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The George-Anne

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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Beating the Best

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Coastal Carolina

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Campus gaming becomes
GS club sport

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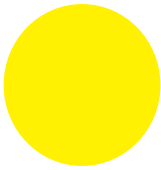


High: 81°

Low: 59°

10 percent
chance of rain

Wednesday



High: 89°

Low: 62°

10 percent
chance of rain

Thursday



High: 89°

Low: 66°

20 percent
chance of rain

Weather Bar

We can expect temperatures to reach the low 90s by the end of the week. So make sure to grab your sunglasses and head out to Sweetheart Circle before finals week!



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912-764-2030



PHOTO COURTESY OF THECIRCLEGSU.COM

We are giving our final goodbyes to our current Editor-in-Chief who's graduating this semester. It's been a long, awesome journey!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/special-goodbye-editor-chief/>



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Promposals:

The Creative Approach
to Prom

BY HARLEY STRICKLAND
The Reflector staff

Faith Ayala was tired and she was disappointed. She had spent her entire Saturday trying to win a pageant title but had walked away with nothing. She needed food and some comfort so she was glad when her mom pulled her into Taco Bell.

As her mother's small SUV wheeled into the parking lot, a familiar face was standing directly under the fluorescent Taco Bell sign. Ayala's eyes, with her false lashes still clinging on from the pageant, looked up to the sign that read "let's taco bout prom."

Her mom stopped the car by the sign and the familiar boy, who Ayala recognized was in her grade at school,

made his way toward the car. He began unbuttoning his shirt which revealed a t-shirt underneath that had a hot sauce packet printed on it. Ayala's face lit up and her watery eyes began to glisten, this time not from tears but from joy. She read the words that were printed on the shirt along with the hot sauce packet: "Will you go to prom with me?"

"Promposals," which combines the words proposal and prom, is a new way to ask someone to go to prom, said Ayala. This proposal is for a one night event that high school students enjoy known as prom.

Read More at
Reflectorgsu.com

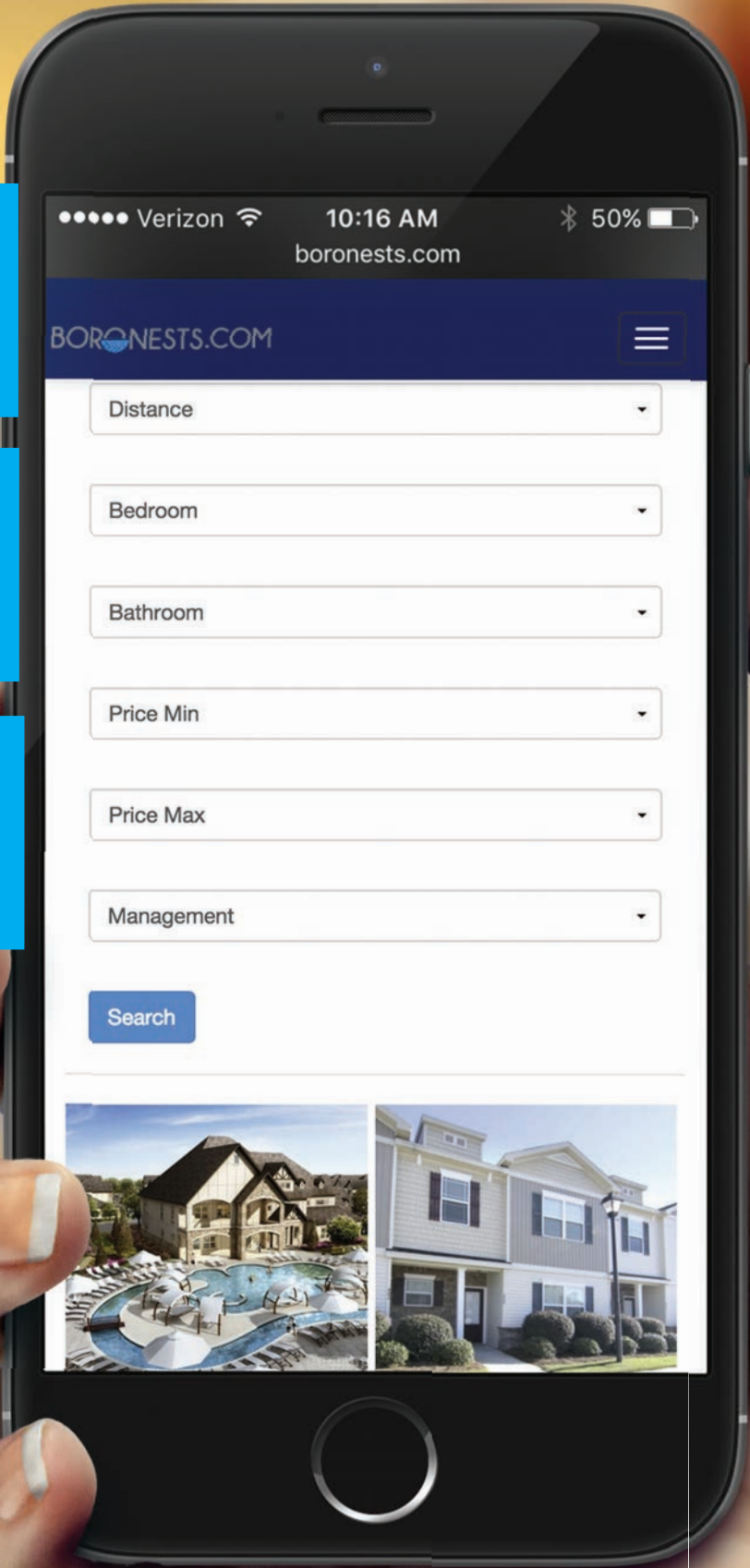
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Farewell, Student Media



TAYLOR NORMAN

Norman is a senior marketing and logistics major from Decatur, GA.

I wanted this column to be funny and quirky but it won't be. It's dry and to the point, a lot of who I am. When I first joined Student Media, in the Fall of 2014, a friend was telling me about the job and the group of people who made up Student Media.

The job consisted of working my own hours and developing refined selling skills. Being a business-oriented person, it seemed like a dream come true. Half ecstatic, I knew the job could be mine. A week later I applied, got an interview, killed the interview and the rest is history.

Being a sophomore who had yet to be challenged, Student Media was the spaceship that brought me to consciousness. Every single person in college should join an organization that gets them out of their comfort zone and, that's the truth.

Student Media was mine and I haven't regretted a single moment. I want to count off the friends I made, because there are many. I could tell you about all the skills I acquired, it's a true learning experience of learning. How about the money? Yes, a lot of

that.

My journey didn't taper quite yet; in Spring of 2014 I accepted a position at the top of the Business Division. What a disaster.

In all realness, I appreciated the challenge and ate it up. I applied to be the Business Executive and assumed all the responsibility that came with it. It dawned on me that an entire student organization banked on my team and myself to make budget. At times the stress was overwhelming. There is one person I need to shout out who was there to lean on, the best person of all, the one and only, my mama away from home, our business coordinator, Samantha Reid.

Booker T. Washington had a quote that I took to heart, "Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him."

It was a hard choice to make, take on all the responsibility a college student never thought to take on, Sammi told me I could do it. Thank god she was here, else I doubt I would have even stayed with Student Media another

semester. I wouldn't be writing this column now, how sad would that have been?

Student Media changed my life. Every single person in Student Media has played a role in my development and has a place in my heart. Thank you. Everything I have learned in college and Student Media, I will hold on to and cherish with all my might. Now on to the next stone!

P.S. Kenyatta, you're going to do amazing! Just remember there are people around you who adore you and want to see you shine! Jacob, remember that first time we hung out off campus? Yea you do, keep ballin' and doing you and I know you'll be just fine. Oh, Austin, how I enjoyed our inquisitive rants in the office, always off topic and teaching each other something new. Thank you for your patience in me. I wish all of y'all the best of luck and remember you have and friend in me.

Best,
Taylor Norman

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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TAISHA WHITE

White is a senior multimedia journalism major from Hinesville, GA.

It has been an honor of mine to serve as your news reporter for the past two semesters. I am forever grateful for the people that I have met and numerous stories that I have been able to share with the Georgia Southern community.

As we come to the end of this semester and I get closer to walking across that stage to receive my degree, I have to reflect back to the amazing group of people that I was able to work with.

A dysfunctional family (LoL) but each and everyone of them have taught me something special and I’ve developed amazing bonds with them as well. I will never forget them

So long Student Media. May the next years bring nothing but joy and happiness.

PETTY GOD OUT!!

RASHIDA OTUNBA

Otunba is a senior journalism major from Conyers, GA.



Since freshman year, I have read my fair share of sappy senior goodbyes and after all that reading, one would think that I’d have gained some insight as to how I was going to write my own when the time came.

Well, the time is here and I still have no idea where to even begin.

When I first joined this organization, I did so as a freshman with a love of writing and an exceptional talent for asking too many questions (two qualities that I saw as my calling to become a journalist). I still remember the nervousness I felt walking to the pre-remodeled office, complete with our huge boardroom-style table and mismatched desks and furniture the day after candidate testing to see if I had made it into this organization I’d wanted to join so badly.

I have worked for Student Media my entire four years of college (an eternity, really) and the thought of finally leaving has given me both relief and sadness. Relief because the closing of this chapter means that I’ve actually graduated college. Sadness because this means saying

goodbye some of the people that I consider my closest friends.

I’ve watched our organization expand and flourish since the time I started as freshman while my colleagues and myself, who started off as candidates all those years ago, have now become editors and managers.

Through it all, we’ve had some good times and some sad times, but in the end, I’m thankful for every minute I’ve spent as a staff member.

I wasn’t kidding when I said I didn’t know how to write these things, so here’s a quote that I Googled specifically for the occasion that sums up how I feel: “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

See you at graduation.

Campus Movie Fest announces four jury award winners

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER

The George-Anne staff

Last Friday night the top four winners of Campus Movie Fest (CMF) and recipients of the Jury Award were announced in the Russell Union Theater.

The winners of the Jury Award will receive a free 12 month subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, a custom CMF Movie Slate trophy and an invitation to screen at CMF Grand Finale at TERMINUS (Summer 2017).

Students at Georgia Southern University were given a week to develop a five minute film with training and equipment provided by the CMF.

CMF, according to its official website, is the world's largest student film festival and is free to every student.

CMF showed the top 16 of GS's 45 student film submissions at the screening. From those 16 film the top four winners were chosen:

Point Seven Three

1. The first winner of the Jury award went to Point Seven Three. Directed, written and edited by Connor Rentz, Point Seven Three was a film inspired by classic science fiction films in which a drunk husband, Frank (played by J Manning Smith-Tate), and his wife Ruth (played by Abigail Blake) has a extraterrestrial encounter.

The team also consisted of David Gregory Besh as the director of photography, Michael Regonal Houston as the producer and script supervisor, Conner J. Kirsch as prop master and participation by Katrina Delghingaro.

Depths

2. The second jury award went to the drama music video Depths. Mick Miller wore many hats for the film as director, producer, editor and cinematographer. Depths follows

musician HTHAZE as he finds a way to conquer his depression after questioning his faith.

Adonis

3. The third jury award went to the film Adonis, which was led by Ozzie Bunbury and produced by Martin Torchia. The film is described as an experimental documentary and is based off the lives and traumatic events of Bunbury and his cousin.

The Waxmaker

4. The fourth and final jury award went to The Waxmaker. The film, written and directed by Michael Reginald Houston, explores the life of a humble candle-maker, Malakai (played by Tim Shields), as he grapples with tragedy.

Other contributors of The Waxmaker included Connor Rentz as Executive Producer, David Gregory Besh as Director of Photography and

producer, Katrina Delghingaro as a producer and actor and Conner J. Kirsch as Production Designer.

The Grand Finale for CMF will take place in Atlanta, GA at the TERMINUS conference and festival on June 22 through June 25.

To view the films GS students produced, visit campusmoviefest.com.

Student organization to host pro-choice event Tuesday

BY NATALIE TURMAN

The George-Anne staff

URGE, which stands for unite for reproductive and gender equality, will host a pro-choice tour on campus Tuesday.

It will be on April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. between the Russell Union and the bookstore.

"We're going to have a tour to celebrate the access to abortions and to basically try to get rid of the negative stigma around it," Savannah Fabius, junior psychology major and secretary of URGE, said.

URGE is a national organization that was brought to Georgia Southern University in 2013. They host various forums, marches and other events to bring awareness to reproductive and gender equality issues.

"We believe that everybody has a right to their body and should be able to use it how they want," Fabius said.

At their upcoming tour, they will have a guest speaker, Oriaku Njaku, who is active in the movement in Atlanta. There will also be music, food, games and a petition at the event.



GS Auxiliary Services to undergo renovations this summer

BY TAYLOR MOORE
The George-Anne contributor

After over a year of planning and preparing, Georgia Southern will be renovating select on-campus housing and other buildings for the upcoming school year this summer.

Michael Head, director of facilities, housing and auxiliary services said he is very excited about the upcoming renovations.

“This will be a busy summer for our facility group. Our young eagles that will be coming this fall should be pleasantly pleased,” Head said.

GS housing is committed to the support of student learning in a residential community.

“This is my first year living on-campus and it’s been a great experience. I’ve enjoyed everything that on campus housing has to offer. It’ll be great to come back after summer to newly renovated living,” Sarah Tuz, sophomore public relations major, said.

On-Campus renovations

Southern Pines, Southern Courtyard and Freedom’s Landing will all receive painting of all exterior staircases, landings, breezeways and balconies. A new roof and maintenance and repair to all exterior trim will also be done at Freedom’s Landing.

University Villas will receive new windows, alarm systems, exterior painting of all trim work, surveillance system and upgraded wireless and cable TV infrastructure and coverage. The renovation of the clubhouse lobby will take place at Kennedy.

Centennial Place will receive new emergency electrical generators adding emergency power to all life safety systems in the event of power outage. This has already started and will be completed by June 2017.

Georgia Southern is also applying for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) grant to request fund assistance to supply this same emergency response need during power outages at other housing complexes on campus and the two dining facilities.

Auxiliary Services renovations

Georgia Southern will also perform renovations within the Auxiliary Services department. Chick-Fil-A and Starbucks will receive a total space and equipment renovation.

Head said that the department strives to keep on-campus living arrangements well maintained

and clean for students.

“We are constantly preparing and upgrading our facilities to always be ‘facility ready’ for our students and staff,” Head said. “These planned renovations and upgrades allow us to continue to follow our internal operational road-map of being facility ready for all student needs.”

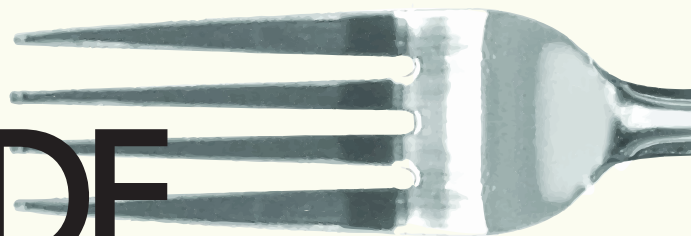
According to Head, in addition to these renovation projects, the Georgia Southern facility team also addresses its normal cleaning and repair of over 15,000 apartments within a 17-week period.

Directly after Operation Move-Out, (the days in which students move out of on-campus housing for the summer) and in preparation for Operation Move-in (where first year and returning students arrive on campus before fall semester), the team must keep up with the fast moving camps and conference programs that also use the housing spaces over the summer period.

Tanner Clark, freshman biology major, is a fan of on-campus housing.

Clark said, “I already enjoy living on campus, so I’ll be impressed to see how everything is after the renovation.”

Full Plate GUIDE



Check out these local restaurant deals!

American: Bites 1212 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458 Shane's Rib Shack 1100 Brampton Ave, Suite J, Statesboro, GA 30458 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 Coffee Rock-It Coffee 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 100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458 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 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 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	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
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To advertise in the Full Plate Guide or to have your restaurant listed above for free, email ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

GROWTH IS THE GAME

Gaming organization achieves a major goal



Two students playing Super Smash Brothers at the Willie J. Burden Scholarship Tournament on Friday, April 21. That game is one of the seven games that SCG now plays on a competitive basis.

BY JULIA FECHTER
The George-Anne staff

His stomach was churning with excitement. He felt a surge of emotion. This was it. All their hard work had led to this moment.

Kevin Williams, the executive director of Southern Collegiate Gaming Association, finally saw what five years working with the e-sports organization could accomplish.

SCG was officially deemed a club sport by Georgia Southern University on Thursday, April 13.

The gaming, or e-sports, organization, will now get a level of recognition and resources, like coaching and financing, that it could not acquire on its own.

What SCG does

Currently, SCG's competitive teams are "League of Legends", "Overwatch", "Rocket League", "Smite", "Call of Duty", "CSGO" (Counter Strike Global Offensive) and "Super Smash Brothers."

The organization also offers several services for students beside the competitive gaming. It has casual gaming available for those who do not want to

play competitively or are working toward that goal.

Additionally, SCG provides leadership and mentorship programs for students who want to lead and serve others and who want to have the counsel from an older adult.

As well, SCG helps players travel to functions like gaming tournaments and camping trips.

"Anything that the students would want to do or try, we try to put it together so they can all go with people who have similar interests," Williams said.

What it took

This accomplishment for SCG was a dream for Williams and other gamers back in 2012. The first group of students who started with the organization then have since graduated.

"Sending them a message saying 'hey, you know what you guys were dreaming for, hoping for the program for other students, it's a real thing now,'" Williams said. "Having them celebrate, post things all over their Facebooks...it feels like

we've really hit a milestone that we've been working towards."

Getting SCG to become a club sport did not happen overnight. It took work on both Williams' and the members' parts.

A large part of what

had to show the university that gamers exist [on campus] and gamers can make an impact," Williams said.

SCG's partnering with the university to host the Willie J. Burden Scholarship Tournament was the first step in

fund that a student can have," Williams said.

He also felt that with the SCG hosting more events on campus and getting more people joining the group, put them in a good position to be recognized as a club sport.

Benefits of being a club sport

Williams explained that one of the biggest payoffs that SCG gets from being an official club sport is the credentials.

"Official recognition by the university goes a long way. There are companies that might not know about SCG as an organization, but they know Georgia Southern," Williams said. "Once they hear that Georgia Southern now backs what we do... when a company sees that, they're like 'they have a university behind them.'"

Those factors will make technology-related and other companies more likely to want to invest in the SCG students.

“Sending them a message saying ‘hey, you know what you guys were dreaming for, hoping for the program for other students, it’s a real thing now’...it feels like we’ve really hit a milestone that we’ve been working towards,”

KEVIN WILLIAMS
Executive Director of SCG

Williams believed helped SCG become a club sport were its initiatives to help students in need and the university's willingness to collaborate in those efforts. "First and foremost, we

showing they can make an impact. "We saw an opportunity to partner with the university and impact a student's life by setting up a scholarship foundation

Another significant change in SCG’s operations is that it will now get an official budget from the university. “We’ve always been self-sustaining...we’ve been raising money for a long time to do what we do,” Williams said. “It [the recognition] makes this thing long. It gives us a lifetime.”

Mikey Henning, a senior computer science major and member of the League of Legends competitive team, shared how he thought the budget would impact him and the other SCG members. “If people really don’t have that much money on trips, we have a budget now,” Henning said. “More people might be joining us since we’re the official e-sports team, so [it’s] more competition, since you’ll have to play for your spots. That pushes each of us all around to get better.”

More helping hands

As SCG grew, Williams saw that he and the organization board needed to hire an executive assistant to help with his increasing amount of responsibilities. Williams said that the biggest challenge with that was figuring out how to pay someone for that position. Fortunately, that was addressed when the university decided to make SCG an official club sport. Now, the executive assistant will be

paid at least a stipend, though the particular details around that are still being decided. “It [SCG becoming a club sport] made that position look so much more attractive, because it speaks of longevity...without the university backing, it’d be a lot harder,” Williams said. The final candidate for the executive assistant job is Luke Panosian, a 2016 graduate of GS who majored in general studies with a focus on business management and communication arts. Panosian and Williams worked together a few times while Panosian was still attending the university. They both worked in Chi Alpha, a local college ministry. As well, Williams worked with Panosian during Panosian’s junior year because he was in ENACTUS, an entrepreneurial business organization on campus. Panosian thinks that his “task master” or more detail-oriented way of accomplishing things will complement Williams’ big picture, umbrella way of thinking through different situations. “We hosted an event last year called the Southern Classic, and I was the project manager for that. That was the first time Kevin and I teamed up to do something together,” Panosian said. “I was able to knock out a lot of the tasks he couldn’t get to, and I knew the industry [e-sports]...so I could know what I was talking about when players had questions.” He elaborated on how this

new job satisfies everything that he is looking for in a job. “I still wanted to be in an industry that’s new, because I’m an entrepreneur, and anything that’s new and growing, I’m going to be eager to jump into,” Panosian said. Panosian also wanted to live in a familiar place. Though he is from Atlanta, he wanted to return to Statesboro because of his familiarity with the town because of college. “Also, [it’s] just Kevin himself, his leadership and the impact he has on the people he’s poured into has been pretty significant. I thought I could benefit from that as well, just from a mentorship perspective,” Panosian added.

Looking forward

Williams thinks that GS is becoming more known for e-sports now that the university is providing more resources to the SCG students. He believes that continuing to educate the university will be very important. “We would really like to make Statesboro the e-sports capital of the Southeast, and we could do it, too. We’re already ahead of the game,” Williams said. “There is not a school [college] in the Southeast that has the organization we do as far as e-sports is concerned...most schools look for us to help them develop our programs.”



SCG’s executive director Kevin Williams hired Luke Pasonian, a 2016 graduate, to help him with different administrative tasks for the organization. Panosian explained that his passion for the new job comes from more than his interest in the e-sports industry. “The other half is, I love this. I love games... the culture, the people, the excitement as well as the relaxation I get from playing it,” Pasonian said.

“ I still wanted to be in an industry [like video gaming] that’s new, because I’m an entrepreneur, and anything that’s new and growing, I’m going to be eager to jump into,”

LUKE PASONIAN
2016 GS graduate



Intramural Sports
BASKETBALL

Online Registration
May 1 - 17

Play Begins
May 22



#TEAMUP

Intramural Sports
SOFTBALL

Online Registration
May 1 - 17

Play Begins
May 22



Intramural Sports
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Online Registration
May 1 - 17

Play Begins
May 22



Intramural Sports
AQUA VOLLEYBALL

Online Registration
June 5 - 21

Play Begins
June 26

Summer Intramural Sports - register at cri.gs/IM_Register

2016-2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR IN GEORGIA SOUTHERN ATHLETICS

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

The third season for Georgia Southern athletics competing in the Sun Belt Conference was full of memorable moments, significant achievements and impressive individuals. As is tradition, The George-Anne took a look back at some of the landmark moments since the 2016 season began.



SEPT. 3 BEGINNING OF AN ERA

Tyson Summers was rewarded in his first game as the Georgia Southern head football coach with a 54-0 victory over outmatched Savannah State at Paulson Stadium.

OCT. 5 FIASCO IN JONESBORO

On a Wednesday night on ESPN2, the Eagles lost to Arkansas State in a dramatic, depressing fashion. An 8-yard Arkansas State touchdown with nine seconds left in the game sunk the hearts of Eagle fans, after turning the ball over with under three minutes left to go and a 26-20 lead.

NOV. 5 HISTORY FOR GS SOCCER

The men's soccer team beat Appalachian State, 3-1, on senior night, powering them to their first-ever Sun Belt regular-season title, which they shared with Coastal Carolina. Coach John Murphy, in his first season, eventually guided the Eagles to the conference semifinals.

NOV. 11 A GOOD SIGN FOR MEN'S HOOPS

The Eagles took ACC foe NC State to the wire, eventually losing 81-79, with 26 points from sophomore guard Tookie Brown. This was a sign that the Eagles could compete with anyone, and the Eagles went on to have a successful campaign in the Sun Belt (11-7) in Mark Byington's fourth year at the helm.



DEC. 3 FOOTBALL WINS SEASON FINALE

Eagle Nation took a collective, albeit small, sigh of relief after Georgia Southern beat conference opponent Troy 28-24 in the season finale on senior day at Paulson Stadium. The win capped an overall disappointing 5-7 season, but it may have saved coach Summers his job.



JAN. 23 HOOPS ON A ROLL

The Eagles ascended by way of an 8-game winning streak to the top of the Sun Belt standings. On January 23, they beat Coastal Carolina, 91-80, at home and again showed their offensive prowess behind sophomore guard Ike Smith and Tookie Brown. Their season would come to a rather disappointing end in the conference tournament, but the 8-game streak showed the Eagles were one of the toughest teams in the conference.

MARCH 6 MCGOWAN AND BUTLER EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Women's basketball senior stars, guard Angel McGowan and forward Patrice Butler, were named in March to the Sun Belt All-Conference Second Team. McGowan, who began her senior campaign with 1,000 career points already, led the Eagles with 423 more as a senior. Butler eclipsed 1,000 points and 500 rebounds. The pair of seniors earned respect throughout their careers from opposing teams as well as the Eagle Nation.



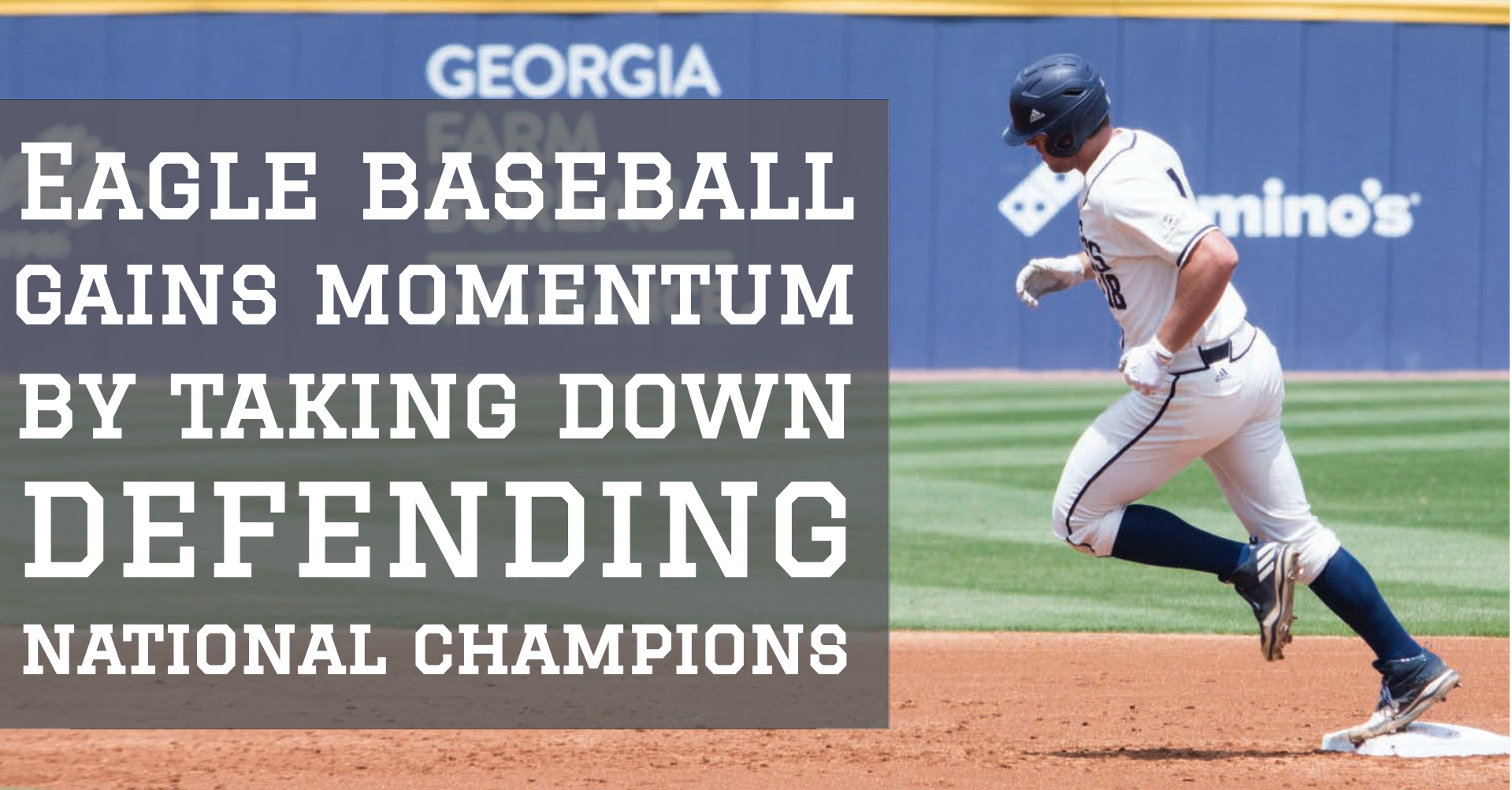
APRIL 15 SUCCESS AT "THE NEST"

The Georgia Southern men's tennis team clinched its first undefeated home season in over 30 years by beating Coastal Carolina at home. The match was clinched, fittingly, by senior Dani Casablancas in his final match in Statesboro. The team finished 12-0 at the Wallis Tennis Center, or as they call it, "the nest".

APRIL 22 BASEBALL MAKES A SERIOUS STATEMENT

It's not every day that a team from Georgia Southern knocks off a defending national champion, but it happened Saturday, April 22 when the Eagles beat Coastal Carolina on the road, 7-6, in a 10-inning thriller. The bats of freshman Mason McWhorter, a rising star in Sun Belt baseball, and senior shortstop Evan McDonald, propelled the Eagles to victory.





An unidentified Eagle rounds the bases at J.I. Clements Stadium, where the Eagles are 14-8 this season.

BY DONALD COE
The George-Anne staff

FRIDAY

The Eagles' late rally came up short in game one in Conway, falling to the Chanticleers 6-5. Entering the ninth inning, the Eagles trailed 6-2 when they were able to put a few hits together with no outs to get the bases loaded.

The Eagles were able to run the first Chanticleer pitcher off the mound before Holmes came in and got a couple of ground outs to make the game

6-5, but with two outs. Senior Jordan Wren came to the plate with a chance to tie the game and hit a long, loud fly ball to center that was hauled in for the final out.

Freshman Mason McWhorter and senior Ryan Cleveland both hit solo home runs, which were their fourth and ninth home runs respectively, to lead Eagle hitters.

SATURDAY

The Eagles tied up the series in game two to set up a rubber match on Sunday with an

extra inning victory over the Chanticleers. The Eagles took the victory 7-6 with freshman Mason McWhorter having a big game and hitting in the go ahead RBI. McWhorter went 3-3 and had two RBIs, including a home run in his second straight game.

The game was a back and forth affair, with the Eagles drawing first blood, and never trailed the entire game. There were four different times the Chanticleers came back to tie the game, but the Eagle defense stood tall to not let them break through.

Senior Evan Challenger got the start on the mound for the

Eagles, and did not have the most graceful day, but was able to work out of jams to only allow three runs.

Game three turned out to be a nail biter for the Eagles coming down to the final pitch. The Eagles came back from a 2-0 hole and scored three unanswered runs in the late innings to win a thriller in Conway 3-2.

In the top of the eighth inning, the Eagles worked the bases loaded and no outs with a couple of walks and a

hit-by pitch. Freshman Mason McWhorter came to the plate and drew a walk that tied the game at two.

Sophomore Tyler Martin was the next batter up and hit into a double play, but it brought the eventual winning run in to score. Senior pitcher Landon Hughes took the hill in the ninth and escaped with a Coastal baserunner on third to close out for the win.

The Eagles return to action with a game at Mercer on Tuesday and play them again at J.I. Clements Stadium on Wednesday.



Freshman right-hander Eric Goldstein throws a pitch.

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Page designed by **Rebecca Hooper**

 **MICK MILLER**

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



AARON SOCHA

Senior Ginlia Riepe serves at the Sun Belt Championship in New Orleans. Riepe won the match-clinching point against App. State last week.

BY THOMAS JILK
The George-Anne staff

WOMEN'S TEAM

The Eagles came into the Sun Belt Championship in New Orleans as the No. 7 seed, matched up in the first round on Thursday against No. 10 seed and rival Appalachian State. The Eagles edged out the Mountaineers, 4-3, in the first match, moving them into the tournament quarterfinals.

On Thursday, App. State opened play by snagging the doubles point after winning two out of three of the doubles sets. Georgia Southern was able to counter by eventually prevailing in the top four singles matches. GS senior Giulia Riepe came back in No. 1 singles after losing the first set against Mountaineer sophomore Heidi Swope. Riepe took the next set, 7-5, and the third set, 6-2, to complete her comeback and clinch the match for Georgia Southern.

According to gseagles.com, GS head coach Michele Stanford called Riepe's performance "an incredible match with a huge comeback to get the clinch."

On Friday, the Eagles were matched up with the formidable No. 2 seed South Alabama Jaguars, who had beat the Eagles once handily earlier in the year.

The Jaguars were simply too much for GS, beating the Eagles 4-0 after taking the doubles point and subsequently winning three singles matches, ending the match at 4-0 before the other players finished.

The Eagles ended their season 11-12 after a streaky season. Argentinian sophomore Emilia Bujan led the Eagles in singles victories on the season, going 12-8. The duo of Bujan and junior Ella Monsey led the Eagles in doubles play, going 11-6 in that regard this season. Ripe and Mariana Ranzahuer are the graduating seniors, and everyone else will return next season for a team that looks to contend and make another run in the 2018 Sun Belt Championship.

MEN'S TEAM

The Eagles opened Sun Belt Championship play as the No. 6 seed against the third-seeded defending conference champion Mavericks of UT-Arlington. After losing the doubles point, the Eagles needed four singles victories to make up for the doubles loss.

Senior Dani Casablanca, juniors Eddie Landin and Artemie Amari, and freshman Diego Finkelstein came through for the Eagles by winning their singles matches and the match overall. Amari came back after losing his first set in No. 6 singles, eventually taking the last two sets, 7-6, 6-1 and clinching the dramatic quarterfinal victory.

The Eagles moved on to the semifinals, where they faced the No. 2 seed South Alabama Jaguars on Saturday. The semifinal proved to be another tight match. The Eagles took the doubles point this time led by the duos of senior Chris Kerrigan and Casablanca, along with Landin alongside Finkelstein.

In singles, four matches featured set tiebreakers, showing how evenly matched the two sides were, even though South Alabama was ranked higher at No. 47 nationally.

GS freshman Stefano Di Aloy fought valiantly with the match at 3-3, but eventually fell in the final set, 5-7, to South Alabama junior Olivier Gingras. This brought the Eagles' season to a close with a final record of 19-12.

The Eagles have promise on the men's side as well, with only two graduating seniors (Kerrigan and Casablanca). Other Eagles will need to step up, though, to replace the contributions of the two senior leaders.

Junior No. 1 singles player JC Alcala will be back for the Eagles, along with their season leader in singles victories, Di Aloy. Di Aloy went an impressive 19-8 in singles this season, usually performing in the No. 3 singles slot. Kerrigan and Finkelstein anchored the doubles game for the Eagles all season, going 8-6 in doubles play as a duo. Kerrigan's doubles presence is perhaps the most important piece for the Eagles to try to replace going into next season.

After going undefeated (12-0) at home for the first time since 1983 and making the Sun Belt semifinals for the first time, the Eagles 2018 hopes are high, as they should be. Head coach Sander Koning and his team will try to carry the grit, talent and competitiveness that defined the Eagles all season into and throughout next season.

Boro Beat

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

SOFTBALL DROPS IMPORTANT HOME SERIES TO TEXAS STATE



BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

Coming into this series, both Georgia Southern and Texas State knew how important these three games were. GS was fourth and Texas State was a half game up sitting in third.

As far as the Sun Belt tournament goes, the third and fourth seeds have no true difference, but they would be closer to the second seed, which gets a first round bye. This series was important.

GAME ONE

Game one started off with a first inning RBI single from senior outfielder Morgan Robinson. Then in the fifth inning, sophomore outfielder Emile Snider hit an RBI to score Lydia Witkowski.

Sophomore ace Dixie Raley had another clutch performance, only allowing two hits while striking out seven.

GAME TWO

Game two on Saturday was a completely different game from both teams. The Bobcats took a five-run lead in the first inning and never looked back, adding two more in the second making it a 7-0 lead.

Junior pitcher Heather Felt came in for relief after Kierra Camp gave up three runs. Senior pitcher Amanda Chambers took over in the second and finished the game with only 4 hits.

The Eagles didn't get on the board until the fourth inning with sophomore outfielder Macy Weeks hitting a two-RBI double making it a 7-2 lead until the sixth, where Witkowski hit another double to score sophomore outfielder Haley Carter.

The final score was 9-4 with senior outfielder Emily Snider hitting her 12th homerun on the season.

GAME THREE

Snider's hot hitting carried over to game three, hitting a two-run homerun in the bottom of the first to take a 2-0 lead. Texas State took the lead in the top of the third with a three-run homerun.

The Eagles tried to rally back but couldn't get anything other than freshman Mekhia Freeman scoring junior India Davis in the fourth inning. A 4-3 heartbreaking loss would clinch the series for the Bobcats and drop the Eagles back down to a two-game difference, which will make it difficult to rise in the standings.

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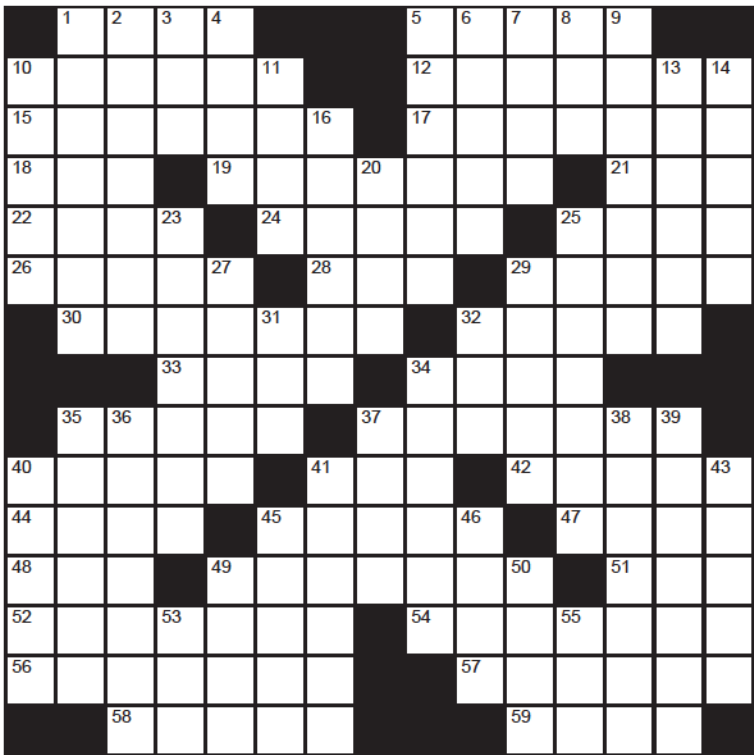
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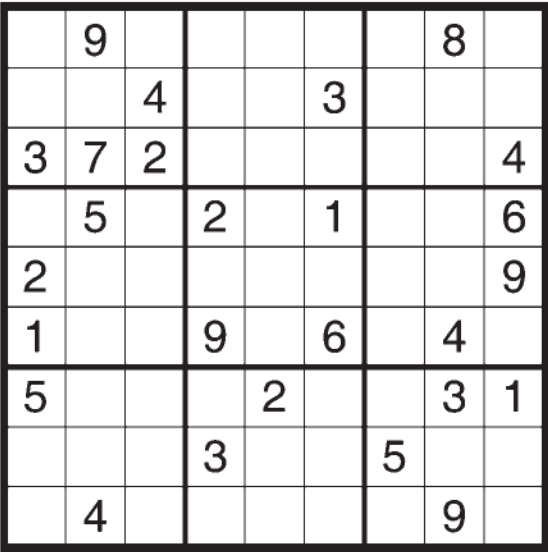
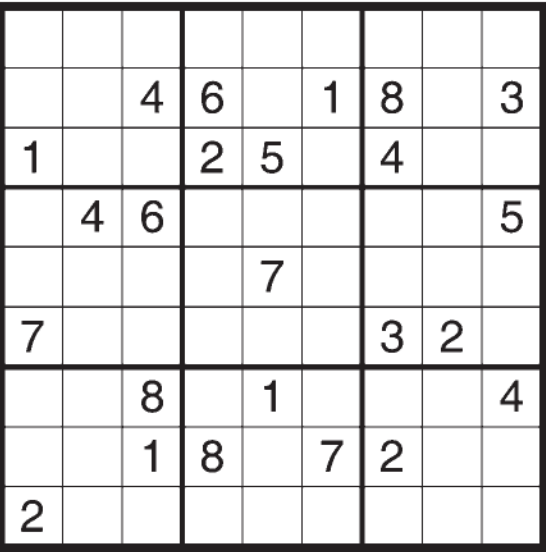
- 1 Bricklayers' equipment
- 5 Certain palms
- 10 Dipping dish
- 12 Cut short
- 15 Nasty folks
- 17 Theft
- 18 Blotter letters
- 19 Testimonial
- 21 Blanched
- 22 Drug agent
- 24 List of candidates
- 25 Paul Bunyan's ox
- 26 Wake-up call?
- 28 Chemical suffix
- 29 Knots, on trees
- 30 Going bad
- 32 Animal group
- 33 "Beetle Bailey" creator Walker
- 34 Driving hazard
- 35 Thicket
- 37 Museum VIP
- 40 Come from behind
- 41 Monk's title
- 42 Winter coats
- 44 Buffalo's lake
- 45 Skedaddle
- 47 The Grimm in "Grimm"
- 48 Blazer, e.g.
- 49 Sieve users
- 51 Coquettish
- 52 Fatuous
- 54 Vanity overload?
- 56 Converted
- 57 Mostly tropical songbird
- 58 Rogers' mate
- 59 Sawbucks



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Down

- 1 Oriental tobacco pipes
- 2 Smallest of the Great Lakes
- 3 Banned pesticide
- 4 It's for the birds
- 5 Respectful greeting
- 6 Slacken
- 7 Horror film staple
- 8 Tolkien creature
- 9 After wine or shop
- 10 Mali capital
- 11 Miscalculates
- 13 Empower
- 14 Units of force
- 16 Mum
- 20 Gun sound
- 23 Fall apart
- 25 There from the start
- 27 Lacking wit or imagination
- 29 Sticking point?
- 31 Hot blood
- 32 Stock figure
- 34 Military vehicle
- 35 Singer Enrico
- 36 Source of magnesium
- 37 Veneer
- 38 15th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 39 Kicks back
- 40 Cut again
- 41 Yields
- 43 Internet communication medium
- 45 Kind of closet
- 46 As a result
- 49 Part of the Hindu trinity
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