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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

From the Smithsonian to Georgia Southern

How the U.S. national tick
collection came to GS

Pages 8-9

Recycle Mania

Annual recycling
tournament celebrates
three years

Page 5


TOUGH SPRING BREAK

Eagles' tennis struggle on
the road

Page 11




Thursday




High: 65°
Low: 46°
0 percent chance of rain

Friday




High: 75°
Low: 53°
10 percent chance of rain

Saturday



High: 79°
Low: 57°
0 percent chance of rain

Sunday



High: 83°
Low: 58°
100 percent chance of rain

Weather Bar

We should see comfortable temperatures for most of the week. Sunday does threaten to bring rain, but the other days should be pleasant.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THECIRCLEGSU.COM

Check out some highlights from Georgia Southern’s spring football practice!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/football-report/>

Kristy’s Spring Break

BY KRISTY DANIELS
The Reflector staff

Sunday

Hibernation in my hometown, Liberty County, Georgia. I also bought a round-trip plane ticket with this... My wallet was so angry at me.

Monday

Netflix and no chill. I binge watched Korean movies all day, and I also waited in line on Ticketmaster to purchase \$300 concert tickets to go see a Korean pop group called EXO. (Check them out. They’re amazing.) Later on, I visited a friend who shared the same dates for spring break as me. I ended up falling asleep at her place and woke up to five missed calls from Mum and dozens of “WHERE ARE YOU” texts from Father. Oops.

Tuesday

Went go-kart racing in Pooler! Had tons of fun, except for the fact that Georgia decided now was the best time to go through mood swings and it wasn’t fun driving a go-kart in 40-degree weather... Afterwards, I went to Tanger Outlets and successfully did not break my bank. Hooray!

Wednesday

I went on a date with a nice young man. He bought me boba tea (also called bubble tea, this is my favorite drink, it’s not alcohol don’t worry) in downtown Savannah at a place called Fire Street Food. I also ate delicious pizza at Sweet Melissa’s and walked

around Broughton Street. A day well spent. I tried my first Shamrock Shake at McDonald’s!

Thursday

I hung out with my ex-boyfriend (LOL). He bought me Starbucks, McDonald’s, and gave me gas money. No reason to turn any of those down! Later, I went to a strip club and will not disclose any further information about what went down.

Friday

Woke up at the crack of Satan’s ass to go to the St. Patrick’s Day parade with some friends in downtown Savannah. It was 32 degrees and extremely crowded. Everyone around me was either drunk or smelled of weed or cigarettes. I will never ever do that again. Later that night, I went to two different parties; one was a college party and the other was a club/party.

Saturday

I slept all day. I spent all week clubbing or going out. . . I needed a break.

Sunday

Time to finally do all those homework assignments!



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We didn't start the *fire*

The Downplayed Fuel of Today's Opioid Epidemic



YASMEEN WALIAGA

Waliaga is a senior journalism major from Alpharetta, Ga.

In a Wendy's bathroom on Atlanta's University Avenue, I found a young woman no older than me hunched over unconscious in the next stall. I listened, paralyzed as the employees stood above her. "She done shot herself up. That's what they be doin' now." She didn't look like a user, just like my cousin, a well-raised successful Georgia Southern alumni, who passed away from a heroin overdose years ago didn't.

Passing exit 244 when I drive through Atlanta has disturbed me since as I question each time whether the girl from the bathroom stall lived. It was because she resembled someone I could have spent time with, someone that could have been a friend. Her presentation wasn't that of a slum wandering the bluff with meth scars and a trash bag full of clothes and a hot-pink bra strap sticking out of a dirty white t-shirt.

Somehow, drug abuse and overdose doesn't rattle us and eat at our conscience until they happen to someone similar enough to us. How could this be a surprise though, in a society that a terrorist attack only hurts when it kills those in an allied country- a society that doesn't budge when a stripper is the victim of rape?

Today's Opioid Epidemic

The opiate-induced drowning of much of today's young, especially in the Greater Atlanta area, is often blamed on the government and doctors with little limits to how much they can prescribe.

According to the CDC, the number of opiate-related deaths has increased by more than five times the number in 1999. The government could take action, but they'd be tough to accomplish, especially in a region painted with right-wing political ideology that often stands on the idea of "to each their own."

Belonging to the most monitored demographic in the current opioid

epidemic, I've realized there is more to it. There are other parties to be held accountable than the government, and I'm not sure whether the government has much of a role at all. There is something deeper damaging those destroyed by these drugs and what leads them there.

An investigative series by 11Alive brought focus to "The Triangle," an area with an "alarming" rate of growth in heroin use in metro Atlanta, marked by three cities and the region within.

I grew up in Alpharetta, a large suburb within the "triangle." Just like any stereotypical suburb, most high school kids I knew indulged in drinks and the occasional smoke at house parties. But there were always those few that would make a gradual but seemingly sudden shift from the "norm" to someone who was never satisfied enough with drinks and immature fun. By the time anyone noticed, they were too far gone. For the heroin users, it almost always began with opiates.

A Damned Generation

For the working fathers prescribed painkillers after surgeries and the mothers prescribed them following C-section procedures, dependency could be directly caused by the doctor who overlooked the capability of the drug and of individuals to control their use of it. But I want to discuss what is happening to the young adults- the late teens and early twenty-something's who were never prescribed a thing. Why the immense rise in prescription drug abuse among young people over the years?

I blame it on being raised in a version of America that gives nothing at all but too much at the same time. I blame it on being brought up and conditioned by a society that promotes acceptance while also enforcing perfection. All of this topped off with a culture that normalizes drug use- a recipe appetizing to the population of unsatisfied, over privileged but under noticed millennials.

But it's not all our fault. I remember watching idly as drugs became normalized- not the illegal drugs, but the ones disguised by a mask of regularity that people confused with harmlessness. I remember when stimulants prescribed for ADHD went from being embarrassing to being cool, and after that transformed reputation, all the parents wanted their kids to have them. Vyvanse became the drug equivalent of some designer clothing brand.

I remember seeing 10th graders look like they were pushing through quicksand

to drag their feet into class after taking Xanax bars found in the medicine cabinet in their kitchens at home. But don't be shocked. It was normalized long before this. It was normalized when their stay-at-home mothers became prescribed to a cocktail of anxiety meds in order to make it through their judgment-ridden cultural circles and boredom- paired with a glass of Chardonnay, of course.

The Tipping Point

A couple years ago, I reconnected with a current inmate I was somewhat acquainted with in high school. I maintained contact with him for months, delving into his experiences locked up and asking how being raised in "the triangle" may have played a role. I wanted to know how he got to that point. The former high school football player with several well-rounded friends and a wholesome upbringing ended up in and out of jail, robbing banks and cashing forged checks for the next fix.

Most of those who associated with him placed him in a separate category from us the moment he became an opiate user, as anyone would. We couldn't relate, but we were never much different. His drug use didn't begin with a doctor's order. Instead, from people who target millennials from affluent, detached suburban communities whose residents appear lost and in search of something to fill the void that comes with being raised in a shallow age of American culture. How is it a shock that numbing drugs have increased in use in a place where intolerance is the only option because tolerance would drive anyone mad?

Whether it be too much pressure or having so little expectations from generations above that there is little to aim for, something has corrupted young drug users long before their first pill. Before falling desperately to the poisonous allure of addictive drugs, millennials are victimized by lack of fulfillment and lack of substance. Likely, it seems to be the worst in those rich affluent areas where kids are raised watching their parents unfulfilled and overprescribed.

And what does one do when drugs are normalized and society has little capacity for whining- they find an out. And often once they realize the "out" is the exact opposite- a trap- it's too late.

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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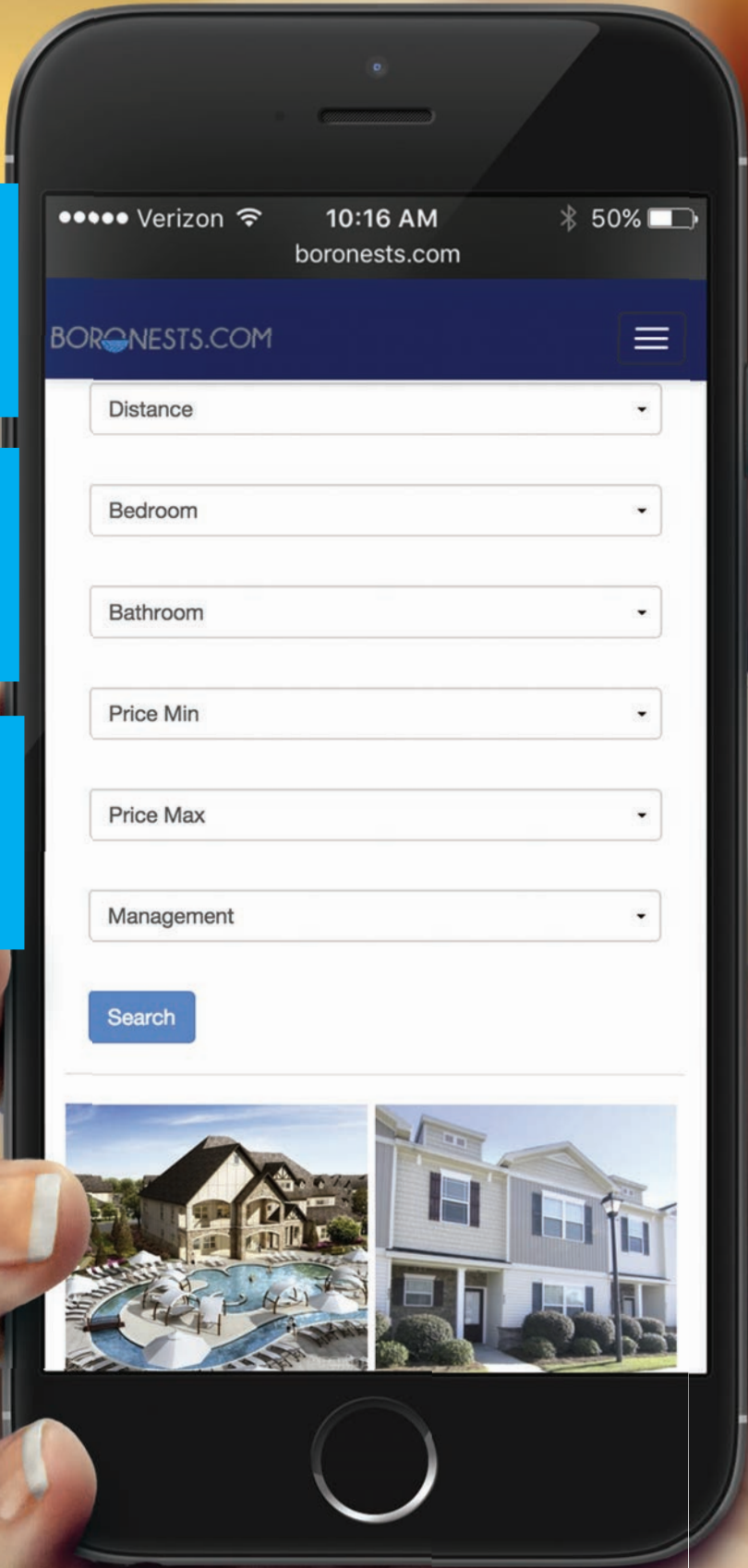
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Looking back at RecycleMania

BY TASHA WHITE
The George-Anne staff

Since 2014, Georgia Southern University has participated in RecycleMania, a nationwide collegiate tournament geared towards getting college students involved in recycling as well as creating a cleaner community. Now three years later, the event has had a lasting impact on the GS community. Many students think the competition can help students and others in the community. "I think its cool that we have an event like this because it makes recycling fun," Keaton Drinkwater, sophomore sports management major, said. "It brings awareness to the recycling itself and I think more students should get involved."

The history of RecycleMania

The first RecycleMania event began back in 2001 between Ohio University and Miami University as a way to get students to recycle more. In 2004, RecycleMania teamed up with the US EPA WasteWise program which brought in support for the competition. During the competition, colleges and/or universities compete in numerous categories based on the waste reduction collected, organic food and the weight of the recyclables. The GS campus first got into the competition back in 2014.

The details

Lissa Leege, Director of the Center of Sustainability, explains not just the importance of RecycleMania, but how recycling benefits GS in the long run. "Every bag of trash collected at Georgia Southern travels 120 miles one way to a landfill in Macon, where it will sit forever," Leege said. "Garbage disposal costs the campus nearly \$425,000 per year." Leege also goes on to explain the long time benefits of recycling just by making small adjustments. "If those same items were recycled, simply by being put in a different bin, they would pay us money back instead of costing us and the recycled materials would be used to make new aluminum cans, t-shirts, cereal

boxes, cardboard boxes for shipping and much more," Leege said. Not only does RecycleMania have colleges compete against each other, they also allow residences halls on campuses to compete as well. The eight residence halls at GS compete to see who can recycle the most during the event. To win, residence halls will be tracked by the amount and number of full recycling cards that are redeemed within each hall for residence hall incentive points. The winning hall receives a pizza and wing party and a traveling recycling trophy.

The thoughts

Israel Sanchez, freshman exercise science major, believes that the

competition can bring long time benefits not just to the school, but the community. "It can be a great thing for the school in the long run," Sanchez said. "It gives the school something interesting to look forward to." In 2016, GS came in 1st place in the state with bottle and can recycling. During RecycleMania, over 83,000 pounds of recyclable items were collected, which is a 9,300 increase from the 2015 competition, according to the Center for Sustainability website. Currently, GS is 2nd in the state for total recycling, in 4th place for per capita recycling and in 1st place in the state and 26th in the country for bottle and can recycling, according to Leege.



Georgia nonprofit leader to speak on battling poverty internationally

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University welcomes Georgia entrepreneur Matthew Marshall to speak Tuesday about how he and his team use their nonprofit to battle poverty internationally. Marshall was born and raised in Eatonton, GA and graduated from the University of Georgia in 2012. He later co-founded New Story, a nonprofit that builds safe homes and transforms slums into sustainable

communities. The organization collects donations that support a specific family. New Story encourages transparency by providing donors a video of the family they helped to fund moving into their new home when construction is complete. Since its founding in 2015, New Story has funded over 750 homes in seven communities around the developing world in places such as Haiti, El Salvador and Bolivia. In 2016 Marshall and his co-

founders were recognized as Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 Entrepreneurs, and recently, New Story was recognized as one of Fast Company's World's 50 Most Innovative Companies. "We're thrilled to have Matthew Marshall on campus to demonstrate how young social entrepreneurs can tackle some of the world's most pressing problems," Chris Caplinger, director of First-Year Experience, said. "Marshall's message is certain to inspire and motivate."

Interested students are encouraged to send questions for Marshall here by Sunday evening. The event is open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 in the Performing Arts Center, 874 Plant Dr. Statesboro.



The five projects of the Blue Mile

The Blue Mile is an on-going project between the City of Statesboro and Georgia Southern University. Once completed, the Blue Mile will serve as a linking point between GS and Statesboro.

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne staff

The City of Statesboro and Georgia Southern University continue to work on the South Main revitalization project known as the Blue Mile. The idea for the project began in 2012 at a community leadership conference with the mission to revitalize the mile stretch of South Main Street as a point of pride that it once was prior to the completion of US 301 Bypass in 2008. Since 2012, the Blue Mile has led the city of Statesboro to be one of eight finalists in the America's Best Communities contest in April 2016. As a finalist, Statesboro was awarded \$100,000 to begin plans of the Blue Mile as outlined in the community's revitalization plan. Phyllis Thompson, president of the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce and member of the South Main Street Revitalization Committee, named five projects that the committee has began and intends to complete.

1. Gateway Entrance

The project broke ground on Nov. 16, 2016 with the construction of the gateway entrance. The entrance is marked by two large structures

that read "The Blue Mile" and can be seen near the South Main Street entrance of GS.

2. Neighborhood Revitalization

According to Thompson, there are 110 homes in the area that did not exist before the beginning of the Blue Mile Project. Habitat for Humanity has also built two homes in the Blue Mile Area.

3. Points of Interest

The Historical Society has put up 11 plaques along Blue Mile businesses and organizations. Among the other points of interest, a bench dedicated to blues legend Blind Willie McTell will be placed by early spring in front of the visitor's bureau.

4. Greenway Space

The project is in the process of having a lease on a space that will create a dog park. The committee also plans to extend some of Statesboro's trails and have them meet at intersections along the Blue Mile.

5. Way-Finders

Way-Finder signs have been placed around downtown to help explorers of Statesboro find where parking and attractions are located.

Amy Presley, sophomore business marketing major works downtown at the Averitt Center, but said she rarely thinks about visiting historic Statesboro outside of work. She said, "I've met a lot of people who go to Southern who have never been downtown." Statesboro City Manager, Randy Wetmore, states her belief that the Blue Mile could bridge historic downtown Statesboro to GS University by saying "I think it would be good if it's an easy walk or there's a reason to get on that Blue Mile area and citizens to make it out to the college to see what's happening there." Although there is not a completion date set for the Blue Mile project, the winner of the A.B.C. contest will be determined on April 19, 2017 and will be awarded the top prize of \$3 million to use toward their

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GS to host third annual Holi Festival

BY BRENDAN WARD
The George-Anne staff

The Multicultural Student Center, the Office of International Programs and Services and the South-Asian Student Organization are hosting the third annual Holi Festival on Thursday.

The festival is open to the public, will take place on Georgia Avenue in front of the University Store and Dining Commons and will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

During the festivities, students from the South Asian Student Organization will teach traditional dances, and there will be the traditional celebration of color, which involves throwing powdered chalk of various colors at people.

It is recommended that attendees wear a plain white t-shirt or a shirt they do not mind getting dirty to the event due to the powdered chalk.

The Dining Commons will serve authentic Indian cuisine

from 11 a.m to 9 p.m. to coincide with the festival.

Free t-shirts and glasses will be given out to the first 150 people who attend the festival.

Holi is a traditional holiday celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. It translates into “The Festival of Colors” and celebrates the victory of good over bad.

It is both a religious and socio-culture festival that is typically celebrated by smearing various colored paints on people as a sign of love and belongingness. Holi is usually used to usher in Spring.

“Attending Holi is a great way for students to expand their cultural awareness and participate in an international festival,” Takeisha Brown, director of the Multicultural Student Center, said.

Georgia Southern University students will need to bring their Eagle ID to the event.

D.I.M.E.S. hosts fashion show based on black excellence Thursday

BY NATALIE TURMAN
The George-Anne staff

D.I.M.E.S., one of Georgia Southern University’s fashion organizations, will host a fashion show this Thursday.

Their show “Cultural Shock” will also bridge together the differences between races and social issues.

“The show idea theme was based around the word ‘melanin.’ We wanted to create a show based on black excellence and praise about it,” Kiana Carn, senior fashion merchandising and apparel design major and leader of D.I.M.E.S., said.

The show will be March 23 in the Russell Union ballroom at 7:00 p.m., and doors open at 6:30 p.m. The price of tickets are \$1 in advance or \$3 at the door.

“It’s going to be a cultural shock, there is so much diversity and different cultures in the show and we are just coming together showcasing pieces designed by our very own D.I.M.E.S. designers,” Paris Davis, freshman fashion merchandising major and

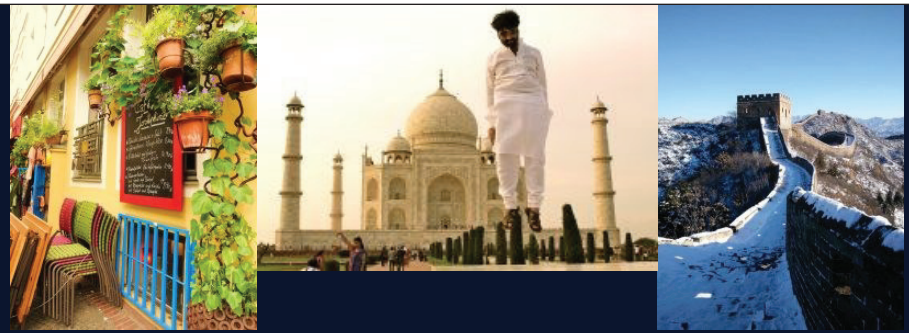
model, said.

D.I.M.E.S. was started in 2001 and stands for designs inspired magnificently, exhibited in style. It consists of multiple divisions including a model troupe, fashion, cosmetology, multimedia, public relations and productions.

“We are an organization that consists of multiple committees who all have one thing in common: our love for entertainment and importantly fashion,” Carn, leader of D.I.M.E.S., said.

D.I.M.E.S. is also planning for their next show in April, and it will be the biggest show that they put on for the year.

Carn said, “We just love getting support from the campus and we always aim to please. Entertaining is something we all love doing, and I believe we have been doing a great job, not just now but for the last 16 years. The organization has been around this long, and we want to continue on for the future.”



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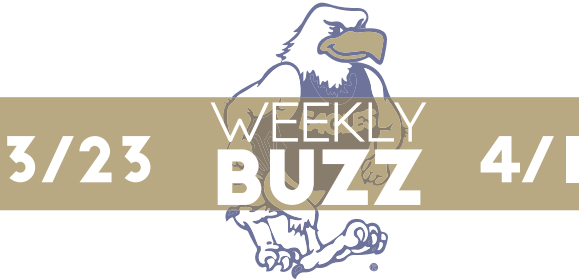
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- **Leadership Awards**
Please take some time to recognize exemplary students, faculty and staff, yourself and your student organizations through the Leadership Awards! The short nomination forms allow you to recognize any deserving individuals and student organizations. The Leadership Awards nomination forms can be found at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/LeadServe/leadershipawards/>. Students, faculty, staff, and student organizations nominated for Leadership Awards will be recognized at the Leadership Awards & Recognition Night. All nominations are due no later than Friday, March 10th by 5:00 PM.
- **Student Organization Essentials: Assessing your Organization and Goal Setting**
Friday, March 24th, 3:30 pm, Russell Union 2054
Student Organization Essentials are monthly workshops for student leaders who want hands-on training in essential organization management topics. Each session will focus on basics, providing samples, how to's and tips to make you and your organization successful. Workshops are open to all students and organizations are eligible for WINGS Incentive Program points for participating. This is the last workshop for the Spring 2017 semester! Contact Information: Cwood@georgiasouthern.edu
- **UPB Outdoor Movie: Rogue One- Friday, March 24th, 8:00 pm, Sweetheart Circle**
Looking for fun on a Friday night? Join the University Programming Board for our bi-weekly, Friday movie series. This event is free and open to the public. Students please bring your Eagle IDs. There will be one showing only. Concessions will not be available for this movie. Be sure to bring your favorite snacks, lawn chairs and/or blankets. In the event of inclement weather, this movie will be shown at 7:00pm in the Russell Union Theater. If you need assistance, related to access for this event, please email: upb@georgiasouthern.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

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



Guy Hobbs admiring the info-board next to the tick collection. The GS tick collection currently resides in the Math and Physics building.

BY CHELSEA DAVIS

The George-Anne contributor

In the 90s, the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Tick Collection was relocated to Georgia Southern University's campus. The historic tick collection originated with the scare of the Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The deadly fever sparked the drive to collect ticks in order to better study the disease.

Now here at GS, the USNTC hires Georgia Southern students on grant to do research for the collection; one of those students is Guy Hobbs.

The task of taking care of ticks

Senior biology/chemistry double major Guy Hobbs is a GS student who works with the tick collection on a day-to-day basis. He mentioned that many people mistaken his position for a job with the Smithsonian but instead he was hired through the university where he receives a grant to help with research.

"I saw that there was a job posting in the Biological Science Building and I went on to the campus job board through folio and applied for it that way. One of the assistant curators there named Dr. Beati, I did study abroad with her sophomore year where we studied on arthropods, areas where ticks are classified at," Hobbs said. "And I gained some interest there...So when I saw the job listing for this I thought that it would be a cool position to have on campus."

Hobbs' daily tasks in the laboratory involve supplementary sorting such as counting the amount of ticks, determining the gender of the ticks and classifying the stage of life the ticks are in. Many of the ticks collected come from all over the world.

A background with science

He was hired due to his previous experience with entomology; the branch of zoology concerned with the study of insects.

"Guy was hired on a contract we have through the National Ecological Observatory Network called NEON, and so we have a contract with them to do some identification work. The reason we hired him is because he already had some entomology

experience. He had been on the Swiss trip with Dr. Beati where research in this field was done," Colleen Evans, natural history collections manager said.

With Hobbs studying both biology and chemistry, he had an ample amount of experience working in laboratories and doing research. This helped him qualify for the position.

"Usually when we hire students what we are looking for are biology students, that is partially for our benefit, because that means that they have taken some chemistry courses and had some lab experience," Evans said. "We do not like hiring any students with no lab experience ever. We also include course work, because we need you to work with chemicals and samples. We also tend to hire students that have done previous research in labs or lab work back in highschool."

The tick collection came to GS

The relocation from the Rocky Mountains of Montana to Statesboro, Georgia occurred once the tick collection almost lost its funding. That's when James H. Oliver, Ph.D., original director of the USNTC, decided to fund the collection here at Georgia Southern.

Back in the 90s, the previous collection

was held in the Arthropodology and Parasitology Building on Georgia Southern's campus where James H. Oliver, Ph.D., was the director and James E. Keirans, Ph.D., was the curator. Now in 2017, the collection is located in the Math and Physics



Colleen Evans examining one of the many specimens in GS' collection. Evans is the natural history collections manager for GS.

Building, Colleen Evans is the natural history collections manager, and Beati is one of the curators.

Future endeavors

Along with Guy working in the laboratory, he has future plans after graduation. Guy plans to use his many experiences in his future career as a physician.
“I’m one of the countless people who would love to go to med school and be a physician. I want to get my masters first, because I learned how fun public

health is, so I want to get my masters in that before I apply to medical school. My plan is to be a MD-PHD where you have a doctorate and a degree in philosophy. It’s a dual doctorate degree,” Hobbs said.
For faculty and students interested in a guided tour of the Smithsonian Institution’s USNTC, tours are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm - 4pm. Public exhibit about the collection is accessible from the main hallway Monday through Friday from 7am - 11pm. Contact icps@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.
Hobbs said, “I think it’s cool that I get to see a piece of history, not the mainstream history people think of, but collection history.”



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XXAVIER ROBERTSON

To contact the features editor, email gaartsandent@georgiasouthern.edu

BY ANTHONY WU
The George-Anne contributor

Athens Online is one of the biggest LAN events in the South. With a prize/giveaway pool of \$10,000 for tournaments of League of Legends, Counter Strike:Global Offensive, Overwatch, Super Smash 4, Melee and Street Fighter V. RUST LAN individually had its own prize pool of \$10,000, making this possibly the largest LAN for collegiate esports.

Georgia Southern was represented by five League of Legends teams to compete: GATA White, GATA Blue, GATA Gold from GnG and SCG brought 2 teams of their own. Multiple collegiate teams from the South competed at the event including: Georgia Tech, UGA, Auburn, Clemson, KSU and Georgia State.

ATHENS ONLINE

COMPUTER GAME COMPETITION



Brian Meeker shakes hands with one of the SCG members after their match together. GATA White won their match against SCG, another collegiate League of Legends team from Georgia Southern. The win secured a top 8 finish for GATA White.



GATA White lost 0-2 against GT's main team in the semifinal round. With this loss, they moved down to the loser's bracket with the hopes of securing a 3rd place finish.



John Marvin and Ruben Benitez discuss their picks and strategies for the next game against Georgia State, a good friend and rival. Everyone had their own unique setup for the tournament.



After a close series against GS, GATA White lost 2-1 in the 3rd place game. The team finished in 4th place at the tournament run in Athens.



The players from the GATA esports League team from top to bottom left to right: Kevin Lavin, Malik Dobson, Alex Crow, Avery Steele, Matthew Turkali, Seth Reeves, Anthony Milanesi, Aron Kostolnik, Jon Gorby, Jimmy Ouyang, Jeff Kim, Kyle Farley, Eric Rogers, Ruben Benitez, Brian Meeker, John Marvin, Sheri Horning, Tu Pham and Hannah Bryan (President of GnG).



The first string league team GATA White focusing on their first match of the day. From left to right: Kevin Lavin; Brian Meeker; Eric Rogers; Ruben Benitez; John Marvin.



Ruben Benitez is happy with their first win. The Athens Online tournament organizers monitored the games to make sure everything ran smoothly.

TENNIS TEAMS BUSY OVER SPRING BREAK

MEN AND WOMEN'S TENNIS TOOK MID-MARCH ROAD TRIPS



Junior Eddie Landin follows through on a serve. The Eagles played four road mathces over Spring Break.

Sophomore Paige Christian gets ready for a return. The Eagles play in Statesboro this weekend.

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men's tennis team won one out of its four matches in Texas last week, while the women lost to three tough schools throughout the state of Florida during spring break.

MEN'S TENNIS

The first match of the road trip for the men's team was against Abilene Christian on Saturday, March 11 in Abilene, Texas. The Wildcats edged the Eagles, 4-3. The No. 1 singles and doubles points were taken by Abilene Christian.

A tense and hyper-competitive No. 1 singles match between GS junior JC Alcala and Abilene sophomore Josh Sheehy was eventually won by Sheehy, ending Southern's hopes in the match. However, the No. 4, 5 and 6 singles matches were won by GS.

Freshmen Santiago Suarez and Diego Finkelstein both beat their opponents in three sets, and Eagle senior Dani Casablancas came back to win his match against Abilene junior Henry Adams in three sets, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5.

Next, the Eagles faced the Idaho Vandals and lost another close match, 4-3 after losing the doubles point on the same Saturday afternoon that they lost

to Abilene. GS freshman Stefano Di Aloy, Suarez and Finkelstein won their singles matches, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit.

The Eagles got a victory against the University of Incarnate Word Cardinals, 4-1, on Sunday, March 12. Di Aloy, Finkelstein, Casablancas, and junior Artemie Amari won singles points for the Eagles, and two singles matches (No. 1 and No. 3) did not finish.

On Saturday, March 18, the Eagles played another tough 4-3 loss to UT Arlington in Arlington, Texas. The match was the Sun Belt Conference opener for the Eagles.

The doubles point ended up being the deciding point for the Mavericks (12-6), who are the reigning conference champions.

"We showed that we can hang with them and push them," GS head coach Sander Koning told gseagles.com.

Every singles and doubles match was competitive against UTA, with no 6-0 or 6-1 sets anywhere throughout. Casablancas, Di Aloy, and Finkelstein outlasted their singles opponents en route to point-earning victories. Still the Mavericks prevailed on the extra boost of the doubles point.

The Eagles are now 15-8 this season.

The next match for the Eagles will be on the road against UAB in Birmingham, Alabama on Friday, March 24 at 11 a.m.

WOMEN

Florida is an ideal spring break destination, but for the GS women's tennis team, it meant tough treading in the waters of Florida universities.

The first match of the break for the Eagles was against Florida Gulf Coast in Fort Myers on Monday, March 13. The FGCU Eagles proved superior by winning every doubles and singles match en route to a 7-0 victory.

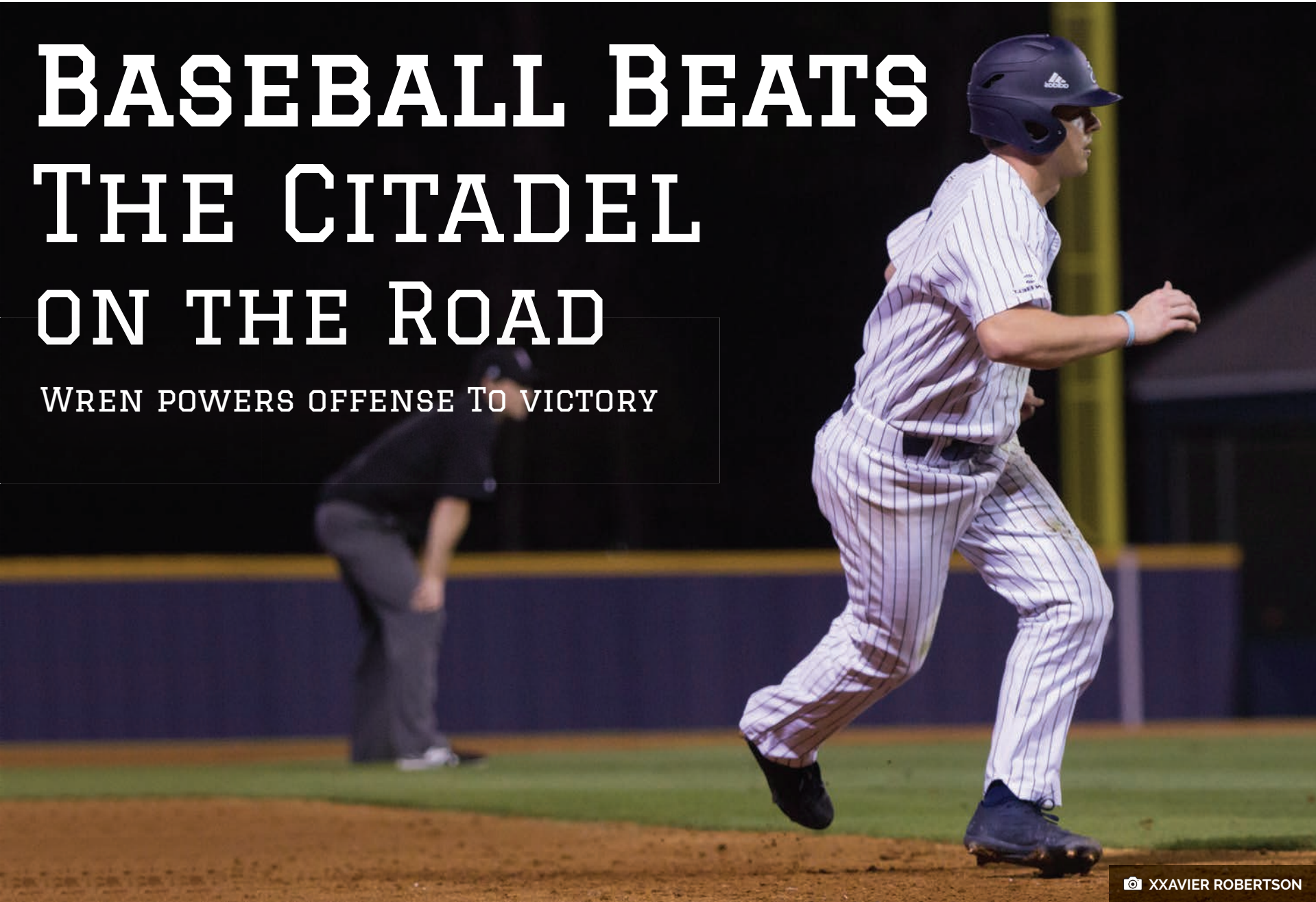
The second match of the road trip was in Miami against Florida International University, which was ranked No. 24 in the country. The Panthers (15-1) beat the Eagles, 4-0.

The Florida Atlantic Owls were the final GS opponent on the road trip, and the Eagles showed serious improvement. The Eagles took the doubles point behind two duos. senior Giulia Riepe and freshman Arianne De Winter won their doubles set, 6-2. GS sophmore Emilia Bujan and junior Ella Monsey also prevailed in their doubles set, 6-4.

The Eagles are now 9-5 this season after the three spring break losses. They will play two home matches this weekend against Sun Belt opponents. South Alabama will be at GS on Saturday, March 25 at noon. Rival Georgia State will be in Statesboro Sunday, March 26 for a match with the Eagles at 4 p.m.

BASEBALL BEATS THE CITADEL ON THE ROAD

WREN POWERS OFFENSE TO VICTORY



XXAVIER ROBERTSON

Georgia Southern just finished a two-game series against the Citadel. Georgia Southern won 7-3 in Charleston on Tuesday.

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

GAME SUMMARY

The Georgia Southern baseball team on Tuesday defeated The Citadel Bulldogs 7-3 at Joe Riley Park in Charleston, South Carolina, improving the Eagles to 11-9 this season.

GS senior outfielder Jordan Wren had a big game offensively with two hits - one of which was an RBI triple - and two runs scored. Wren scored the first run of the game on a Citadel throwing error, and his triple came in the third inning off Citadel sophomore starter Alex Bialakis. That made the score 3-0, Eagles.

Eagle senior shortstop Evan McDonald hit an RBI single in the fourth, driving in senior catcher C.J. Brazil.

The Citadel scored its first run in the fourth inning off a throwing error by GS. The unearned run for the Bulldogs was scored by sophomore first baseman Ben Peden.

In the fifth inning, GS scored on a wild pitch and a sacrifice bunt. Senior first baseman Ryan Cleveland scored first after a wild pitch, then Wren scored his second run of the game off a sacrifice bunt by Brazil.

The Citadel narrowed the margin to 6-3 in the sixth inning when freshman second baseman J.D. Davis singled to right field with the bases loaded, driving in two runs for the Bulldogs.

Two innings later, GS junior outfielder Logan Baldwin drove in what would be the game's final run with a single to bring senior infielder Cal Baker home.

GS redshirt junior right-handed pitcher Adam Kelly allowed two runs over four innings, earning the victory in his first decision of the season. Senior pitcher Jacob Condra-Bogan closed the game for the Eagles, pitching the last two innings and striking out five of the seven batters he faced.

Bialakis (0-2) was the losing pitcher for the Bulldogs, who fell to 7-13 this season with the loss.

THE GAMES AHEAD

Georgia Southern will be playing The Citadel in the second game of their series at J.I. Clements Stadium in Statesboro on Wednesday.

The Eagles will travel to Arlington, Texas this weekend for a three-game series with the UT Arlington Mavericks (11-11). After another road game against College of Charleston next Tuesday, they will return home the following weekend, starting Friday, March 31 with a three-game conference home series against Louisiana-Monroe.

Sun Belt Conference play will pick up in the coming weeks. Currently, Troy (12-7) leads the East Division and Texas State (13-8) leads the West Division. However, no Sun Belt team has played more than three conference games so far, so it is still very early in the conference season.

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SOFTBALL TAKES ON UT-ARLINGTON

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

Over spring break, the Georgia Southern University softball team managed to win their first Sun Belt series against Troy and drop the second series to ULM last weekend. This weekend, the Eagles will travel to Texas to battle the Mavericks from UT-Arlington. Georgia Southern comes into Wednesday 13-13 overall.

The Mavericks are 15-13 overall and 2-4 in Sun Belt Play. GS will be coming into this series after losing a tough series at home to the Warhawks from ULM 1-2 and a Wednesday night home game against the College of Charleston.

The Eagles will need sophomore ace Dixie Raley to continue her success against Sun Belt teams that won her Sun Belt Freshman of the Year last season. Raley is 7-8 on the season and is pitching a 2.87 ERA.

Emily Snider, Lydia Witkowski and Mekhia Freeman will have to keep up their hot hitting on the road. On the defensive side, Raley and Kierra Camp will have to maneuver their way around UTA's Laura Curry, Krista Rude and Sandra Mendoza, who are all boasting batting averages above .300. UT-Arlington will most likely start Sam Clakely, who is throwing an impressive 1.66 ERA.

Both UTA and GS are entering this weekend in the bottom half of the Sun Belt standings and will be looking to climb up in the early season standings.



The Eagles will travel to Arlington to play UTA this weekend. The Eagles are 3-3 in conference play.

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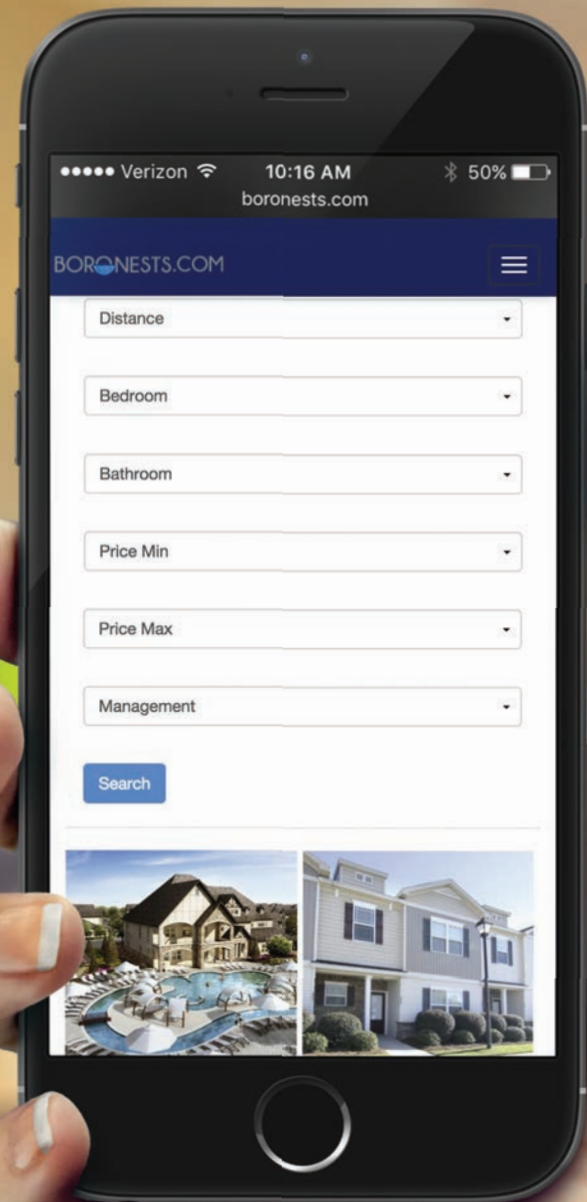
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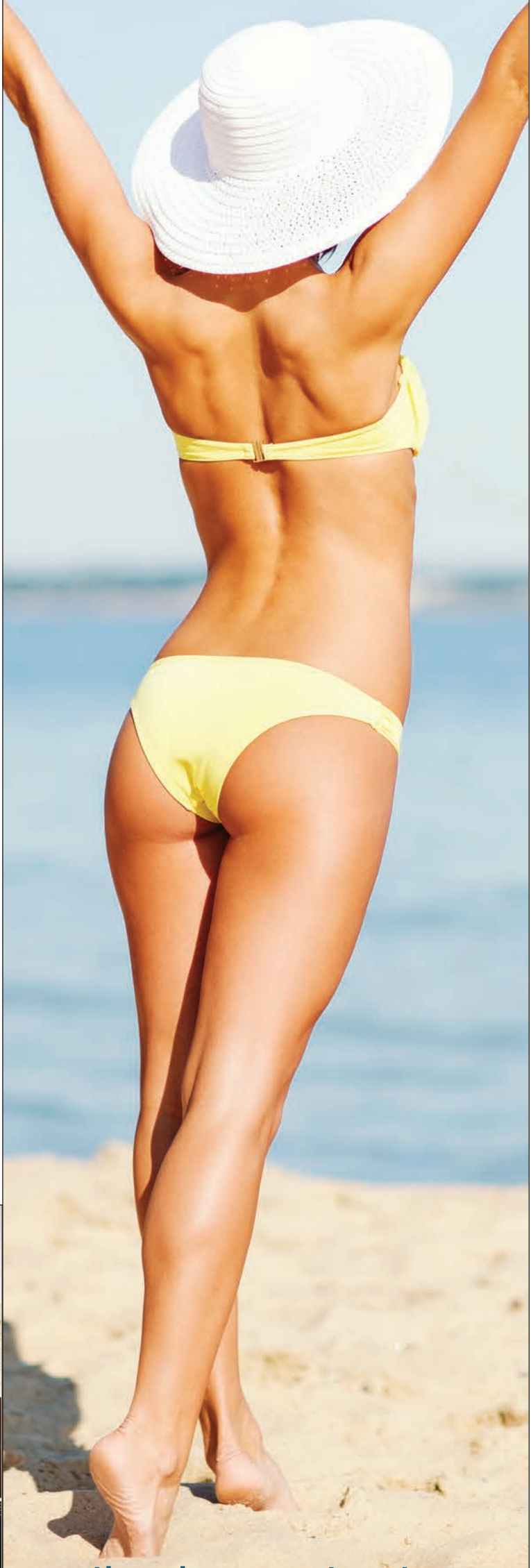
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