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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

It's lit: University kicks off holiday season



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Students look on as the annual Christmas tree lighting takes place in the Circle on Wednesday. Student Activities Association's Hotty Toddy Holidays event also included pictures with Santa, ice skating and free snacks

Docufilm explores HIV in the South

JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD
STAFF WRITER

To raise HIV awareness and honor World AIDS Day, the Oxford Film Festival and the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies will host a free screening of the documentary "deepsouth" at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Powerhouse.

Released in 2012, "deepsouth" explores the neglected HIV/AIDS crisis in the rural American South through the lens of a college student living in the Mississippi Delta and two HIV activists who, despite challenges with resources and bureaucracy, devote their lives to preventing the spread of AIDS and helping those already infected to live a healthy life.

"As one of the top lethal diseases in both America and worldwide, it is critical to better understand and instill change in how the world views and combats

SEE AIDS AWARENESS PAGE 3

Office of Sustainability hosts Native Planting Day

KENDALL PATTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Sustainability hosted its second Native Planting Day on Wednesday morning at the intersection of Fraternity Row and Vaught Lane. The event was part of the University of Mississippi Green Fund Project.

Native Planting Day started after Jason Hoeksema, associate professor in the Department of Biology, and a group of students received a grant from the Green Fund Project in 2014 to plant native plants. The Green Fund Project provides funds for

projects regarding energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability and more.

Hoeksema, after receiving the grant, proposed the idea of hosting a Native Planting Day in 2015, and the university held the first Native Planting Day in spring 2016.

"The overall goal is to highlight how native plants can be used and can really support native birds by supplying them a lot of food," Hoeksema said.

During the event Wednesday, participants planted more than 50 Christmas fern plants and about 500 white wood aster plants.

The plants are provided by

Strawberry Plains Audubon Center in Holly Springs.

"This is one of our number one favorite partnerships," said Mitch Robinson, conservation education manager at Strawberry Plains. "We see the university as a tremendous asset both as a partner with the Office of Sustainability as well as just working with the biology department and environmental studies minor."

The Office of Sustainability and Strawberry Plains Audubon Center also see this as an opportunity to keep Ole Miss beautiful.

SEE PLANTING PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Strawberry Plains Audubon worker Mitch Robinson demonstrates to volunteers how to pull plugs out of crates on Wednesday. 2,500 plugs of Christmas ferns and white wood asters were planted at the corner of Fraternity Row and Vaught Drive.

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COLUMN

Turning around Trump's theories



DANIEL PAYNE
STAFF COLUMNIST

Within the past two months, the United States has witnessed two of the worst mass shootings in its history: the first in Nevada, the second in Texas. Both attackers were widely regarded as lone wolves with mental problems and troubled pasts.

There was another terrorist attack in New York City that occurred between the other two shootings. This attack was considered a part of a larger problem, often labeled by some politicians as an act of Islamic extremism.

President Donald Trump, being one of the politicians who links violent acts to a particular region, skin color or religion, quickly responded as expected — by tweeting

about the need to keep people of different ethnicities, nationalities and beliefs out of our country.

It's easy for many Americans to passively accept these prejudiced ideas because the people hurt by them are unknown. When someone is seen as "the other," that person loses his or her humanity, and empathy is lost via immoral judgements of how to treat him or her.

In order to humanize those who have been discriminated against by some politicians, I have turned the tables and applied Trump's theories to, arguably, the most powerful demographic in America: white men.

- White men came to this nation as illegal aliens. They destroyed the land, putting burger restaurants on every corner and disregarding the great cultures that once existed here. Bringing violence, disease and strange cultures, they conquered innocent people and tore down the monuments to a great, Native-American heritage.

- We need to make

America great again. The way to do that — if one is to judge people according to stereotypes — is to force all white men to emigrate.

- Just look at the way they bring crime to our towns and cities. Mass shootings and tax evasion are destroying the great foundations of the Americas: sharing land and resources while respecting neighbors. These are some bad guys.

- We need to secure the border with Canada. People are flooding in without being checked to see if they could be the next mass shooters. We need extreme vetting of people from majority-Christian nations.

- How can we know their birth certificates are legitimate? We can't. That's why the U.S. only has one option to restore law and order, to secure our nation and make it great again: secure our borders from countries with majority white populations and deport the ones who are here

illegally. Putting ourselves in the shoes of those who are marginalized is important in understanding even a small taste of the experiences of those marginalized by our government. If it sounds ridiculous to treat one group of people in this manner, it's probably because it's ridiculous to treat any group of people that way.

Daniel Payne is a sophomore integrated marketing communications major from Collierville, Tennessee.

CORRECTION:

An article on the front page of Wednesday's edition about the Books and Bears event should have said that it was created 20 years ago by Donald Cole, assistant provost and math professor, and Jan Murray, liberal arts associate dean and art professor.

THE DAILY
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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be 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



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Strawberry Plains Audubon worker Mitch Robinson (right) instructs volunteers how to plant Christmas ferns and white wood asters at the corner of Fraternity Row and Vaught Drive on Wednesday. 2,500 plugs were planted.

PLANTING continued from page 1

“One thing that we would hope is that the plants continue to enhance the beauty of the campus and the Grove,” Robinson said.

The plants planted will be a part of the general maintenance of the landscaping done for the university.

Another goal of planting native plants is to encourage native habitats on campus, according to Kendall McDonald, sustainability fellow of the Office of Sustainability.

This semester, 35 people signed up to participate in the event.

“It’s also an excellent educational opportunity for our volunteers. They get to learn what native plants are, what they do for pollinators, and they get to kind of go out and work outside for a little bit and might not be something they’re typically able to do,” McDonald said. “So we

kind of like to be able to facilitate that experience.”

McDonald said many of the volunteers were just students looking for ways to get involved.

“I used to work on an organic farm back in high school, and I haven’t been able to get my hands in the soil since high school,” volunteer Patrick Oellerich said. “So it’s nice to get my hands back in the ground.”

Robinson said he thinks the event is a great way for students to learn more about the importance of the ecosystem, and he hopes the event continues to thrive on campus.

“It’s a way for them to get engaged at a community level with a place like Strawberry Plains Audubon Center and then to think about in terms of their studies and their understanding of the importance of having ecosystems that support all wildlife and not just humans,” he said. “Hopefully, in time, as more of this gets established, we could expand into other areas on campus.”

AIDS AWARENESS continued from page 1

this disease,” said Melanie Addington, executive director of Oxford Film Festival. “As a non-profit who seeks to cover all areas of film, this was absolutely an opportunity to actively play a role.”

Addington said she is excited to partner with several organizations to provide the screening for free. The Sarah Isom Center, UM Health Promotion, Out Oxford and the UM student group Queer People of Color came together to sponsor the screening.

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, which founded and runs the Oxford Film Festival, is housed in the Powerhouse, where the screening is. Council director Wayne Andrews said films like this, especially ones produced in the state, help connect people through common experiences.

“This film provides an opportunity through a documentary to understand the challenges facing neighbors and observe from their point of view,” Andrews said.

Theresa Starkey, associate director of the Sarah Isom Center, said HIV greatly affects Mississippi, particularly the Delta and Jackson areas.

This summer, The New York Times published a magazine article titled “America’s Hidden H.I.V. Epidemic,” which focused

on the Jackson area and cited statistics from various university studies. The article said Jackson has the nation’s highest rate — 40 percent — of gay and bisexual men living with HIV.

According to a 2014 Duke University study, Southern states hold 37 percent of the country’s population but accounted for 54 percent of all new HIV diagnoses. The analysis also stated that 2,952 people in the Deep South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas) died with HIV as an underlying cause, with the highest death rates in Mississippi and Louisiana.

A 2012/13 Emory University study found the South is home to 21 of the 25 metropolitan areas with the highest HIV prevalence among gay and bisexual men.

“deepsouth” aims to redefine traditional Southern values in order to create plausible solutions to surviving HIV despite the alarming statistics.

“deepsouth’ attempts to break the silence that surrounds the disease and its stigma in places like the South, where conversations around sex, sexuality, gender and sex education are often very difficult and highly contested,” Starkey said.

After the screening, two of the film’s protagonists — Monica Johnson and Kathie Hiers — will be available for a Q&A session.

Monica Johnson founded HEROES, which stands for “Helping Everyone Receive Ongoing and Effective Support,” in 1995 and focuses on improving the physical, economic and social health of those impacted by HIV and AIDS in rural Louisiana.

Ten years before founding HEROES, Johnson discovered that the person whose blood was given to her during a hospital visit had died of AIDS. Her son was born HIV-positive and died before reaching the age of 4.

Kathie Hiers is the chief executive officer of “AIDS Alabama,” which, for 30 years, has been working on housing, policy and advocacy, supportive services, HIV prevention and education and free and confidential HIV testing.

Starkey, Isom Center director, said she encourages students to attend the screening in order to learn about important health issues affecting their region.

“The film encourages important community dialogue on issues related to gender and sexuality and shows how individuals can become important catalysts in their communities and advocates for social change, especially when it comes to raising awareness about HIV and helping communities who need resources,” Starkey said.

*Logan Williamson
contributed to the reporting
for this article.*

LOU community gathers for Hotty Toddy Holidays



PHOTOS BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

The Student Activities Association put on Hotty Toddy Holidays on Wednesday. Besides the Christmas tree lighting, the event also included pictures with Santa, arts and crafts, ice skating and free snacks.

PODCASTS of the week

ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA
DESIGN EDITOR

I'm never sure what to do during the six-week break away from college. At times, living under my parents' routine becomes dreadful. I've already found myself questioning how many episodes of "Scandal" and reality show reruns I'll cram into those six weeks. Or how many times my little sister will barge into room and disregard my privacy before I say enough is enough.

When the going gets tough, or when you just want to escape your family, the following podcasts serve as a breather from all that chaos. Grab some headphones, but don't lock yourself in your room all day, because I'm pretty sure I just heard your mom calling you downstairs to take the chicken out of the freezer for dinner and to be productive.

YOU MADE IT WEIRD



PHOTO COURTESY: ITUNES

Comedian Peter Holmes focuses on all things eccentric on his weekly comedy, "You Made It Weird." In each lengthy episode, Holmes brings guests of all types on the show — authors, pastors, comedians, musicians and scientists. The podcast is both funny and serious, and it delves deep into topics that explore philosophy, and it gives advice on more serious things, like careers and relationships. Holmes brings a dynamic

interview style to the table by asking guests three weird things they knew about him. His style makes for an authentic and unique show. Previous guests on the show include stand-up comedian Dane Cook, Bill Nye and David Koechner.

HOMECOMING



PHOTO COURTESY: GIMLET MEDIA

A psychological thriller, "Homecoming" focuses on a caseworker at an experimental facility, a soldier and her colleagues in its first season. The fictional podcast, through Gimlet Media, uses telephone calls and therapy sessions to create its dramatic environment. It features actors Catherine Keener, David Schwimmer and Oscar Isaac. Though it may resemble an HBO drama

series when listening, the thriller is comprised of gripping narration and will make you map out what you're hearing. Like any series, it requires concentration and attention to minute details to avoid missing important messages throughout the show. The plot is dimmed down, and the scope broadens in the second season, revealing new information and introducing new characters. Disclaimer, the second season isn't as good as the first. Though it's still a great story, the thrill isn't similar to the first season. However, "Homecoming" is the perfect show to listen to on the long car ride home.

TERRIBLE, THANKS FOR ASKING



PHOTO COURTESY: APM PODCASTS

"Terrible, thanks for asking" isn't the typical response when asked how your day is; in fact, it's straightforward and a bit awkward, and that's exactly what this podcast is centered around. Host Nora McInerney will make you feel awkward at times, but she will also make you laugh and think about pressing situations worldwide, such as sexual assault, the justice system and the #MeToo movement — situations that aren't

brought up in everyday conversations. Launched last November, McInerney's podcast illustrates each episode as if it's a film, composed with graphic details and imagery. The podcast is honest and, at times, dark. By bringing these salient topics to the table, McInerney puts the topics into perspective, making the emotional rollercoaster after each listen worth it.

DESIGN MATTERS



PHOTO COURTESY: ITUNES

There are not many podcasts around about design, and as a designer, that's both concerning and saddening — sometimes. "Design Matters" is every designer's dream podcast. Hosted by writer and artist Debbie Millman, the show profiles leaders and educators in the design realm. Most episodes focus on how these leaders use design in their everyday lives and changes they've seen in the industry. But that's not the only thing that's discussed on the show. Previous episodes have featured interviews with guests

about vulnerability, courage and collaboration in careers. Millman brings classic conversation to the show, making it thought-provoking and stimulating. She has interviewed iconic designers, ones I idolize and who are a big names in the design world. A personal favorite featured Michael Bierut on why he thinks design is cool. Bierut provides insight through personal experience, how he saves the creativity process for last when designing and how early he became interested in his profession. Not to mention, he was the designer behind Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential logo, which, in my opinion, is the perfect example of a simple yet modern logo that used thematic versatility. Whether you're into design or not, this podcast is one that grabs the attention of everyone.



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Novel highlights Yellowstone's struggles with wolves

MEGAN SWARTZFAGER
STAFF WRITER

Off Square Books will host award-winning author Nate Blakeslee at 5 p.m. tonight for a signing of his newest book, "American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West."

Blakeslee, a native Texan and writer-at-large for Texas Monthly, published "American Wolf" last month through Crown Publishing Group, and he is currently touring to promote it.

"I have always wanted to visit Oxford, but this will be my first time," Blakeslee said. "It's such a great literary town."

"American Wolf" is the true story of O-Six, a famous Yellowstone wolf. From robust notes kept by wolf-watchers in Yellowstone National Park, Blakeslee crafted a book that details the complex political, social and ecological issues surrounding the reintroduction of wolves to the American West.

"We thought it was an interesting story, and even though it's set in Yellowstone, the interest in wolves is universal," Square Books manager Lyn Roberts said.

While the lives of most individual wolves go undocumented, a handful of passionate wolf-watchers recorded the life of O-Six in rich detail. This gave Blakeslee the opportunity to write about wolves in a more intimate way than is usually possible.

"One of (the wolf-watchers) gave me a treasure trove: 2,400 pages of daily observations of O-Six and her pack," Blakeslee said. "It was like the diary of a

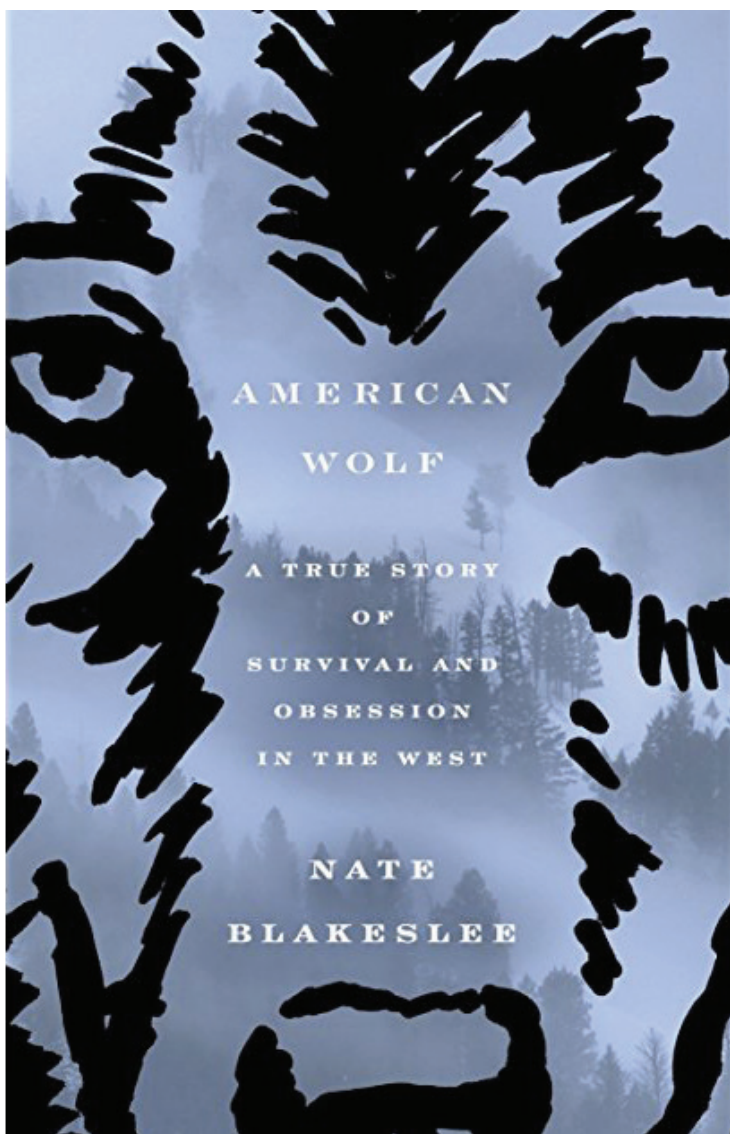


PHOTO COURTESY: GOODREADS.COM

wolf pack, filled with amazing scenes of wolf behavior, recorded in enough detail for me to build the entire book around O-Six and her family as main characters — like a Jack London story, in which everything that happens is true."

Blakeslee first became in-

terested in wolves in 2007 when he took a wolf-watching class in Yellowstone.

"I was amazed at how successful the reintroduction project had been — wolves were everywhere — but I hadn't realized how controversial it was," Blakeslee said.

Blakeslee was raised in Texas but spent a significant amount of time in the northern Rockies. Because of this, he came into contact with many of the people on both sides of the controversy.

Through his experience at Yellowstone, he met many wolf aficionados who admired the creatures and were thrilled at their reintroduction, but he also met hunters and ranchers who felt their enterprises were threatened by the predators.

When writing the book, Blakeslee said he felt strongly that he should communicate the ideas of people on both sides of the controversy. He felt the reintroduction of wolves was a good decision, but he was empathetic to those who oppose it.

Beyond producing tension between these groups, the reintroduction of wolves aggravated policy-makers. Because much of the land in the West is federally owned, local officials had little power to resist

changes that affected them and their communities.

"It became this local control versus Washington, D.C., dynamic that animates many of the public policy debates in the West these days," Blakeslee said.

The issue has a long history, and it continues to evolve. The increasing tendency of many Americans toward conservation is in direct conflict with the lifestyles of hunters and ranchers who compete with wolves.

"In a place as thoroughly exploited as the American West — first fur, then gold, then timber, then oil and gas — wilderness is something that has to be created, or re-created, by people," Blakeslee said. "The problem is that not everyone agrees on what an ideal wilderness should look like, what to leave in and what to leave out. And never was this more true than in the case of wolves."

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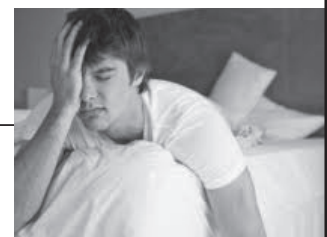
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COLUMN

CFP rankings review: The Crimson Tide gets rolled

LOGAN CONNER
STAFF WRITER

We're officially less than a week away from learning which four teams will play in this year's College Football Playoff. Last week taught us that perfection is nearly impossible, as No. 1 Alabama fell at Jordan-Hare to Auburn and No. 2 Miami was blasted at Pittsburgh. Now, we find ourselves down to two undefeated teams: Wisconsin and UCF. This week is widely known as Championship Week, and all of the pieces to the complex puzzle that is college football will come together.

After Week 13's insanity, this week's rankings were in store for a shuffling. Moving up two spots to No. 1 is the defending champ, Clemson,

who is coming off of a dominating win at South Carolina. Behind the Tigers is Auburn, who moves up four spots following a 26-14 win against former No. 1 Alabama. Oklahoma and Wisconsin both move up one spot to No. 3 and No. 4 after key conference wins, and rounding out the top five is Alabama, who drops four spots after the Iron Bowl.

Just outside of the top five, the SEC East champion Georgia only moves up one spot to No. 6 after a 38-7 rout at Bobby Dodd against Georgia Tech. The Dawgs will meet No. 2 Auburn in Atlanta on Saturday in a chance for revenge. Dropping five spots from No. 2 to No. 7 are the Miami Hurricanes, who will try to bounce back in Charlotte against No. 1 Clemson. Rounding out a list of playoff

hopefuls is No. 8 Ohio State, who will try to ruin No. 4 Wisconsin's perfect season Saturday night, and No. 9 Penn State and No. 10 USC.

After the hectic rivalry week, much movement in the latest rankings was expected and happened. No. 12 Stanford moved up nine spots after a dominating win against No. 15 Notre Dame, who dropped seven spots from No. 8. Moving up four spots after an Apple Cup rout is No. 13 Washington.

Dropping the most spots this week is No. 23 Mississippi State, who is still recovering from the loss against Ole Miss and the loss of Nick Fitzgerald and Dan Mullen, all in the matter of a few days.

This week features championship matchups from all of FBS's power five conferences that will determine who gets a shot at the National Championship. In Charlotte, the ACC Championship features No. 1 Clemson and No. 7 Miami, with the champion likely in the playoff. With the return of the Big-12 Championship, No. 3 Oklahoma will travel to AT&T Stadium for a rematch with No. 11 TCU. With a win, the Sooners would find themselves all but in.

In Indianapolis, No. 4 Wisconsin will look to stay undefeated against No. 8 Ohio State in the Big Ten Championship, its biggest test this year. For the Badgers, it is simple: win and you're in. On the flipside, Ohio State likely faces the same situation, with idle No. 5 Alabama in the way.



COURTESY: CLEMSON FOOTBALL FACEBOOK

In the matchup of the weekend, the SEC Championship features a rematch of one of the most exciting rivalries in college football. Coming off two wins against No. 1 teams in the last three weeks, the No. 2 Auburn Tigers look to keep it rolling this weekend against the No. 6 Georgia Bulldogs. Three weeks ago, Auburn won the first matchup in Jordan-Hare, 40-17. With the Dawgs seeking revenge in Atlanta, a win for Tigers will be hard to come by. As the Kirby Smart revenge tour takes an unexpected stop, a playoff spot will be on the line.

In other conference championship matchups, No. 12 Stanford and No. 10 USC

meet in San Francisco, for the Pac-12 Championship and longshot at the playoff, but more likely, a New Year's Six bid. Likewise in Orlando, undefeated No. 14 UCF hosts No. 20 Memphis for the AAC Championship and a New Year's Six bid. The Knights won the previous matchup earlier this year, 40-14.

In just four days, we will know what four teams will find themselves fighting for a national championship. The objective this weekend for many teams is simple: win and you're in. After months of wondering, we are so close to receiving the answers we desperately crave. The final question we have left to ask is this: Who's in?

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10	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	26	S	N	A	R	E	
11	G	A	O	L	27	O	T	A	S	28	E	C	O	L	
12	A	R	N	E	29	T	R	O	T	H	30	A	R	A	L
13	D	Y	E	R	31	A	N	N	O	Y	32	S	E	R	E

27 Tibia, e.g.
28 Classic cars
29 Rough files
30 Plastic or liberal, e.g.
32 Ammo
33 Having two angles
34 Feminine suffix
35 Old oath
37 Fool
38 Woody plant
39 Pest control brand
43 Teachnig of the Buddha

44 Bingo!
45 Steering system component
46 Reckoning
47 For want of ____
48 Govt. security
49 Impetuous
50 Like grass in the morning
51 Slippery ___ eel
53 Dissolve
54 One hunted
56 Colo. clock setting
58 Altdorf's canton

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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	46	47					48					
49					50	51				52	53	54
55					56				57	58		
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

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

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

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

COLUMN

SEC coaching carousel seeing major changes

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

After four months of coaching with an interim tag, Ole Miss introduced Matt Luke as the school's next head coach Monday morning. Ending athletics director Ross Bjork's long, exhausting search, the speculation finally came to a close and the Rebel fanbase is no longer left with uncertainty. However, throughout the SEC, head coaching positions remain open and chaos among the carousel has ensued.

Hours after the University of Tennessee named Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano head coach Sunday, backlash broke out across the internet and on campus regarding his ties to Jerry Sandusky and the scandal at Penn State in 2011. The university and its new head coach was slammed with negative press, even Tennessee Rep. Jeremy Faison weighed in.

"The head football coach at the University of Tennessee is the highest-paid state employee," he said. "They're the face of our state. We don't need a man who has that type of potential reproach in their life as the highest-paid state employee."

Seeing the adverse response from around the nation, athletics director John Currie backed out of the contract with the Buckeye coordinator before he even stepped foot in Knoxville. Schiano will remain as the defensive coordinator at Ohio State for now and will prepare for the Big Ten conference title game against Wisconsin.

Moving south, Dan Mullen completed his ninth season as the head coach at Mississippi State with a 31-28 loss to Ole Miss in the Egg Bowl. With a record of 69-46, he was the second-winningest coach with the Bulldogs. On Sunday evening, it was announced that Mullen was jumping ship and will be the head coach at the University of Florida. Mullen will make his second stint as a part of the Gator coaching staff after being the offensive coordinator under Urban Meyer and part of two national championship teams in 2006 and 2008.

Replacing Mullen in Starkville will be Penn State

offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead. Named the 2016 offensive coordinator of the year, Moorhead took the offensive reins for the Nittany Lions and led them to a 21-5 record. He averaged almost 40 points a game at Penn State and will look to carry toward the future the offensive firepower Mullen left. With elite quarterback Nick Fitzgerald at the helm and promise all around the Bulldogs' offense, Moorhead should have no problem in transition.

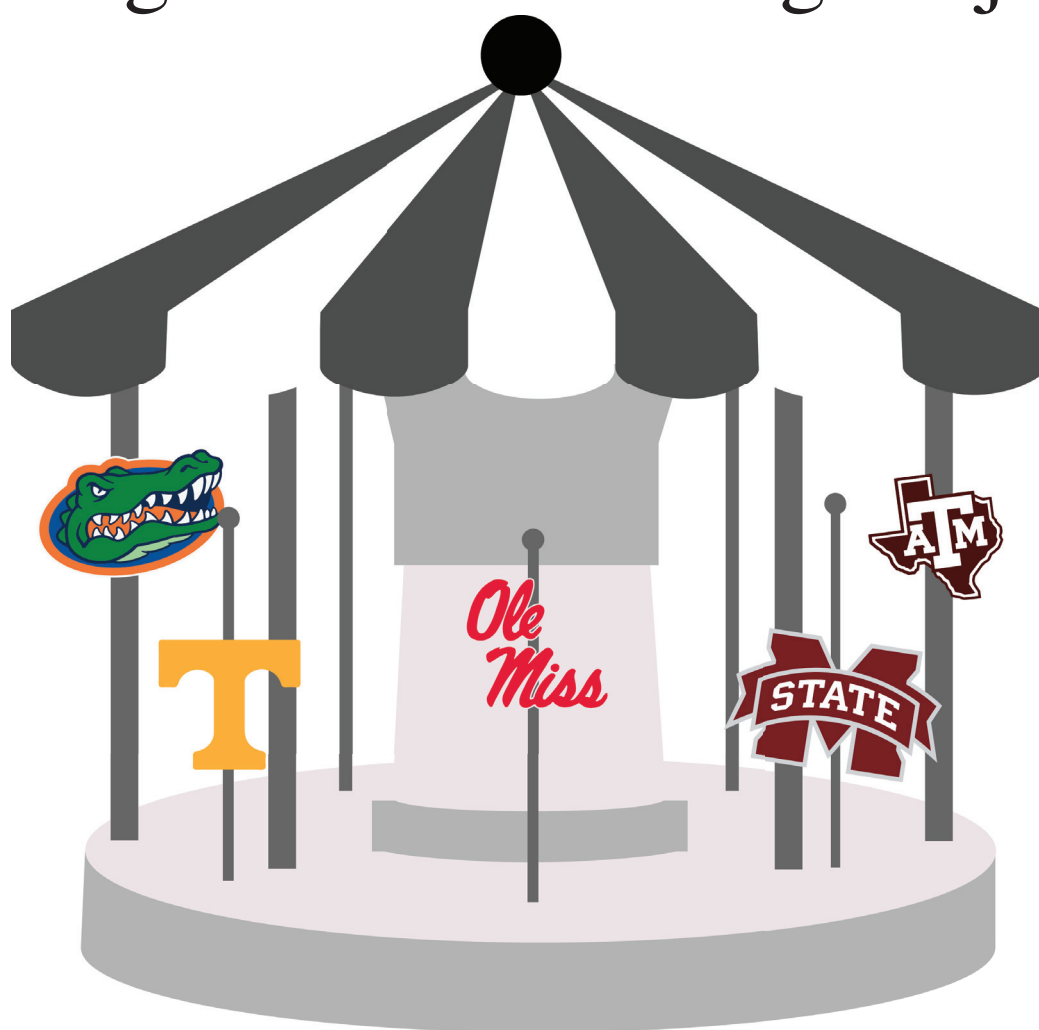
To the west, Texas A&M has fired Kevin Sumlin after not beating an SEC West team at Kyle Field since 2015 and finishing 51-26 in six seasons. Sumlin was originally hired by the Aggies in 2011 and finished his first season at 11-2 but has since failed to find any of that success he had initially. While Sumlin is rumored to be headed for the open job at Arizona State, the Aggies will have a hole in the system that needs to be filled.

A&M has yet to announce any hirings but should the contract be enticing enough, Jimbo Fisher looks to be in the cards. Fisher has been pleading for new and updated facilities at Florida State since he was promoted to head coach in Tallahassee in 2010. Fisher gave the university an ultima-

tum to either build a new \$60 million facility or he was out. Years later, no ground has yet to break, and the contract is up. On his resume is a 83-23 record and a 2013 national title, and A&M is willing to dish out some serious money to someone who owns a ring.

Though it is not an official opening, if Auburn falls any-

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY: EMILY HOFFMAN



coached high school football in Arkansas for 15 years before he became the offensive coordinator at Auburn. He then left to "go home" and became the head coach at Arkansas State before inevitably returning to Auburn after Gene Chizik's firing. The pressure to win at Arkansas is nonexistent compared to that at Auburn.

If Malzahn can pull off a nine-win season at Arkansas and win the bowl game, he gets an immediate contract extension and an extra million dollars. However, he will always live in Nick Saban's shadow in the state of Alabama, and if he doesn't get the ring this year, he's out of there.

The college football coaching carousel has been a wild ride for the last few days, with headlines seemingly breaking every 10 minutes, but there is still plenty of time left for things to go madder than a March hare. For now, Tennessee still doesn't have a coach, options are opening up for Kevin Sumlin and the future is shaky for the Tigers' coaching scene. And that is just in the SEC.

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A. J. Brown named top college football player in state

JOSH GOLLIHAR
STAFF WRITER

Between the Egg Bowl upset, the head coach search that landed on Matt Luke and the looming NCAA sanctions, the Ole Miss football program has produced a lot of news in the past week. Tuesday night was no exception when wide receiver A.J. Brown was awarded the C Spire Conerly Trophy, given annually to the best college football player in the state of Mississippi.

The standout receiver continued his breakout performance from a year ago into his sophomore campaign, and he was clearly deserving of the award. His numbers were not only some of the best in school history, but they rivaled those of nearly all receivers in the country. Throughout the year, Brown hauled in 75 catches for 1,252 yards and 11 touchdowns and broke the record for single-season receiving yards at Ole Miss. Joining Laquon Treadwell and Shay Hodge, he was one of three players

to ever reach the 1,000-yard mark in a season for the Rebels. Adding to his accolades, his 11 touchdowns tied with Treadwell for the most in a season, and today, Brown looks to his predecessor for motivation.

“Every day I saw it during the summer, I would say, ‘Sorry, but you are coming down,’” Brown said about Treadwell’s school record. “It is just second nature that I will come back next year and try to break my own.”

Even though he left the game against Cal early and only had one catch for 6 yards against Alabama, he still averaged 104.3 yards a game, which was sixth-best in the country and best in the SEC. His total yardage was fifth-best in the country.

Two games that highlighted the sophomore phenom’s season came against South Alabama and Mississippi State. In the opening game of 2017 against the Jaguars, he caught eight passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns. In the final game of 2017, he racked up 167 yards and a touchdown in his hometown



FILE PHOTO

of Starkville en route to an upset Egg Bowl win. However, his season as a whole can be considered a highlight reel.

Voted on by the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Brown beat out players from

the other nine universities that play football in the state. Most notably, Brown topped Mississippi State quarterback Nick Fitzgerald and Southern Miss running back Ito Smith. Brown was honored to receive this award

over the best the state has to offer.

“It is really special to win it because those guys were the other finalists,” Brown said. “Especially Nick because he is a great quarterback, and then Ito Smith. I honestly didn’t think I was going to win.”

After Mississippi State won three consecutive awards, Evan Engram won for the Rebels in 2016 and Ole Miss has its first ever repeat win with Brown’s honors this year. Other Rebels to bring home the prestigious award are Bo Wallace, Patrick Willis, Deuce McAllister and Stewart Patridge. In addition, Eli Manning was awarded the award twice during his time at Ole Miss.

After his historic year, Brown is already being regarded as one of the top receivers ever to play at Ole Miss, and adding this trophy to a laundry list of accolades has him on a path to be the best player to ever suit up for the Rebels. But only time will tell.

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