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The George-Anne

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GA
THE GEORGE-ANNE

Food for Thought

Statesboro's eating establishments
receive health inspection scores

Pages 4-5



MORNING FATTY

Reggae-Funk band returns
to play at South City


Pages 8-9

IN FULL BLOOM

Previewing the spring
sports season

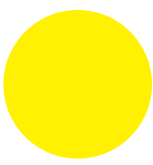
Pages 12-13

Thursday




High: 75°
Low: 49°
10 percent chance of rain

Friday




High: 76°
Low: 51°
10 percent chance of rain

Saturday



High: 72°
Low: 49°
10 percent chance of rain


Sunday



High: 72°
Low: 52°
10 percent chance of rain

Weather Bar

We'll be seeing more moderately high temperatures for the rest of the week. The sun should be out and this may be a good weekend for outside activities.



The Circle
THECIRCLEGSU.COM

Pigs and POM POMS

BY HARLEY STRICKLAND
The Reflector staff

As Anna Freeman steps out onto the Georgia Southern University basketball court to dance with the Southern Explosion dance team, a feeling comes over her. It isn't a feeling of nervousness but a familiar feeling she has had almost her entire life. It's a feeling of excitement and preparedness taking over her as she begins to perform the routine her and her dance group have worked so hard on. This same feeling is the one she gets when she steps into the show ring with one of her show hogs. That's right, this beauty queen and dancer is also a National Junior Swine Association (NJSA) registered breeder and hog show girl. Freeman, a Statesboro, Ga, native, is a freshman at Georgia Southern University studying business. When meeting Freeman anyone will notice how she is totally a girly girl and has a huge personality, said Breanna Thompson, fellow dance team member. "She's a true Barbie diva who loves anything sparkly and pink," said Thompson. "You would never look at Anna and think she would want anything to do with animals." Dance fit right in with her bubbly personality. Freeman

has been dancing since a young age and has competed and won many competitions. Dance is something her and her mother have been able to share over 16 years. "I began dancing at the age of two and it's something me and my mom enjoying doing together", said Freeman. "The competitions give us our mother daughter time together." She decided to carry on the hog show tradition in her family after her dad and brother got her involved. Even though Freeman has an extremely big love for dance, she takes her sparkles into the show ring to show her hogs with the same big love. "My dad showed and worked on a hog farm growing up and then he taught my brother about hogs," said Freeman. "I picked up this hobby when I was in the ninth grade." Since then, Freeman has shown at many fair shows and Future Farmers of America (FFA) shows across the state of Georgia. She has won many awards including multiple wins in the Grand Champion Hog category, but with many awards come much work. Freeman raises her pigs from day one, she says.

Check out what our staff thinks about the annual workout plans people have after the new year!


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Your View Students React to GS Merge With Armstrong State



YASMEEN WALIAGA

Waliaga is a senior journalism major from Alpharetta, Ga.

If you are not ready to realize the grim realities of classes beginning and haven't checked your GS e-mail in an attempt to ignore that reality, you may not know about a

big change our university will soon undergo.

A message to all students on Wednesday from the Dean of Students entailed a plan approved by The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents for Georgia Southern University to merge with Armstrong State University.

Armstrong State University is located in Savannah, Ga while Georgia Southern University is obviously located in this subtle, quaint, yet action-packed, state-renown town of Statesboro, Ga. Before you panic, don't worry.

Our campus will remain, because, you know, it represents everything great about a south Georgia college

town. But it is important for us students to know what this effort means. This will mostly affect current freshman and sophomores.

This consolidation will take about 18 months and according to the message we received upon the plan's approval, will combine the best of both universities. Georgia Southern University's name will remain and the university's president will maintain that role over both campuses.

The message states, "With more than 27,000 students, Georgia Southern will be the fourth largest public university in Georgia."

Many advocates have pushed for this, saying

that the combination of these two schools will create opportunities for expanding their health care and engineering programs. In addition, several students who commute from Savannah and surrounding areas have shown excitement for the merge.

With this news being so fresh, there has not yet been much discussion regarding the pros and cons and other contributing factors to the decision.

As with any large transformation, there are several opinions and stances towards the consolidation so it is essential to allow GS students to share their thoughts.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. For questions e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-- particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

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NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

CORRECTIONS: Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format to letters@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions, or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

How do you feel about GS merging with Armstrong State?



Jakayla Mack

sophomore pre-nursing major

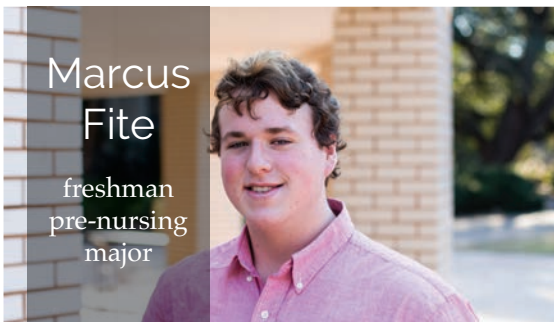
"I disagree with the merger because Armstrong and Georgia Southern are too far apart."



Nicholas Markowich

freshman chemistry major

"I mean I would assume it's good unless of course some social issues happen, things happen when you're merging two universities I suppose."



Marcus Fite

freshman pre-nursing major

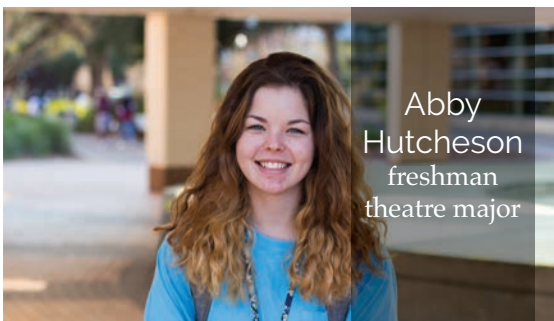
"I think it's great. It'd be great to consolidate the schools, probably be a lot cheaper for us."



Joshua Sullivan

sophomore electrical engineering major

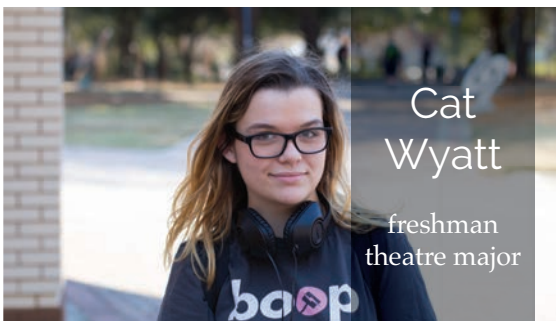
"I mean I'm kind of excited about it because actually my god brother goes there so it would be cool that we about to be alumni at the same school."



Abby Hutcheson

freshman theatre major

"I guess I don't really understand why, like, they are an hour apart... I'm from Savannah and there's so many other colleges so I don't get it but I guess I mean if I'm not affected I don't really care"



Cat Wyatt

freshman theatre major

"As long as it doesn't affect my classes, I don't have a problem with it"

Local Statesboro favorites boast diverse health inspection scores

BY TANDRA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

This past year, Statesboro's many restaurants, cafes and bars shared one thing in common, a visit from the health inspector. From scores ranging from perfect 100s to the mid-50s and lower 60s, the health inspection scores from local Statesboro eateries and on-campus facilities might be surprising to some.

Adam, the specialist

Adam Middleton, environmental compliant specialist for the Bulloch County Environmental Health department, revealed that all food establishments in Bulloch County are inspected twice a year.

"It's random when [establishments] come up in the system. When they do, they're each assigned to a different inspector," Middleton said.

There are four health inspectors in Bulloch County and each one has a different way of inspecting a restaurant or bar.

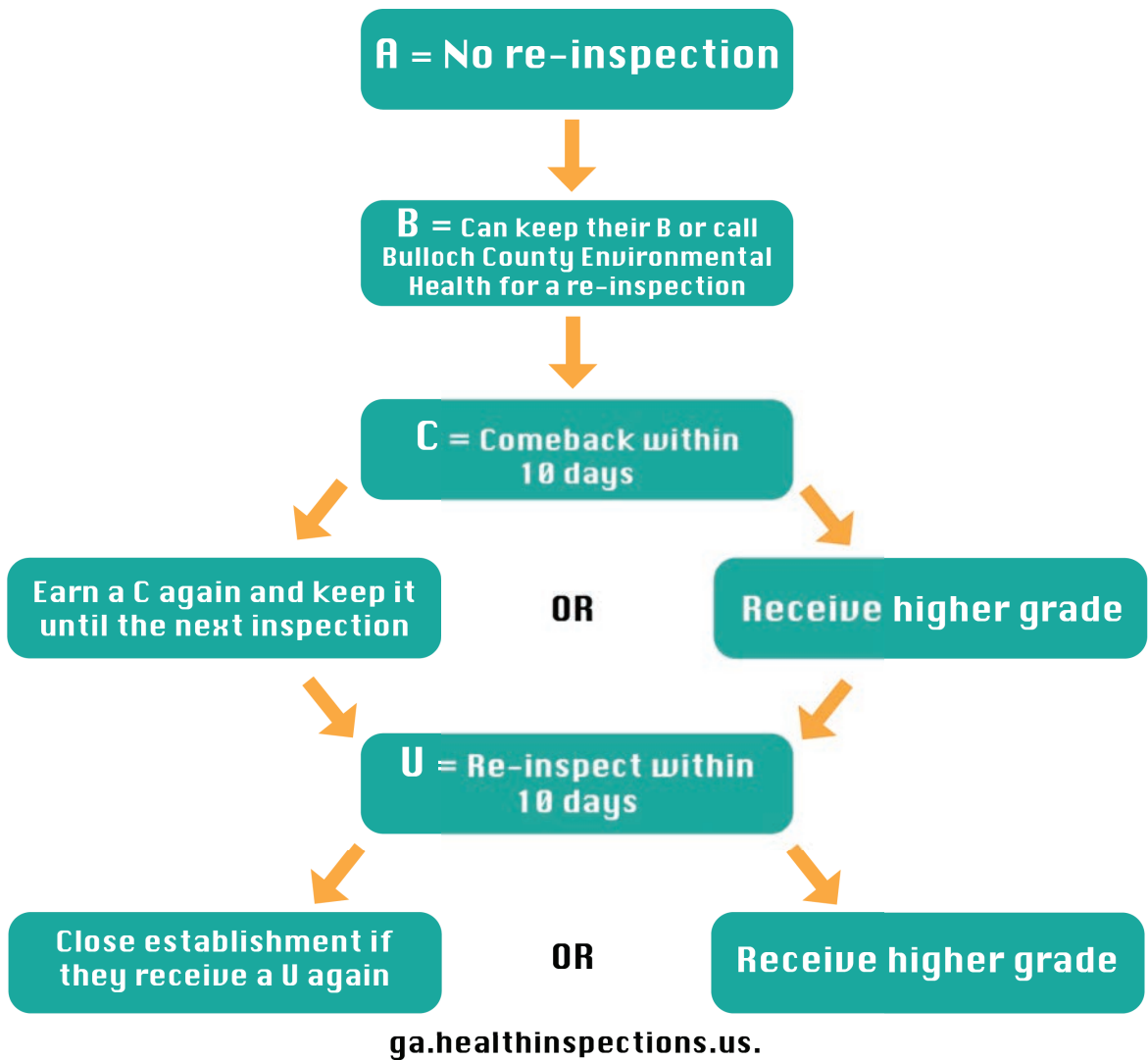
"I take temperatures first. Some inspectors might go straight to the cooler but it depends on the restaurant," Middleton said.

Georgia Southern University is not inspected anymore or any less than other Statesboro or Bulloch County food places. The only thing that is out of the ordinary is that Dining Commons often has two inspectors in order to cut down on the amount of time it takes to inspect each station, as well the kitchen and back areas.

The duration of a health inspectors visit depends on the size of the facility.

"They usually last about 45 minutes to an hour. Coffee places like Starbucks maybe 30 minutes. Dining Commons can last up to an hour or hour

Bulloch County Health Inspection Protocol



ten days for an inspection. If they earn a C again they have to keep that until their next inspection. If they receive a U, we have to come back within ten days and they have to close if they score a U again," Middleton said.

The most recent restaurant to be given a U was Southern Palace located at 224 S. Main St. on Jan. 5. Their violations included not having a certified food safety manager, not using soap before hand washing and roaches, the latter of which is a repeat violation.

Before Jan. 5, the restaurant earned a 91 during their inspection on Sept. 29 of last year. However, that score was only earned after receiving a 70, or C, in an inspection two days prior.

Besides Southern Palace, only five other places in Statesboro earned a U score since August of 2015: Gnat's Landing, Oct. 26 (66), Uncle Shug's, Oct. 25 (59), My Ranchero Mexican Grill, Aug. 22 (60), Midtown Bar and Grill, Sept. 9 (59) and Vandy's BBQ in the Statesboro Mall, Oct. 20 (61).

Of those five places, three received A's on their re-inspection, one received a B and the last place, My Ranchero Mexican Grill, closed shortly after receiving the score.

GS' numbers

All of GS' on campus facilities received A's for their health inspection scores. While none of GS' facilities got a perfect 100 for their score, Chick-fil-A and Starbucks got the highest grades at 97 each, while Lakeside Dining Commons got the lowest score, a 90 due to cooks not washing their hands after touching trash and not changing gloves, according to ga.healthinspections.us.

and a half," Middleton said.

What the common health violations are depends on the season. During the summer, the most common health violation is usually coolers which are not kept at the right temperature for the food located inside of them.

However, during the winter months, there isn't a health violation that is typically prevalent.

Bulloch's numbers

Since August of 2016, more than 50 restaurants, bars, food facilities and more have been inspected in Bulloch County. A good majority received an A or a B, while a few received a C and one place received a U.

When a place gets their health inspection score, there are various things that can happen, depending on the

letter grade they earned.

If a restaurant earns an A, there is no need for a re-inspection. If a place earns a B, they can either keep their B, or call Bulloch County Environmental Health only one other time for a re-inspection, at their discretion.

Places that earn below a B have to follow stricter rules.

"If they [a restaurant] earns a C, we have to come back within

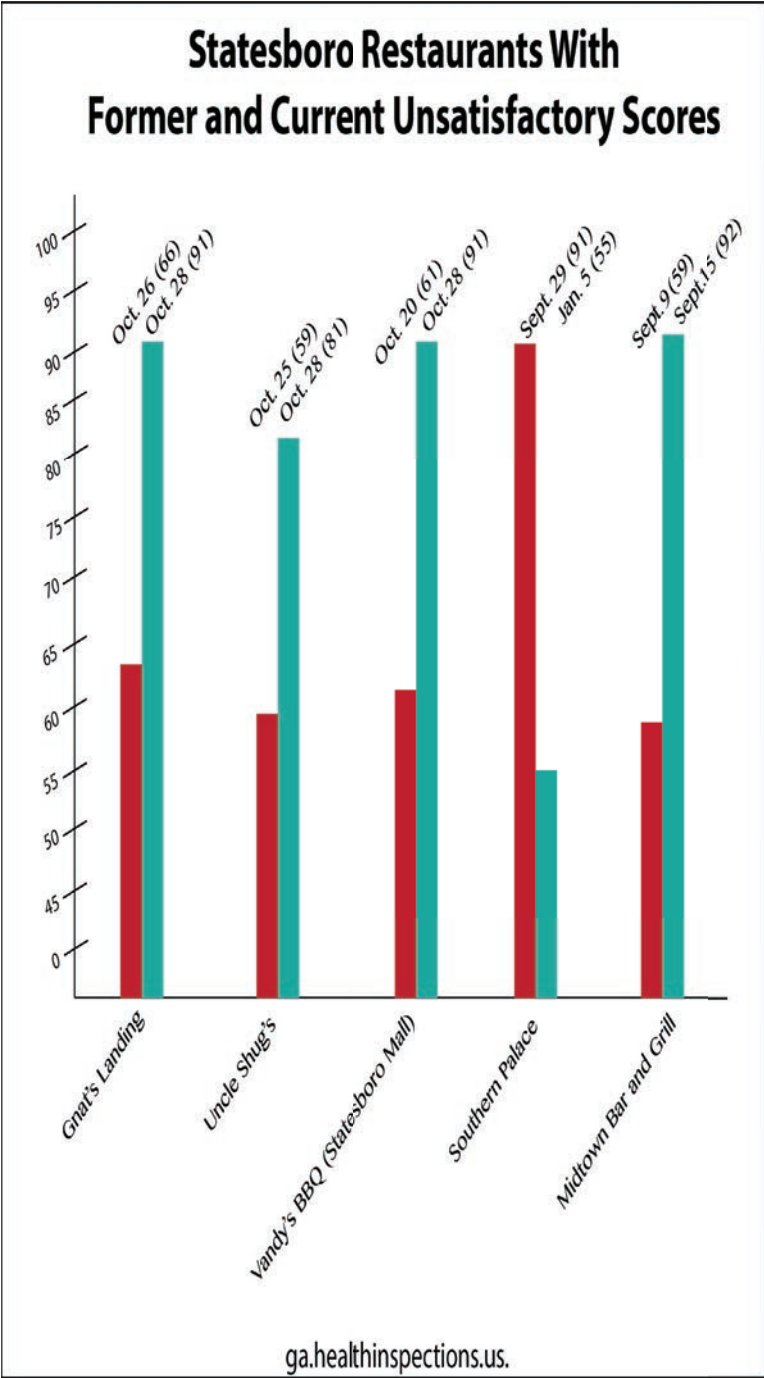
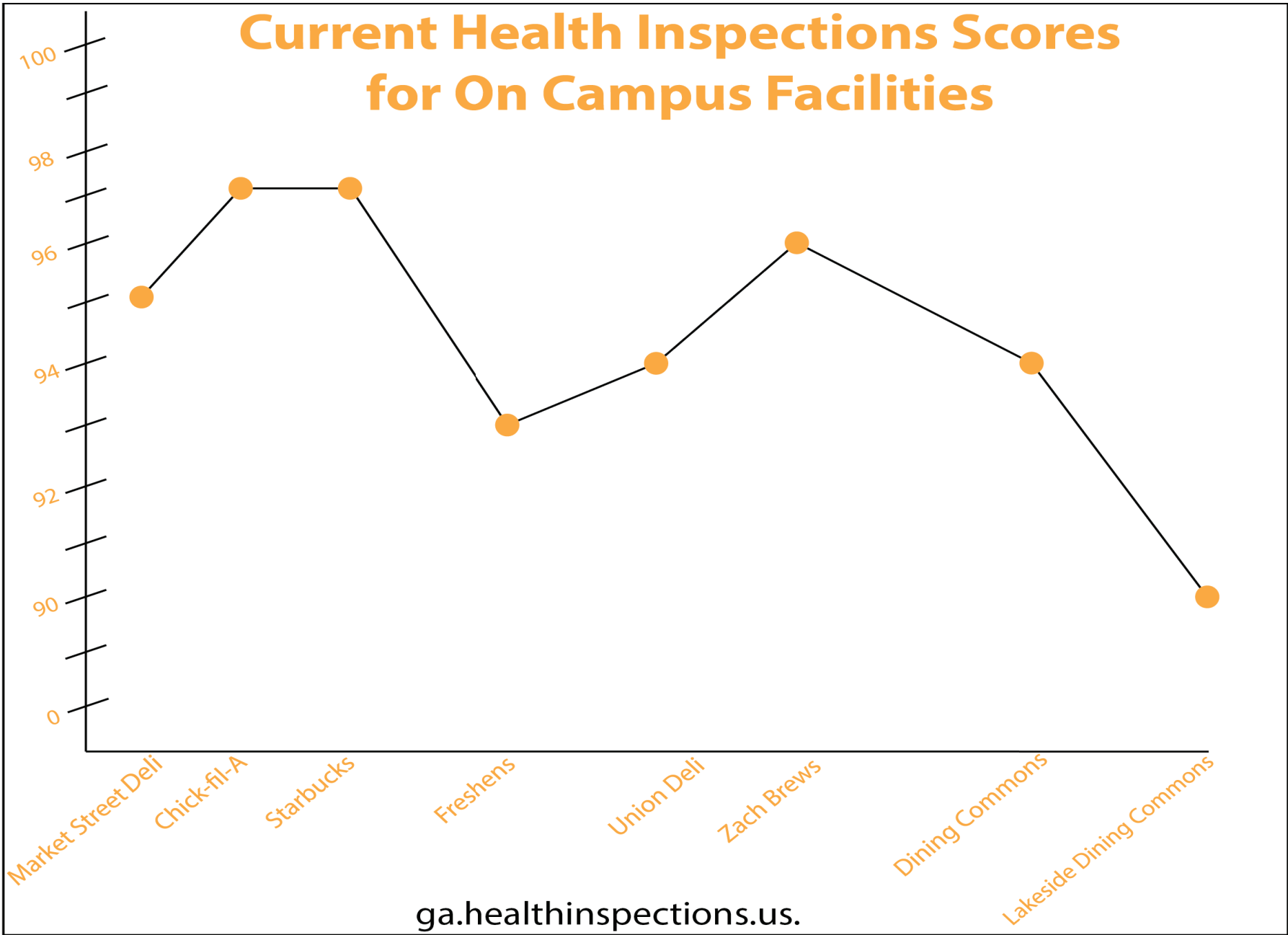
“It's random when [establishments] come up in the system. When they do, they're each assigned to a different inspector.”

ADAM MIDDLETON

Environmental compliant specialist for
Bulloch County Environmental Health

MacKenzie Woods, junior psychology major, believes that health inspection scores are very important. It's the first thing that Woods looks at. "If I'm eating there the cleanliness of the place has to be at least an A," Woods said.

The following graphs demonstrate different health inspection scores for both on campus facilities as well as five of the most recent unsatisfactory scores in Statesboro and what their current health inspection score is.



STUDENT ORGANIZATION FAIR

Wednesday, January 18 | 11:00 - 1:00 pm

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Priority date for filing the 2017-2018 FAFSA is February 1, 2017!
File the 2017-2018 FAFSA now, using 2015 tax information!

The first step in applying for Fall 2017 financial aid is completing the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov which became available on October 1, 2016. By completing the FAFSA, you are applying for federal grants, loans, work study, and the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship (for Georgia residents).

The priority date for completing the FAFSA is February 1, 2017. It is important to apply by the priority date because funds are limited for some campus need-based financial aid. The last day to file the 2017-2018 FAFSA is June 30, 2018.

If you are applying for ONLY the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship, you do not need to complete the FAFSA application; instead complete the GSFAPPS application online at GAFutures.org. You must complete the FAFSA in order to be considered for federal and state loans, and need-based financial aid.

Be aware that after you apply for aid, additional information may be requested to determine your financial aid eligibility. If you have any questions, please contact finaid@georgiasouthern.edu or call 912-478-5413.

TIPS FOR FAFSA FILING

- List Georgia Southern's Title IV school code 001572.
- Enter your name on the FAFSA as it appears on your social security card.
- Your 2015 tax information must be used to complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA.
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval process to upload your tax information into the FAFSA.
- Read very carefully who should be a parent or included in the household.
- Fill out all information accurately.
- You must file the 2016-2017 FAFSA for Spring17 and Summer17 financial aid.

What are your plans for Spring Break this year?

How does traveling with fellow Eagles, meeting new friends that share your values, and working to make a difference sound? Alternative Spring Break applications are now live until January 20th. Breaks will be traveling Sunday, March 12th - Friday March 17th. Students can peruse a variety of trips we have available on our website now, check them out! Trip prices range between \$150 - \$350 (all inclusive) To apply students can log onto MyInvolvement and follow the link: <https://georgiasouthern.collegiatelink.net/form/start/118098> and submit their application today.

Spring 2017 'Boro Browse

Tuesday, January 17th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Russell Union Rotunda & Commons
New to campus? Come out and "browse the 'Boro" in one stop! The 'Boro Browse is an interactive event that allows local businesses and Georgia Southern University departments to promote their services and build relationships with new and returning students. The event also provides a way to learn about available job opportunities with Georgia Southern University students. GSU departments and Statesboro area businesses that are interested in participating may register on the Office of Student Activities website at: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/student-activities/>
•Registration open NOW!
•Registration will close at 5:00pm on Tuesday, January 10th
Note: In the event of inclement weather, the Spring 2017 Boro Browse will be held at the Russell Union Ballroom.
Contact Information: Kendra Kittinger KKittinger@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

The Weekly Buzz is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.



© MICK MILLER

Bioswales are located all throughout GS' campus. They improve the quality of water among other benefits.

BY ALANA TINSLEY

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University will aim to improve the preservation and upkeep of campus this year with the addition of bioswales, overseen by the Center for Sustainability.

A bioswale is a biofilter that is constructed to remove pollution from surface runoff water. This natural drainage course consists of a marshy natural landscape, filled with vegetation, riprap or compost in order function accordingly.

"Bioswales are an alternative route [for water runoff] that has created native habitats that dramatically increase biodiversity and also improves the quality of water," Lissa Leege, director of Center for Sustainability, said.

The bioswales on campus allow Statesboro's natural habitats to thrive without disrupting nature as well as having a better quality of runoff water by the reduction of pollution and silt.

The bioswales that have been implemented throughout campus have been a helpful tool not only for enhancing the environment, but as a learning device too. They allow microbiology classes to test water samples, and are able to use nature as their classroom too.

"Being able to test the quality of water in the 'swales'

allows me, and my classmates, to get hands on experience," Stephen Mendoza, senior biology major, said.

GS already has several bioswales in place and with the sustainability grants, the university is able to continue adding more bioswales around the campus.

In 2015 GS' stormwater Improvements include the addition of two bioswales, one at Akins Blvd, and one along Fair Rd., Herty Dr. and Chandler Rd. Together the two projects were awarded almost \$50,000 and will be completed this year with interpretive signage.

The Center for Sustainability has done a lot for the university, according to Leege.

"[The university] has a lot of commitment to have a natural environment and interest in beautification as well," Leege said.

Leege adds that GS makes it a standard to care for the environment, and that without the Center for Sustainability and student fees there would not be funds to make it a priority.

Matthew White, junior mechanical engineering major, agrees that the bioswales are helpful with runoff versus using drainage ditches.

"I'm okay with student fees going towards bioswales because it helps make the campus look nice," White said.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN AND ARMSTRONG TO CONSOLIDATE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEY CARGLE

The merge will take about 18 months and will be led by representatives from both GS and ASU.

BY NATALIE TURMAN & TAISHA WHITE
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University (ASU) will consolidate after a recommendation from University System of Georgia Chancellor, Steve Wrigley. Due to the decision, Armstrong will be known as Georgia Southern University and will be led by current GS President, Jamie Hebert. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) is also set to consolidate with Bainbridge State College.

“Creating the new Georgia Southern University will combine the best of both institutions, which are just an hour apart and ultimately serving many of the same students,” said Wrigley in the USG press release.

The consolidation will take about 18 months and will result in an university with more than 27,000 students, making it the fourth largest public university in Georgia. The university is expected to better serve the region with degree programs for high demand careers and expand upon both school’s current programs, such as engineering and health care.

Press Release

According to the USG press release, GS is already the number-one transfer choice for Armstrong students, and both institutions are among the top destinations for students seeking higher public education in the surrounding counties.

The consolidation will initiate other opportunities, such as;

- Building on Armstrong’s

nationally recognized leadership in supporting student veterans and active-duty military, which will enable the new institution to reach a much larger student population.

- Reinvesting savings from administrative efficiencies into programs to support student success.
- Ensuring the new Georgia Southern University’s Savannah campus offerings effectively balance with and complement those provided by Savannah State University.

“I hope you share in the excitement and optimism this opportunity presents to current and future students of both institutions. The consolidation combines the best of both universities and reinforces the student-centered commitment of each school throughout their long histories,” President Herbert said in an email.

A town hall session will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19 for each school. The sessions will also be streamed online. The meeting will give the opportunity for questions and feedback to be heard.

Armstrong reaction

A few Armstrong students initiated a protest over a two-day period, expressing their disapproval for the merge and the negative effects it can have on the campus and the people involved.

The George-Anne met with some Armstrong students and faculty expressed their

opinions right after the merge was confirmed.

Austin Webb, freshman mechanical engineering major, was not aware of the merge, but has already made plans to make GS his new home.

“I didn’t know much about it, but I was about to transfer to Southern anyway,” Webb said. “The degree program I am in right now doesn’t have a bachelors’ program and I heard that southern has a really good one. So I was going to get my associates here and possibly transfer.”

Logan Glover, junior business economics major at ASU, is not too concerned about the merge but is aware of how it can affect others.

“I personally do not see the problem with it, but I know that a lot of people do,” Glover said. “I know that it can affect people, especially student athletes and their scholarships. Who knows how that is going to play out?”

Armstrong students are not the only ones expressing their concerns regarding the merge. Some faculty members have also voiced how the merge can negatively affect them in the long run.

Latoriya Young, assistant to the office of financial aid and graduate student, has a deep-rooted connection to ASU and does not want to see the institution change.

“It’s kind of sad. I uprooted my whole life to come to Armstrong,” Young said. “I have degrees here. So to see this happen, it hits home for me.”

Juice Cafe set to open

BY NATALIE TURMAN
The George-Anne staff

Juice Cafe, a juice bar that has a variety of healthy options and has an atmosphere that is directed toward students, will be opening in Statesboro soon.

The cafe was created by Williatte Cooper and her husband, Keyron Cooper, to provide a healthy option to the community.

“I wanted it to be something you have never seen before, something very homely, a place where college kids can come relax, study, and enjoy great healthy food,” Cooper said.

They will sell smoothies, salads, juices and other choices.

All of their products are created with natural or organic ingredients and are prepared to ensure that the most nutrients are received from the ingredients.

Their regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

The cafe will be located in the Southern Commons shopping center. It is set to open on Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will continue its regular hours after the grand opening. The cafe will offer a 10 percent discount to college students with student IDs.

B&R Treasure and Treats

Bringing New Orleans flair to Statesboro

BY BRENDAN WARD
The George-Anne staff

Tucked into the shops on Main Street of Statesboro sits B&R Treasure and Treats, a New Orleans-inspired business that is a sno-ball shop, second hand store and accounting business all packaged into one.

B&R is run by its owners, Marc and Danielle Nauts, who opened the business two and a half years ago. They originally came to the area to be near family and fell in love with Statesboro and its people.

The main draw of B&R is their New Orleans-style sno-balls, which are similar to snow cones, but the ice is shaved and comes out like a fine powder.

“The sno-balls literally come out like fresh snow,” Danielle Nauts said.

The shop offers sno-balls in variety of flavors from the traditional banana and vanilla to more exotic flavors like wedding cake and tiger’s blood.

The typical flavoring for a sno-ball is cane syrup. B&R makes all of their flavorings in store and they are made with natural ingredients.

On the thrift side, the store has a plethora of movies, books, video games and various knick knacks for sale. They regularly post pictures of new items on their facebook page.

The store offers a 10 percent discount to all college students with ID.

B&R can be found in downtown Statesboro on 45 E Main St. The shop is open from 8 a.m to 6 p.m Monday to Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

Q&A: CATCHING UP WITH



TIM MULBERRY
DRUMMER



MILLER JAYNER
GUITARIST



ANDREW WHITE
LEAD VOCALS



JOHN POP
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Street Marketing



Logistics and Distribution

BY JULIA FECHTER

The George-Anne staff

While many of us took time off from work and school during the holidays, Florida band, Morning Fatty, has been recording music for a new album. The reggae-funk band first played in Statesboro at Dingus Magee's back in August. Since then, the band also played at Gnat's Landing

for its Halloween festivities.

Morning Fatty's current members are vocalist Andrew White, drummer Tim Mulberry, bassist John Pop and guitarist Miller Joyner.

They reflected on their experience recording music for their new release and the people who have impacted them in the studio and onstage.

Q: What themes or topics is the band exploring with the new album?

A: **White:** "Lyrically, we're going into the realm of relationships and heartbreak with many of the songs. We really focused on conveying profound messages to our audience."

Joyner: "We set out on a path to break down the ego directly, expose it for what is is and shed light within its darkest areas."

MORNING FATTY

Q: I saw that you lost a long time friend in 2016, Ed Waldick, who did the light show for Morning Fatty. Would you mind telling me how Waldick was an influence on the band?

A: **Pop:** “Our video on Youtube, the Gucci man-Lemonade remix that we do, that’s his light show that he did. He’s been doing lasers and lights for 40 years. He was all into the Pink Floyd light shows, old school, stuff like that. As we got to know him over the past couple of years, he would always run our lights and he would pretty much do it for free.” “We, right off the bat, were like, ‘Damn, this guy isn’t even asking for money. He just wants to have a good show. He just wants people to be entertained.’”

Mulberry: “We had a very basic light set up that we felt was sufficient. But after truly seeing the excellence that Ed created whenever he did his light shows with, we just had to add that element. Ed humbly took four young guys and showed us the ropes...we will never forget.”

“
WE SET DOWN ON
A PATH TO BREAK
DOWN THE EGO
DIRECTLY, EXPOSE
IT FOR WHAT IT IS..”

MILLER JOYNER
GUITARIST, MORNING FATTY

Q: Your band was recently in the studio. How was that process?

A: **Pop:** “We were out at Sonic Ranch Studios in El Paso, Texas...We did all the instrumentation [for the album] there... It’s the world’s largest residential recording studio. It sits on 3,600 acres...six different control rooms, five different villas for people to sleep. They have millions and millions of

dollars worth of equipment there, a lot of vintage, real cool stuff that the pros use. It was kind of our [Morning Fatty’s] dream to get out to a studio like that.” “We’re doing the vocals down in Miami at James Wizner’s studio and Jimmy Douglas’ studio [their producers’ studio].”

Q: What is the status of the album?

A: **Pop:** “We’re looking at an April release, called “Death to the Ego” ...This album has a team of four producers who combined, have eight Grammys between all of them...[Wizner] worked with Slightly Stoopid. Angela [Hunte]

wrote the song. She was a songwriter for that Jay Z and Alicia Keys song “Empire State of Mind”. “She’s our vocal producer...we also have DJ Buddha. He’s the DJ for Pitbull, the rapper. Then, we have Jimmy Douglas...he’s done it all...Justin Timberlake, Jay Z, Flo Rida, Foreigner.”

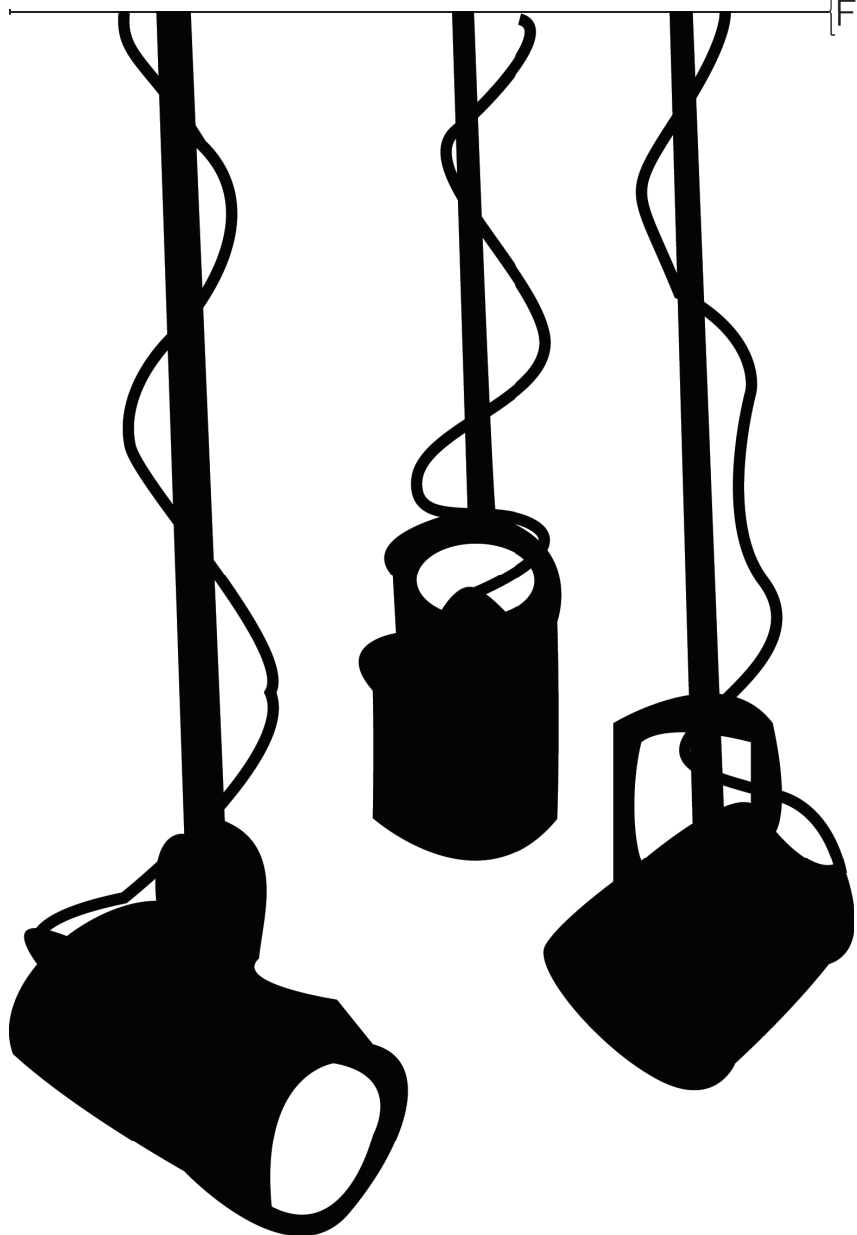
Q: What did you do when you were not recording music for the album?

A: **Pop:** “We are pretty busy as far as some of us have families... we’ve just moved houses, so we’ve been putting time and energy into setting up our own little home studio over back in Gainesville. When we have time off, we try to spend it with our families, because we are away so much. It’s nice to actually be able to sit down and relax with them.”

Morning Fatty will be returning to Statesboro to play South City Tavern this Friday, Jan. 13, as part of a “Welcome Back Bash” hosted by Airbound Entertainment. Southern rock band The Vegabonds will kick off the night with their set at 9:30 p.m., while Morning Fatty will take the stage at 11:15 p.m. There is a \$5 cover charge for the event.



Morning Fatty played in Statesboro back in August 2016. The band learned many aspects about lighting production from their friend, Ed Waldick, who passed away in 2016.



GS THEATER DEPARTMENT PREPARES FOR SPRING LINEUP

BY TOM BARSZCZ

The George-Anne staff

Here at Georgia Southern we have many great programs run frivolously by faculty and students alike. One such example is the GS theater department which is part of the GS Center for Art and Theater.

The department, which is run by multiple different directors, oversees the process of casting, designing, practicing

and everything in between for two productions per semester.

"This semester, we are doing one show," Kelly Berry, theater director, said. "The reason for that is that we are doing 'Chicago'."

"Chicago" is a famous musical which takes place in prohibition-era Chicago, Illinois and follows the main character Velma Kelly, who is a wanted criminal.

According to Berry, Chicago is a "giant musical" that "requires a ton of rehearsal".

For this reason, the GS production will require much more preparation and practice time than usual.

"Chicago has 15 weeks for production. We want as much practice as possible," Berry said.

As of right now the production has a cast of about

30 people and is still in its early stages, but it is scheduled to be performed April 28, 29 and 30.

In the meantime, the Center for Theater and Arts has a lot to offer for students and faculty while their production of Chicago is underway. From Feb. 8 until Feb. 11, GS will be hosting the Kennedy Center Theater Festival which according to Berry is "like the National Championship for college theater."

During the four-day festival, there will be several workshops for acting, set design, costume design and nearly any of processes that need to happen to make a theater production happen.

At the end of every day of the festival, there will be a performance in our Blackbox Theater. On the opening night of the festival, GS students will perform the play "She Kills Monsters" one more time.

This festival will host about 1,000 students from colleges around the southeast with seven other productions in the evenings.

"You're gonna see the best [productions] from colleges around the Southeast," Berry said.

To attend the festival, one has to register for tickets through the Performing Arts Center. If you register in advance, the cost is \$80 but if registered on the day the festival begins it's \$90.

For students looking to get involved with productions in the meantime, one can audition on Jan. 14, for one act performances that are being performed on March

11 and are directed by three different GS seniors.

To audition, show up at the Blackbox Theater on Saturday at noon and you will given a line to audition with.

In addition, there will be a 10 minute play festival performed in Sanford Hall on April 1, which will feature performances written and submitted by GS students from last semester.

“

YOU'RE GONNA SEE THE BEST [PRODUCTIONS] FROM COLLEGES AROUND THE SOUTHEAST,'

KELLY BARRY
GS THEATER DIRECTOR

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MAKING HANNER SPECIAL

EAGLES MID-SEASON REVIEW

BY MARQUS WILLIAMS

The George-Anne staff

6-10. That was the record of Georgia Southern's men's basketball team in their first 16 games last season. They were young, inexperienced and full of questions of just how successful this team could be. They ended up finishing the season 14-17 after losing in the first round of the Sun Belt tournament 67-61 to a mediocre South Alabama team.

This year has played a whole different tune for the Eagles as they start the season 10-6 (3-0) and undefeated in the conference. They've ended their four game home stand undefeated with a margin of victory of 20 points. It's the first time the Eagles have won their first three conference games since 2011-2012 and the first time ever in the Sun Belt.

"I want to compete for championships here. I want to keep making this place special," Mark Byington, GS head basketball coach, said.

The Eagles are led by a back-court trio of junior Mike Hughes and sophomores Tookie Brown and Ike Smith. Smith leads the Sun Belt in scoring averaging 19.7 points per game while shooting a 50 percent field goal percentage.

As a trio they combine for 47.7 points per game while adding 12 rebounds and 8 assists for the season. From a season ago they averaged 44.4 points per game with

13 rebounds and 6 assists, showing progression on the stat sheet, but their maturity and teamwork has also been a major contribution to their success so far this season.

"We're more close this season than I can say we were last season. We hang out off the court and on the court and we're pretty much around each other a lot," Hughes said.

While their back-court trio has been established as the most notable part of their team, the contributions from juniors Jake Allsmiller, BJ Gladden and sophomore Shawn O'Connell give the Eagles the experienced depth they didn't have last year. With multiple contributors on the offensive side, the production on the court hasn't wavered when changes to the lineup are made.

Though the Eagles have been successful in the past few weeks, Byington can't help but look to improve all facets of their game, as the Eagles are not perfect.

"Most times we only think of what we can do to improve in our losses, but we also need to start thinking on what we can improve on in our wins too," Byington said.

With the winning mentality the Eagles have, they still can't afford to lose the grip of their lead in the Sun Belt. They only lead the conference by half a game and the more they can do early to build upon that lead will only help them in the long run of becoming



Tookie Brown goes up for an acrobatic finish against South Alabama. Brown is 2nd in the Sun Belt in scoring at 17.3 ppg.

the number one seed in the conference for the first time in school's history.

The ultimate goal of the Eagles is to win the Sun Belt conference and make their fourth appearance in the NCAA tournament

and their first since 1992. The Eagles aren't the best statistical team in college basketball, but they've found a knack for winning ever since their 37 point loss to Big Ten opponent Minnesota.

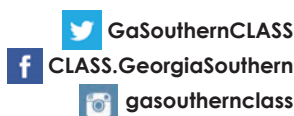
So far, they have shown the potential to be a special team, they just need to show the world they can finish what they've started and achieve the goal of becoming conference champions.



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Ahead in
CLASS

All events are open to the public, and admission is free except where otherwise indicated. For more information, please visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/class.



Now-4/12 - Spanish in Georgia: A Forgotten History The Spanish in Georgia: A Forgotten History exhibition is on display until April and explores the 200-year history of Spanish exploration, settlement, missions, and interactions with the Native Americans in Georgia. *Museum on Main, Statesboro Convention & Visitors Bureau.*

Now-2/3 - Flatbed Picture Planes: LaChance, Mosquera, Schissel The exhibit explores how the printed surface functions today as an information-dispersing artifact. Reception: Jan. 19 at 6 p.m., Lecture: Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. in the Arts Building, room 2071. *Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre.*

1/9-2/3 - Lee Renninger: Botanica In *Botanica*, Lee Renninger explores the sense of play and lightness inherent in a garden. Artist Talk and Reception: Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. *University Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre.*

1/22 - Doc Severinsen Master Class Professional trumpet player Doc Severinsen will speak about his 30-year career with "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" and other topics during a free master class. 3 p.m., *Carter Recital Hall.*

1/25 - Doc Severinsen and the Jazz Ensemble Former bandleader of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" Doc Severinsen will perform in concert with the Georgia Southern Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 p.m., *Carter Recital Hall.*

1/30 - Guitar Solo Recital The Department of Music presents the Guitar Solo Recital, a student ensemble. 7:30 p.m., *Carter Recital Hall.*

1/31 - Great Minds Lecture Series The 2017 Great Minds Lecture Series opens with Anastatia Sims, Ph.D., "Wanton Wenches and Nasty Women: Vindicating Women's Rights from 1792 to 2016." The lecture will focus on two of among 30 works from the Remnant Trust that will be on display in the Zach S. Henderson Library during the spring semester. For more information please visit class.georgiasouthern.edu/greatminds. 5:30 p.m., *Russell Union, room 2047.*

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff



Ike Smith takes on three South Alabama defenders at once. Smith leads all Sun Belt scorers with 19.7 points per game.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's team has entered conference play, and look to continue their good start in conference play. The Eagles are 10-6 overall, but are 3-0 in Sun Belt games against Georgia State, Troy and South Alabama. Coach Mark Byington will look to sophomore guards Ike Smith and Toookie Brown to lead the Eagles. Smith is averaging 19.7 points per game, which leads the team, while Brown is averaging 17.3 points per game. The exciting pair provide great promise for the program's future. Savannah's NBC affiliate WSAV will broadcast two of the men's home games against Louisiana-Monroe on February 4 and Texas State on February 18.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Eagles will begin the spring season traveling, including trips to Clemson, The University of Florida and Florida State. Their first home match of the spring is against Alabama State on January 28 at the Wallis Tennis Center, followed by a slew of home matches throughout February and early March. The Eagles will look to improve on their 15-8 overall record from last season. The Sun Belt Championships commence on April 20 in New Orleans.



The men's tennis team will open their season at Clemson. The team plays their first game at home on January 28.

BASEBALL

The Eagles will look to repeat the success from last season, where they reached the Sun Belt Championship game. Junior Logan Baldwin and senior Ryan Cleveland will look to lead a balanced Eagles offense to an improved year. Baldwin batted .304 last season and will try to to improve heading into this season, while Cleveland batted .286 last season. Seniors Landon Hughes and Evan Challenger will look to lead the Eagles' pitching staff.

Baseball always provides a few more big-name opponents on the schedule. The season begins on February 17 at J.J. Clements Stadium with

a three-game series against Middle Tennessee State. On February 24, the Georgia Bulldogs come to town to begin a three-game stint against the Eagles.

Other notable home games include against College of Charleston, Georgia Tech and of course the series against Appalachian State. Conference play for the Eagles begins on March 17 against South Alabama.

The Eagle will face the new member of the Sun Belt and current College World Series champion, Coastal Carolina, in April. The Sun Belt Baseball Championships will take place at J.I. Clements Stadium in May.



The team celebrates a victory at home. They'll look to return to the Sun Belt championship once again this season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team has struggled all year long. At 4-10 overall and 0-3 in conference play, the Eagles are ranked 11th in the Sun Belt, and certainly look to be one of the worst teams in the conference. On the bright side, Patrice Butler is having a very solid year with 14.3 PPG and 6.3 RPG while shooting 83 percent from the free throw line and 38 percent from deep. There have certainly been some close calls this year, with four of the ten losses on the year coming from a mere 17 points combined.



Alexis Sams blows by a defender to the rim. Sams set a school record for average minutes played per game last season.

IN SPRING SPORTS



Steven Fisk tees off on a first round drive. Fisk is one of two sophomores on the team this season.

MEN'S GOLF

The annual Schenkel Invitational kicks off at Statesboro's Forest Heights Country Club on St. Patrick's Day and runs three days. All the other tournaments are out of Statesboro, the closest being the Palmetto Invitational beginning March 6 in Aiken, South Carolina. The men's Sun Belt Championship will begin April 23 in Destin, Florida. The Eagles were led in the fall by Archer Price, Steven Fisk and Jake Storey, who will look to continue their success on the links this spring.

WOMEN'S TENNIS



The Eagles warm-up prior to a doubles match. They were 12-9 last season.

The first three women's matches are at home, beginning on January 21 against SCAD. The Eagles will look to improve their 12-9 record from last season. On March 26, rival Georgia State comes to Statesboro to take on the Eagles. Their Sun Belt Championship begins on April 20 in New Orleans.

WOMEN'S GOLF



Yeji Shin chips towards the green in last year's season opener. She finished tied for third.

The Eagles had a strong showing in their fall campaign, led by senior Iben Hvass, who notched two top-5 individual tournament finishes. Hvass and her teammates will be back in action beginning February 13 at the Texas State Invitational. Their Sun Belt Championship will take place beginning April 17 in Shoal Creek, Alabama.

SOFTBALL

The season opens on February 10 against North Carolina-Greensboro, beginning a five-game home stand at the Eagle Round Robin to open the year - including a February 11 match-up against SEC Tennessee.

Another Statesboro event, the Eagle Classic, begins

March 3 and pits the Eagles against the likes of Marshall, Presbyterian College and others.

The Eagles start conference play on March 11 against Troy. The Sun Belt Conference tournament begins May 10 in Troy, Alabama.



Michelle Mazur gets a base hit. Mazur batted .286 in conference play last year.



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MID-SEASON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS



Sierra Butler goes up for a layup. Butler leads the team in rebounds with 7.3 per game.

BY DEVIN CONWAY
The George-Anne staff

The Eagles look to be in the bottom-tier of teams throughout the entire NCAA. They are ranked near the bottom of the NCAA in a number of essential categories including scoring offense, field goal percentage, turnovers per game, free throw percentage, assists per game and three point field goal percentage.













They have managed to maintain the top defense in the Sun Belt in terms of opponent field goal percentage, which certainly bodes well for them, as that is one of the major barometers of team performance on the defensive side.

The Eagles have made enough three point shots to put them near the top of the Sun Belt, but given their low percentage, perhaps they should look elsewhere for an offensive spark.

If their offensive woes continue at this rate, it's going to be a long and grueling season.

The Eagles currently ranked 6th in scoring offense and 5th in scoring defense in the Sun Belt.

Patrice Butler leads the team with 14.3 points per game. Meanwhile, Sierra Butler leads the team with 7.3 rebounds per game. Both have started all 14 games of the season.

		CONFERENCE	OVERALL
	LITTLE ROCK	4-0	10-6
	TROY UNIVERSITY	3-0	10-4
	UT ARLINGTON	3-0	10-3
	APP STATE	2-2	7-8
	LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE	2-1	8-4
	SOUTH ALABAMA	2-1	7-7
	ARKANSAS STATE	1-3	3-13
	COASTAL CAROLINA	1-3	6-8
	GEORGIA STATE	1-2	5-9
	TEXAS STATE	1-2	6-8
	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	0-3	4-10
	LOUISIANA MONROE	1-3	3-11

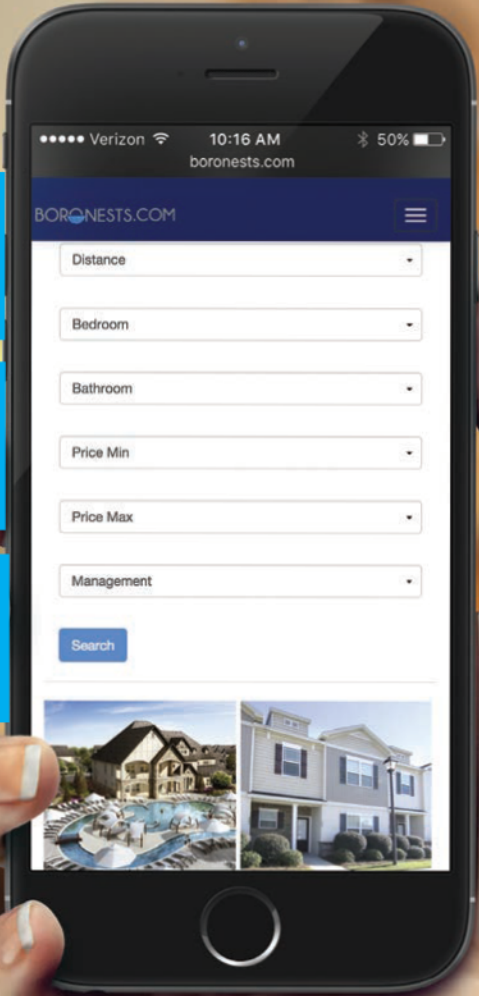
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Across

- 1 Dash gauge
- 5 Milk source
- 10 Questions
- 14 Stiff and sore
- 15 Picture holder
- 16 Vaccines
- 17 Classroom disrupter
- 19 Stumble
- 20 Plain writing
- 21 Cuzco’s country
- 22 Radiator sound
- 23 Soak up
- 25 Go-getter
- 27 Faculty member, briefly
- 29 Drags
- 32 Simians
- 35 Flea market deal
- 39 Make a seam
- 40 French flower
- 41 Opposite word
- 42 Thompson of “Red Dawn”
- 43 Econ. yardstick
- 44 Simple shelter
- 45 Skin problem
- 46 Rand McNally book
- 48 A deadly sin
- 50 Greek public squares
- 54 Fasten
- 58 Pool division
- 60 Golden rule word
- 62 Sicker
- 63 Gulf sultanate
- 64 California gold rush prospector
- 66 Pirate Capt. ____
- 67 Champagne glass

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- 68 Place to pray
- 69 Brainchild
- 70 Attacked
- 71 Turned right
- 10 Respiratory disease
- 11 In earnest
- 12 Malayan dagger
- 13 Weakens
- 18 München mister
- 24 Shouldered
- 26 “Excuse me ...”
- 28 Salad cheese
- 30 Dregs
- 31 Whack
- 32 Pond organism
- 33 Four gills
- 34 Seashore promenade
- 36 Prince, e.g.
- 37 Feed the kitty
- 38 ____-la-Forêt, France
- 41 Not to mention
- 45 Bicycle riding
- 47 To-do list
- 49 Ore layer
- 51 Sandpipers
- 52 Chameleon
- 53 Pompous walk
- 55 Arm bones
- 56 Chaucer pilgrim
- 57 Flubbed
- 58 Norse god of discord
- 59 Surrounded by
- 61 Chemistry Nobelist Hahn
- 65 Asian capital

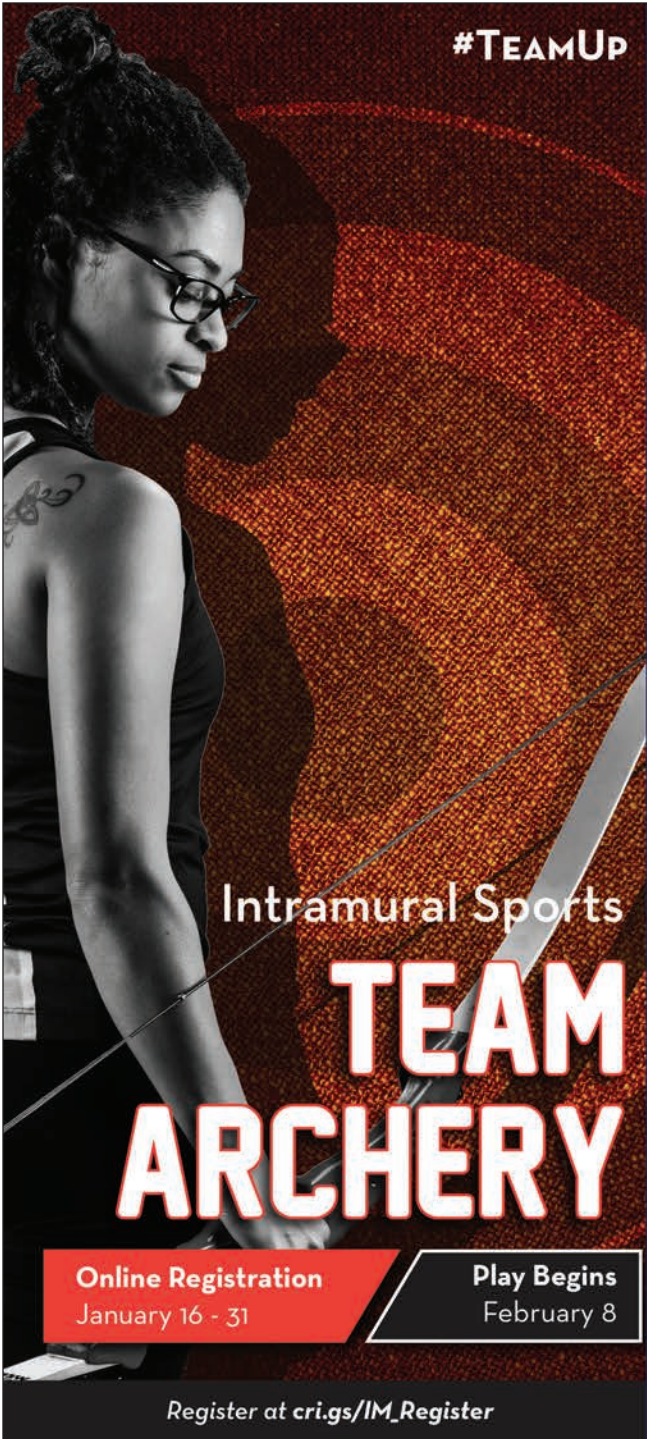
Down

- 1 Thin fibrous bark
- 2 Bitter
- 3 Pandemonium
- 4 European mints
- 5 Roswell sighting
- 6 Lozenge
- 7 Old hat
- 8 Manicurist’s board
- 9 Any “Seinfeld,” now

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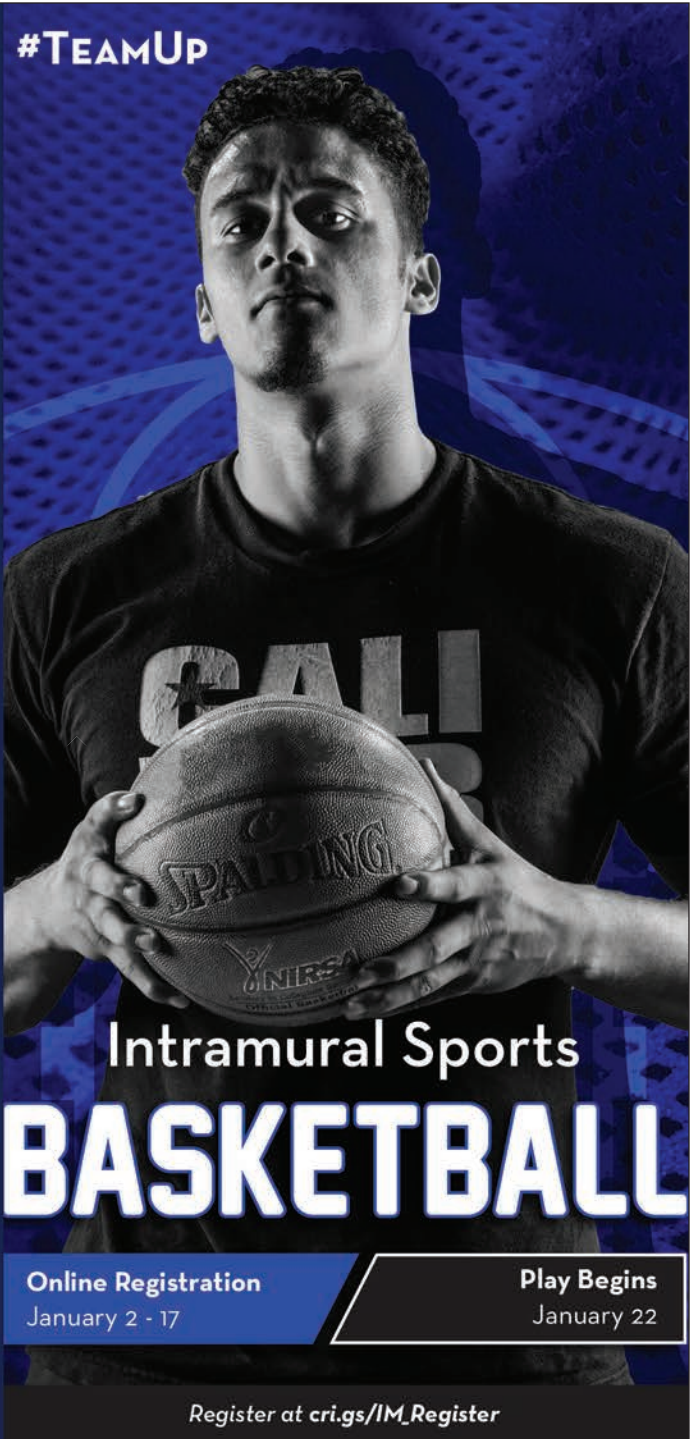


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