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The George-Anne

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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

ROCK CLIMBING

National Honor Fraternity takes on an intensive outdoor course for team building

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HITTING THE LINKS

Women's Golf continues success on the course

Page 11

BRONZE FOR BLUE

Statesboro wins third place at America's Best Communities contest

Pages 4-5

Thursday



High: 87°
Low: 61°
10 percent chance of rain

Friday



High: 91°
Low: 63°
20 percent chance of rain

Saturday



High: 92°
Low: 64°
0 percent chance of rain

Sunday



High: 83°
Low: 55°
20 percent chance of rain

Weather Bar

Be careful what you wish for because you got it- highs in the 90s. By Friday, we'll all be begging mother nature for a cloud. At least Sunday's rain can wash us of our sweat (and sins) from Friday and Saturday's heat.

Boro Beat

Your Georgia Southern toolkit for all things news, nightlife, and Eagle Nation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF [THECIRCLEGSU.COM](http://thecirclegsu.com)

The Circle tackles the horror of matching with the wrong person on Tinder!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/that-tinder-date/>

BORONESTS.COM

Where house is Your house

Customize

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The Main Street Statesboro Farmer's Market

BY BROOKE THOMPSON
The Reflector staff

Gorgeous weather, live music, and locally made products. Honestly, what more could you ask for when going on a Saturday adventure? The MainStreet Statesboro Farmer's Market is the place to go if you are looking for something to do on a Saturday morning. One of the best parts of the market is the vendors. There are different options for produce, food purveyors, and arts and crafts.

Jacob's produce was one of the options to get fresh fruits and vegetables that are grown locally. It is definitely worth stopping by to get that farm-to-table factor for your next meal!

I overheard the owner of Azure's Gourmet & Sweets saying that Paula Deen sold her pralines, and she had me

at that. If anything is good enough for Paula Deen, it is more than good enough for me. I may or may not have bought almost ten dollars worth.

Locally made honey has all kinds of health benefits! According to Livestrong, local, raw honey can help with allergy protection, aid in digestion and be used as a cough suppressant.

One of my last stops was Corks Kettle Corn, and as a self-proclaimed food critic, I would give five stars to the caramel kettle corn.

Overall, if you are looking for a way to get out of the house on a Saturday, hit up the MainStreet Statesboro Farmer's Market. They are open from April to November starting at 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Read More at Reflectorgsu.com



How “13 Reasons Why” Misses the Mark (or several)



YASMEEN WALIAGA

Waliaga is a senior journalism major from Alpharetta, Ga.

Suicide is a topic the media often shies away from. Perhaps, the connotation or stigma towards the act causes people to turn to other tragedies for subject matter. On March 31, Netflix released an original series that stepped into the risky discussion creating a product that demonstrates the all too familiar interpersonal hostility of high school and consequentially but unintentionally normalizing and glamorizing suicide as a solution.

A Questionable Series

The 13-episode Netflix adaption of Jay Asher’s novel, “Thirteen Reasons Why” delves into the life of high school student Hannah Baker following her suicide. The concept sounds just like the title. Before taking her own life, Hannah filled a box with several tapes on which she recorded herself on each discussing a different reason why she did.

Each reason related to a specific person who let her down and ultimately contributed to her sense of loneliness and hopelessness in the end. While several of the tapes reveal Hannah dealing with the struggles of many high school students, rumors and disrespect, drama and being misunderstood, others address actions she simply witnessed and was indirectly affected by.

An issue with the series is its romanticism of suicide as a form of revenge. The show does not address mental illness whatsoever. It seizes to mention depression or mental instability as potential causes and only claims the suicide happened because of the people who wronged Hannah.

Meanwhile, it depicts the personal lives of some of the characters on her list, which are not so flawless either. They each have their own set of hardships, from being bullied to having no home to having parents on drugs. Hannah would make statements in the tapes assuming the “popular” kids never understood loneliness and that all boys were the same.

While her view was tainted because of her own experiences, it completely undermined the struggles of everyone else. The tricky thing about suicide is its not a black and white act and just grouping together all the kids with seemingly perfect lives and calling them “fine” does not effectively portray the causes of suicide.

Romanticizing Suicide as “Revenge”

Similarly, romanticizing suicide as the ultimate form of revenge does not effectively portray the causes of suicide. There was a reason Hannah Baker felt she could only find closure by killing herself and that the others did not feel that way. Her perception was different and maybe she was struggling with mental illness and was unaware.

Yes, there is a lesson to take away from this show. Every little action people make and every statement said can impact someone’s life immensely so it is important to be careful.

The discussion about suicide needs to occur more often. Society doesn’t need to be blinded to the fact that suicide does happen and is one of the leading causes of death among teenagers. But the conversation does not need to promote blame or put the

guilt on others. The conversation needs to promote community and openness, acceptance and compassion.

Suddenly now, a generation of teenagers with their angst and emotional whirlwinds, grudges and regrets, are seeing Hannah Baker’s death as an example. Yes, the circumstances would be difficult for any new student at a school dominated by jocks and their girlfriends that places more emphasis on basketball game results than obvious cries for help.

The events described in Hannah’s tapes ring similar to things that happen to high school students in real life, so where is the line to be drawn? The series surely does not draw one.

Harmful or Necessary Depictions?

The show dances on the line of too far and sensational. The visual depictions of rape shed a light on a terribly familiar situation that people in real life often ignore. These visual displays void of sensors are necessary to initiate a discussion about sexual assault.

However, the unfiltered visual display of Hannah killing herself in the last episode enters the dangerous “how-to” zone. If not a trigger for a person who can relate to Hannah, the depiction of her suicide can put the wrong ideas into young minds.

The Netflix drama attracted a large following and is the most tweeted about Netflix original ever. There is no doubt the show brought up an often ignored and stigmatized topic but there is a doubt that it did so in the most tasteful way.

Suicide should be addressed but it should not be sensationalized or glamorized. Viewers spend so much time learning why to blame each of the individuals on Hannah’s list and reliving the events in her testimony that it is easy to forget the ultimate reality of Hannah’s choice- she is gone forever and the idealized “closure” she so desperately wanted is unattainable.

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.

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Statesboro places in America's Best Communities contest

BY TAISHA WHITE & TANDRA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

Statesboro is the third place winner in the America's Best Communities contest, sponsored by Frontier Communications, DISH, CoBank and The Weather Channel, beating out over 50 other communities since the beginning.

Statesboro was one of the few communities in the south and ultimately became the only state in the Southeast to advance to the final round.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN TORCHIA

Little Italy was one of the places that hosted a watch party for the announcement of the winners. The restaurant is located towards the beginning of the Blue Mile.

America's Best Communities

The America's Best Communities competition began in September 2014 when they began taking applications from cities all across the country. After the deadline in March of 2015, around 50 quarter finalists were chosen about a month later.

According to the America's Best Communities' website, winners at this stage received \$35,000 to kickstart their community plan. In the semi-final round, though no money was awarded, the winning communities were invited to a summit put on by America's

Best Communities to present their plans to a panel of judges, with accommodations and airfare included.

In the final round, eight finalists (including Statesboro) were awarded \$100,000 to continue formulating their plans. Then, in the final round, which was on April 17, the top three finalists were awarded \$1 million for third place, \$2 million for second place and \$3 million for first place, respectively.

In addition to winning \$1 million for the Blue Mile, Statesboro will also receive an outdoor mural of the city as well as a sign that displays Statesboro as one of the America's Best Communities winners.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN TORCHIA

The Blue Mile has been an ongoing project since 2014. The Blue Mile is the proposed one mile stretch between Georgia Southern University and the downtown Statesboro.

Blue Mile History

The money that Statesboro won will be going to the Blue Mile, a project dedicated to connecting Georgia Southern University to downtown Statesboro. Back in 1803, when downtown Statesboro was first founded, it was just a commercial area surrounded by railroad tracks. The area was named the number one industry and economic driver. Still there was need to fill in the gap between GS and the community. Thus comes in the Blue Mile idea. As Community Leaders in the Statesboro-Bulloch County area came together to address the needs for the community, they felt that there was need to restructure South Main Street, including the one mile that is the starting point. Around 2012, community leaders,

including those of the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners and the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority began their first steps into restructuring South Main Street in hopes of bringing some sort of economic growth to the area, including pairing up with GS to include student perspective on the need to restructure the area. “The city’s strategy aims to reclaim the area as a safe, desirable place to live, regain its economic health and restore its historic identity,” the America’s Best Communities website said. Recently, there has been much development along the Blue Mile, including a number of new buildings, such as Little Italy, located at 450 S. Main St. This restaurant was one of many along the mile to host watch parties as the results came in.

America’s Best Communities
Competition Timeline

Application opened
Sept. 10, 2014

Application Deadline
March 25, 2015

Up to 50 Quarter-Finalists Selected
April 29, 2015

Up to 15 Semi-Finalists Selected
Jan. 15, 2016

Up to 8 Finalists Selected
April 27, 2016

3 Winners Selected
April 19, 2017

Did
you
know



58% of
Georgia Southern
students had 4 or
less drinks the last
time they partied.

A recent Georgia Southern student surveyrevealed that most of you made the smart choice by avoiding binge drinking. Forget what you think you know and look at the facts.

Real Eagles
avoid binge drinking



Alternative break trips offers social issue focus

BY TAISHA WHITE
The George-Anne staff

For most college students, after the semester is over, their summer begins as they are going back home, to work, or back to the life that they had before coming to school. For others, however, they are looking to take on a different way to spend their summer and focus on giving back to those in need as well as learning about how to serve the world around them through community service.

The Office of Leadership and Community Engagement offers Alternative Break trips which brings students to various destinations for about a week.

From the leader

For May Break Site Leader Caleigh Shaw, the trips are beyond just looking for another way to spend your summer.

“Where you go isn’t the main focus of Alternative Break because it’s all about the education of the social issue and performing the service. Some

of the locations this May are Virginia, Florida, Tennessee and El Salvador,” Shaw said. “Trips are usually in the Southeast, but as we’re growing, we’ve gone out West.”

Other international locations that Alternative Break have been, are the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Shaw also says that there are plenty of benefits that students can gain including meeting others around the world who have the same interest in social issues.

The details

The Alternative Break Program first got its start back in the spring of 2006, when students were able to volunteer with cleaning up damage coming from Hurricane Katrina. For students, the price of an alternative break can range from \$150 to \$500 depending on whether the flight required is domestic or international. The trips prices also come with food, housing, travel expenses and a t-shirt.

For students, they will not know exactly where they will be heading for their breaks until the Site

Reveal Night. Students are also required to be up to date on medical records, depending on what international trip they are headed to.

Although the deadline for the May alternative break has passed, students can look forward to the fall and winter alternative breaks, which shifts gears and focuses on a different social issue each semester.

For the May break, students were able to choose from breaks including #HopeAmongUs, which focuses on HIV / AIDS and youth development and #SoaringForService, which focuses on community development.

Students can apply for the next alternative break trip through the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement’s social media page and through the MyInvolvement page as well. The next set of trips are scheduled for the Winter break in December.

Applications will be available in the fall semester.

“She Kills Monsters” wins GS nine awards at national festival

BY BRENDAN WARD
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University’s Theatre Department won nine national awards at the annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for their production of “She Kills Monsters.”

This is the second production GS has won national awards for in the last three years. GS has previously won for their production of “Race.”

“She Kills Monsters” is a comedy that takes place both in the real world of Athens, Ohio, and the fictional world of Dungeons and Dragons.

The story is about a sister, Agnes, who tries to connect with her dead younger sister, Tilly, by playing through her D&D campaign. Along the way there are lesbian demon queens, gelatinous cubes and dragons.

GS had the opportunity to perform “She Kills Monsters” at the Region 4 KCACTF, which it also hosted. From there, the play was selected for the national awards.

The play was a hit at the regional festival according to Nick Newell, the director of GS’s production of “She Kills Monsters.”

“We actually added a half an hour on to the play because there was so much laughing, chanting and applause,” Newell said.

KCACTF is an annual theatre festival sponsored by the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. that showcases the best in college theatre. The festival starts on the regional level with eight regional festivals, where colleges get the opportunity to perform their plays for the other schools in their region. From there, the best plays are selected to compete on the national level.

This year, about 64 schools competed at the national level.

“[This win] puts us on the map as a theatre program that is distinguished and outstanding and excellent in comparison to other schools in the nation,” Newell said.

The awards are being presented this week in Washington D.C.

The full list of winners can be found on the KCACTF website.

GS won nine awards at the national level including:

- Sarah McCarroll for Distinguished Costume Design
- Spencer Collins for Distinguished Lighting Design
- Sadie Thomas for Distinguished Performance By an Actress in a Play
- Kelsey Alexandria for Distinguished Performance by an Actress in a Play
- Will Cox for Distinguished Performance by an Actor in a Play
- Nick Newell for Distinguished Director of a Play
- Qui Nguyen for Distinguished Production of a Play
- GS for Outstanding Ensemble of a Play or Musical
- Jake Guinn for Distinguished Choreography

Southern Pride's ensemble is preparing for the upcoming football season



Southern Pride will be hosting auditions for the upcoming school year next week on April 29. There are many positions available.

BY ASHLEY JONES
The George-Anne staff

The Southern Pride marching band is preparing for the upcoming football season through ensemble auditions, which are quickly approaching.

The ensemble auditions will be April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Activity Center Auxiliary Gym.

The Southern Pride Marching band is known for its astounding musical selection during the football game's halftime shows. However, it's the marching band's ensemble team that makes the show worth watching.

The ensemble team adds visual to the band's performance with an array of flags accompanied by a self-taught dance routine.

David Singleton, ensemble team veteran, describes the audition process for the team.

"Not every spot is guaranteed," Singleton, Sophomore, pre-journalism major, said. "You go in and meet the director, the band director, and another [DCI] Judge. You have about an hour and a half to learn the flag routine and dance," he added.

According to Singleton, the ensemble team auditions this year will be a little different than usual. In previous years,

a candidate for the team would have to wait almost two weeks before being notified if they made the team or not. This year potential members will be notified immediately after auditioning.

After being selected for the team, members begin preparing for the upcoming season by holding practices during the summer. During band camp practices for the ensemble last all day starting at 8 a.m. and running until 8 p.m.

All the hard work each member gives in each practice pays off during the Thursday and Friday night performances.

The ensemble team also performs in competitions during the winter season.

"During the winter season, we do a thing called winter guard. It's basically like a dance competition, but with flags," Singleton said.

According to Singleton, the team operates off of a big and little system to help make communicating within the team easier.

"If you can't get to the captain then you go to your big, who's usually a veteran on the team, so they can answer all of your questions," Singleton said.

Apply Now For STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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Visit us in Rosenwald 1051 (Same building as Fin. Aid)

 **@GASouthernSSS**





4/20 WEEKLY BUZZ 4/26

- Choose Southern for the Summer!**

"Choose Southern for Summer if you want to graduate on time, study abroad, have shorter semesters, get ahead or catch up, or take online classes!"

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID for Fall 2017, Spring 2018, & Summer 2018!

It is important to apply early, as some financial aid funds are limited.

Apply for federal financial aid by completing the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

 - Georgia Southern University's school code is 001572.
 - When completing the 2017-2018 FAFSA, use the IRS Income Data Retrieval System to automatically pull in your 2015 tax information from the IRS.
 - Check your GS email and financial aid status through your WINGS account at My.GeorgiaSouthern.edu. You may need to provide additional documentation to our office.
 - Any additional information requested must be submitted to our office to avoid delays in completing the application process.
 - QUESTIONS?** Call our office at 912-478-5413 or email a financial aid counselor at finaid@georgiasouthern.edu.
- Academic Success Center – Math 1111 Test 4 Review Sessions**
 - Monday, April 24
 - Mr. Jeff Taylor-2:00pm-3:00pm
 - Ms. Jackie Varnell- 3:30pm-4:30pm
 - Tuesday, April 25, 2017
 - Mr. Jeff Taylor-5:45pm-6:45pm
 - Wednesday, April 26, 2017
 - Ms. Jackie Varnell-4:00pm-5:00pm
- Annual Student Organization Renewal Workshops, Russell Union Theater**

Annual Student Organization Renewal Workshops are required for any student organization wishing to obtain Active status for the 2017-2018 academic year. Each organization must send the incoming President and one other student organization officer to ONE of the remaining (3) organization renewal workshops that are offered in April. We highly recommend that both representatives attend the same workshop together.

Workshop Dates & Times:

 - Wednesday, April 19th at 5:30 pm
 - Friday, April 21st at 3:30 pm
 - Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 pm

Organizations are also required to submit their official renewal request online, via MyInvolvement. Submissions are now open and the priority deadline is Friday, May 5th.

Contact Information: Cara.Wood@georgiasouthern.edu
- UPB Dive-In Movie: Sleepless**

Friday, April 21st, 9:30 pm (Doors open at 9:00 pm), Recreation Activities Center (RAC) Aquatics Center (Indoor Pool)

Looking for fun on a Friday night? Join the University Programming Board for their monthly movie series. This event is open to GSU students only. Students must bring your Eagle IDs. Concessions will not be provided or permitted at this movie. Please bring your own towel. Bleachers also available for those that do not wish to get in the pool. 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA R. RICHBOURGH

Phi Sigma Pi president Cortez Sherman climbing the "Pauper Pole". The challenge course is located at the RAC.

BY CHYNA JAMES

The George-Anne staff

Some organizations choose to participate in workshops, have socials or anything else they may find beneficial to help with team building and bonding, but one organization decided to take a different approach.

Members of Phi Sigma Pi, a national honor fraternity at Georgia Southern, decided to participate in a challenge course together at Southern Adventures at the Recreation Activity Center(RAC).

While Southern Adventures offers several different courses, the group decided on the Accessory

Ropes Course which includes zip lining, a "pamper pole" where they climbed on a tall telephone pole while attached to a harness and the "giant's ladder" where the members worked together to climb a huge vertical ladder.

Program director, Dave Rector, notes how the course entails not only an individual effort but a lot of teamwork as well.

"It's always nice to see your friends right there with you when you're trying to accomplish something," Rector said.

Why Southern Adventures?

Phi Sigma Pi President, Cortez Sherman, says the organization wanted to try something different together and about a third of the group was up for the challenge.

The course was not required. The group just wanted to bond and have some fun. In fact, it was free for the entire group to participate.

"I thought that was one of the best things about it," Sherman said. "Being able to do something like that at no cost was cool because it was always available for people to try at convenient times."

It's encouraged for the groups to know each other prior to the course and be comfortable working together.

"We try to do things that we normally wouldn't do on our own and we saw it as a chance to step out of our comfort zones," Sherman said.

Phi Sigma Pi takes pride in scholarship, fellowship and leadership and strives to incorporate those elements in what they do as an organization.

"This course involved developing some of those skills," Sherman said.

After realizing how the Accessory Ropes course could strengthen their values, they couldn't pass up the opportunity. According to the Southern Adventures Website, the course focused on goals like communication, confidence, fun, empathy, trust and leadership.

One goal some of the members associated with most was trust.

Trust at the Forefront

Trust was one of the defining characteristics for the organization and one of the primary goals the facility sets for groups.

Alexandria Richbourgh,
Scholarship Chair of the

MMP PRESENTS

THE MIKE BEND SHOW & Friends

at Statesboro High School Theatre



APRIL 21ST 2017

VENUE: STATESBORO HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE	VENUE PHONE: (912) 212-8860	VENUE ADDRESS: 10 LESTER RD, STATESBORO, GA 30458
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PERFORMING LIVE

MR. MINCE	NUKE FIE	MONSTA KODI	FLABOI	DJ LONDON	SWAY COOLIT
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MMP PRESENTS APRIL 21ST 2017 THE MIKE BEND SHOW & FRIENDS!!! COMING LIVE TO STATESBORO HIGH THEATRE!!! STATESBORO GA. SPECIAL GUEST CELEBRITY PERFORMANCES THIS IS 18+ EVENT RAISING FUNDS FOR STATESBORO FOOTBALL & BASKETBALL TEAM. COME GET YOUR LAUGH ON. EARLY BIRD TICKET SPECIALS STARTING AT 10\$ VIA EVENTBRITE..... GET READY FOR THE NEW TYLER PERRY OF STAGE PLAYS!!

organization, referred to the entire course as a “trusting activity.”

Imagine being roped up with another person several feet in the air on a free hanging ladder, while trying to climb up a ladder made of logs. The challenging part is that height only increases.

They had to depend on each other to both get to the top of the ladder.

“It’s about trusting yourself and trusting the people around you,” Richbourg said. “It’s a great activity for friends, organizations and just people in general to learn how to trust.

Although the president didn’t finish some of the course, he still attempted and would do it all over again, .

“The whole thing was about trust,” Sherman said “You might have been going into something you’ve never done before or something that made you uncomfortable but everything worked out.”

THE EXPERIENCE

The course was scary and hard work for everyone but the organization got through the obstacles; some of them at least.

“A big part of it is facing your fears,” Rector said.

One of the group members’ favorite part was the “pamper pole” There is a series of large staples that you have to climb on and stand up until you get to the top of the pole. Once you’ve reached the top, you have to jump and hold on a trapeze.

“I was thinking I was going to fall,” Richbourg said. “You feel like you’re going to fall but you have to trust the harness.”

Another member, Myia Simmons, didn’t think she would be the person to do the type of activities Southern Adventures offers. But after zip-lining, she realized it was the best part of the course.

“When I did it and accomplished it, it felt like I could do anything I put my

mind to,” Simmons said.

Some parts of the course like zip lining were done individually but others like the “giant ladder” required teamwork. Although the zip lining isn’t done together, the team still motivated each other to finish.

“It’s a good course for building character, showing you where your strengths lie and exposing your weaknesses with your group,” Sherman said.

For more information on how you can get a group together and enjoy some adventures, visit Southern Adventure’s website.

“It was about team building and working together,” Richbourg said. “Each member encouraged each other to keep going.”

“

It’s a good course for building character, showing you where your strengths lie and exposing your weaknesses with your group,”

CORTEZ SHERMAN
Phi Sigma Pi President



The face of anticipation. Phi Sigma Pi member Adrian Hylton getting geared up to attempt the course.



Facing your obstacles. Aungelique Hanna (left) Imani Winston (middle) Brian Jackson (right) looking at their fellow member on the course before trying it themselves.



Gera Hall (left) and Miya Simmons conquering the “Giant’s Ladder”. This is one of many of the obstacles on Southern Adventures rope course.



SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP HOSTS VIDEO GAME COMPETITION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

© ANTHONY WU

Members of the Georgia Southern SCG competing during a collegiate gaming competition earlier this semester. The SCG will be at the Willie J. Burden Memorial Tournament.

BY ASHLEE GILLEY
The George-Anne staff

WHAT IT IS

In honor of the late Willie J. Burden, Southern Collegiate Gaming (SCG) has partnered with sports management students in order to host the second annual video game tournament to raise money for a scholarship in his name. Over forty people, ranging from SCG members to sports management students to professors, have come together to plan this event and have spent the last semester making sure everything will go smoothly.

WHY IT MATTERS

“Doctor Willie J. Burden was a very influential mentor and coach to

students. We do this tournament in his memory to preserve the legacy he left, because of the lives he touched,” said Austin Terrell, junior computer engineering major and student president of Southern Collegiate Gaming. The scholarship will help to fund the education of a student who wants to pursue a sports management degree through the College of Health and Human Sciences. “When people leave the tournament I hope they leave knowing that they helped build a scholarship for someone who needs it in the future,” Patrick McGuire, senior sports management major, said. All proceeds earned through entry fees, activities, and auctions will go to the scholarship fund.

THE EVENT ITSELF

“There aren’t events very often that focus on eSports. I’m hoping that will change very soon,” Allen Newsome, senior sports management major, said. The tournament is open to anyone who is interested in attending and it only has a \$10 entry fee for the first tournament and then it is \$5 for each additional tournament entry. The games being played will be Super Smash Bros., Street Fighter IV, Madden 17, NBA 2k17 and FIFA 17 and each game will have its own tournament consisting of brackets and prizes. Newsome stated that the eSports

gaming backpack and a Braswells gift basket which is valued at \$100. The silent auction will include more than just gaming items and will offer other items such as Georgia Southern apparel. One item being put up for auction is a jersey that was worn in the game where Georgia Southern beat Florida.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



The event is being held on April 21 and 22 in the Hollis building and will begin at 4 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The

entire second floor of the Hollis building will be used for the gaming events and the bake sale and raffle activities will be going on in the lobby. They will also have the bake sale items for sale all day in the Union at the concession stand and all day at ArtsFest, a benefit livestream on twitch at the link twitch.tv/SCG_GSU and one of the items that they will be auctioning off will be a classic Nintendo Entertainment System console. This is the second year that the tournament is being held and they hope to raise around \$10 thousand for the scholarship. Earlier in the year the scholarship also held a golf tournament to help raise some of the money for the scholarship. They are expecting a turnout of over 150 people including participants, volunteers and other supporters. They have more activities and prizes this year. Newsome said, “Come out, have fun and make a difference while doing it.”

LOGO COURTESY OF ALLEN NEWSOME

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS

Sophomore Ansley Bowman watches her drive during a tournament this year. Bowman's low round of the year was a 69, and her average score per round was 76.

BY RANDY HARRIS
The George-Anne contributor

The Georgia Southern women's golf team has been one of the best kept secrets as far as athletic success in the college town of Statesboro.

What makes that even more impressive is the fact that the team is basically brand new. It is pretty much understood that football is king at most FBS Division I schools, with Georgia Southern being no exception to that notion. However, it may be time for the city to be put on notice to a new team that does one thing that is most important above all when it comes to collegiate competition, winning.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The team women's golf is unique comparing to the foundation of most sports programs. Title IX regulations and requirements made it all possible for the birth of the Eagles golf team in 2014.

Title IX essentially sees to it that discrimination in collegiate athletics is prohibited and as a result has helped women's sports since its creation in 1972. The changes enforced that at least 22 total scholarships be added to all women's sports. With these additions, it also requires factoring in hiring the coaching staff and recruitment for the program. This was taken care of by former Texas Tech top assistant women's golf coach Emily Kuhfeld, who was hired by Georgia Southern to take over in the summer of 2014.

"I've had some friends that had started programs before and they had said it was probably the most challenging thing they had done but the most rewarding," Kuhfeld said. "I came from my interview really liking the administration, the facilities were wonderful and the weather here is great."

NEW COACH ARRIVES

Kuhfeld was interviewed by Larry Mays, former men's golf head coach at Georgia Southern and current Associate Athletic Director for the Eagles. Mays' overall impact on the program is second to none as he brought the Eagles golf team to national prominence since his arrival to Statesboro in 2000, advancing to 12 NCAA Championship appearances.

Freshman Ella Ofstedahl, who hails from Bedfordshire, England, recalls having similar feelings to her coach while on her recruiting visits and what sold her on choosing Georgia Southern.

"I kind of picked the east coast originally as far as possible schools for me to attend just because of the weather and I can play golf everyday here which is a little bit different from home," Ofstedahl says.

In Kuhfeld's first full season as head coach during the 2015-2016 season, she led the team to a fourth place finish in the Sun Belt Championship.

VICTORY DURING THE BREAK

During the 2017 spring break when most students were enjoying beaches and time off from school, the team won its first team title in its short program history at the Spring Break Shootout in Dade City,

Florida. Assistant coach Kortnie Maxoutopoulos said she wasn't surprised at the title at all and attributed the focus and body language of the team.

"They just looked like they were in it to do something big that day, every single shot, they never got flustered and they gave it 100 percent," Maxoutopoulos said. "To come back from an 11 shot deficit we were facing to win it all made it that much more special."

Sophomore Yeji Shin was dominant with her performance during the Spring Break Shootout. She shot a 73 one round and finished fourth in the tournament, leading the team with five birdies. Senior Lauren Coe says the whole experience was surreal.

"We weren't really believing it until we actually saw the score posted," Coe said. "I just think we'd been so close all year, taking second place and a couple of strokes back from winning a few times, and finally we all really played strong that tournament."

WHAT'S NEXT

The Eagles team's second season will come to an end at the Women's Golf Sun Belt Conference Championship in Muscle Shores, Ala. Coming into Wednesday - the final day of the event - the team was in eighth place.

The future looks especially promising when considering the experience the team has acquired combined with the youth of the program. Three of the six golfers on the team now are ending their freshman and sophomore seasons, including sophomore Ansley Bowman, who came into Wednesday in the top 25 individuals at the Sun Belt tournament.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN CO-ED CHEERLEADING A NATIONAL TITLE SEASON

BY BOBBY CARMICHAEL
The George-Anne contributor

Over the past few years, the Georgia Southern cheer squad has dominated the Intermediate All-Girl Division national championship winning five championships in the last nine years. However, this year the glory goes to the co-ed cheer squad, who just won their first national championship last week.

Many might be saying to themselves right now, “We have a co-ed cheer squad?” Well the answer is yes and those 18 student-athletes have made history.

While many might not have been aware of the co-ed cheer squad’s achievement, that doesn’t matter to those athletes and the cheer family that supports them. That cheer family consists of previous alumni as well as the family of current athletes.

UNDERAPPRECIATED

Georgia Southern is known to neglect non-mainstream sports and the same goes for this cheer squad. The cheer family does more than provide emotional support at competitions, they also provide any financial support to the team when funding from the university runs dry.

Ben Meyers, a senior member of the co-ed cheer squad, believed in this team so much he consciously decided to graduate late so that he could compete in this competition and win first place. Meyers vented his frustrations with the school while commending this supportive cheer family.



Members of the co-ed cheer squad perform at a football game. The team is comprised of 10 males and 10 females.

“We get money for new uniforms and for mascots and stuff like that from alumni,” Meyers said. “Our alumni care more about our program than the school does.”

Meyers went on to say that even the women’s cheer squad at Georgia Southern, who has won six national championships, has struggled to garnish funding from the school as well.

IMPORTANCE OF A LEADER

One cannot commend this cheer family without acknowledging their coach Barry Munkasy. Meyers could not praise Munkasy enough and considered him instrumental to the success of the cheer squad.

Munkasy has been the coach for years and has been through a lot with this team. Many thought a championship would be possible as they had come so close in years past but couldn’t finish the deal. Just last year the cheer squad came in third, only 0.28 points behind first place.

“It was a tough loss last year,” Munkasy said. “I’m so proud of this team and the way they responded this year.”

With the feeling from the team that they are essentially on their own, an “us against the world” mentality formed and with support from each other and from their alumni they achieved the unlikely and won their first national championship.

BASEBALL TO FACE CONFERENCE LEADER COASTAL CAROLINA THIS WEEKEND

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

This weekend, Georgia Southern baseball will travel to Conway, South Carolina to face the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, who are currently in first place in the Sun Belt East Division.

AS IT STANDS

After facing Savannah State Wednesday night, the Eagles will prepare for a three-game series against the Chanticleers (22-13-1, 10-4-1), who sit two spots ahead of Georgia Southern (23-13, 9-6) in the conference division standings. South Alabama (22-15, 10-5) is between the two teams for second in a currently air-tight three-team race at the top of the Sun Belt East Division.

This weekend’s series is an opportunity for the Eagles to jump in the standings heading into the last month of the regular season.

The West Division of the Sun Belt Conference has a similar situation unfolding, with Louisiana leading the way followed by UT-Arlington and Texas State.

The Eagles have four more three-game conference series to go not after the Coastal Carolina series. They will face Little-Rock at home, Louisiana on the road, Arkansas State at home and rival Georgia State on the road.

COASTAL CAROLINA

The Chanticleers are a formidable power team offensively, having hit 51 home runs this season, which is 11 more than any other team in the conference. Junior first baseman Kevin Woodall, Jr. has hit 14 home runs and driven in 39 RBIs to lead the offense for Coastal Carolina. He leads the conference in both of those categories.

Junior center fielder Billy Cooke is second in the conference in on-base percentage (.503) and third in slugging

percentage (.602).

The pitching staff for the Chanticleers has been less outstanding than the offense. They rank in the bottom half of the conference in most team pitching categories, such as ERA (8th) and hits allowed (9th).

Georgia Southern is also a top offensive team in the conference and the Eagles’ pitching has struggled at times. It should be a hard-fought series with the two similar teams facing off.

LOOKING AHEAD

The last month of the season will determine which teams have better positioning heading into the conference tournament. The Sun Belt Conference tournament begins on Tuesday, May 23 and will be hosted at J.I. Clements Stadium in Statesboro. The event will run through Sunday, May 28, and it will be broadcast throughout by ESPN3.



Senior left-hander Evan Challenger winds up to pitch. He could face a tough CCU offense this weekend.



Former quarterback Kevin Ellison takes a snap at Paulson Stadium while senior running back L.A. Ramsby splits out of the backfield.

BY JERELL RUSHIN
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern football wrapped up its 14th and final practice of the spring on Friday. There will be no more practices with pads until July 31. After finishing last season 5-7, head coach Tyson Summers relieved co-offensive coordinators Rance Gillespie and David Dean of their duties. Shortly after, Bryan Cook accepted the offensive coordinator offer. Cook was Georgia Tech’s quarterback and B-backs coach and was a member of the staff since 2013. With Cook on staff, Georgia Tech finished in the top 10 in rushing yards every year except 2015.

Cook will try to return the Eagles to one of the best rushing teams in the nation. Georgia Southern’s mainstay of a dominant rushing attack was missing the entire 2016 season. The Eagles averaged just 224.2 yards per game, and 4.4 per carry in 2016. That is a far cry from leading the nation in 2015 with 363 yards per game, and 6.5 yards per attempt. Leading rushers from 2016, Matt Brieda and Kevin Ellison are out of eligibility. Junior Wesley Fields, returns as the team’s leading rusher, and will be the primary back. Fields had the highest average per carry of all players with more than 50 attempts last season, with 5.2 ypc. However, he knows where he needs

to improve to lead the attack with so many upperclassmen departing. “Being more efficient on runs and being more patient with the zone blocking,” Fields said. Not only did the offense lose plenty of playmakers, but so did the defense and special teams. Lou Groza award finalist for best kicker in the country, Younghoe Koo graduated. Leading tackler Ironhead Gallon (102), and projected NFL draftee Ukeme Eligwe (97) graduated as well. Safety Joshua Moon returns as the leading tackler and leader of the secondary. It’s unrealistic to expect for two players to replace the great production of Gallon and Eligwe. The defense will

have to work in sync as a unit, and make up for the departures in other areas. Moon noticed the strides that the defense has made from spring practice #1, specifically flying to the ball. “When we first started, we were running, but we weren’t running how we were supposed to. The coaches really stressed us getting to the ball, and our technique is way better than it was before,” Moon said. Georgia Southern opens the season Sept. 2 at Auburn. The Eagles last meeting with an SEC team was their 23-17 overtime loss at Georgia in 2015. Paulson Stadium will see its’ first game Sept. 9, when the Eagles face the New Hampshire Wildcats.

SIGNIFICANT SUN BELT SOFTBALL SERIES IN STATESBORO

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

This weekend’s matchup with Texas State will be a very important series as the end of the regular season draws closer. Georgia Southern is currently in fourth and 11-7 in Sun Belt conference play while Texas State is in third and 12-5 against Sun Belt foes. The Eagles are coming in very hot on a six-game winning streak after sweeping both Coastal Carolina and Appalachian State. They’re definitely playing well and winning games win it matters with only three series left before the Sun Belt tournament. These past two weekends, pitchers Dixie Raley and Kierra Camp have been near perfect only allowing about two runs a game during this six game stretch. Seniors Morgan Robinson and Emily Snider have also produced consistently all season with Snider

leading the team with a .381 batting average and Robinson with eight homeruns. This recent success for Georgia Southern has greatly been because of freshman Mekhia Freeman and sophomore Lydia Witkowski, who are hitting .331 and .306 respectfully. The Bobcats have four big nonconference wins against Baylor, Texas Tech and two wins over Texas. Though their offense hasn’t been super impressive, it’s been their pitching that has put Texas State in third place in the Sun Belt. Starting pitcher for the Bobcats is junior Randi Rupp who has a 1.13 ERA and posts a 20-6 record. That’s been a great way to keep this team in games until their offense can come up with a run or two. This series will certainly be one to come out and watch with two games on Saturday at Eagle Field with the finale on Sunday.



Senior catcher Andrea McKenzie prepares for the incoming pitch during a game this season. McKenzie has 2 home runs and 11 RBIs this season.



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Puzzles

The George-Anne 4/20/17 Crossword

PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Musical McEntire
- 5 Fishing tackle
- 9 Pro follower
- 13 Biz bigwig
- 14 Inactive
- 15 Lyric poem
- 17 Waterskiing sight
- 19 Sci-fi extra
- 20 Trunks
- 21 Subdued
- 23 Two-year-old sheep
- 24 Tippler
- 26 Myrna of “The Thin Man”
- 27 Clamor
- 28 Buttercup fruits
- 32 Belgrade native
- 34 Jai ____
- 35 Plumbing fixture
- 37 Hibernia
- 40 Dessert wine
- 41 Bodily cavity
- 42 Stubborn beast
- 43 Cast-of-thousands film
- 44 Words from Wordsworth
- 45 Man, for one
- 46 “The Chinese Parrot” hero
- 48 Scabbards
- 51 Attorneys’ org.
- 53 Chemist’s workplace
- 55 Deviate from a set course
- 56 Drivel
- 57 Leaping amphibian
- 59 South American cowhand

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- 64 More genuine
- 66 It often causes a big splash
- 68 Tennis starter
- 69 Scottish hillside
- 70 Depose
- 71 Owner’s acquisition
- 72 Evergreens
- 73 Tennis units
- 7 Fizzless
- 8 Kind of position
- 9 Night flight
- 10 Spring mo.
- 11 Dentist’s handout
- 12 French farewell
- 16 Periphery
- 18 Medicinal amount
- 22 Mount Sinai figure
- 25 Halfhearted
- 28 Cockeyed
- 29 Cartoon, of sorts
- 30 Enlistment
- 31 Trig functions
- 33 Invoice word
- 34 “Tarzan” extra
- 36 Aggressive
- 38 Woes
- 39 Family tree word
- 41 Vessel detector
- 47 ____ the Great
- 49 Birds of prey
- 50 On the road
- 51 Liberal pursuits
- 52 Blasé
- 54 London policeman figure
- 58 “King David” star, 1985
- 60 Roswell sightings
- 61 Whodunit hint
- 62 Emcee
- 63 Chooses
- 65 First family member
- 67 Order’s partner

Down

- 1 What’s left
- 2 Fair
- 3 Lager
- 4 Top guns
- 5 Mel of film
- 6 Flurry

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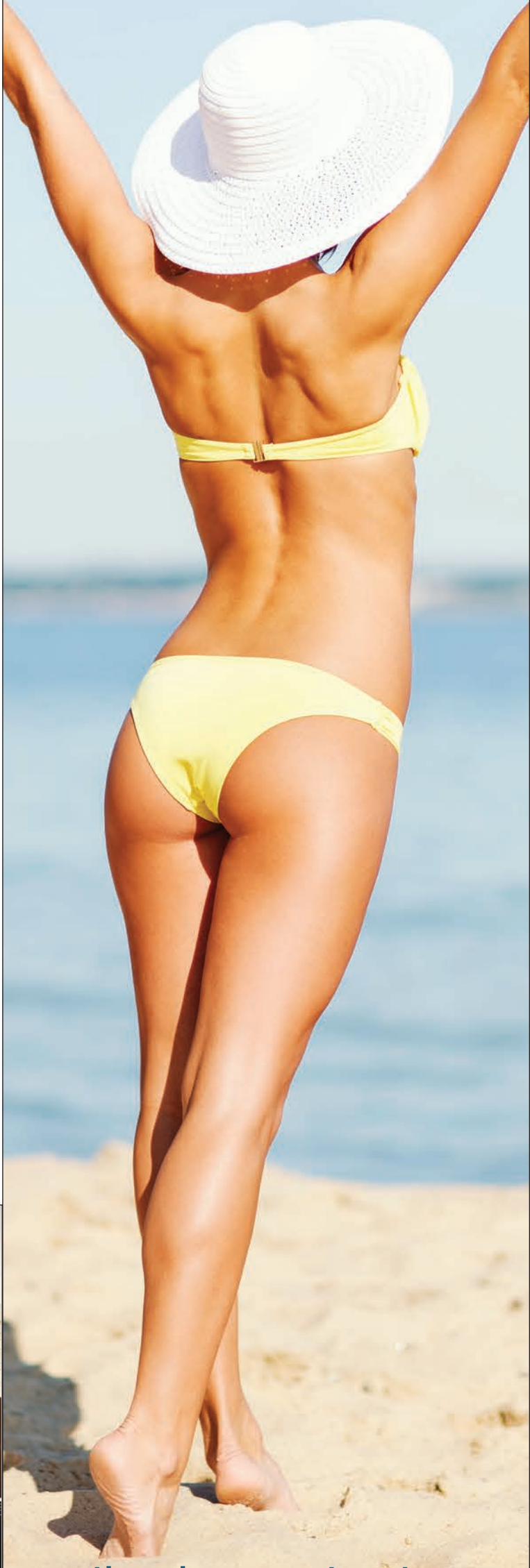
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Full Plate GUIDE

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- Shane's Rib Shack
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- Fordhams FarmHouse
23657 U.S. 80, Brooklet, GA 30415
- 40 East Grill
40 E Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Dingus Magee's
3 Georgia Avenue, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Lee's Restaurant
458 W Jones Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- RJ's Grill
434 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Subway
1550 Chandler Rd, Statesboro, GA
- Wild Wings
52 Aspen Heights Dr., Statesboro, GA 30458
- Mexican:**
- Barberitos
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- El Jalapeno
711 S Main St, Statesboro, GA
- El Riconcito
2 College Plaza, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Moe's Southwestern Grill
608 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

Coffee

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1596 Chandler Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 3 Tree Coffee
441 South Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Cool Beanz Espresso Bar
58 East Main Street, Statesboro, GA
- Ellianos
598 Brannen Street, Statesboro, GA

Deli:

- Baldinos Giant Jersey Subs
1204 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- McAlister's Del
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

Fast Food:

- Jimmy John's
100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

Japanese:

- Tokyo
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Barbecue:

- Bourbon Grill & More
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
- Chinese:**
- Southern Palace
224 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458

Seafood:

- The Boiling Shrimp
12218 US-301, Statesboro, GA 30458

Sweets & Treats:

- Bruster's Real Ice Cream
Statesboro Mall, 995 Lovett Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Daylight Donuts
455 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Dunkin' Donuts
606 Fair Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 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:

- Mellow Mushroom
1098 Suite 1, Bermuda Run, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Primos Italian Pizza Kitchen
609-9 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Your Pie
701 Piedmont Loop #200, Statesboro, GA 30458

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