Students and Statesboro residents will have more dining options in the near future, but at the same time, will see other restaurants closing their doors. Some of the closures could be a direct result of the economic recession affecting the entire country, said Statesboro City Councilman John Riggs.

“It’s the economy,” he said. “It’s bad. People just don’t do date night on Friday nights and go out to eat anymore. I am saddened by all the closings.”

Christopher’s, a fine dining restaurant in Statesboro, is expected to cease operations today, said Stephen Campbell, the restaurant’s owner.

“It is what it is, I guess. My first choice would be not to close and to continue this service of a fine dining restaurant in this community,” said Campbell. He cited financial setbacks as reasoning for closing. “[I had to close] for two reasons, financial reasons and I just don’t have the staff anymore. I just wasn’t able to make it,” he said.

Scoops, the ice cream shop on South Main Street, has closed and is expected to be replaced by Blissberry, a frozen yogurt shop. A “Blissberry” sign is now hanging on the building, however, representatives of the company did not return requests for an interview.

Carey Hilliard’s has also shut down and was rumored to be replaced by Red Lobster, however, Erica Jaeger, Red Lobster spokesperson, denied those reports.

“We have no current plans to open in Statesboro,” she said.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries was also rumored to be opening a location in Statesboro, but those reports are also false.

“There are no locations currently in the working [for Statesboro],” said Molly Catalano, director of communications for Five Guys. “This doesn’t mean that there wont be one sometime, it just means that there have been no locations approved for that location. At this point, there is nothing definite.”

Despite these closures, however, Subway opened its sixth location in Statesboro last week on Lanier Drive.

The loss of several restaurants in the city is unfortunate for Statesboro residents, said Riggs. “As a citizen, [the closures] lower the number of great restaurants in our community,” he said. “I wish they could all stay open.”

GSU’s summer Watermelon Cutting to begin tomorrow

By PATRICK STOKER
George-Anne staff

With summer in full swing and Independence Day approaching, Georgia Southern University will be hosting its first “Watermelon Cutting” event of the summer tomorrow. The event, which is held twice a week during July, will take place at 10 a.m. on the pedestrian in front of the Carruth Building.

The “Watermelon Cutting” began in 1948 by the then GSU President Zach Henderson and has become a summer tradition for the university.

“Back when this was started, watermelons were actually grown on the Georgia Southern University campus partly to help feed the students who were here,” said Betsy Nolen, assistant director of communications. “This was just seen as a way to have a summer get-together for students, faculty and staff in the heat of the summer.”

The ceremonial “Watermelon Cutting” will be done by GSU President Brooks Keel and his wife, Tammie Schalue.

“They will actually cut up big wedges of watermelon to serve to anyone on campus who would like to take part,” said Nolen.

The event does not always take place on Independence Day weekend, but Nolen said it will be a good way to begin the holiday weekend this year.

“It fits in nicely this year that the first one falls on July Fourth weekend as a kick-off to that, but I wouldn’t call it specifically a Fourth of July celebration,” said Nolen. “It’s a continuation of the tradition that we’ve had for 64 years.”

CANDELIGHT VIGIL HELD

Sarah Hibbard and Jackson Jeonis lit candles at the vigil for Sha Wetherington on Thursday, June 23. See the full story on page 6.
Storms provide relief for Ogeechee water levels

By DANIEL FITZGERALD
George-Anne staff

With the recent chemical spill and the statewide drought, some experts believe swimming in the Ogeechee River is a bad idea.

According to the Ogeechee Riverkeeper, Diana Wendicamp, the Ogeechee’s water level is dangerously low.

“We do know that the river is in a severe drought right now and there is hardly any flow,” Wendicamp said. “There is definitely not enough flow to deal with the impact of waste water treatment plants and the industry that are in the upper river basin.”

South Georgia has been suffering from a drought this summer due to limited rainfall.

“It started getting really bad, I would say, in the beginning of June or late May,” Wendicamp said. “We had a good bit of significant rainfall during the early months of this year, and then it just completely stopped at the beginning of June.”

Wendicamp said that storms this past weekend have helped the river. If it continues throughout the week, the river may see some improvements.

“If it rains for the rest of the week it will definitely help the Ogeechee, but it’s probably not going to bring it up enough to deal with the waste water issues that we have on the Ogeechee River this summer,” she said.

Wendicamp said that besides the lack of rainfall, local industry and agriculture have contributed to the problem due to excessive water withdrawal.

“We need to regulate the amount of water that is being taken out of the Ogeechee River,” she said. “For agriculture, we would really like for them to stop withdrawing water directly from the Ogeechee River Basin. Some have pipes that link directly to the river and draw water from the river itself and others have well water.”

Wendicamp said both of these withdrawal techniques affect the flow of the river because it is also fed by underground springs.

“We are working on withdrawal permits now in the Ogeechee River Basin and we are trying to make sure there are no more permit issues that are extreme withdrawals from the ground water too,” she said.

Wendicamp said she hopes that with more rainfall and less water being withdrawn, the Ogeechee will be safe for people to swim in again. For now, however, she said people should avoid swimming in the river.

“I would not advise people to swim in the Ogeechee River,” Wendicamp said. “That’s for sure.”
Police Beat

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
- Officers issued one traffic citation, three traffic warnings, assisted three motorists, assisted two sick persons, responded to one alarm and investigated three accidents.
- A Southern Pines resident reported a case of financial identity theft.
- A bicycle was taken from Watson Hall.
- $35.00 was taken from a wallet at Kennedy Hall.
- A gym bag and a set of keys were taken from the RAC.
- Tyler A. Nixon, 19, Lanier Drive, was charged with two counts of burglary.

Thursday, May 5, 2011
- Officers assisted four motorists, issued three traffic warnings, eight parking citations, 14 traffic citations, served two notices of license suspension, aided one sick person, and responded to one alarm.
- A wallet was found at the Carroll Building.
- A wallet was lost near Sanford Hall.
- Two separate drug complaints were investigated two accidents.

Monday, May 9, 2011
- Officers issued two traffic citations, two traffic warnings, assisted three motorists, responded to one alarm and investigated two accidents.
- A book was taken from Sanford Hall.
- A bicycle seat was taken from a bicycle at University Villas.
- A bicycle was taken from Southern Courtyard.
- A domestic dispute was reported at Centennial Place.
- Bryce Willard Smith, 18, Lynhurst St., Atlanta was charged with possession of Schedule II Drug and possession of marijuana.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
- Officers issued five traffic citations, three traffic warnings, assisted five motorists, assisted one sick person and investigated three accidents.
- Two separate drug complaints were reported at Eagle Village.
- A picture was taken from the IT Building.
- A case of simple assault was reported at Centennial Place.
- Nelson O. Olofinayo, 19, Lanier Drive was charged with two counts of theft by receiving stolen property and one count of burglary.
- James Dylan Kirk, 25, Hospital Drive, Washington, was charged with possession of Schedule II Drug and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011
- Officers issued five traffic warnings, assisted two motorists, assisted one sick person, responded to one alarm and investigated two accidents.
- A duffel bag was left on the roof of a vehicle at Kennedy Hall and was missing when the owner returned.
- A book was taken from Eagle Village.
- A bicycle was taken from Watson Hall.
- A box of CDs were found at Southern Courtyard.

Thursday, May 12, 2011
- Officers issued one traffic citation, one traffic warning, assisted five motorists, responded to one alarm and investigated one accident.
- A vehicle was keyed (scratched) at Southern Courtyard.
- A vehicle was keyed (scratched) at Watson Hall.
- A window was damaged at Sanford Hall.

Friday, May 13, 2011
- Officers issued one traffic warning, assisted eight motorists, assisted one sick person and responded to one alarm.
- Rodney Rachez Mays, 17, Peachtree Street, was charged with theft by taking.

Saturday, May 14, 2011
- Officers issued two traffic warnings, assisted three motorists and assisted two sick persons.
- Sean Thomaas Juergens, 20, Red Bluff Circle, Rincon, was charged with underage possession/consumption of alcohol.

Sunday, May 15, 2011
- Officers issued two traffic citations, three traffic warnings, assisted one motorist and responded to one alarm.

Monday, May 16, 2011
- Officers issued one traffic citation, assisted five motorists and responded to one fire alarm at the RAC.
- A counterfeit $10 bill was reported at the Landrum Center.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
- Officers issued one traffic citation, two traffic warnings, responded to one alarm and investigated one accident.
- A case of harassment was reported at the Physical Plant.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011
- Officers issued three traffic citations, one traffic warning and responded to an alarm at the Phi Mu House.
- A window was damaged at Southern Courtyard.
- A window was damaged at Sanford Hall.

Thursday, May 19, 2011
- Officers issued four citations, four warnings, and worked one accident.
- Jerry Ming Hsun Yang, 24, South Hwy 67 was charged with driving under the influence.
- A set of keys were reported missing.
- Residents on Olympic Blvd. reported suspicious noises. Officers responded, but didn’t find anything.
VIEWS

Our View

Where’s the financial aid?

Students now have additional loan options when it comes to receiving financial aid.

According to an article last week, there is a new Student Access Loan Program designed to help students as a last resort. The article says that this means “students will be eligible for the loan only after they have exhausted all other forms of financial aid.”

Although this new loan is beneficial for students and is a much-needed aid in the university system, it’s still not enough to carry students through their collegiate careers. The program estimates that only 6,000 students will receive the loan. The students are chosen based on need and merit, then the computer randomly selects the rest of the recipients, leaving several students without any aid whatsoever.

In addition, since it’s a loan, the students will be required to pay back the money that was awarded to them 10 years upon completing school along with an interest rate, which only adds to the debt.

Due to the lack of financial aid that is available and the recent changes in the HOPE scholarship, students need more options.

The cost of four year institutions has been rising yearly and so has student enrollment. The amount of money allotted for financial aid has also risen, however, due to cuts in funding across the board and the economic downturn. There is not enough to support the amount of students attending school that require aid.

Although loans are helpful for students, they do need to be paid back over time, they do have interest rates, and they do put students further into debt. Therefore, more scholarships should be available to students. Scholarships offer money to students for free with no strings attached, which is exactly what students need in this economic state.

It’s obvious that free money is hard to come by these days, though. It appears that no one can afford to grant scholarships, not even the state of Georgia. However, we can’t help but think how much better off the educational system would be if more money were invested in it.

Educated graduates improve the country overall, as they eventually put their new skills to use in the job market. Now, we just need to find some investors in education.

New York takes step for LGBT

First, I wanted to start by acknowledging the state of New York for legalizing gay marriage. I may be alone in a rural conservative area such as Statesboro, but I believe this to be a great step for not only the LGBT community, but also for our country as a whole.

Now, they are one of six states to have legalized gay marriage and there are a lot of people unhappy about it. In talking to friends, family and associates in Georgia, it seems as if people are unhappy with this decision, even though it has no effect on them.

This issue shouldn’t be an issue at all. I don’t see where politics is necessary in issues such as these, especially when most of the support comes from religious leaders or groups. So it’s separation of church and state when it’s convenient?

I find it hard to believe that in the world in which we live today, people would criticize and get upset over issues such as gay marriage. What harm is it really doing? How does their ability to be legally married affect you at all?

There is so much going on in the world that this should not be an issue at all.

It is a big deal within the LGBT community and should be celebrated, but not criticized.

I was raised Catholic, so I should hate all the big “no nos” — gays, abortions, etc. — but I was also raised to think for myself and to make up my own mind on issues.

Many people who oppose these issues do it because of some sense of devotion to their religion, but why are we still incorporating religion into politics?

We do not have a National religion, so we don’t recognize one God or lack thereof, as being the almighty one, the end all be all. That means our political system shouldn’t be directed to follow the teachings and beliefs of your God.

If we want to achieve public happiness, we must make informed decisions when it comes to the political realm so we have a chance to improve our lives and the state of our country.

Don’t give me the, “I’m Catholic, so I believe” or “It’s against my religion to support.” While these may seem to be valid arguments, they’re simply a cover up for ignorance. Remember: friends don’t let friends vote uninformed.

Rob Roberts is a senior public relations major from Warner Robins, Ga. He ran against Alton Standifer for SGA’s presidency in 2011.
Chief Russell aims to maintain safe campus

By KEN COLYER
George-Anne staff

Chief Mike Russell is the type of person who is committed to serving the public in any fashion.

Currently, Russell is the director of public safety at Georgia Southern University, which requires him to oversee the criminal investigations division, the communications division and the environmental safety division.

He has been working at GSU for 23 years helping serve the community, as well keeping students safe.

Russell arrived at GSU in the fall of 1977 and he originally planned to stay for just one semester, then join the navy.

When the navy did not work out he planned to become a teacher, but after taking a criminal justice class, he changed his mind.

“I ended up putting myself through school,” he said. “Ended up, I was a criminal justice major, ran out of money, and my advisor told me that the Statesboro [Police Department] was hiring. I went down there and was lucky enough to get a job.”

Russell worked for the Statesboro Police Department for several years before going back to school to complete his degree.

His favorite “job” in public safety is to help plan and cover special events, such as the fall speaker series or working with Greek Life to help plan events.

“I love to help people with special events,” said Russell. “Problem solving has always been a favorite of mine.”

Aside from his work in public safety, Russell enjoys spending time with his wife and working in his yard.

“I love to solve the world’s problems on my lawnmower,” he said. “I have about three acres of grass, so it takes a while to mow.”

He also enjoys hunting and fishing. He has a small pond on his property stocked with fish.

“Have you ever heard the saying that people that have ponds never get to use them as much as people with out them?” said Russell. “I don’t get to fish as much as I’d like to.”

Russell aims to provide a safe campus and community during his time as director.

I love to help people with special events. Problem solving has always been a favorite of mine.

-Mike Russell, GSU Public Safety

Study reveals wage gap still exists in workplace

Dismissal of class action lawsuit against Wal-Mart leads to skepticism among women

By ERICA GARDNER
George-Anne contributor

A recent study revealed that women are still experiencing discrimination in the workplace and are receiving smaller salaries than men, and according to the study, transparency is one of the best ways to battle inequality.

The study, conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, comes just a week after the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the largest sex discrimination lawsuit in the nations history in which 1.5 million females filed a class action lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

The court agreed unanimously that the litigation could not proceed as a class action in its current form. The court split along 5-4 lines over whether the group presented a common claim in seeking an injunction that would have forced the retailer to change its employment practices.

The Supreme Court's decision marks a major victory for Wal-Mart, while frustrating the plaintiffs and creating skepticism among women regarding sex discrimination in the workplace.

“Women do still face discrimination and on average still earn less than men,” said Anastasia Sims, professor of history and core faculty of women's and gender studies at Georgia Southern University.

“Women have made significant progress in recent decades but challenges remain.”

The study uncovered that secrecy is the norm in the private sector. Sixty percent of private sector employees are discouraged or forbidden from discussing their pay, according to the study. This may be one of the reasons the pay gap between men and women is 23 percent in the private sector, while in the federal government, where transparency is mandated, the gap is only 11 percent.

“I think the reasons for the difference in pay between women and men are complicated, but most studies indicate that this is still a serious problem,” said Sonya Huber, affiliated faculty for women’s and gender studies at GSU.

“Employers often have a great deal of bias against women because women may choose to leave work to have a family, yet employers do not provide the kinds of support – childcare, maternity leave – that would enable a woman to work with a young child, so the biases on the part of the employers are a self-fulfilling prophecy, and they discriminate against women based on the lack of social support for childbearing, and then they use this as a justification for keeping the wages of all women low.”

Huber said it is the responsibility of women to create change in the workplace and demand equality.

“Sexism in general remains, with widely-held beliefs about women’s abilities that have nothing to do with fact,” she said. “Women just have to keep talking about this and advocating for pay equity, and men who care about women are equally responsible for advocating against this exploitation.”

Discrimination in certain sectors could discourage women from seeking employment there. A dearth of role models might, in turn, influence the next generation of girls to gravitate toward lower-paying fields, creating a cycle.

According to the study, ensuring an end to discrimination would benefit more than just women, as advocates who resist the characterization of equal pay as a zero-sum game are quick to point out. It would also benefit children too. Women’s wages have increased just half a penny on the dollar for the past four decades.

Many women are frustrated with the wage gap among men and women and are pushing for change.

“It is a very important issue because it shouldn’t still be like this with women in the workplace today,” said Michelle Zegliante, a public relations graduate of GSU. “Although, the silver lining of it is that we do recognize it and see that it is a big problem, so hopefully one day soon it will change.”
Sorority hosts candlelight vigil for recent graduate

By MEAGAN JORDAN
George-Anne Contributor

Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters, family and friends filled the front lawn of the sorority house during a candlelight vigil in memory of Sha Wetherington last Thursday, June 23.

Wetherington, who graduated this past May, passed away on June 22 in a car accident in Brooks County after leaving a job interview.

“Sha was my little,” said Mallary Taylor, a member of the sorority. “She went to Darton [College] before she came here so she was actually older than me even though she was my little sister. I pretty much knew instantly I wanted her to be my little because she was so crazy and spontaneous and the complete opposite of me.”

During the ceremony, Taylor said, “Sha was always there to encourage me to study hard and play even harder. Sha would not want us to be sad for her tonight, that is why we should celebrate her life through memories we have of her and always remember how sweet and loving she was to everyone she met.”

Many members of the sorority described Wetherington as outgoing and always having a smile on her face.

“Sha was one of the most amazing people I have ever met. I’ve never seen her frowning, ever,” said Ellen Shirley, a member of the sorority. “Honestly, to this day I have never seen her having a bad day. She will be dearly missed.”

“Sha was one of my very best friends. She was one of those people that you don’t come across very often in life. She was one of those friends who was so loyal and so genuine. Sha had the most love of anybody I have ever known,” said Amanda Peacock, a member of the sorority.

Peacock said Wetherington truly cared about others and she was always willing to help a friend in need.

Peacock also said, “She always looked at the good in people, always. She always knew the right thing to say at the right time and knew how to make you feel 10 times better about yourself. She was truly a character to be modeled after. She treated everyone equally, never judged you, and would give you the shirt off her back any day.”

Others in attendance were impressed by the sorority’s actions in a time of mourning.

“When I think about the young ladies and their sorority, their sisterhood, I know at least one of the elements their relationship with each other is the element of love,” said the pastor that spoke at the ceremony.

Surrounding fraternities, sororities and non-Greek members attended the ceremony to show their support and love for the Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters.

“It’s been really nice to get Facebook messages from people that we don’t really know or might have met in passing that are sorry to hear about our loss. It’s really nice to see the Greek community and the Georgia Southern community as a whole come together and support us,” said Michelle Brown, a member of the sorority.

Amber Wojcik, current president of Kappa Kappa Gamma, said, “We truly lost a sister and our prayers go out to her family.”

Funeral services were held for Wetherington last Saturday at Baker Funeral Home Chapel in Lenox, Ga. with Rev. Dan Robinson.

Changes affect aid program

By KEN COLYER
George-Anne Staff

The Board of Regents recently made slight changes to the Tuition Assistance Program, which would affect any University System of Georgia employee receiving aid from the program.

TAP is a program designed to aid university employees who are also enrolled in classes.

Sarah Jo Britt, personnel specialist for employee benefits, said the program has not had major changes, but the most notable change is the increase in the amount of credit hours that may be taken per semester. Employees can now receive aid for a maximum of nine credit hours as opposed to the previous eight that was permitted.

“There haven’t been any other major changes,” said Britt.

However, there are some restrictions on the programs recipients can apply for, such as medical and law programs or special examinations for admissions to degree programs.

Applicants are able to enroll in classes after traditional students have registered for classes.

Employees go through the same student admissions process as traditional students and complete a TAP application form for each semester.

“We have people here from UGA taking classes at Georgia Southern, said Britt. “As long as it’s a school in the university system and they meet the qualifications, then they can do the Tuition Assistance Program,” said Britt.

Each employee must maintain at least a “C” average and may not receive an incomplete in any of their courses. If the employee receives a grade lower than a “C” or an incomplete, then they may not apply for the program again until the following semester.

“We follow what the Board of Regents tells us, it’s pretty black and white,” said Britt.

The program covers up to $5,250 in tax-free education costs.

Britt said, “Online classes cost more and we might not write them off.”
Retriever’s Idol contestants rock GSU students

By AYANNA MOORE
George-Anne staff

Retriever’s Sports Bar & Grill, located in the University Plaza, will be hosting its very own version of the hit show “American Idol.”

Retriever’s Idol will be featured every Tuesday at 10 p.m. with free admission to all students who want to see a live performance and see a bar crowd get a little rowdy.

“I essentially took the American Idol idea and tweaked it a little bit,” said Retriever’s manager, Nathan Queen who came up with the idea and created it to inspire students and keep them entertained during the summer terms.

“It’s every Tuesday until July 26 and on that day, we’ll crown the winner,” said Queen.

The singing competition is being held this summer for the first time as a trial run.

Queen and the employees at Retriever’s are excited to see the response that the competition has received from the GSU community.

It is a test of the voting and judging systems.

Retriever’s hopes to continue the contest after they get all the minor kinks worked out.

It allows local singers to show off their vocal talents, as well as performance skills before a live audience of their peers and a trio of judges.

“There’s a panel of three judges… and a guest judge every week,” said Queen. “The judges are 50 percent and text message voting — from the audience — is 50 percent. We take these scores and average them and that’s how we see who is voted off.”

The judges mimic the set from “American Idol,” but with a southern twist and fun commentary make the night one of excitement for both the contestants and the audience.

Anyone can text in to vote, as many times as they want, after midnight on the night of the performances.

There are breaks in between for the audience members to get a refill and just chill with the performers.

The group of singers stand on stage to sing whatever genre is picked out for them by the judges and Retriever’s staff, hoping to win the crowd over.

The first week, the singers were allowed to choose their own type of music that they wanted to perform.

They could choose any style, genre or sound track that personally speaks to them.

The performers have to do different challenges each week to test their skill against the other competitors.

The second week, they were to perform soundtracks from movies.

This week was a selection of power ballads that made the crowd sing along with a passion.

Several singers even got the audience involved in the backup singing.

The following weeks will include everything, songs that are original to the performers to songs from native Georgia artists.

“There are people that do everything from traditional R&B to country,” said Queen. “That’s something unique about this contest — you have to adapt your singing.”

Queen’s hometown is Ringgold, Ga., which coincidentally, is the same city “American Idol” season 10 runner up, Lauren Alaina hails from.

Alaina had a knack for singing power ballads also, which got her far in the competition to the finale.

While the entertaining and wildly interactive event brings in a great crowd of students and Statesboro locals every week, Queen’s creation of the competition is about more than just attracting business and customers.

He plans on helping the crowned winner of the competition fulfill his or her dream as well.

“We’re going to give away $500 in cash to the winner,” said Queen. “And whenever the ‘Idol’ tryouts come to Atlanta, we’re going to send them there.”

The winner will be going to Atlanta, as well as being able to enjoy the local fame that will come from winning.

The contest ends during the same week as Term B, giving students enrolled in summer classes a fun event to attend weekly.

“It is a show,” said Queen. “And in this economy, you’ve got to make interactive ways for people to come see you.”

A crowd always forms to rant and rave with the judges. Although their rambunctious votes do not sway the judges, everyone gets involved in the night’s contest by rallying around their favorite contestants and shouting their inputs to the judges.

It is down to five finalists. They will battle every Tuesday at Retriever’s at 10 p.m.
Fireworks to add spark to students’ summers

By LEIGH ANNA SPIVY
George-Anne staff

The Forth of July is right around the corner and now begins the time when students start planning what they would like to do for Independence Day.

For those students who have decided to remain in Statesboro for the summer, this holiday will be the only break for them during this term. Students everywhere are planning carefully not to waste their precious time-off.

Fourth of July Celebrations come in many shapes and forms and the following is just a few of the many options available this coming weekend.

Mill Creek Regional Park will be hosting its 2011 Firecracker Fest, a staple for the Fourth of July celebration in Statesboro for more than 15 years. There will be a variety of entertainment available to the public beginning at 4 p.m. Monday.

The most notable events are the Subway Sub Eating Competition and the frog jumping contest, beginning at 7 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. respectively.

The party continues in the afternoon with the Pieces of Eight, a returning Firecracker Fest band, who will be performing throughout the night.

The band will be playing hits such as “Double Shot of My Baby’s Love” and “Lonely Drifter.”

Around 9 p.m., the fireworks display will commence and last until 10 p.m.

For lovers of the city of Savannah, the Fantastic Fourth on the River is the celebration in which to participate.

On the weekend of the Fourth, artisans, venders and musicians will be on River Street selling and entertaining visitors of Georgia’s First City.

Savannah’s celebration also offers one of the largest fireworks displays in the Southeast.

The fireworks will be set off along River Street at approximately 9:30 p.m.

The festivities on Tybee Island, for the 4th of July, could put anyone in the mood for celebrating.

On the Tybee Island Pier, local bands play music while numerous vendors sell goods such as high-end sunglasses, seashell jewelry and other souvenirs. Concessions include ice cream alcohol vendors.

The fireworks will start around 9:30 p.m. and last around 45 minutes.

The fireworks are staged on the pier, but they are easily viewed from any of Tybee’s eastern beaches.

The Fourth of July commemorates the day of America’s independence from Great Britain’s crown.

Hopefully this weekend will also be a time of freedom for students from the worries of work and school.

Remember to stay safe while traveling and enjoy America’s birthday with pride.

Coastal creatures inspire ceramic and print art

By LEIGH ANNA SPIVY
George-Anne staff

With life being so busy during the hot summers, it is hard to take a break and enjoy the natural beauty of Georgia, from the coastal region to the Tybee shore.

However, everyone can admire the intricacy of the Georgia marshlands with the ceramics and fibers exhibit, "Salt Marsh Creatures, Big and Small," presented by artist and entrepreneur Rebecca Sipper.

Sipper, a Georgia local herself, creates detailed drawings of local birds and other wildlife and transfers them onto pottery and fibers, such as purses.

Her passion for local wildlife is matched by her passion for artistry.

"So many people associate with or give meaning to animals, plants, sounds and temperature. Finding important images that reflect these and incorporating them in my work is a simple way to create beautiful objects from meaningful images," said Sipper.

"The Salt Marsh Creatures, Big and Small" exhibit includes work such as bowls, mugs and vases, as well as her original designed handbags from “Retrofied”.

The design that she derived from local wildlife, create detailed art for all of her mediums.

She began her handbag business in 2007.

The exhibit also features Sipper’s first line of fabrics that she used to start her handbag art.

Jessica Putallaz, marketing coordinator for Savannah’s Place for Art, Culture and Education located at 9 W. Henry St. revels at her unintentional success.

“One day she made a bag and her family told her that she should do it for a living and that was that,” said Putallaz.

The S.P.A.C.E. gallery houses the artwork of many local and internationally known artists.

Sipper is a graduate of Oglethorpe University and holds a bachelor in Art and Psychology.

She studied ceramics and printmaking at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago, Ill. and Mudfire Pottery in Atlanta, Ga.

She currently studies at the location of the exhibit.

The gallery opened June 3 and will be open to the public for a while. The S.P.A.C.E. has many other longterm gallery exhibits.

It is free of charge and open to everyone who wants to stop by while in Savannah.

Hours of operation are from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free parking.

For information on the exhibit, contact 912-651-6783 or visit the city of Savannah website at www.savannahga.gov/arts.
WEEKEND WRAP

GNAT’S LANDING
470 South Main Street  (912) 489-8291

HAPPY HOUR 5-7 P.M.
ALL DRINKS AND APPETIZERS HALF OFF
THURSDAY – Corner Pledger Band at 9 p.m.
FRIDAY – Will & Matt at 9 p.m.
SATURDAY – $6 pitchers, $0.45 wings, $2 Margaritas
TUESDAY – Trashcan Tuesday, $3 trashcan drinks
WEDNESDAY – $2 Margaritas, $0.45 wings

APPLEBEE’S
804 US Highway 80 East  (912) 489-5656

HAPPY HOUR FROM 5-7 P.M.
THURSDAY – Jammin’ Thursday with DJ
$2 Lemon Drops, $3 Margaritas, $3 Long Islands, $1 Jello Shots
FRIDAY – Half Price Appetizers and $3 Taps
SATURDAY – Half Price Appetizers and $3 Taps
SUNDAY – Guys’ Night Out, $0.45 Wings
MONDAY – Brew-Haha, $4 Micro-Brews, $1 Jello Shots
TUESDAY – Facebook Tuesdays, $3 Main Street ‘Ritas, $3 Brew-tus
WEDNESDAY – Girls’ Night Out, $3 Appetinis, $3 Cosmos, $3 Main Street ‘Ritas, $1 Jello Shots

LOCOS GRILL & PUB
91 Briarwood Road  (912) 681-2002

HAPPY HOUR 5-7 P.M.
HALF PRICE DRAFT BEER, WINGS OR CHIPS WITH SALSA OR QUESO
THURSDAY – $2 pint night (all draft beers)
FRIDAY – $3 Maker’s Mark and Sangria punch
SATURDAY – $3 Bloody Marys and Eagle Ritas
MONDAY – $5 Bud Light Pitchers

RETRIEVER’S
1 University Plaza  (912) 681-2444

THURSDAY – 9-11 p.m. $1 rum mixed drinks
FRIDAY – 9-11 p.m. $1 tequila sunrise
SATURDAY – $2.25 Miller Lite and Coors Lite
MONDAY – $4.50 Quads
TUESDAY – Rebreaker Idol, $2 shots, $4.50 Quads
WEDNESDAY – DJ hurricane’s dance night

KBOB KELLY’S
516 South Main Street  (912) 489-3365

THURSDAY – Karaoke at 8 p.m.
SATURDAY – Karaoke, live music at 10 p.m. and Keno
MONDAY – Cornhole tournament, free to enter at 8 p.m.
TUESDAY – Pong tourney at 8 p.m.

SOUTHERN BILLIARDS
200 Lanier Drive  (912) 225-9887

HAPPY HOUR 5-8 P.M.
$1.50 DOMESTIC DRAFTS
Lunch Specials Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Thirty Minutes Free Pool with Lunch Purchase
$1.50 Well Shots and $2 Well Drinks Thursday-Monday
THURSDAY – Poker Tourney at 7 p.m.
FRIDAY – Trivia Night
SATURDAY – Poker Tourney at 7 p.m.
MONDAY – 9 Ball Tourney at 7 p.m. with $10 fee
TUESDAY – Poker Tourney at 7 p.m., $0.50 Well Shots, $1 Well Drinks

MILLHOUSE
1601 Statesboro Place Circle  (912) 871-6474

HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY $1.99 DRINKS
THURSDAY – Wesley Bragg
FRIDAY – G-Strang
SATURDAY – Live Music

MOE’S
608 Brannen Street  (912) 764-3463

HAPPY HOUR: BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
$2.50 DOMESTIC, $3 IMPORTS/PREMIUMS

DOS PRIMOS
200 Lanier Drive  (912) 681-1372

HAPPY HOUR 5-7 P.M.
2 FOR 1 SHOTS UNTIL CLOSING
$4.50 MARGARITAS AND $6 BEER PITCHERS
THURSDAY – Born Forty
FRIDAY – Conner Pledger Band
SATURDAY – Live Music

LOCO’S GRILL & PUB
91 Briarwood Road  (912) 681-2002

HAPPY HOUR 5-7 P.M.
HALF PRICE DRAFT BEER, WINGS OR CHIPS WITH SALSA OR QUESO
THURSDAY – $2 pint night (all draft beers)
FRIDAY – $3 Maker’s Mark and Sangria punch
SATURDAY – $3 Bloody Marys and Eagle Ritas
MONDAY – $5 Bud Light Pitchers

BUFFALO’S
120 Lanier Drive  (912) 681-9464

HAPPY HOUR 5-8 P.M.
THURSDAY – Beer and Boil with Conner Pledger 6-8 p.m.
Bikini Bash Deck Party at 8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY – “Keqs on Deck” House Party at 9 p.m.

If you are under the age of 21, it is against the law to buy alcoholic beverages.
Art may be just a beautiful thing to many, but for Bulloch County resident Desiree Orlando, art is more than a display of beauty, it is the very expression that serves to help her cope with life’s situations.

Orlando is the Artist Spotlight for the Averitt Center for the Art’s online gallery.

Orlando has been painting, drawing, and taking art classes long before she became a teenager.

Her freshman year of high school is when she decided to take art serious and become more committed to getting better.

“Art has always been an important part of my life. When I began taking art, it changed the way I looked at things,” said Orlando.

The rising high school senior is a New York native and has attended seven elementary schools and three middle schools due to constant moving around when she was younger.

Although she now makes a happy home with her father, stepmother and stepbrother as a resident of Ellabell, Ga., things were not always this way.

Orlando revealed that the success she is now receiving from her artwork seems surreal because of all that she has gone through in her past.

“Everything feels so unreal; my mother never graduated high school. I’ve moved all over throughout my entire life, so life was once pretty tragic,” said Orlando.

The acknowledgement makes her proud.

“For me to receive success is pretty reassuring. It lets me know that I’m doing the right thing, that I’m going along the right path. I feel proud because I never thought it was possible for me to get this far, being through what I have gone through,” said Orlando.

Her drawings and paintings have gained recognition and been featured in numerous galleries all throughout Statesboro.

She is also the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee & Bulloch County Farm Bureau 2010 Art Contest winner.

“When I draw or paint I do my own thing, I’m not worried about pleasing people. When people look at my artwork, they may not think that it’s pretty, but I don’t care. I want my images to reflect the truth, I want my work to reflect a real emotion, I am not aiming to make pretty pieces of art,” said Orlando.

Orlando let it be known that her unconventional style has somewhat been influenced by famed unorthodox musician, artist and former music journalist Marilyn Manson.

“Marilyn Manson is my inspiration for my artwork because his images are so grotesque, but I still find them beautiful to look at,” said Orlando.

Although Orlando has her own style when it comes to her artwork, she still would like people to be able to comprehend the messages behind her work.

“I would love for people to realize tolerance and acceptance in my artwork. Every person is beautiful no matter what,” said Orlando.

When it comes to her education after high school, Orlando still wants to pursue art as a hobby, but she is considering a different career.

“I was looking into going to the Art Institute or Georgia Southern University and majoring in art, but with the way the economy looks, I don’t know about going to school for four to five years and possibly not having a career by the time I graduate,” said Orlando. “I am thinking about going to Ogeechee Technical College and studying phlebotomy.”

She may be considering other options career-wise, but Orlando insists that art will always be who she is as a person.

Orlando’s artwork is available to view on the Averitt Center’s website in the online gallery under the Artis Spotlight section.
Connor Pledger, an up and coming acousti-funk artist, from Athens, Ga. will be performing on Thursday at Gnat’s Landing and then Friday at Dos Primos.

After playing for the past eight years, Pledger has yet to slow down with his career.

“It’s actually kind of funny because when I was younger, I never thought I had a good voice until I picked up a guitar,” said Pledger.

“The more I learned how to play songs, the more I wanted to do my own thing and through song writing, I found my voice,” said Pledger.

After winning Battle of the Bands 2011 in Statesboro, Pledger could not be more thrilled to be back, especially after such an unexpected win.

“To be honest, after hearing all the awesome bands perform that night, we weren’t expecting to win, so we started packing up our gear. When they announced that we had won, to say the least, I was shocked.”

-Connor Pledger

By ARIA GABOL
George-Anne staff

Connor Pledger, an up and coming acousti-funk artist, from Athens, Ga. will be performing on Thursday at Gnat’s Landing and then Friday at Dos Primos.

After playing for the past eight years, Pledger has yet to slow down with his career.

“It’s actually kind of funny because when I was younger, I never thought I had a good voice until I picked up a guitar,” said Pledger.

“The more I learned how to play songs, the more I wanted to do my own thing and through song writing, I found my voice,” said Pledger.

After winning Battle of the Bands 2011 in Statesboro, Pledger could not be more thrilled to be back, especially after such an unexpected win.

“To be honest, after hearing all the awesome bands perform that night, we weren’t expecting to win, so we started packing up our gear,” said Pledger.

However, the band was surprised by its success in the competition.

“When they announced that we had won, to say the least, I was shocked,” said Pledger.

“Statesboro is where my strongest fan-base is and whenever I perform, there is always a really good turn-out,” said Pledger.

He said, “It is both a pleasure and an honor to have people come out and have fun with me, it is one of the best feelings.”

He will be performing songs from his brand new album, including some never-before heard singles as well.

Pledger described acousti-funk as an “acoustically driven sound with a trio.”

Pledger has two friends that play the bass and drums alongside him.

At times, Pledger incorporates a folk sound into his music by the sound of his guitar.

Pledger’s favorite rock band, Led Zeppelin, has influenced his sound lately.

“Contributing to my sound, their R&B feel to them added with a lot of soul music has introduced me to blues and soul music.”

His lyrics, though, were a different story. He said, “As for my lyrics, those come straight from life experiences and me pretty much putting my heart on the paper.”

Pledger’s lyric inspiration is coupled with a dedication to fan enjoyment.

He said, “I hope that the audience will get my story and be able to relate and just have a good time.”

After the first album being so “bare-boned,” said Pledger, he is going in a new direction with his second album, which is titled “Detours.”

The name of the album came from a line in one of the songs on the album, “Ain’t it strange,” which is also the title of the track.

Pledger, a recent college graduate, said, “Detours pretty much explains what happens after graduation and when you hit the so called ‘real-world.’ Also, how interesting it is to see the direction my fellow classmates and I went.”

If you are interested in purchasing “Detours,” the band will be selling the album at both performances.

The band is going to be at Gnat’s Landing on July 30, and then spend July 1 at Dos Primos.
Looking to sublease a brand new apartment at the Grove. 2 BR/2BT, fully furnished. Rent is $505/person/month & we will put $400 to the total first month’s rent! 2 BR rate has increased greatly since we signed our lease & the rate is locked in. Please email as05873@georgiasouthern.edu if interested.

Close to campus.
825 Robin Hood Trail - 4 BR/2 BT.
2000 Talons Lake - 4 BR/4 BT
8 Tillman St. - 3 BR/2 BT
16 Tillman St. - 4 BR/3 BT
Call (912)-484-7473 or (912) 871-4646 for details.


Need good place to board my dog while at GSU in the fall. Will pay to have dog close by. Please contact Bob at (770) 252-2563.


We have a variety of single family homes available August 1st.

 направленное объявлений

 ever had a question for the editors at The George-Anne? Tweet, Facebook message us or email us at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu and you’ll get an answer on our new video blog!

HOT Jobs

Job Title: Student Intern
Company: Department of Energy
Deadline to Apply: July 1, 2011

Job Title: Finance Internship - Fall 2011
Company: Make-a-Wish Foundation (GA & AL)
Deadline to Apply: December 31, 2011

Job Title: News Director
Company: WJCL/WTGS TV
Deadline to Apply: July 8, 2011

Job Title: Fall 2011 Internships
Company: Houston Astro’s Baseball Club
Deadline to Apply: August 8, 2011

Job Title: Estimating/Project Mgt. Intern
Company: Brasfield & Gorrie
Deadline to Apply: December 15, 2011

Job Title: Manufacturing Engineer
Company: Gulfstream Aerospace
Deadline to Apply: July 9, 2011

Job Title: Marine Science Intern
Deadline to Apply: December 31, 2011

To view the detailed job descriptions application instructions or additional postings, log into the Eagle Career Net/NACElink system found at www.georgiasouthern.edu/career.
Sudoku

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

---

**PUZZLES/COMICS**

FOR RELEASE JUNE 30, 2011

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

```
 1. Mi Hado
 2. Cane
 3. Particle
 4. Diner
 5. Envelope
 6. Save
 7. Run
 8. Kneel
 9. Drive
 10. Stop

 11. Eater
 12. Elbow
 13. Fork
 14. Spoon
 15. Knife
 16. Meat
 17. Salad
 18. Pizza
 19. Cookie

 20. Birthday
 21. Daylight
 22. Evaporate
 23. Taper
 24. Experiment
 25. Magnify
 26. Double
 27. Multiply
 28. Divide

 29. Photo
 30. Television
 31. Record
 32. Computer
 33. Game
 34. Sport
 35. Puzzle
 36. Comic
 37. Cartoon

---

**June 9th Puzzle Solved**

By Ed Sees

6/30/11

---

**PUZZLES/COMICS**

---

**FREE iPod Touch with any new car purchase.**

**we proudly accept eagle express**

---

Page designed by Holly Hillhouse
**Happy 4th of July**

**THURSDAY**

**6.30.2011**

11:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Free Late Night Bowling
Office of Student Activities
From 11:00 p.m. to 12 a.m., The Clubhouse. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities.

**FRIDAY**

7.1.2011

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

**MONDAY**

7.4.2011

Independence Day Holiday

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED; NO CLASSES

**TUESDAY**

7.5.2011

Registration Closes
RAC

Last day to register for the Sand Volleyball tournament at the RAC.

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Rainbow Connection / LGBTQ Therapy Group
GSU Counseling Center

For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals or those questioning their sexual and/or gender identity. Discuss general issues like depression, anxiety, loneliness and LGBTQ specific concerns of coming out, homophobia & managing relationships in a predominantly heterosexual world.

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Mindfulness Meditation Stress Reduction
GSU Counseling Center

For students interested in increasing their enjoyment of life! This group will involve learning to reduce stress by increasing awareness of the present moment through mindfulness techniques, meditation, gentle yoga stretches, group discussion of enhancing awareness, and encouragement of practice in everyday life. (Please wear athletic attire)

**WEDNESDAY**

7.6.2011

3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

C.A.L.M (Coping With Anxiety & Life Management)
GSU Counseling Center

In this four session workshop, you'll learn about different types of anxiety, discover possible causes, and learn strategies for managing anxiety & stress.

7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Bingo
Office of Student Activities
From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Williams Center. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities.

7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Massage Deal
RAC

Receive $10 off a massage at the RAC.

**ONGOING...**

7.5.2011

Rainbow Connection / LGBTQ Therapy Group
GSU Counseling Center

For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals or those questioning their sexual and/or gender identity. Discuss general issues like depression, anxiety, loneliness and LGBTQ specific concerns of coming out, homophobia & managing relationships in a predominantly heterosexual world.

7.6.2011

Healthy Bodies Group / Body Image and Eating Concerns Group
GSU Counseling Center

This group is designed for people who would like to improve their self-image & confidence as it relates to their physical body. Learn to live each day with intention, without being a hostage to thoughts & feelings about bodies & eating. Also learn ways to reduce distress & improve your ability to cope.

Brought to you by Georgia Southern University VALUES. Georgia Southern VALUES is the culture shared by our students, faculty, and staff. We endeavor to share our VALUES inside and outside of the classroom with faculty, staff, students, alumni and all other community members. In order to produce productive citizens with an informed set of ethics and community standards as well as create an environment of respect and civility, we pledge to live by our VALUES.
Capko joins basketball coaching staff

By RYAN MILLER
Geoge-Anne contributor

The Georgia Southern University men's basketball team may have only won five games this past season, but that did not stop Chris Capko from joining the program.

On June 21, the GSU Athletic Department announced that Capko took the role as its new assistant basketball coach. Capko was acquired from Stetson University after two seasons with the Hatters.

Head Basketball Coach Charlton Young is optimistic that Capko will bring a positive attitude to the program overshadowed by probation.

“I have known him [Coach Young] for a long time and he is very easy to work with. He also allows me to have a life outside of the arena…making coaching a lot easier on me,” said Capko.

Capko was a former standout student-athlete. He played at Kathleen High School, a powerhouse program in Lakeland, Fla. and won a state championship in 2001. Capko went on to earn a scholarship to the University of Florida, but transferred to Stetson University after spending one season with the Gators.

Capko's career with the Bulls was impressive, as he placed fifth in the Big East Conference for assists in his junior season and became team captain his senior season. Capko mentioned that competing in the Big East — a powerhouse in college basketball — will allow him to have an impact on the team.

“It allows me to connect with the players and it allows me to learn with them,” said Capko.

Off the court, Capko received academic honors for both his junior and senior years. Additionally, he was nominated for Basketball Student-Athlete of the Year. After graduating with a degree in mass communications from USF, he attended graduate school at Marshall University.

He gained both a master's in adult and technical education and coaching experience under Donnie Jones, the head coach of the Marshall Thundering Herd. He then joined the coaching staff at Stetson.

Capko said that liveliness is a part of his coaching philosophy and a significant facet of the game of basketball.

“Energy is the most important aspect that I look for and ask my players to bring as much energy to all characteristics of the game...offense and defense,” said Capko.

Capko was recruited by Coach Young back in high school, and now the two have finally teamed up.

However, Capko has come at a time when the program is under a probation period, but Capko is determined to ensure that those issues that led to the probation will not happen again.

“Young has made some changes to the culture of the basketball team that will be beneficial to both the players and the coaches,” said Capko.

The players must arrive to class 10 minutes before the lecture or class begins; otherwise, they will be counted absent or late. They must also sit in an appropriate seat within the classroom. These are just a few policies that could improve player performance on and off the court.

In 2009, a GSU assistant coach was giving improper academic aid to players. This infringed upon NCAA rules. The consequences administered by the NCAA were on a smaller scale, but there were still punishments.

The Eagles had to temporarily suspend three basketball players as well as a scholarship for three years. Additionally, the GSU basketball team had to forfeit all victories in the past season in which two of those three suspended players played.

Even though there are difficulties that come with this sanction, Capko said, “Every coach goes through helping players stay focused, but more importantly coaches need to make sure that their players are still having fun playing the game.”

Some have speculated that the probation led to the Eagles posting a disappointing 1-17 in Southern Conference competition.

Additionally, they were also eliminated in their first game in the end-of-season Southern Conference Tournament against Appalachian State University.

Even though this past season was subpar, the Eagles remain optimistic that their future seasons will have more victories.

Capko said, “I have seen the success of Wofford University, the College of Charleston, and Davidson University basketball programs, and I think with the roster of players we have now, we will be very difficult to beat.”

What’s going on in GSU sports

- **Victor Roache** has been selected to compete in the TD Ameritrade Home Run Derby in Omaha, Neb. Eight of the country’s best home run hitters will compete in the elimination event. The competition will air on July 3 at 2:30 p.m. Roache still leads the nation in home runs with 30. Roache picked up his fifth All-American Honor last week when the American Baseball Coaches Association chose Roache as one of its elite All-Americans.

- The women’s soccer team continues to collect talent as the program announced four transfer students. Zoe Van Gorder from the University of Utah, Kailey Keifus from Gonzaga University, Emily Archer from Belmont Abbey, and Christine Watts from the University of South Carolina have signed with the Eagles.
--- PAPA’S SUMMER SPECIAL ---

Large 1-Topping or SPICY ITALIAN $10 pizza

Your Choice

When Papa’s in the House, quality is a way of life.

Order Online @ the NEW papajohns.com

--- CARRYOUT SPECIAL #1 ---

Medium One Topping Pizzas

$5.99

--- CARRYOUT SPECIAL #2 ---

Large One Topping Pizzas

$7.99

Use promo code COL1TRHH

--- Any Way You Want It! ---

Large Specialty or up to five toppings for

$12.00

Use promo code LS12RH