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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

lifestyles

Local musicians share stage time, ideas
Page 5



sports

Women's tennis sweeps double header
Page 6



sports

Rebels prepare to play Southern Miss
Page 8



Annual New York-Mississippi Picnic canceled

CLARA TURNAGE
dmeditor@gmail.com

A 36-year tradition is coming to a grinding halt as Mississippi's contentious religious freedom bill receives even more national backlash.

The New York Mississippi Society canceled its annual summer picnic Tuesday.

"As a result of the unfortunate adoption of House Bill 1523, we have been informed that several concerned groups in New York City intend to demonstrate in protest of the passage of this law," the society said in a statement. "Due to the controversy, the protests, and our own intensely felt dismay over HB 1523, we deeply regret that the Mississippi Picnic cannot go forward."

Gov. Phil Bryant signed the Religious Liberty Accommodations Act into law Tuesday, April 5. The legislation preserves the right of organizations and individuals with religious affiliations to discriminate against certain persons if it is in accordance with his or her faith practices.

"I am disappointed we won't be celebrating Mississippi's rich and diverse culture in Central Park this year," Bryant said in a statement to The Clarion-Ledger Tuesday. "I'm confident many New Yorkers feel the same way. I will be happy to participate in the event should organizers revive it in the future."

After the passage of the contested Religious Restoration Act, John Currence, chef at City Grocery and Oxford native, helped organize a protest at the 2014 picnic. Currence said he was in the process of organizing a protest for this year's event when he heard it was canceled.

"I feel strongly about being a voice for anybody who is an underdog. Most importantly, I think this sort of legislation casts the ugliest light on the state of Mississippi," Currence said. "I think the hope is that when these things happen, the voters will put pressure on their politicians to

SEE PICNIC PAGE 3

Medical center accused of using taxpayer money for rat experimentation



KELSEY SIMMS
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The University of Mississippi Medical Center has come under fire in a report produced by the Animal Justice Alliance and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, which accused UMMC of using millions of taxpayer dollars to poison lab rats by allowing the rodents to become addicted to drugs.

According to the report, "The University of Mississippi Medical Center's Research Triangle Institute has received more than \$5.6 million over the past 14 years for an experiment to determine if synthetic drugs like bath salts are as addictive as methamphetamine."

Marc Rolph, UMMC associate director of public affairs, said the information released in regards to taxpayer dollars is inaccurate.

"These people say that we have been involved in a 5.6 million dollar project over 14 years, but it's a much smaller project," Rolph said. "We are using less than \$50,000 and it's internally funded."

According to Rolph, animal testing is not only a viable way of receiving information, but is also the method that has received the most positive feedback.

"Most of the major discoveries for cures have been done, for the most part, on animals," Rolph said. "If you did away with rats in research, you would do away with advances for future research."

Contrary to the report, administrators at UMMC believe their treatment of lab rats is humane as well as necessary. Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer Tom Fortner said UMMC strives to adhere to all regulations involving animal testing by

treating these animals as if they were humans.

"We make sure to look for other ways of achieving an objective without using an animal as well," Fortner said. "We also do not operate on baby rats since rats become adults at two months old."

According to Fortner, UMMC conducts these tests in order to learn more about the addictive properties of various drugs. By using "self administration," they can monitor how addictive a drug is based on if the rat presses a button repeatedly. However, the rats are limited on the amount of drugs they can consume.

"In the past, Mississippi has had the highest number of people in the country that showed up in emergency rooms with designer drugs in their systems," Fortner said.

Despite UMMC's rebuttal, this project has sparked both questions and concerns from UM students and faculty. The humanity of not only UMMC's treatment of the lab rats, but also animal testers around the world, seems to be at the core of the controversy.

Katie Muldoon, second-year law student and UM Student Animal Legal Defense Fund president, said there are more accurate ways to gather research than current methods.

"These experiments are not only unethical and inhumane, but also incredibly unnecessary since the majority of results found in animal tests do not translate to human models," Muldoon said.

Assistant law professor Antonia Eliason said UMMC should develop better practices to conduct research that aligns with current standards.

SEE RAT PAGE 3

Terrorism in the time of Twitter

CLARA TURNAGE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – One of the benefits of social media is its ability to give anyone, anywhere, a voice, but that advantage comes with risks.

The same how-to guides that teach you to cook can teach you to build a pipe bomb. The same YouTube videos that take you closer than ever to pop culture idols can also draw you into a world of radicalization and terrorism.

And it's happened here in Mississippi.

In the cases against Jaelyn Delshaun Young and Muhammad Oda Dakhllalla, two Mississippi State University students who recently pled guilty in attempting to knowingly join the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, social media was an important factor.

Court documents of the case describe how Dakhllalla and Young watched pro-ISIL YouTube videos as a part of their radicalization, and the discovery of pro-ISIL tweets on Young's Twitter was the FBI's first indicator of her intention to join the terrorist group.

The use of social media as a platform for terrorism recruitment and radicalization, however, is not new. According to representatives of the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications in Washington, D.C., internet-propelled terror group recruitment has sparked an evolution in the way propaganda is spread.

Nearly every major movement and dictatorship in history has used propaganda in some form, but the advent of social media allowed the opportunity for broad, general propaganda to become individualized, personalized and gives violent extremism recruitment the ability to reach almost anyone, according to the CSCC.

Popular platforms include Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, video games, internet message boards and many others. This means the platforms used every day are more than just social outlets; they're vulnerabilities.

Recruiters don't knock on ran-

SEE TERRORISM PAGE 3

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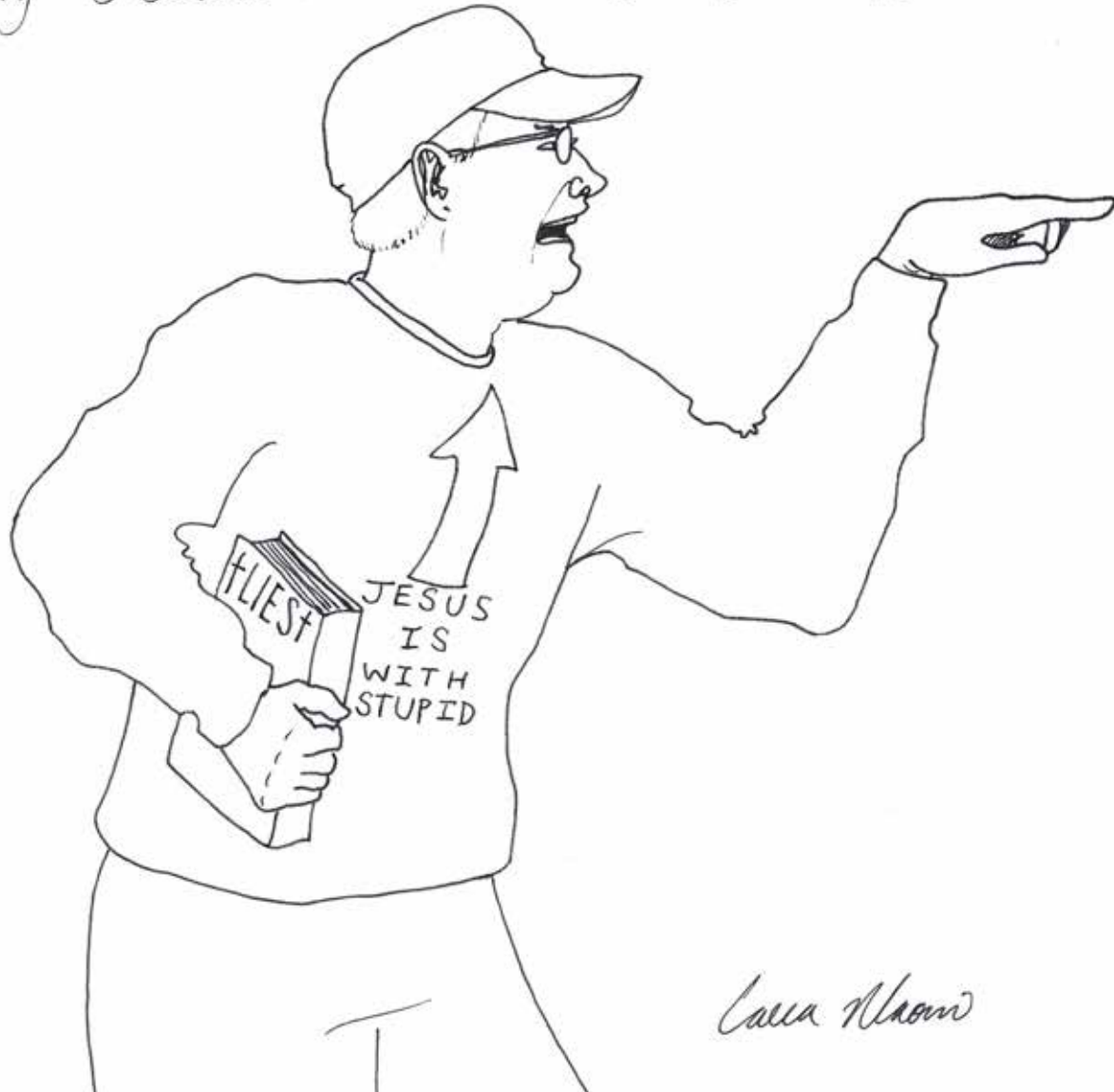
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*I have found that the best way to evangelize -
BY FAR! - is to yell insults at young adults while wearing
a long-sleeved T-shirt in the hot sun!*



COLUMN

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

The University Counseling Center recently relocated to 320 Lester Hall and wanted to remind the campus community of our services and our availability for students, faculty and staff. The University Counseling Center espouses a philosophy of acceptance, compassion and support for all individuals we serve regardless of their racial or ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious or spiritual beliefs, socioeconomic status, culture, nationality, age or physical ability. Our staff recognizes the negative impact that discrimination, prejudice and marginalization has in society, and we work to create a welcoming environment that expresses respect for the individual and their relationships. We value diversity and strive to foster a sense of safety and trust in all of our clients and in the therapeutic relationship. We welcome all of the campus community to our new space and look forward to serving each of you. Please stop by the office or give us a call at 662-915-3784.

Sincerely,
Bud Edwards, PhD, LP, HSPP
Director, University Counseling Center

Note:

No article printed on page 5 of the Monday edition of The Daily Mississippian due to a production error. The article, 'Ole Miss professor brings debut novel to Square Books' can be found online at thedmonline.com.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS, 38677-1848, or e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

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
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

TERRORISM continued from page 1

dom doors, however, the counterterrorism office said. Like any form of social tracking, those who are most likely to receive propaganda materials are those who have shown interest in a group or cause. For some, the initial flagging can be as simple as background research on a group. For others, it's a push from violent video games to violence in the real world.

For Mississippi Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), this poses a difficult threat.

"I think (online recruitment for terror groups) made it more difficult for authorities because it has encouraged the rise of the lone wolf," Sen. Roger Wicker said. "When a group is acting, it is more likely that authorities have some sort of detection. But when a lone wolf is reading Facebook or Twitter or Snapchat, that's very hard to pinpoint."

Wicker said although social networking has been positive for society, its ability to be used for cyberterror and recruitment increases the need for individual responsibility.

"I don't know if we should be frightened, but we should be mindful of it," Wicker said. "There have always been vulnerable people out there. It's just easier to get to them for nefarious purposes."



PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS (MELANIE THORTIS)

Mississippi State student Jaelyn Young pleaded guilty to knowingly attempt to join ISIS this month.

Staffers in the office of U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran said addressing this problem is an ongoing, evolving effort. Identifying and tracking "lone-wolf" style terrorists pushes the boundaries between security and individual privacy, they said.

Cochran is currently chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee and was the first chair of the Homeland Security appropriations subcommittee. He has witnessed the change in recruitment style over the past decade.

This is, Cochran's office said, a 21st century problem and the ways to address it are not clear yet.

In order to address terrorism recruitment, one must understand why individuals join these groups. Although the need to find

acceptance is a common motivation for would-be terrorists, David Hazony said it is also rooted deeply in mistrust of the American government.

Hazony is the editor of The Tower Magazine and a senior member of The Israel Project, an educational organization that provides contextualizing information for the public and media about Israel and the Middle East.

"Today in America, there are a lot of people who are very angry about the system and I'm sure terror organizations are taking advantage of that," Hazony said. "If I were a terror organization looking for Americans who would be on my side, I would say look for people who are very disaffected, people who have come to believe the American system is really evil."

PICNIC continued from page 1

do the right thing."

Currence said although he is disappointed there will not be a picnic this year, it is for a good cause. "I'm sorry for the folks that would attend the picnic in the park, but these are the sorts of ramifications this sort of odious legislation provides," Currence said.

Ignacio Murillo, a 2014 Ole Miss alumnus, said he understood the reasoning behind cancelling this event.

"I enjoyed how (the picnic)

showed Mississippi's culture to New Yorkers, but at the same time I understand why they would cancel it," Murillo said. "New York is very diverse and open to everything. I support them canceling it because I think what Gov. Phil Bryant is doing is messed up. It would be weird to celebrate a culture that does not celebrate diversity or open-mindedness."

Murillo, who moved to New

York after graduation, said bills like this religious freedom bill set our state back and make it hard to claim Mississippi as a home.

"It's just hard to be proud of where I'm from when the place where I'm from is not open to diversity," Murillo said. "I don't know how they think it's a good idea for someone to be denied anything because of their sexual preferences."

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RAT continued from page 1

Hazony said ISIS represents a new phase in terror called "inspired terror." Inspired terror is the ability of individuals to commit acts in the name of terror organizations without ever being directly contacted by the organization. Hazony said the greatest example of inspired terror is the attacks in San Bernardino on Dec. 2, 2015, when 14 people were killed and 22 seriously injured in a mass shooting and attempted bombing by a married couple.

The attacks could not be directly linked to any terror organization until the discovery of one assailant's pledge of her loyalty to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Facebook, according to CNN.

This inspired terror further complicates the issue. How do you track a terror group that never reaches out to its operatives? According to Hazony, we just don't know yet.

"UMMC should be using best practices in line with what other major research and medical facilities are doing," Eliason said. "In these types of experiments, the potential benefits of the research can be questionable. To the extent we are not using best practices, we should bring our procedures in line with those standards."

Eliason said it is important to find other research methods in order to eventually limit or end animal testing.

"Unnecessary cruelty to animals is unacceptable and we have a responsibility to conduct research as ethically as possible, particularly where animal testing is involved," Eliason said. "To the extent possible, animal testing should be minimized or eliminated."

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Another Reason Why Southwest Is Your Best Choice

Movie review: Disney's 'Zootopia' is a wild ride

MARY MOSES HITT
mhitt@go.olemiss.edu

RATING: A-

The animated films produced by Pixar over the last decade have revived the originality of the genre and upped the ante for other animated corporations. "Inside Out" even earned a Best Original Screenplay Oscar nomination validating its innovative plot. Less than one year later, Disney Animated Features has released "Zootopia," a clever, multi-faceted story that could go on to earn another animated film the same honor.

Going into the movie, I only had the knowledge that the first trailer offered me. The film was going to be about an anthropomorphic society with some sort of rivalry between a bunny cop and a sly fox. For the sake of avoiding spoilers, all I will say is that it is so much more. "Zootopia" was all the beloved genres of film mixed into one—a crime-solving mystery, an underdog's journey and an exploration of culture and morality.

Our main character is Judy Hopps, energetically voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin, a rural rabbit who dreams of becoming the first ever bunny to become a police officer and live in the big city of Zootopia. Our idealistic heroine dreams of breaking barriers not just with her own career aspirations but also in Zootopia, which she describes as "a place where predators and prey live in peace and harmony."

When Judy arrives in the big city, the camera zooms out to show all the different sized doors on her train for animals as tall as an elephant and as short as a gerbil to exit out of. To this country girl, everything is new and exciting. Hippos are entering into the train station through water channels, juice shops are launching their beverages up portals to accommodate the heights of thirsty giraffes and superstar Gazelle (Shakira) is sing-



COURTESY: MOVIEPOSTERDB.COM

ing the film's original song "Try Everything" on a Times Square-style digital billboard.

The variety of shapes and sizes found in the animal kingdom did not deter production designer David Goetz from crafting a colorful, clever and all-accommodating Zootopia, complete with ample amounts of American cultural references— both accurate

and humorous.

Judy's tiny apartment, microwave dinner and noisy neighbors make her first night a lot less glamorous than her arrival, but thoughts of her first day on the force keep her spirits up.

Her fellow members on the Zootopia Police Department are the biggest of mammals, such as elephants, rhinos and hippos.

Basically, any animal the creators could sell as a stereotypical "all brawn, no brains" character in an obvious job at the law enforcement.

Her small size and optimism do nothing to convince her police chief Bogo (Idris Elba) that she's suitable for anything more adventurous than parking duty. However, it's on her assignment

as a meter maid that she meets Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a fox who scams by profession and who becomes an integral part of the story from this point on.

Judy and Nick's rocky start blossoms into the two becoming a dynamic duo as they take on the task of trying to solve Zootopia's multiple missing-persons cases in a 48-hour deadline. Along the way this predator and prey pair learn to follow their instincts over preconceived notions. They find adventure and friendship through many well-placed twists and turns as they uncover who the real enemy is as well as what's truly important.

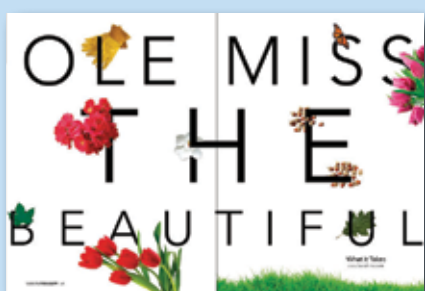
Their journey is enthralling to watch as they attempt to solve Zootopia's biggest case: why predators are reverting to their savage instincts and disappearing. They make a hilarious pit stop at the DMV, which is comically manned by a team of sloths. They run into trouble with Mr. Big, whose entire scene is a reference to "The Godfather" (1972). They follow a clue that leads them to a naturalist cult, where to Judy's horror, none of the animals are wearing any clothes.

The whole film takes a subtle, passive aggressive approach to offer timely lessons of inclusion and empowerment. Thanks to the mayor's Mammal Inclusion Initiative, a bunny can be a cop if she wants to, only not really, because no one takes her seriously. Predators and prey live in harmony, except not really, because even though prey make up 90 percent of the population, the predators are still in power. Addressing bold issues like social prejudice adds an unexpected but well executed layer of depth to the film.

Disney's charming "Zootopia" was an enjoyable adventure with wonderful characters and beautiful animation. It delivers a clever mix of mature themes and children's humor that "everybunny" should go see.

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29
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Proud Larry's hosts local musician, songwriter round

TAYLOR NELSON
tnnelson@go.olemiss.edu

Tonight is the fifth songwriters' round at Proud Larry's, a bi-weekly, free night of music that is a little different from anything else in Oxford. Common in Nashville and other larger cities, these nights feature local artists with Q&A's and performances, giving an in-depth and intimate view on the songwriters' processes and their motivations for doing what they do.

Will Griffith, bartender at Proud Larry's and local musician with "The Great Dying," said he wanted to replicate experiences he had playing in Nashville. Griffith participated in the first songwriter round table, aptly named, "Larry in the Round," in February with Sean Kirkpatrick of "Greater Pyrenees" (previously "Colour Revolt"), along with local singer-songwriters Austin Smith and Anne Freeman. The nights are the brainchild of Griffith and Shane Prewitt ("Reels" and "Group Text"), who organizes the lineup for each week and has orchestrated the Q&A ses-



Four musicians taking part in "Larry in the Round" at Proud Larry's in February.

COURTESY: SHANE PREWITT

sion during each event so far.

"One thing for me, an intention for this, was that it would spark people to write more songs," Prewitt said. "There were a few people that had never performed solo, definitely never done a writer's round, and some people that hadn't performed in town yet."

This idea is a driving force behind a writers' round table, and so far it has been very successful in Oxford.

"There were some people who were like, 'Well, I've got three songs written, and I guess I could write another by next week,' and it gives them a little more inspiration and confidence to perform that song," Prewitt said.

The setting at each session is very laid-back; the artists converse with each other onstage, answer questions and play a song each. Then, they perform individual mini-sets of three

songs. It gives them a chance to connect with the crowd, and to occasionally try a song for the first time live. Though it hasn't happened yet, another hope of Prewitt and Griffith's is that new bands or side projects form on stage. This is a chance for artists to meet other musicians and collaborate.

"We've made it a goal to include at least one female songwriter, a wide age range each week and also to bring in mu-

sicians who haven't played together," Prewitt said.

The result of their effort is a new and distinct experience in Oxford. A colorful array of musicians have been featured, from veteran Randy Weeks to local newcomers like Kit Thorn, representing Oxford's growing number of diverse artists. The goal is to create a collaborative and fluid environment where artists can share ideas, make music together and give local music fans a casual and up-close look into the various creative processes each artist prefers.

Tonight, Kit Thorn ("Kit Thorn Band"), Keith Sanders, Sean O'Hara ("Nadir Bliss") and Max Hipp ("Apostles," "E*Meters") will all be featured. Plans for two more songwriter's round table nights are in the works for the rest of the spring before starting back up again in the fall. So far, several featured musicians have composed all four songs immediately after they were put on the schedule and then performed them for the first time live on stage. That is the spirit behind it all, and the hope is that more artists will come out and give it a try.

THIS WEEK IN OLE MISS SPORTS

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SUNDAY



MEN'S TENNIS



GEORGIA

PALMER/SALLOUM CENTER • 1 PM



Women's tennis sweeps Arkansas State in doubleheader

JONATHAN CREEKMORE
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The Ole Miss Rebels' women's tennis team took on Arkansas State in a doubleheader match on Tuesday, and one match was over before it started.

In the first match, the Rebels jumped on the Red Wolves quickly. Ole Miss won the doubles point with doubles wins on both the first and second courts by scores of 6-4 and 6-1.

The Rebels didn't let up as they went on to win the singles points in impressive fashion. Ole Miss earned wins on singles courts one through three. The finish order was court two, three, and one, with scores of 6-2 6-0, 6-0 6-2 and 6-2 6-1 respectively.

Arianne Hartono, ranked No. 22 nationally, dominated the court. Her first serves were effective. With her victory over Arkansas State's Julie Gauguery, Harto-

no notched her 20th victory of the season and improved to 20-9 overall and 13-3 when playing at number one singles.

With victories on the first three singles courts, the Rebels sealed the win by a score of 4-0. In the second match of the day, the Rebels and the Red Wolves decided not to start off with doubles, but instead opted to begin the match with singles.

The domination of Arkansas State in the first match spilled over into the second match. Ole Miss won the singles matches on courts two, six, three and four in that order. Natalie Suk of Ole Miss broke the game open by winning on court two by a score of 6-2, 6-0.

Suk played extremely well in both sets as she gave the Rebels a 1-0 lead. Ole Miss quickly finished up on other courts and won the match by an overall score of 4-0.



PHOTO BY: EVAN TURNER

Freshman Allie Sanford hits a backhand during her doubles match against Georgia earlier this season.

After Tuesday's matches the Rebels improved to 11-9 overall and are ranked 47th in the nation. Zalina Khairudinova and Marija Milutinovic improved their doubles record to 7-3 on the year.

Head Coach Mark Beyers said he was pleased with his team's performance on the day.

"They took care of business pretty quickly, and that's what you want," Beyers said. "You want them to stay focused get a win and get ready for the next match. We accomplished what we needed to do today. Now we move on and try to win a couple of matches on the road in the SEC this weekend."

The Rebels get back into conference play this weekend with a road trip to Arkansas on Thursday and Missouri on Saturday. Both of those matches will be important for the Rebels' standing in the upcoming SEC tournament.

WILD WEDNESDAY

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 - 19 Paperless exam
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 - 22 Handbag logo
 - 23 Latin I verb
 - 24 Poser
 - 26 Blow one's mind
 - 29 Rostrum
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 - 32 128 fl. oz.
 - 33 Ocean-going bird
 - 34 Army duds
 - 38 "Topaz" author
 - 40 Chitchat
 - 42 Girl in "Dracula"
 - 43 "Cocoon" star
 - 46 Bushwhack
 - 49 Youngest
 - Cratchit
 - 50 Not square
 - 51 Trig function
 - 52 Dog days in Dijon
 - 53 Waxy flower
 - 57 Mindy's boarder
 - 59 German coins
 - 60 Talked at length
- DOWN**
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 - 2 — Khan
 - 3 Wildlife refuge
 - 4 Lombardi of coaching
 - 5 Swashbuckler's shout (2 wds.)
 - 6 Worrying too much
 - 7 Loughlin of "Fuller House"
 - 8 Royal decree
 - 9 Solstice mo.
 - 10 Closed carriage
 - 11 Stagger
 - 12 Low-tech calculators
 - 13 Gainsay
 - 21 German coal region
 - 22 Pour forth
 - 25 Squirrel hangout

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

M	A	G	I	F	A	M	E	D	P	L	O	P
G	R	A	N	A	M	I	N	O	R	A	N	I
R	I	D	S	C	O	N	D	O	L	E	N	C
U	T	U	R	N	D	U	C	K	E	D		
G	I	R	D	L	E	I	A	G	O			
B	A	R	E	S	T	A	D	D	O	M	E	N
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26 Water, to Juana

27 Balmy

28 Nadelman or Ducommun

30 Chairs

35 Toy on a string

36 No future —

37 Ditto

39 Tall beer glass

41 Like a toque

44 Female lobsters

45 Prefix for center

47 Dwarf buffalo

48 Suffuse

53 Honks

54 Jazzman — Blake

55 Search blindly

56 Mimicry

58 French Legion caps

61 Half of AD

62 LP speeds

63 Fashion magazine

64 Pashas

66 Diner staple

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3			4					

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

SUPER TOUGH

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

SEC Baseball power poll

COLLIN BRISTER
thedmsports@gmail.com



1. SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina is off to a blazing hot start in SEC play, as they swept Tennessee this past weekend. The Gamecocks have swept three of their four series in SEC play and currently sit atop the standings at 10-2. The Gamecocks are led on the mound by Clarke Schmidt, who has dominated in SEC play.



2. MISSISSIPPI STATE

Good lord, what a job John Cohen has done. From 8-22 last year to 8-4 in SEC play after four series. The Bulldogs dropped last Friday's opener to Florida with first-round pick Dakota Hudson on the mound, but rebounded nicely and cured their Sunday pitching woes. The Bulldogs host Texas A&M this weekend in a series that could go a long way in determining the West champion.



3. FLORIDA

The Gators may be the most talented team in the SEC, but they've been inconsistent so far. The Gators were without the services of first-round pick A.J. Puk last weekend, but Florida struggled offensively against the Bulldogs and couldn't get anything on the board on Sunday until a Peter Alonso two-out home run in the ninth inning. The Gators are a definite national title contender, however, and will be a force to be reckoned with come June.



4. KENTUCKY

It's time to buy into the Wildcats. Kentucky is 9-3 in SEC play with a series win over Florida. While, yes, Kentucky has an advantage with their stadium confines (I think it's around 255 feet to the left field foul pole) they've played extremely well so far early in SEC play.



5. TEXAS A&M

They hit. They hit a lot. They hit everything and everyone. They shelled Georgia ace Robert Tyler on Friday night, and put up around a billion runs. The Aggies will have to pitch a tad better if they're going to make national title noise, but man, can they swing it.



6. VANDERBILT

I'm not convinced Vanderbilt is as high as I have them. I have serious questions about their starting rotation and, frankly, if this team can hit. They looked confused the first two games at Alex Box Stadium last weekend. The Commodores will always have flame-throwers on the hill, but they may have taken a step back.



7. LSU

While the Tigers don't look like their normal selves so far, they've won two series in a row and may be piecing it together. They have a dominant weekend arm in Alex Lange and are always a tough out come postseason play.



8. OLE MISS

Ole Miss played arguably their best weekend of the year this past weekend. Arkansas has struggled as of late, but the Rebels really took the fight to Arkansas. The Rebels jumped out early and didn't look back on Friday and Saturday. Ole Miss has to keep that type of play going forward. Ole Miss' RPI is at 4 right now.



9. ALABAMA

The Crimson Tide lost two of three to Kentucky last weekend. The Tide have a dominant Friday night arm in Geoffrey Bramblett, who has a 2.39 ERA in eight starts this season. The Crimson Tide had an early season series win over Maryland, but the Terrapins have struggled this year.



10. TENNESSEE

While, yes, Tennessee was swept this weekend, they played pretty well in Columbia against the Gamecocks. Tennessee is without two of their best players in Kyle Serrano and Jeff Moberg who are missing the season with injuries. The Volunteers hit extremely well and will provide a tough time for some higher-level competition on the weekend.



11. ARKANSAS

So starting a midweek guy, your closer, and a random reliever didn't work out, huh? How about that.



12. GEORGIA

The Bulldogs have Robert Tyler on the mound who gives them a chance every Friday night, except last Friday night when he got bombed by Texas A&M.



13. MISSOURI

They took two of three from Auburn last weekend, so they get the precious 13th spot in this weekend's power poll.



14. AUBURN

If you think about it, the season is almost halfway over.

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Diamond Rebels set to face Southern Miss today



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Errol Robinson throws the ball to first base during Ole Miss' win over Arkansas last Sunday.

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

For the second time in just over a week, Ole Miss will face Southern Miss in a midweek contest, this one coming at Swayze Field.

The two teams met eight days ago at Trustmark Park in Pearl for their annual neutral-site meeting, a game the Rebels won 6-2. Freshman right-hander James McArthur went six innings and scattered four hits without allowing an earned run in his fourth consecutive win. Ole Miss blitzed junior right-hander Mason Walley offensively, scoring all six of its runs in the first four innings as Walley lasted just

2.2 innings and was charged for five of the six runs scored. Ryan Olenek and Connor Cloyd each had a pair of RBIs on the night.

McArthur has helped Ole Miss improve to 8-0 in midweek games for just the third time in school history.

It will be the same story on the mound for Ole Miss in the rematch as McArthur (4-0) will look to record his fifth consecutive victory. Southern Miss will go a different route and will start freshman left-hander Stevie Powers. He has seven appearances for the Golden Eagles this season, two of which were starts, but he did not factor in the decision in either. Powers has tossed a total of 14.1 innings this year and has

yielded four earned runs on 11 hits and given up nine walks.

Unlike in the first meeting, when Ole Miss came into the game having lost five out of its last six, the Rebels have garnered some momentum, having swept Arkansas over the weekend and riding a five-game win streak.

"We've played well. It's good we've rebounded after a stretch there of about five games, and we've played well since that Saturday at Starkville," Ole Miss Head Coach Mike Bianco said after Sunday's 8-7 win that completed the sweep of Arkansas.

After hitting a bit of a lull offensively during the stretch that Bianco alluded to, the offense has come to life. Ole Miss

has scored at least six runs in its last five games and compiled 29 over the weekend.

"I think we just continued to do what we do, and continue to work," Bianco said. "I'm proud of Coach Clement. You know, sometimes you've got to stay the course. Sometimes you've got to get back to who you are, and they've worked really hard."

None more so than Errol Robinson, who, after having his average dip into the 100-range to begin conference play, has at least two hits in his last five games and has seen his average rise to .254 during the stretch.

"It's baseball, and things happen. Unfortunately, they might not go my way," Robinson said after Friday's win. "But I don't

think I was pressing. I think it's just baseball and that's how things happen."

"Again, it's baseball and hitting comes and goes at times, but I think they realize that, an older lineup that was able to bounce back," Bianco said.

Southern Miss swept Middle Tennessee State over the weekend, and slid into the top 25 in a number of polls. The Golden Eagles come into the game ranked as high as No. 18, making this the tenth ranked opponent in Ole Miss' last 18 games. The Rebels also moved up in the polls after their sweep, and enter ranked as high as eighth nationally.

First pitch from Swayze is set for 6:30 p.m.

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- 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.
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- Et cetera.

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