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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

one more PRICE

GS seniors face high
graduation costs

Pages 4-5



PHOTO COURTESY OF EDWARD TUMULTY

Musical Paradise
Bands playing at
AURA Fest talk
music, the festival
and community

Pages 8-9

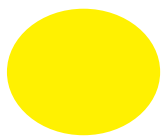


STEP UP TO
THE PLATE
Baseball team
opens season
at renovated J.I.

Page 11

© KIARA GRIFFIN

Thursday



High: 65°
Low: 39°
0 percent
chance of rain

Friday



High: 73°
Low: 47°
0 percent
chance of rain

Saturday



High: 69°
Low: 50°
50 percent
chance of rain

Sunday



High: 74°
Low: 48°
10 percent
chance of rain

Weather Bar

The end of the week should bring some pretty varied weather. Moderate temperatures are coupled with the looming threat of rain on Saturday.



DATING APP RED FLAGS

BY CASEY ROHLEN
The Reflector staff

In a generation reared from the cradle with an iPhone as a pacifier and the internet as a blanket, the dating game is not what it used to be. Long gone are the days of lonely hearts ads and taking your sweetheart to the ice cream parlor. Instead, smartphone apps used to find a quick date or hookup like Tinder or Grindr are becoming increasingly popular among teens and young adults.

Even in the ruthless app-dating game, there's no reason to sell yourself short or settle for a dude in a cutoff jean jacket (unless you're really into Bruce Springsteen). There are just some things that ladies won't go for if you give a bad first screen impression. These are your dating app red flags.

20-year-old junior Georgia Southern student Jessica*, a self-described bisexual and hopeless romantic, said that while she's tried several apps to find the right person for her she's now content with just sticking to Tinder. One of her biggest red flags is if you have a sassy profile, her level of interest swipes left as fast as she can move her finger.

Besides being too crabby in your bio, there is also the issue of being too bland. Alyssa*, a 19-year-old Georgia Southern sophomore, said that she needs a guy that has a sense of humor in his bio. Besides being a savvy wordsmith, she also requires that you be straight up about your pictures.

"I can put looks aside if a guy is funny or interesting,

but you know if all his pictures are of him in a group of friends then he isn't that confident," Alyssa said with a laugh. "You have to play 'Where's Waldo' in these pictures to find out which one is him and it's like okay well now I've already worked too hard to care. Just put yourself out there, you're already on Tinder."

Then there are the classic red herrings, like girls or guys who only have pictures of their faces or from the chest up. Freshmen GS student Emily* said she doesn't care about a guy's body if he is not in too bad of shape, but there's a limit.

These apps are all about riding that fine line. If you aren't cute and you know it, you may want to start working on your pickup lines. Maybe even steal a joke or two because while girls may be less pretentious than guys (depending on who you ask) they still want you to have something going for you.

Some people want to see what you look like after the gym, but others find it unbecoming. Some suitors want people to be funny, but don't want people to be too crass. Whatever you do, you can't be afraid to put yourself out there and show some charisma. In the end, after a long day of hitting the Tinder slopes, all you can hope for is that you've made it out unscathed and hell, maybe you even got lucky. Happy hunting.

Read more at
Reflectorgsu.com.

Check out how Georgia Southern students feel
about zodiac signs!

thecirclegsu.com/zodiac-signs/

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New bill could limit Georgia universities’ role in sexual assault cases

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Rep. Earl Ehrhart proposed House Bill 51 (HB51) last month, and if passed, the bill would limit the role of Georgia colleges and universities in the investigation and punishment of sexual assault cases.

Ehrhart proposed the new bill this January in hopes of protecting sexual assault victims as well as the accused and limit Georgia universities' involvement in sexual assault cases.

Currently, the Office of Title IX Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the investigation and resolution of sexual assault complaints. A hearing is also conducted by the Title IX Coordinator with a designated panel of at least three members, none of whom are students.

Institutions under the new bill would not be able to investigate campus sexual abuse claims unless police were involved.

Instead, school officials will be required to report any information regarding sexual assault felonies to the law enforcement of the jurisdiction in which the institution is located.

Georgia Southern Speaks

“It would be a huge disservice to our students,” Laura McCullough, police chief at Georgia Southern University, said in response to the proposed bill.

McCullough said she would prefer a collaborative process to increase transparency instead of “handing over cases to another agency.”

Joel Wright, GS equal opportunity director and Title IX coordinator, said the university's involvement in

sexual assault cases benefits students by “shining a light on to the issue as a whole and giving it the focus that it needs to have.”

Wright said the judicial process is fair through procedural safeguards all throughout the process, as stated in the University System of Georgia’s (USG) sexual misconduct policy, that help to ensure everyone's due process is being taken into consideration.

Wright also stated that investigators have all been certified and trained, as opposed to Rep. Ehrhart’s claims that universities are under-trained.

“Ours have not only been trained by the USG, which is a requirement, but also by other national organizations,” Wright said.

Although many changes are estimated to come from HB51, student’s access to on-campus counseling should not be affected due to the fact that counseling centers are covered under Georgia law by privileged communication.

“I think it’s important for victims of sexual violence to have options,” Jodi Caldwell, director of the Counseling Center, said. She said her department is attending a meeting to see if and how the counseling department could be affected by HB51.

William Lee, freshman marketing major, said HB51 could be “a good thing,” but believes the university should still be involved.

Lee said, “Anything negative that happens affects the student campus and the student body, so [the university] should have a hand in it.”

Language of Lingerie Lavish'd Love Story fashion show

BY NATALIE TURMAN

The George-Anne staff

Visage, a Georgia Southern University student fashion company, is partnering with Dyverzion Dance team to host this year's Language of Lingerie show, Lavish'd Love Story.

The show goes along with a photo shoot conducted by Ricky Jones, president of Visage and senior merchandising and apparel major and Jalen Collins, freshman undeclared major and model and photographer for Visage.

About Visage and Dyverzion

“With the photo shoots that we do, we try to use every model, whatever they look like, however much they weigh, it doesn't really matter just as long as the final product is beautiful, that's our main goal,” Collins said.

Visage was created three years ago by Morgan Tatum. The organization has more than 150 members, divided into a model troupe, glam squad and PR agency. The executive board is made up of about 24 students who play a major role in the group and their events around campus. The organization also has four major values: body positivity, comradery, fashion by all means and professionalism.

“Visage is open to all students on the campus of Georgia Southern and pretty much what we do is work on the advancement of fashion through styling, design, hair, makeup,

modeling and anything under the umbrella of fashion,” Jones said.

The organization hosts four big events each year. They include The Style-off, Underground Exposure, Language of Lingerie and big final show at the end of the spring semester.

For the future, Visage wants to include more scouting on campus and more pop-up modeling opportunities. They also want to grow the presence on campus by working with more organizations and getting more students involved.

“This year we have really tried to innovate and cultivate our events to make them more friendly to everybody and to get more people to come,” Jones said.

The other student organization involved in the show is the Dyverzion Dance Team.

Dyverzion has been a dance team here on campus since 1996. They have participated in various events and hosted flash mobs around campus. The group currently consists of 24 members. They will have their big show “Lit Since 96” later this semester.

Language of Lingerie

This year's Language of Lingerie show is the Lavish'd Love Story, a show with seven students and their thoughts on what love is. The show will have poetry, live music and other performances and is scheduled for Feb. 24 in the Russell

Georgia Southern remembers Lt. Roach, a True Blue Eagle

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER

The George-Anne staff

“It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frank Roach, a member of the University Police Department,” Laura McCullough, Georgia Southern University police chief, said in an email .

Roach served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Following his four years in the Air Force, he returned to Statesboro, Ga., where he obtained his Bachelors of Science from Georgia Southern College and began a career as an educator in Milledgeville, Ga.

In 1983, Roach graduated from the Police Academy and began his career with the Statesboro Police Department, where he served for 27 years until his retirement in 2010.

In 2011, Roach began his career at GS as the Certification Manager of Georgia Southern Public Safety.

Lt. Roach was 60 when he died this Saturday after staying at the East Georgia Regional Medical Center.

“He will be missed by many in the community, not only here at Georgia Southern, but in Bulloch County and Statesboro as well,” McCullough said.

The family will receive visitors on Monday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro.

Funeral Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the chapel of the Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home. Interment will be in the Eastside Cemetery.

For more information, visit the obituary of Frank Roach.

SOLD

Student Organization & Leadership Development

WORKSHOP SERIES

All SOLD Series Workshops will take place 5:30pm-6:30pm

in Williams Center, Multipurpose Room

Date	Topic
Tuesday, February 21st	Effective Meetings
Wednesday, March 1st	Officer Transitions
Tuesday, March 7th	Leaving Your Leadership Legacy
Wednesday, March 22nd	Bystander Intervention Strategies

Student Organizations Earn 4 WINGS Incentive Points Per Event

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK!

Cost of graduation adds up for Georgia Southern students



GS Commencement will take place this year on May 4 and 5. The cost for this event can go up to thousands of dollars.

BY ALANA TINSLEY

The George-Anne staff

Oh the prices you'll pay

Besides the graduation fee that students will have to pay, graduates will need to rent or purchase a cap and gown from Herff-Jones. Herff-Jones cap and gown rentals start anywhere from \$25 to \$50, but if you plan on purchasing your cap and gown as a keepsake then the price can be up to \$100.

All sizing information needs to be sent in six weeks prior to the deadline or there will be a late fee, according to the Herff-Jones website.

The graduation fee, in addition to cap and gown rentals, will be the bare minimum graduates will have to pay for graduation. It is a custom for people to celebrate an accomplishment, such as graduating from college, with keepsakes, announcements and parties.

Some common mementos such as diploma frames and class rings are offered through GS. At the GS Bookstore, students can purchase diploma frames starting at \$129.00.

"People normally put off getting frames until the week before finals or even during finals week, but prices will go up so its better to get them sooner than later," Martina Rainis, student employee at the GS Bookstore, said.

Students tend to do this because it takes approximately six to eight weeks after the last class for diplomas to be sent to your address.

Students can also purchase class rings through the GS website. Women's rings start at \$269.00 and men's start at \$299.00 for basic ring designs. Prices can go up depending on size, if it's personalized and ring/gem types, according to the GS website.

The post secondary field has seen an increase in graduation fees over the years and Georgia Southern is no exception, spending thousands of dollars each year to make the ceremonies as perfect and seamless as possible.

Everybody who plans to graduate must pay anywhere between \$200 to \$2,000 in order to walk at graduation, have keepsakes from the event and to celebrate the big day.

Pomp and costs

There are many details when it comes to planning graduation. GS collects

the required \$35 graduation fee from every graduating student in order to pay for its expenses, but commencement speakers are not included.

"Commencement speakers are not paid [by the] speaking fee," Geoffrey Carson, associate university attorney of the office of legal affairs, said.

GS has had multiple commencement speakers for graduation ceremonies but the graduation fee does not pay for them to speak at the event, but it does reimburse the speakers for travel and stay.

Other things the fee covers are the cost of diploma covers, honor cords and printing and mailing the diplomas, according to Velma Burden, registrar of Administrative Services.

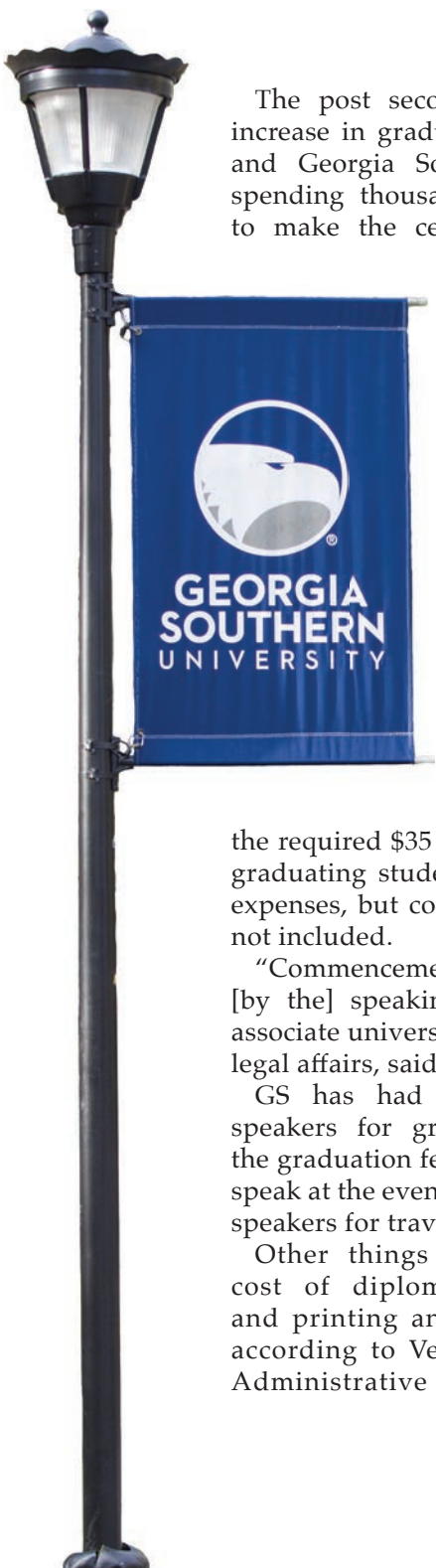
“

It's [graduation fee] really inexpensive compared to other schools.

For my high school graduation, I had to pay \$50."

MARIA ORDONEZ

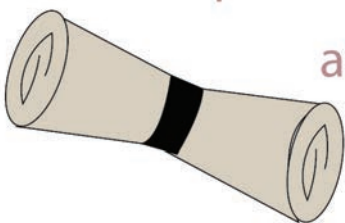
Senior civil engineering major



Grad fast facts

Everybody who plans to graduate must pay anywhere between **\$200** to **\$2,000** in order to walk at graduation.

Cap and gown rentals start anywhere from **\$25** to **\$50**, but can be up to **\$100** if you want to own it.



Diploma frames start at **\$129.00**.



Class Rings
Women's rings start at **\$269.00** while men's rings start **\$299.00** for basic ring designs.

\$35 the amount of money GS collects for a graduation fee.

And the extras

Graduation announcements are another common tradition. At the GS Postal Service Center located inside Dining Commons, they offer deals where they can send out announcements in 24 hours of ordering and start as low as \$0.85 per announcement letter.

You can also order announcements as well as diploma frames past the date of your graduation, but prices will go up the further you are into graduation season.

GS' 2017 Spring graduation will take place May 5 and 6 in Hanner Fieldhouse. Each graduating student will receive four graduation tickets at no cost, but attendees of the commencement will have to pay for travel costs.

People coming to see the graduation will have to consider traveling costs such as food, gas and a place to stay. Depending on how far your guests are coming from and how long they plan to stay, costs will vary in price. Guests should attempt to book a hotel as soon as possible due to rates increasing near graduation.

According to the Holiday Inn website, if you book now, a one-bed two-guest hotel room for any given weekend will be approximately \$150. During graduation weekend, in order to get exact same room, it will double in price. Several other hotels in the Statesboro area like Springfield Inn & Suites and the Baymont Inn & Suites are already booked for graduation weekend.

Some graduating students feel as if the cost of graduation is relatively inexpensive compared to other graduations. Others feel as if the fee is unnecessary and too much.

Maria Ordonez, senior civil engineering student believes the price isn't that bad, compared to others.

"It's [graduation fee] really inexpensive compared to other schools. For my high school graduation, I had to pay \$50," Ordonez said.

In contrast, Rashad Davis, communication studies major, thinks that all the prices that go into school is crazy.

Davis said, "I think it's crazy that you have to pay to apply for the school, then pay for classes and pay to graduate and you're not guaranteed a job after college."



People normally put off getting frames until the week before finals or even during finals week, but prices will go up so its better to get them sooner than later."

MARTINA RAINIS
GS Bookstore employee

OPEN CASTING CALL

Reflector Magazine is looking for a diverse group of people to be on the covershoot of this semester's magazine. Show your pride in our community on Sunday, February 19th and be featured on the cover of your student lifestyle magazine.

Contact magseditor@georgiasouthern.edu by Thursday, February 16th to be a part of your school's history. Details to follow.





© XXAVIER ROBERTSON

A tradition that will keep the conversation going

BY CHELSEA DAVIS

The George-Anne contributor

The Vagina Monologues is an episodic play that caused a lot of conversation on Georgia Southern's campus back in Spring of 2014. Now in 2017, the Vagina Monologues has returned to GS to continue these conversations.

Back in 2007, Lori Amy, professor of women's studies, brought the tradition of the Vagina Monologues to GS.

The GS chapter of the National Organization for Women will be hosting the Vagina Monologues this week in which the monologues will consist of different stories about women and their sexuality.

"Some of the stories are people telling their stories to maybe a close friend, or even possibly a stranger. Some acts will have poetry. They are all different kinds of celebrations of women's sexuality," Candy Schille, one of the first directors of the Women and Gender Studies Department here at GS, said. "Different women such as heterosexual women, transgender women, lesbian women, women who have undergone 'female circumcision' and women giving birth. So it's a celebration of female sexuality back before it was fashionable."

Schille will be a speaker at Vagina Monologues in which she will tell the story of an older woman that went through something tragic as a young girl, who was scarred and basically killed for any desire for sexual fulfillment. This is just one of the many stories that will be told.

"NOW hasn't had a production since the Spring of 2014, so this is our first year doing it because the membership of NOW has been fairly low as well as the financial ability to put on a performance of the Vagina Monologues," Brieana Williams, senior writing and linguistics major and GS chapter vice-president of NOW, said. "This is the first year we are able to do it and we definitely want to keep that tradition alive, because it does benefit so many people and it does start that conversation."

“You know there are certain conversations that can be challenging to have when you live in the conservative self, and so our goal is to try to start those conversations without anyone feeling prosecuted and get to the path of mutual equity.”

REBECCA FOSTER

GS chapter NOW President

The Feminist Movement

The Women's Movement, also known as the Feminist Movement, sparked change in how the world would view women. Women wanted to do everything a man could while still keeping their femininity.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women was founded in Washington, D.C. and later helped formulate 550 chapters worldwide. One of those chapters happens to be here on-campus.

Amy decided to keep the mission going by chartering a chapter of NOW here at Georgia Southern.

NOW at Georgia Southern

NOW is an organization that wants women to feel free in their own self. They want women from all different backgrounds, different experiences, different ages and even different sexualities to come together as one and talk about the true issues at hand. The chapter here at GS focuses on the equitable treatment of everyone and the social injustices that women can face.

"Our mission on campus is to try to initiate dialogues on campus that will help foster empathy. You know there are certain conversations that can be challenging to have when you live in the conservative self and so our goal is to try to start those conversations without anyone feeling prosecuted and get to the path of mutual equity," Rebecca Foster, writing and linguistics major and GS chapter president of NOW, said.

Here at GS, the members at NOW believe that hosting the Vagina Monologues is their contribution to the feminist movement. It allows all different types of women to come together as one and talk about the issues they deal with on a day to day basis.

“People should come out because ticket proceeds will be donated to helping people who have survived sexual assault and get onto the path of healing that’s best for them. [It’s] a really worthy cause on a college campus in a college town knowing that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men have reported being sexually assaulted,” Foster said.

The goal of Vagina Monologues is to act as a safe zone for people who are afraid to speak up about their experiences and know that the support is there.

The Vagina Monologues will be held in the Russell Union Theatre on Feb. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. Early arrival is suggested.

1. The entire cast participates in the introduction. There are 17 total themes in the entire Vagina Monologues, including the introduction. The cast includes:

- Dr. Brenda Blackwell

Asya Fields

Sam Watt

Jessica Vue

Kat Delghingaro

Dr. Candy Schille

Peyton Rowe

Brooke Fulton
- Rebecca Frost

Brie Williams

Daja Hansel- Coates

Liz Wilson

Tori Townes

Ashanti Hardy

Azi Dennison



A member of the GS chapter of NOW selling tickets before the show.

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“

This is the first year we are able to do it and we definitely want to keep that tradition alive, because it does benefit so many people and it does start that conversation”

BRIANA WILLIAMS
GS chapter NOW Vice President

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MUSIC MEDLEY

A day for all-ages entertainment

BY JULIA FECHTER

The George-Anne staff

A brick path is winding into the distance. The walkway intertwines with flowers, shrubs and lawns.

The path leads you to a patio covered by wooden rafters that provide shade.

Eventually, you make your way to a stage where bands from across the United States are performing.

Bands ranging from the rock to metal genres will play at the AURA Fest rock-and-roll festival this Saturday, Feb. 18.

Members from two of these bands took the time to explain who their bands are and gave insight into what makes their bands unique.

Vatican

The members of this band are Savannah locals. They have been playing music together for two years, according to the guitarist, Nolan David Mobley.

Vatican's brand of music can be summarized as a blend of metal and hardcore genres, characterized by blazing guitar riffs and haunting yet energetic vocals.

"We would definitely consider ourselves more hardcore because of the community mentality aspect of things. We just play within the hardcore community," Mobley said. "Aside from things like this fest every now and then, we get to play things like [with] more exposed metal bands."

Mobley appreciates hardcore communities for the supportive attitude they display. He described how that can help with Vatican booking shows or, vice versa, helping other bands book shows.

He also mentioned that Vatican is most excited to play with Uneath and Zao at the music festival.

"I was listening to Uneath in high school because my friend gave me 'The March' CD...that was a great album. I really liked it through high school, and I definitely think it influenced my playing for sure," Mobley said.

Vatican has recently released music of their own, in the form of a four-way split record. A split record is similar to a compilation CD because it has multiple artists on it. However, it typically has fewer artists represented on it than a compilation.

Vatican has two songs on the record, "Walls of Regression" and "Before It Fades". Their friends in the Long Island band, Sanction, along with Oregon's Funerals and Iron Curtain from California, also have two songs each on the release.

"Those songs were the first two songs we got to write with this lineup. I would say those are fairly accurate songs of what we sound like now," Mobley said.

He believes that it is important for Vatican to always have a raw, natural sound.

"Rather than like overly produced. I'd just rather our music be straightforward... same for our performance. We hope that people will enjoy it and want to move around," Mobley said.



AURA FEST

Save Yourself- The
Walls of Regre
Casanova- The I
Divine Ruinat

1. Vatican's drummer, Josiah Soto-Ramos (left) and vocalist Jonathan Whittle (right) passionately perform one of their songs at a Colorado concert. Photo courtesy of Jacki Vitetta

2. The Funeral Portraits singer, Lee Jennings sings along with lead guitarist, AJ Pekarek. Photo courtesy of Edward Tumulty

The Funeral Portrait

This group has performed alongside artists such as Islander, Capture the Crown and Alesana. Lee Jennings, the lead singer of The Funeral Portrait, outlined the band's sound.

"The easiest way [to describe it] would probably be just a raw, real, fast, emotional rock band," Lee Jennings said.

The band used to be called Cosmoscope, but the members changed its name when they decided upon a new vision for it and wrote their EP "For the Dearly Departed".

"It's honestly the same band. At the time, we had all the same members and everything. We just decided to kind of just go with the new name and feel towards the band, kind of like a new chapter for us," Jennings said.

As they transitioned into a new chapter of the band, Jennings explained that there was only one significant lineup change.

"The only thing that really changed [is] that our guitar player, Steve, moved to drums, and our drummer, Juergie, moved to guitar," Jennings said. "That way, it gave Juergie a better condition to be the secondary vocalist in our band."

They toured full-time in support of "For the Dearly Departed" for about two years. It took them a while to get to the right place to write another record, according to Jennings.

Their EP had a lot of orchestra sounds to it, which gave it a sort of theatrical quality. With the new album, Jennings wanted to focus on guitar riffs first and then add in supplementary sounds like synthesizers.

He hoped that the new record would be a more real, emotional version of who they were musically. He thinks that The Funeral Portrait will continue to change how it sounds.

"I don't think we'll ever be the same band 'sounding-wise' per release. That's just not who we are as people, or who we are as musicians either," Jennings said.

He elaborated that he and the other members of The Funeral Portrait wanted their new album, "A Moment of Silence", to be a more mature release. He thought it should reflect their growth from being a band for two years.

"You can get bored with a band if you pop in record after record after record, and it sounds exactly the same," Jennings said.

He talked about how when they play shows, he and the other band members always seek to give performances all their effort.

"Sometimes, it can be a weird, dangerous rock show where Juergie will take off his guitar and swing it above his head...there will be times where I'll jump off the amps or something," Jennings said. "We always try to put on a great live show so that when people leave, they think, 'Oh I have to go back and see TFP'," Jennings said.

He added that, since the band has grown, they have been able to expand and play a few festivals. However, AURA Fest will be the biggest festival they have played so far.

For a complete setlist and other information can be found on the Facebook page "AURA Fest (All Underground Rock All Day) 2017."



T PLAYLIST

the Funeral Portrait
ession- Vatican
Funeral Portrait
tion- Vatican

Foods & Beverages

Dark Shark Taco Attack
Molly McPherson's
Kona Ice

For 21+ attendees

Southbound Brewing
Pabst Blue Ribbon
Deep Eddy Vodka

**The Funeral Portrait
will play on the first
stage at 2:50 p.m.
Vatican will follow,
playing on the second
stage at 5:05 p.m.**

GEORGIA SOUTHERN FALLS TO APP STATE

SUN BELT RACE REMAINS TIGHT DOWN THE STRETCH



BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men's basketball team suffered another road loss on Monday night, falling to rival Appalachian State, 83-78, in Boone, N.C. The Eagles have now lost their last four games on the road, while winning their last eight in Hanner Fieldhouse.

MONDAY'S GAME

Sophomore guard Tookie Brown had a monster game for GS, scoring 32 points - 20 in the second half - while grabbing a team-high 9 rebounds and dishing out five assists.

"He brings it every night," GS head coach Mark Byington said of Brown. "He plays with the gas pedal pushed all the way to the floor."

Brown's backcourt mate, sophomore Ike Smith, scored 19 points and grabbed 5 rebounds, but he committed 6 turnovers as well. App

State's bench outscored the GS bench, 25-12. The Mountaineers were able to outlast the Eagles on their home floor at the Holmes Convocation Center.

"Going on the road in college basketball is hard," Byington said.

App State junior forward Griffin Kinney scored 25 points and had nine rebounds to lead four Mountaineers who scored in double figures on Monday. Kinney shot 20 free throws, making 13 of them in addition to 6-10 shooting from the field.

Sophomore guard Ronshad Shabazz and freshman guard Patrick Good contributed 12 and 11 points, respectively, for App State. Sophomore guard Emarius Logan scored 10 points, rounding out the Mountaineers' balanced attack.

LOOKING AHEAD

Byington explained that his team's defense will be the deciding factor in determining whether the Eagles can win a Sun Belt Championship and

contend for an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"We're constantly growing," Byington said. "We have certain guys who are really improving but the team defense and finishing with rebounds, sometimes we're lacking in those areas."

Monday's loss puts the Eagles, at 9-4 in the conference, in a three-way tie with Georgia State and Arkansas State for second place in the Sun Belt and half a game behind conference-leading University of Texas-Arlington (9-3). The Eagles will have a chance to play both Arkansas State and Georgia State among their last three regular-season games, both on the road.

GS will play their next two games at home, with Texas State coming to Hanner on Saturday at 5 p.m. and the UT-Arlington Mavericks coming on Monday at 7 p.m.

The Sun Belt Tournament begins March 8 in New Orleans.

Sophomore point guard Tookie Brown looks to make a pass. Brown scored 32 points against App State.



The Eagles huddle up during a timeout. They are tied for second in the Sun Belt.



EAGLE BASEBALL SET TO BEGIN

FIRST SERIES THIS WEEKEND
AGAINST MIDDLE TENNESSEE

MICK MILLER

Senior LHP Evan Challenger winds up to pitch. Challenger was named second team All-Sun Belt last year.

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

Baseball is coming to the newly renovated J.I. Clements Stadium this weekend as the Blue Raiders of Middle Tennessee visit Statesboro for a three-game series. The games will take place Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

RETURNING PLAYERS

The Eagles return several significant starters after finishing with a record of 36-24 last season. Among the returners are five players who batted .280 or better last season as part of a balanced offense. Junior outfielder Logan Baldwin led the group with a .304 average, while senior infielder Ryan Cleveland smashed 15 homers and had 55 RBI and a .404 on-base percentage to lead Georgia Southern.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Chase Cohen and senior left-hander Evan Challenger will return to lead the Eagles' starting pitching staff. Last year, Cohen earned a 2.66 ERA over 15 starts, finishing the season with a 4-3 record as a starter. Challenger pitched the most innings (103) among Eagle pitchers, and won the most decisions, finishing the season 7-5 with a 3.14 ERA. Senior right-handed relief pitcher Landon Hughes finished last season with an impressive

2.47 ERA over 24 appearances while notching four saves as well.

outfielder Blake Benefield led the Blue Raiders with 8 home runs and 32 RBIs.

WEEKEND SERIES

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders return a prolific hitter in senior shortstop Riley Delgado. Delgado started all 55 games last year for MT, finishing with a .388 batting average, a freaky-good .492 on-base percentage, and 80 hits on the season. Senior outfielder Brad Jarreau hit .298 last year, and sophomore

LOOKING AHEAD

After playing Middle Tennessee, the Eagles will host Georgia Tech for a game at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Subsequently, GS will remain at Clements Stadium and play host to the Georgia Bulldogs in a three-game series beginning on Friday, Feb. 24.

BIGGEST SERIES OF THE SEASON

	UGA	02/24, 02/25 & 02/26 STATESBORO, GA.
	APP STATE	04/13, 04/14 & 04/15 STATESBORO, GA.
	COASTAL CAROLINA	04/21, 04/22 & 04/23 CONWAY, S.C.
	UL LAFAYETTE	05/05, 05/06 & 05/07 LAFAYETTE, LA.
	GEORGIA STATE	05/18, 05/19 & 05/20 LAFAYETTE, LA.

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Page designed by Rebecca Hooper

To contact the sports editor, email gasports@georgiasouthern.edu

WOMEN’S TENNIS SWEEP SAVANNAH STATE



XXAVIER ROBERTSON

Senior Mariana Ranzahuer follows through on her shot. Ranzahuer and sophomore Lindsay Truscott won their doubles set, 6-2.

BY MARQUS WILLIAMS

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University women’s tennis team (5-1) beat the Savannah State Tigers at home. The Eagles swept the Tigers 7-0, gaining an early 2-0 lead after defeating the Tigers in doubles and receiving a forfeit point because the Tigers didn’t have enough players to play on all courts.

DOUBLES MATCHES

Senior Mariana Ranzahuer and sophomore Lindsay Truscott won their doubles match 6-2 against Lochu and Pastore. Sophomore Paige Christian and freshman Nikki Gilner won their match 6-3 against Vivas and el Kateb.

“We are feeling really confident. We’re on a 5-1 streak, which is really good for us because we have Georgia Tech coming up next, who I think are pretty strong,” Ella Monsey, junior, said.

“We’ve played some good teams so far, so I think we will be fine [against Georgia Tech],” Nikki Gilner, freshman, said.

SINGLES MATCHES

As the singles matches came full circle, it was no doubt in the Eagles’ control. Sophomore Emilia Bujan, Lindsay Truscott and freshman Arianne de Winter all won their matches in straight sets.

Bujan defeated Burrows 6-1,6-0, Truscott defeated Pastore 6-2, 7-5, and De Winter defeated el Kateb 6-1, 6-1. It was smooth sailing for the Eagles on all courts, except for courts one and three where Christian and senior Giulia Riepe both went to the third set.

For Christian, she won the first set 6-0, but her opponent Vivas didn’t let that stop her from battling back and taking the second set 4-6. After losing the second set, Christian won the third set in convincing fashion, winning 10-3, which gave the Eagles a 6-0 lead and one point shy of a sweep.

BIG MATCH-UP

On court one that features each team’s number-one player, Riepe faced off against Lochu, and the match lasted over an hour after all other matches ended. Riepe lost the first set 4-6 but battled back to win the second set 6-3 in a match-up with two evenly matched players. The third set was a crucial time and growing point for Riepe as she came from behind, 4-0 down, to beat Lochu 10-8.

“It was really good [that Riepe battled back]. We have a lot to talk about--about that match, it was definitely more of a mental battle for her than anything, so just working on that confidence and controlling that mental side of the game is going to help her,” Michelle Stanford, head coach, said.

The win was big for Riepe because, in the Eagles previous game against the University of Central Florida, she lost in two sets and lost a close match earlier in the season in the same type of situation.

The Eagles’ next game is against 11-ranked Georgia Tech at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18.



2/16 WEEKLY BUZZ 2/22

- **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 Weekly Volunteer Trips Kickoff!**
Want to make more of an impact Spring Semester than you did in the Fall? Take a trip, make a difference! The Office of Leadership and Community Engagement offers the unique opportunity for students to make an impact within Statesboro by going on weekly volunteer trips. Whether you want to volunteer with kids at the After School Program, help distribute meals at the Food Bank, help remodel a house with Habitat for Humanity, or have tons of fun with residents in long term care or rehabilitation programs, our office is your spot! Our ten Volunteer trips are offered Monday-Saturday with times ranging from 8:45am to 3:45pm. Transportation is provided. Join your fellow students and engage the community! Sign up in the Office of Leadership & Community Engagement (R U 1056 across from Chick-Fil-A).
Monday: Heritage Inn 2-4 | ASP Cone Homes 3:00-5:15
Tuesday: Westwood Nursing Home 2:00-4:00 | After School Program Mill Creek 3:45-5:30
Wednesday: Statesboro Food Bank 12:30-2:30
Thursday: After School Program Julia P. 3:30-5:30 | After School Garden Program 3:30-5:15
Friday: Statesboro Food Bank 9:45-12:15 | Habitat for Humanity 1:00-4:00
- **UPB: Mr. GSU Scholarship Pageant Informational Session**
Tuesday, February 7th & Thursday, February 9th
Wednesday, February 15th, & Thursday, February 16th
6:00 - 7:00 pm, Russell Union 2052
Mr. GSU attends traditional and community events and represents the student body in all that he does. Anyone that is interested in participating, must attend at least ONE information session (no exceptions) and submit an application that can be found on MyInvolvement.
Application timeline:
Opens: Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00pm (via MyInvolvement)
Closes: Friday, February 24 at 4:00pm
Contestant Requirements:
-Must be currently enrolled at Georgia Southern University for 12 or more hours.
-Must have at least a 2.0 GPA
-Must have completed at least one semester at Georgia Southern University by date of pageant.
-Must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university.
-Complete application, contract, etc. and submit to the Office of Student Activities.
-Must not turn 25 years old during the year of service.
***Contestants must meet all requirements to be eligible.
If you need assistance, related to access for this event, please email: upb@GeorgiaSouthern.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu
- **Student Organization & Leadership Development (SOLD)**
Tuesday, February 21st, 5:30 pm, Williams Center Multipurpose Room
Topic: Effective Meetings presented by Kathryn Harrison
The SOLD Workshop Series is designed for any student seeking to develop their individual leadership capabilities and for students who currently or aspire to hold a leadership position within a student organization. This series is an excellent way for student organizations to train their next leaders. The cost of attending this outstanding workshop series is FREE!
Contact Information: Cwood@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.

ADRIAN PETERSON RETURNS TO STATESBORO

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY

The George-Anne staff

A week after the football season officially ended with Tom Brady and the New England Patriots winning another championship, a man who is very familiar with earning accolades and honors returned to Statesboro.

Monday afternoon, former Georgia Southern running back Adrian Peterson visited to talk about his recent induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, his book Don’t Dis My Abilities and his life.

Before speaking with the students in the Russel Union Ballroom as a part of Georgia Southern’s Wellness Week Monday night, Peterson took the time to talk to the media.

When talking about receiving the news about his induction into the Hall of Fame, “a big smile came across (his) face,” and he was quick to thank all of those that paved the way and helped him reach this honor.

Though he had other offers to other schools and programs, he knew once he signed with GS, he was an Eagle. In a humble manner, he said his only goals upon signing were to “possibly get on the field and win” and never thought of a Hall of Fame spot.

Peterson gave thanks to his speech therapist Sharon Milner who “was tremendous in (his) development as a speaker” which was just another way Georgia Southern helped him in his career off the field.

The press conference concluded with Peterson being honored to be in such a great Hall of Fame class and told stories of watching Marshall Faulk as a kid, being on the Chicago Bears with Brian Urlacher, and Coach Steve Spurrier coaching his older brother at the University of Florida.

Adrian Peterson along with the rest of the 2017 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be inducted at the 60th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 5 in New York.



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.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: The newspaper is printed by The Brunswick News in Brunswick, Ga.

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.

Independent Thinkers

JANA RENZ

Renz is a freshman music education major from Statesboro. This is a guest column.

What this country needs are independent thinkers. I am ashamed of the partisan politics being orchestrated by our nation's leaders. Our elected officials are so caught up in opposing the other party, they aren't doing the jobs they were elected to do. The hate rhetoric encourages citizens, and some university students, to be caught up in emotional anger and even violence.

I once heard an African folk tale that can illustrate this.

The folk tale tells of a village school which was situated in a mountainous region. The children

were progressing well in their studies. But, not far from the school was a dangerous cliff. Although warned of the danger, children would often play too close to the edge. Occasionally, a child would slip and fall to the rocky ground below. Some were seriously injured and it was a long way to the hospital in another village.

The people were greatly distressed over this situation and decided something must be done. "If we build a clinic at the bottom of the cliff, when a child falls, we will be able to get him medical care right away!" "This is just what we need," everyone agreed. They excitedly began making plans and preparations for their new clinic.

One day, the people looked up and saw one lone man with hammer and nails piecing together heavy wooden rails at the top of the cliff.

"Would not it be better that none of the children fall than that we repair their broken bodies at the bottom of the cliff?"

THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM. It doesn't make someone a child-hater, just because he would rather build a fence than a clinic.

Politically speaking, there is a lot of hype and mis-information out there. Someone starts a rumor, then it is quoted as fact, repeated exponentially, and everyone jumps on the political bandwagon.

President Trump is neither all good nor all bad, but he is an independent thinker. Yasmeen Waliaga's article, "What's the Deal With These Orders?" on the Feb. 9 issue, is a good example of informed independent thinking.

Be an independent thinker. Following the flock is for the birds.

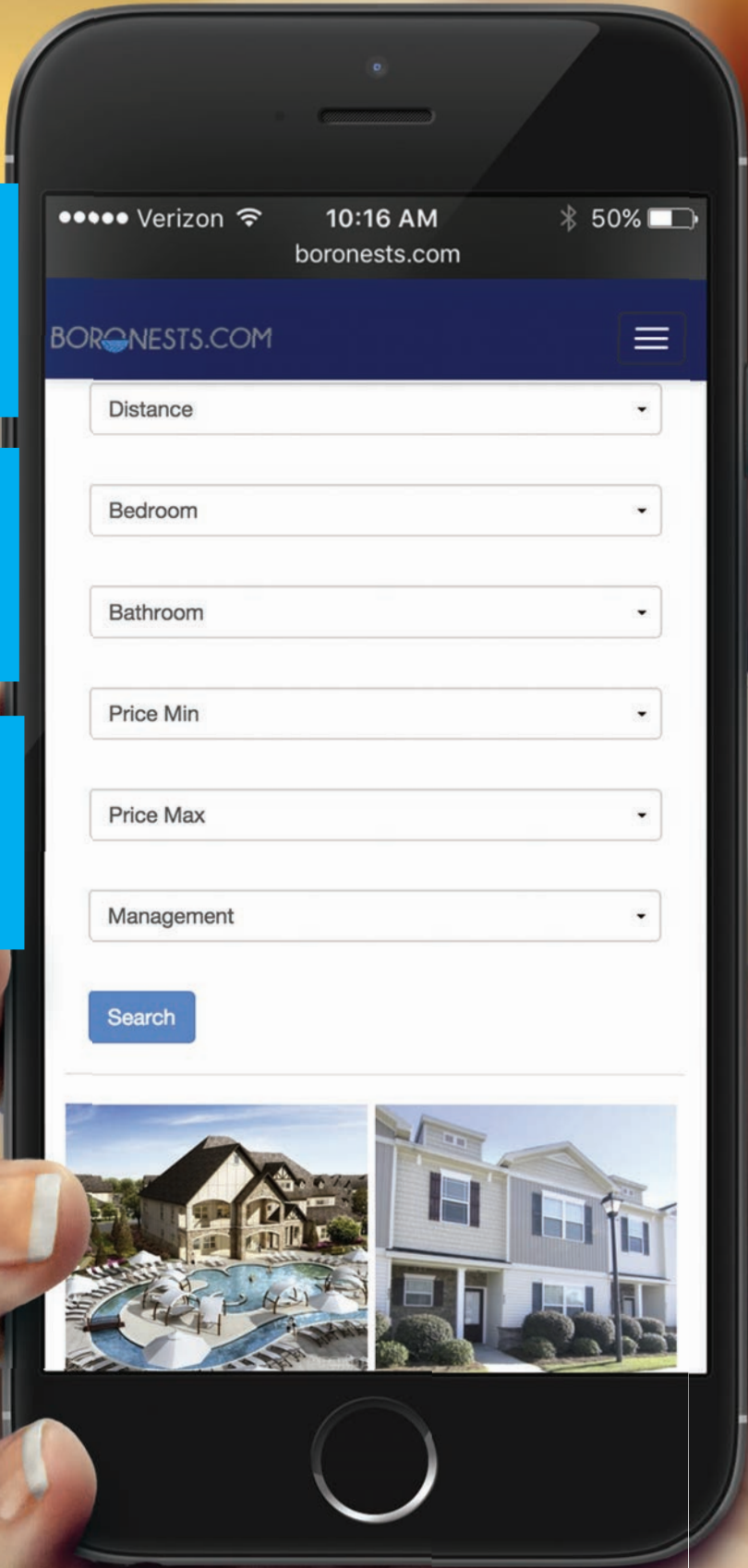
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Across

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- 9 Military installations
- 14 Doing business
- 15 Low-lying area
- 16 Oranjestad's island
- 17 Work garments
- 19 Eagle's claw
- 20 Eyes
- 21 Aura
- 23 Serf
- 25 Go wrong
- 26 Winter warmer
- 29 Shouted
- 34 Give in to gravity
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- 39 Calendar span
- 40 Transparent
- 42 Harem room
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- 53 Twosome
- 55 Spills
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- 65 Convex molding
- 66 Last Supper chalice
- 68 Iranian language
- 69 Fencing sword
- 70 Data
- 71 Admiral's command
- 72 Musical mark
- 73 "Go ahead, I dare you!"

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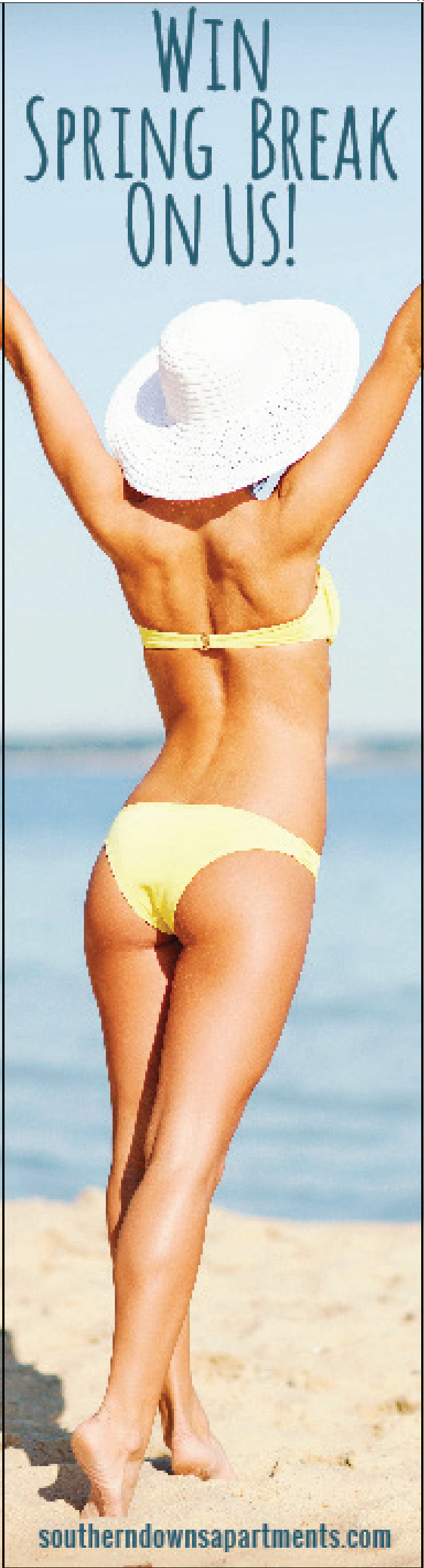
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Down

- 1 Somewhat, in music
- 2 Geologic period
- 3 Musical show
- 4 Death tolls?
- 5 Reproductive cells
- 6 Oil source
- 7 Comrade in arms
- 8 "Steppenwolf" author
- 9 Lampoon
- 10 Mideast hot spot
- 11 Lollapalooza
- 12 Slender reed
- 13 ___ Quentin
- 18 Water cannon target
- 22 Encouraging word
- 24 Mr. Turkey
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- 28 Back, in a way
- 30 Soap ingredient
- 31 "___ we forget..."
- 32 Diner sign
- 33 Discontinue
- 34 Ella Fitzgerald specialty
- 35 Pond organism
- 36 Equipment
- 38 Alborg native
- 41 Gallery display
- 43 Disney's "___ Pete"
- 46 U.S.S.R. successor
- 49 Quick-witted
- 50 French way
- 52 Dreadful
- 54 Catchall category
- 56 Nero's instrument
- 57 Video store section
- 58 Racer's path
- 59 Sweat source
- 60 "What ___ is new?"
- 61 Hit the bottle
- 62 Stout relatives
- 64 "Thanks ___!"
- 65 Wide of the mark
- 67 "Is it soup ___?"

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718 Northside Dr E #10, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Vandy's BBQ
725 Northside Dr. East Suite, Statesboro GA 30458

- Boyd's BBQ & Country Buffet
302 Northside Dr W, Statesboro, GA 30458

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224 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458

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12218 US-301, Statesboro, GA 30458

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Statesboro Mall, 995 Lovett Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Daylight Donuts
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- Dunkin' Donuts
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- La' Berry
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Simply Sweet Cakery
609 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA

- Sugar Magnolia
106C Savannah Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

Pita:

- Pita Pit
609 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

Pizza:

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1098 Suite 1, Bermuda Run, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Primos Italian Pizza Kitchen
609-9 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

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701 Piedmont Loop #200, Statesboro, GA 30458

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