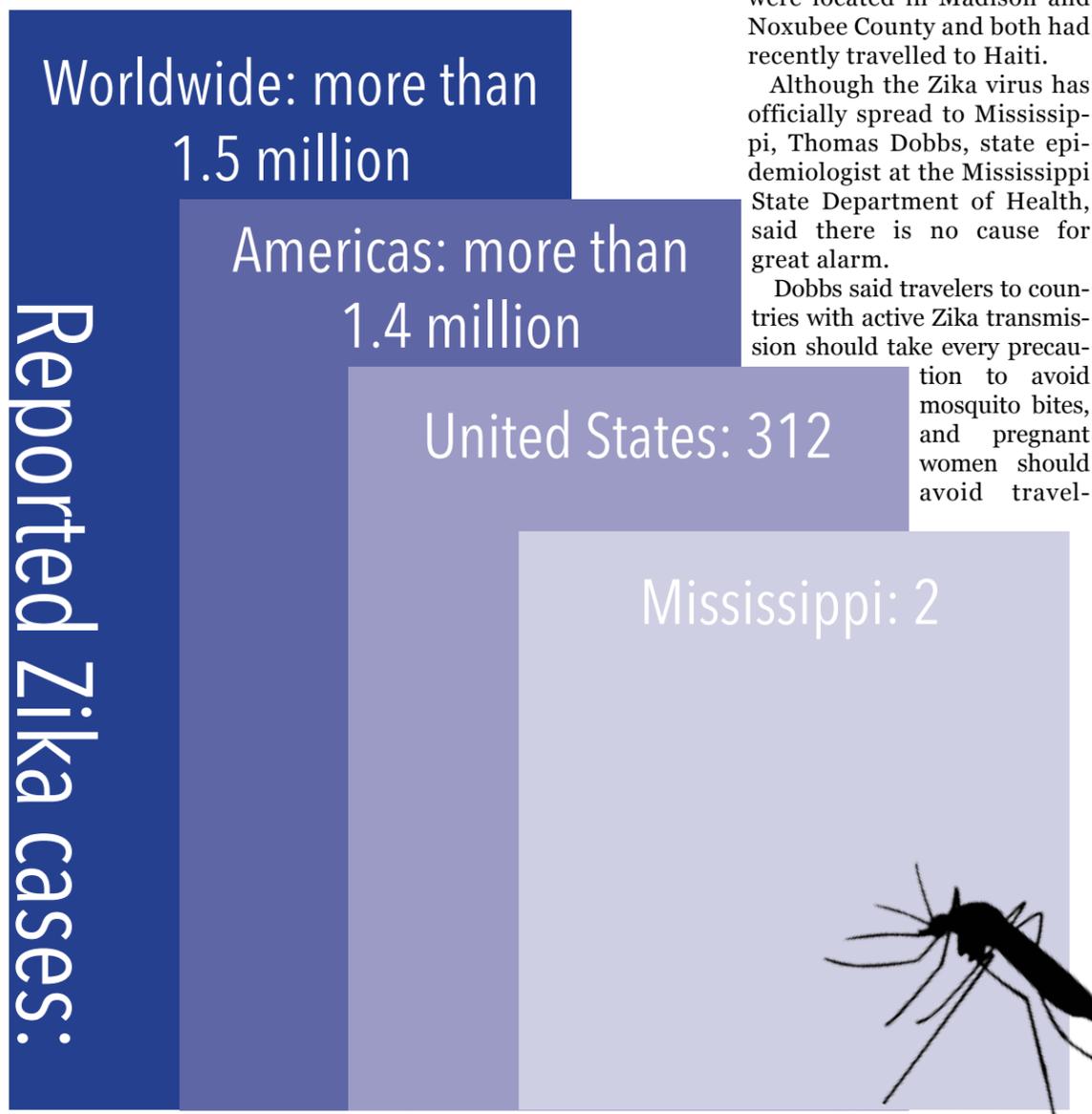
Students will meet at 8 a.m. in the Pavilion to check in and split into groups. This year’s keynote speaker, Ole Miss linebacker Deterrian Shackelford, will give a speech to motivate the group for the day.

Student team leaders will lead individual projects. Barrett Climer, a sophomore IMC major, is one of these leaders.

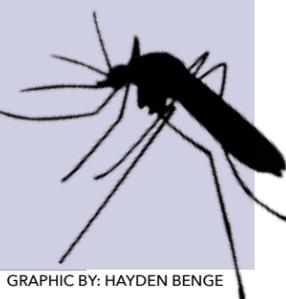
“I am so ready to work on our service project,” Climer said. “I want to inspire my group to give back not only at the Big Event, but every day of the year.”

Senior English major Melissa Ramsey is serving as a co-director for the event.

“I’m most excited about the Ole



Information from the Center for Disease Control.



GRAPHIC BY: HAYDEN BENGE

SEE ZIKA PAGE 3

Tom Brokaw to deliver Commencement speech

BLAKE ALSUP
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Tom Brokaw, best known as anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News from 1982 to 2004, will return to Oxford to deliver the main address at the University of Mississippi’s 163rd Commencement 9 a.m. on May 14 in the Grove.

Curtis Wilkie, Cook Chair of Journalism and the first fellow of the UM Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, has been a friend of Brokaw’s for 40 years. A few years ago, Brokaw spent a week teaching one of Wilkie’s class-

es in the Honors College and conducted office hours to allow students to come meet with him.

The journalist first visited Ole Miss in 2000 and has returned several times since.

“He was here last fall on an NBC assignment and he and his two sons-in-law were at Vaught-Hemingway two years ago, watching with delight as Ole Miss beat Alabama,” Wilkie said. “He’s also been to several of our baseball games and once threw the first pitch during an SEC series.”



AP PHOTO: JAE C. HONG

Tom Brokaw speaks during the March 11 funeral service for former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

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SEE BIG EVENT PAGE 3

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COLUMN

Media can make activists into white saviors

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Is the White Savior Complex real at UM? I like to think not, but trying to measure a person's sincerity is not easy. It is strategically smarter to focus more on the efforts put forth and not the character, or lack thereof, of the person.

Since my freshman year, I have borne witness to many despicable events surrounding race dynamics. Considering the volume of forewarning I received concerning UM's racial history and its effects on the present, I cannot say what I have witnessed here thus far is the least bit surprising, sadly enough.

The white faces that strive to understand the concept of structural oppression as opposed to denying its existence, however, consistently pique my interest.

While many, including myself, meet this act with gratitude, internalized confusion follows. The damning confusion stems from the belief that the motives of the activists aren't genuine.

Tirelessly, I wonder if their drive is fueled by the idea of attaining personal gains or the hankering to enact change because, as many have pointed out, these activists could be striving to attain a cookie by wreaking havoc down avenues where many who look like them wouldn't dare go (cc: Kony 2012).

Last semester, the UM community witnessed a monumental step towards progressivism by pulling down the Mississippi State flag.

Naturally, organizations such as the BSU and the NAACP joined forces in spearheading a coalition of students unified in support of a goal. Momentous as

this occurrence was, it failed to garner the attention it deserved. This wasn't the case for a particular white male, whose similar efforts rose to national prominence quicker.

Easily, I dismissed the fact that no one a part of either organizations critiqued this issue as I attributed the silence to the idea that this was expected by other organizer's, even though efforts for inclusion started well before he embarked on his "woke" journey.

While I know his efforts were the product of sincere allegiance to the advancement of the great cause, he focused way too much on the public's perception of his actions. This made his actions seem exploitive and made him appear to be a vain person.

As an activist or ally, it is vital to continuously educate yourself so you are aware of the effects of your actions. I would rather

not hear about anyone checking their privilege all of the time nor does it come as no surprise that your ancestors may have had a hand in slavery; I think we all had that realization during our first history lesson.

There is no need for a Twitter dissertation about your sudden realization because that is when attention is taken away from the cause and given to the activist.

In closing, I've grown into the realization the white savior complex is a product of media bias and a subtle comment on whose opinion they choose to validate. It is also clear that, we all come from different walks of life and, in those lives, we experience very different journeys – that could shape our views on the world.

Reuben Johnson is a junior journalism major from Indiana.

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MISSISSIPPIAN**

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

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



**MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

ZIKA continued from page 2

conception and should use condoms or abstain from sex during that time.

Men diagnosed should wait at least six months after the onset of symptoms to attempt conception, according to Dobbs.

Although the specific mosquito known to currently spread Zika in Latin America and the Caribbean has not been seen in Mississippi since 1986 and there is a low risk that other mosquitoes could spread Zika, Dobbs said Mississippians should still take necessary precautions against mosquitoes.

"People should avoid mosquitoes anyway due to risk of West Nile Virus and other, more rare mosquito-spread infections," Dobbs said.

BROKAW continued from page 2

Brokaw was also on campus to discuss presidential politics in a campus program held in Fulton Chapel the night before the first presidential debate between then-Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain at the Ford Center.

An accomplished journalist, Brokaw hosted NBC News programs such as "Today," "Nightly News" and "Meet The Press."

He was born in Webster, South Dakota and earned a degree in political science from the University of South Dakota in 1964. He went on to work for a few small news stations before joining NBC News.

Brokaw first joined NBC News in 1966, reporting from California and anchoring the 11 p.m. news for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles. By 1973, Brokaw had worked his way up to becoming NBC's White House correspondent covering the Watergate scandal. In 1982, Brokaw became co-anchor of the NBC

Nightly News and by 1983, he was selected sole anchor.

During his time with NBC, Brokaw covered the Challenger disaster, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Brokaw has also written several books. His most well known book is "The Greatest Generation," which tells the stories of the generation that grew up in the United States during the Great Depression and went on to fight in World War II.

Since retiring from "Nightly News" in 2004, Brokaw has remained a special correspondent for NBC News. He has also hosted a baseball documentary series for Fox Sports Net called "The Boys in the Hall" and served as moderator for the second presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain at Belmont University.

"He has a lot of history here and is a good friend of Ole Miss," Wilkie said.



FILE PHOTO

Santonio Chandler and Ashunti Robinson bag leaves during the Big Event last year.

BIG EVENT continued from page 2

Miss family coming together to give back to the community that gives us the best four years of our lives," Ramsey said. "We often forget how much the residents of Oxford and Lafayette county do for us as students – they provide

us with safety, happiness, and a home away from home. The Big Event is our way of saying 'thanks' for everything this awesome community provides."

Ramsey said she encourages everyone to come out and volunteer this Saturday to make the biggest day of service in Oxford even bigger.

EVERY DOG HAS ITS DRUG

The Jones County Sheriff's Office is investigating a dog in Laurel brought a large bag of marijuana back to his home. According to Mississippi Live, the homeowner originally thought the dog was carrying a bag of garbage until he looked closer and realized it was leafy and smelled suspiciously like cannabis. Authorities said the bag contained around a pound of marijuana, but the dog's dealer is still unknown. This is what is also known as a cannabis canine.

WHEN YOUR HONEYMOON BECOMES INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mississippi teen Jaclyn Young was arrested in August after suspicion from the FBI that she was involved with creating a plan to join ISIS. CBS News reported Tuesday that Young was found guilty of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization this week. Her sentence? Up to 20 years in prison, \$250,000 in fines and lifetime probation. Her fiancée, Muhammad Dakhllalla plead guilty to similar charges in March and is awaiting his sentence. Young converted to Islam while studying at Mississippi State and became interested in ISIS through online recruiting videos. Young and Dakhllalla crafted a plan to get married and fake a honeymoon in order to get to Syria.



WHEN YOUR TRIP TO THE BEACH TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORST

A similarly strange, but much sadder, animal event also happened in the state this week. This past weekend, nine dead farm animals washed onto the shore of a beach on the Mississippi coast. According to KALB News, among the animals were two goats, one hog and six chickens. Biloxi Police Chief John Miller said there were no signs of animal cruelty in the situation, but that it is possible the animals drowned during recent flooding in nearby Louisiana.

MAQUARIUM OR BUST

The Mississippi Aquarium, that is. Gulfport recently announced their plan to open a \$65 million aquarium in early 2019. According to the Sun Herald, the city already has \$40 million raised for constructing the building, but they have budgeted another \$25 million to acquire the animals. State legislation approved \$24.5 million in 2015 in state bonds to help pay for the attraction. Gov. Phil Bryant himself pledged \$25,000 for the project. Plans currently project that the aquarium will be a three-level facility including one large body of water, a touch pool with stingrays and a shark exhibit with acrylic walls. Construction is slated to begin in 2017.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Rachel Robertson

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"The Effect of Eating Disorders and Menstrual Irregularity on Bone Mineral Density in Sorority Women: A Cross-Sectional Study"

Directed by: Martha Bass

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“Lust and Wonder” author signing at Square Books

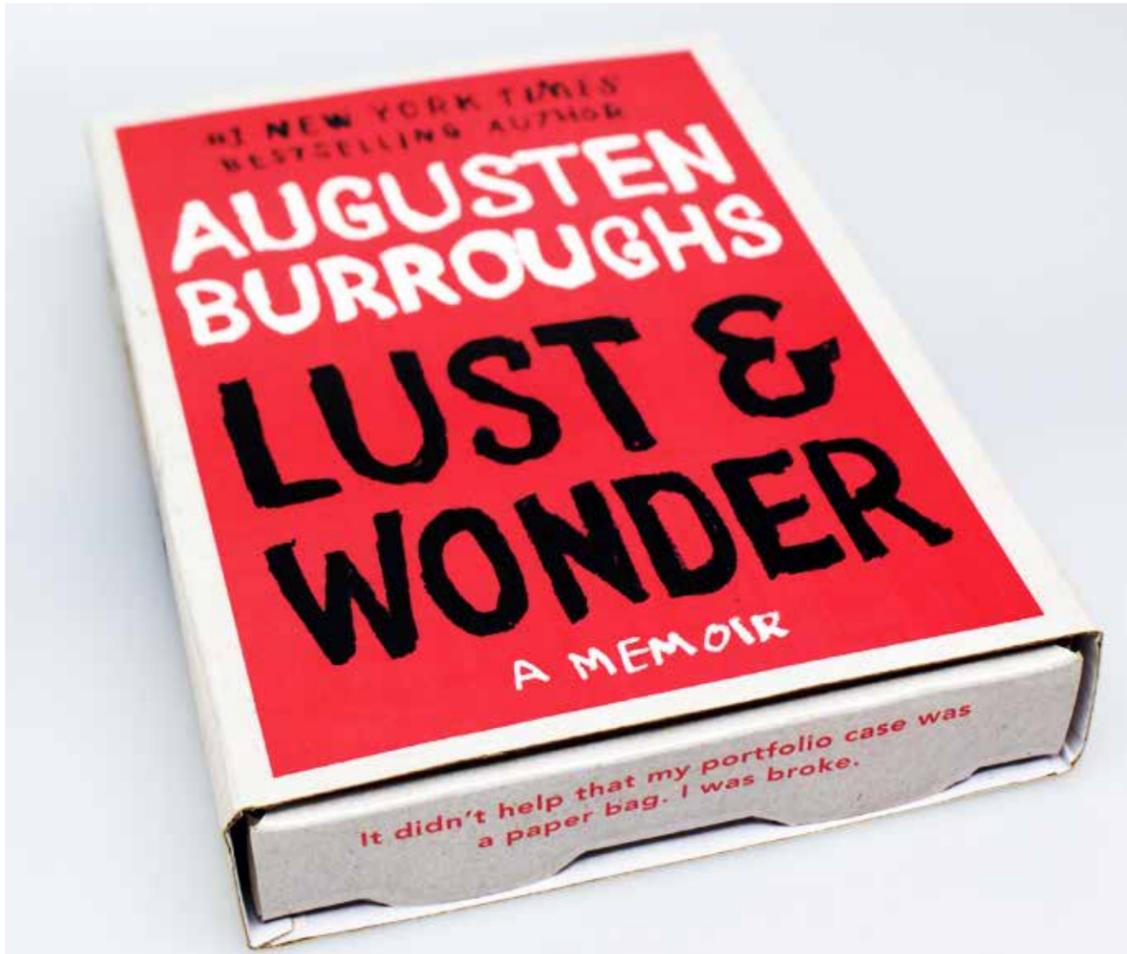
AUDREY HALL
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Sharing your life with the world can be a difficult choice, but for Augusten Burroughs, it paid off in multiple nonfiction books and memoirs. This Saturday at 5 p.m., Square Books will host Burroughs, best known for his book “Running With Scissors.”

This weekend, however, he will be presenting his recently-released and most recent memoir: “Lust and Wonder.”

“Lust and Wonder” is about three relationships I had during the time that I got sober, from around 1999 to almost present time,” Burroughs said. “I hadn’t consciously meant to make a sequel to ‘Dry,’ but that was the next big stage of my life. I stopped drinking, started writing, and thought I’d start making better decisions. That is not what happened. My decisions got chaotic. I was having to tell myself to be happy.”

“Lust and Wonder,” the story of these chaotic decisions and their consequences, was released Tuesday, March 29. It features several men with whom Bur-



COURTESY: BEHANCE.NET

roughs had notable relationships while living in New York City. One of these was a man named Dennis, whose relationship with

Burroughs went on for nearly 10 years, caused a great amount of unhappy compromise in Burroughs’ life. On a more uplifting note, the book ends starring Christopher, the man who goes on to be Burroughs’ husband.

“Writing about my relationships was hard, in a sense, because, intellectually, I set out to write fiction,” Burroughs said. “I told my publisher I’d send them a novel. But I didn’t love the fiction I wrote, I was starting to feel blocked and one of my friends suggested I write about what happened after I was sober.”

Burroughs said it is hard to please all readers.

“Memoirs are not beauty contests,” he said. “There are people who are going to hate every word and there are people who are going to hang on every word and just love it. And it’s upsetting to write about a relationship that went on for 10 years and that wasn’t good. But with me, when writing memoirs, I can go back in my mind to highly specific times and use that. It’s like rediscovering a moment on the page, like a time capsule. The act of writing is therapeutic. It’s a place to park your mind. It’s the art of losing yourself in time.”

With numerous bestsellers already under his belt and “Lust and Wonder” hitting the shelves this week, Burroughs clearly has a grasp on the business of writing.

“I’ve been through Mississippi and we’ve not had a book tour here before, so I’m really, really excited,” he said.

Join Student Disability Services as we celebrate Disability History Month throughout April.

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Classroom 106D

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Miss-I-Sippin' 2016:

WILL CROCKETT

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Wayne Andrews, the executive director of the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, described Miss-I-Sippin' as an event with many similarities to a comic book convention – but more fun because there's beer.

The official beer festival of the Mississippi Brewers Guild, hosted by the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, will be held tonight and Saturday afternoon. Tickets for tonight's event are \$80 and tickets for Saturday are \$30. Members of the arts council will receive a discount.

This year's event will differ from last year's, turning what was once a one-day event into a two-day showcase of food, music and, of course, beer.

Tonight's event in The Powerhouse will feature a dinner of chicken, shrimp and catfish, all donated by state businesses like Sanderson Farms and Delta Pride Catfish. Meredith Pittman of Oxford's Second Line restaurant is the guest chef.

"It's really about putting people around a table," Andrews said. "When you're conversing and talking and sharing food, you sort of build an understanding, you start hearing stories and you start realizing that the music you're hearing has a different linkage and tells the stories of our area. That's where the beers come from and the foods come from. That's why we have this kind of beer festival that's also for art."

All breweries that are a part of the Mississippi Brewers Guild are featured in tonight's event, including breweries like Yalobusha Brewing Company from Water Valley and Lucky Town Brewing Company from Jackson.

Saturday's event will be held at the Old Armory Pavilion on University Avenue, and feature Mississippi beers as well as southern regional beers like Abita, Ghost River and Tin Roof, according to

Andrews.

"It's not like Coke and Pepsi wars when it comes to craft beers," Andrews said. "It isn't competition, it's complimentary."

Andrews said the Saturday event is more like a big block party for the community, where everyone can enjoy a nice Saturday afternoon.

"This isn't a keg party," Andrews said. "It's more like a community cookout with adult beverages and localized music."

Saturday's event will feature local food trucks as well as musicians such as Nate Robbins.

Proceeds gained from the beer festival will benefit both the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, which will utilize the funds to continue to provide arts programs throughout the year, and the Mississippi Brewers Guild.

"The Mississippi Brewers Guild is leading the effort to overhaul the antiquated beer laws in this state," Andy O'Bryan, owner of Yalobusha Brewing Company and member of the guild, said. "The financial help from events like Miss-I-Sippin' help our cause by allowing us to lobby and promote what we're trying to accomplish."

O'Bryan, who said he would like to see Mississippi pass legislation that allows less restrictive sales for breweries, said events like Miss-I-Sippin' are critical for the guild's political effort.

"All of the breweries have so much money tied up in their startups that it's been difficult for us to really be active politically," O'Bryan said. "Unfortunately, we have seen the ugly side of politics and we simply don't have the ability to

Beer

fest

compete. Having events that financially benefit the M.B.G. is critical to our ongoing efforts to move Mississippi forward in the craft beer industry."

Although the guild hopes to advance its political efforts, Andrews said this event is as much about bringing the community together as it is for beer.

"It's like a big block party. You have parents that will bring their kids in a stroller or will let them go out and play in the grass," Andrews said. "This is a community and neighborhood gathering that's all about showcasing the great things that are in our state. I think an event that tells the stories of the Mississippi products, when we're talking about the food and the music and the breweries, and how progressive the state really is helps to build a sense of community and pride."

GRAPHIC BY : CAROLINE CALLAWAY



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COLUMN

The Memphis Grizzlies are limping into the postseason

BROWNING STUBBS

bbstubbs@go.olemiss.edu

With two weeks remaining in the NBA season, the Memphis Grizzlies are limping into the postseason.

The Grizzlies have played a franchise-record 27 players this season, and currently have six players injured on the roster. During the month of March, the Grizzlies have kept only five teams under 100 points, two of those teams were against struggling teams like the Phoenix Suns and the Sacramento Kings who scored 97 and 98 points, respectively.

The team is 2-8 in their last 10 games and have a tough stretch coming up in their final seven games of the regular season, including two games against the record-chasing Golden State Warriors.

"It's frustrating," Grizzlies guard Tony Allen said. "We've got to stay together. We're playing hard and just have to play smarter. Losing games like this just makes it harder."

Memphis (41-34) sits in fifth place in the Western Conference and control a two game lead over the sixth seed Portland Trailblazers.

Hopefully, the injury bug will come to an end in time for starting point guard Mike Conley and backups P.J. Hairston and Brandan Wright to return at the tail end of the season.

At this point, the Grizzlies can't miss the playoffs because they will owe their first round

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES REMAINING SCHEDULE:
Friday, April 1- Home vs. Toronto Raptors

Sunday, April 3- Away vs. Orlando Magic

Tuesday, April 5- Home vs. Chicago Bulls

Friday, April 8- Away vs. Dallas Mavericks

Saturday, April 9- Home vs. Golden State Warriors

Tuesday, April 12- Away vs. Los Angeles Clippers

Wednesday, April 13- Away vs. Golden State Warriors

draft pick to Denver in that scenario.

So, what other options do you have? It's simple. You have to make the playoffs and find a series that you have a chance to be competitive in.

"There are plenty of teams that would just be happy to make the playoffs, but that's not us," Grizzlies head coach Dave Jeerer said. "We want the fifth seed and we want to play the Los Angeles Clippers."

The Grizzlies are 1-1 versus the Clippers this season, and the team feels like they would have a chance to knock them off if they can get guys healthy.

In their previous matchup against LA on March 19, the 10-point underdog Grizzlies knocked off the Clippers 113-

102 at FedEx Forum.

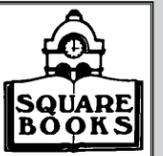
"Don't get me wrong, making the playoffs would be great, but it would be upsetting to not get the fifth seed," Jeerer said. "We're going to go out and find a win wherever we can and keep fighting."

If the Grizzlies fall to the sixth, seventh or eighth seed, they're in trouble because Memphis has zero wins over Golden State, San Antonio, and Oklahoma City so far this season. Therefore, the Bluff City bears don't stand a chance in the first round against one of those teams. With recent success against the Clippers, at least they have a chance to be competitive and possibly pull off an upset.

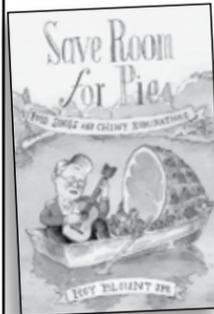


AP PHOTO: BRANDON DILL

Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley reacts after scoring consecutive three-point baskets during a game against the Phoenix Suns.

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36538

Diamond Rebels prepare to take on Mississippi State

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
Bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

With the midweek game against Memphis getting postponed due to inclement weather, it has been five days since Ole Miss has last played.

The Rebels are coming off of a weekend in which they were swept at home by South Carolina, and it will not get any easier this weekend as the team begins a three-game series against 5th-ranked Mississippi State in Starkville on Friday night.

Ole Miss has won four of its five series in Starkville, and is 8-4 against the Bulldogs in the last 12 contests. Ole Miss has won three consecutive series over Mississippi State.

Mississippi State 18-7-1 (4-2) took two of three at Vanderbilt, and then again at home against Georgia last weekend to begin SEC play.

The Bulldogs have played well to begin conference play and also swept Oregon earlier this season.

Rebels' ace Brady Bramlett will face off against Mississippi State's Dakota Hudson on the mound in game one. Hudson is 3-1 with a 1.13 ERA this season and is a projected first-round pick in this summer's MLB draft.

Hudson went nine innings against Vanderbilt, allowing just one run in a 13 inning game that the Bulldogs would eventually win 2-1. Hudson picked up his first conference win of the season last week against Georgia by allowing just one run while scattering

eight hits in seven innings.

Bramlett comes in with a record of 4-1 with a 2.90 ERA, but was roughed up in last start against South Carolina, allowing three runs in the first two innings earning his first loss of the season.

Bramlett leads the SEC and is fourth nationally with 13.06 strikeouts per nine innings.

Saturday will feature a pair of right handers in Chad Smith and Mississippi State's Austin Sexton Jr. Sexton boasts a record of 2-1 with a 3.72 ERA while Smith holds a mark of 2-2 with a 4.80 earned run average.

After a bit of uncertainty last week in game three, Mike Bianco will send Sean Johnson back out on Sunday this weekend against the Bulldogs. Johnson did not pitch last weekend, and was not even on the dressed list as Bianco wanted to rest Johnson, feeling that his stuff had deteriorated.

Johnson is a year removed from Tommy John surgery and came back quicker than most pitchers normally do. Mississippi State elected to go TBA on its third starter.

This series features two teams trending in opposite directions.

Mississippi State dropped a few games it should not have early in the year, but has since meshed as a team and is playing good baseball.

Meanwhile, Ole Miss was punched in the mouth last weekend for the first time all season and comes into Starkville looking to regroup. As Mike Bianco said last week-



Brady Bramlett throws a pitch in Ole Miss' victory over FIU earlier this season.

PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

end, the Rebels were bad in all facets of the game. It's the little things that helped Ole Miss start 20-2.

Little things like having a collective bullpen ERA of 1.84 or being second in the SEC in sacrifice flies, and it will have to get back to doing the little things well if it wants to win this weekend.

The Rebels will also need to pitch better if they wish to stand a chance this weekend.

Ole Miss did not have a starter make it past the fifth inning last week, and taxed its bullpen heavily.

Six errors in the last two games did not help either. Ole Miss will need to pitch and play defense on a much higher level than it has been if it wants to have a chance this weekend.

PREDICTION:

I really think Ole Miss turns it around on the mound, and will pitch much better this weekend. I think the team as a whole gets back on track, especially defensively, after an all-around bad weekend against South Carolina. I just think they picked a bad time to do it. State pitches better than Ole Miss and takes two of three despite the Rebels playing better defense.

Hon. Dwight N. Ball

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- Former Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Practiced at his privately owned law firm for 44 consecutive years - located at the same place, being the Oxford Square, Downtown, Oxford, Mississippi.
- Taught the Mississippi DUI Law and 5 different Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure courses each and every semester at the University of Mississippi for 29 consecutive years.
- Former Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for over 6 years.
- Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for 8 years.
- A Founding Member of the National College for DUI Defense conducted at Harvard Law School.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 DUI Attorneys in Mississippi by the National Advocacy for DUI Defense.
- Selected as one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys of Mississippi in 2015 for Client Satisfaction Award by the America Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys.
- Selected as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Organization.
- Recipient of the DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF MERIT for 1989 from the Mississippi State Bar given to one Attorney in the State each year for outstanding contributions to the practice of law.
- Voted "Best Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi" in the 2013 Grover's Choice Awards
- Former Vice President and President of the Lafayette County Bar Association; Member of the Mississippi Bar Association, etc.
- Appointed by the Mississippi State Bar to the Mississippi Commission on Attorney Ethics and Attorney Violations of the Canon of Ethics and All Mandatory Rules concerning the Practice of Law. Occupied the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman.
- A member of the Chancellor's Trust since 1981.
- Et cetera.

Listing of these previously mentioned areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein.