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The George-Anne

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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

TWELFTH NIGHT



© TAHIR DAUDIER

**Shakespeare
meets the
roarin' 20s**

Page 7

LAST CALL

**Sports bar closes
after three
years in
Statesboro**

Page 5



© MADISON REYNOLDS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY



Miss GSV

**The woman behind
the crown**

Page 9



**Eagles to face UGA
in season opener**

FIRST PITCH

PAGE 11

© BRANDON WARNOCK

Thursday



High: 66°
Low: 38°

Friday



High: 68°
Low: 45°

Saturday



High: 74°
Low: 52°

Sunday



High: 77°
Low: 56°

It will be a cloudy weekend which sadly means more humidity is heading our way. So keep the jacket off and the shades on.

Weather Bar

CHOCOLATE RUN TO BUILD A HOMELESS SHELTER THIS WEEKEND

Registration is currently open for Open Hearts Community Mission's 4th Annual Chocolate Run. The event will take place at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, in the RAC Pavilion. The event is held to benefit the construction of a 30-bed homeless shelter by Open Hearts Community Mission.

The 30-bed homeless shelter has a definitive purpose, as outlined on its website: "to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, restore the downtrodden and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

According to the Statesboro Herald, Reverend Jim Lewis, executive director of Open Hearts Community Mission, along with board of directors chairman, Debra Mobley are spearheading the construction of the homeless shelter. Open Hearts Community Mission is attempting to surpass the total of \$32,000 raised at last year's Chocolate Run.

The Chocolate Run offsets some costs for the shelter as well citizens and donors in the Bulloch community. "The community has been so generous with donations and support - churches, individuals, civic groups," Mobley said. "Because of the generous community, when the building is completed, it will be debt free."

Registration for the Chocolate Run will close the day of the event. For more information on the Chocolate Run and to register, go to www.thesweetesttrace.com.

EMPOWERING WOMEN SERIES: MIND, BODY, AND SOUL

The Empowering Southern Women Spring 2016 series will focus on three important aspects of women: Mind, Body, and Soul. The main point of this series is to make women feel more confident and happy.

The Division of Continuing Education will be hosting their first series at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center.

The first series will take place on February 25 at 6:00 pm. This series will focus on the Soul. There will be two speakers, Susanne Jackson and Jill Johns.

Jackson is the owner of Your Power Yoga and will speak about the health benefits of yoga and meditation.



3 DAYS. 3 TOPICS. 1 GOAL: Empower Me.

BANNER COURTESY OF ACADEMICS.GEORGIA.SOUTHERN.EDU

STATESBORO NOW A MINOR LEAGUE CITY

Statesboro is now a Minor League City as the South Georgia Tormenta FC starts their inaugural season May of 2016.

Founded in 2015, Tormenta FC is a soccer association based out of Statesboro, Ga. Madrid football player Borja Perez was announced as the first head coach of the team last December at a press conference in Savannah, Ga.

LOGO RE-ILLUSTRATED BY HAILEY SMITH



"It's an honor having a professional player such as Perez for our coach," Oscar Gutierrez, forward player, said. "He's played for teams such as Real Madrid and Santa Maria Pilar."

Tormenta FC's team colors are navy, sky blue, silver and magenta.

Come May, the team will play in the Premier Development League (PDL), also known as the fourth tier in the American Soccer Pyramid.

Tryouts for the team have been held since 2015 and the final open tryout will take place on February 27th. Practice, games, and related events will be held at Eagle Field at the Erk Russell Athletic Park.

"Translated, tormenta is Spanish for storm, and that's exactly what our team is going to bring: a storm," Tormenta FC Co-owner Jeremy Aven said.

Team products, season tickets and more information can all be found on tormenta.fc.com.

THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY

Huey P. Newton was born yesterday, Feb. 17. He is the founder of the Black Panther Party, which was formed in 1966. At its peak, the party had 2,000 members. In 1971, he changed the party's manifesto to include nonviolence, aiming to provide a service to the black community.

According to blackfacts.com, Newton received a Ph.D in 1980 from the University of California for social philosophy. However after much pressure from the government the Black Panthers were disbanded in 1982, and seven years later he was found shot dead in the streets.

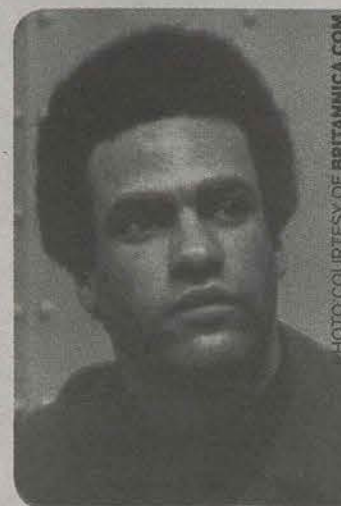


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITANNICA.COM

In the Feb. 11 issue, the information provided by Kerry Greenstein in the article 'Can students and teachers actually date?' was incorrect. The policy very clearly states "any romantic relationship with a student is strictly prohibited."

CORRECTION



Download VUW to see what comes next!

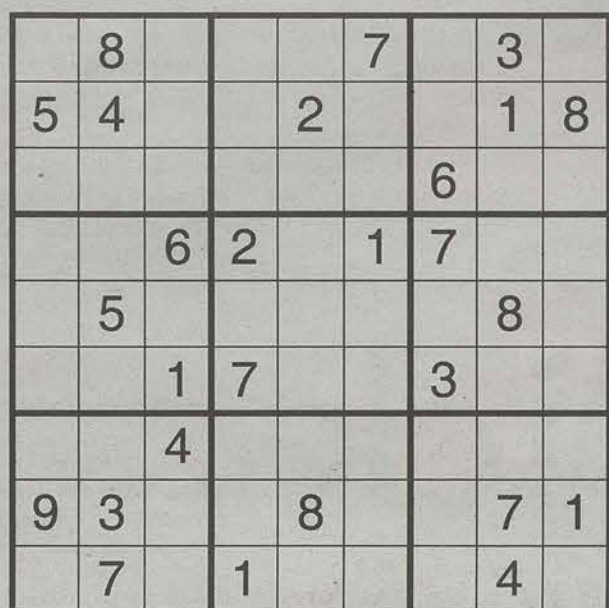
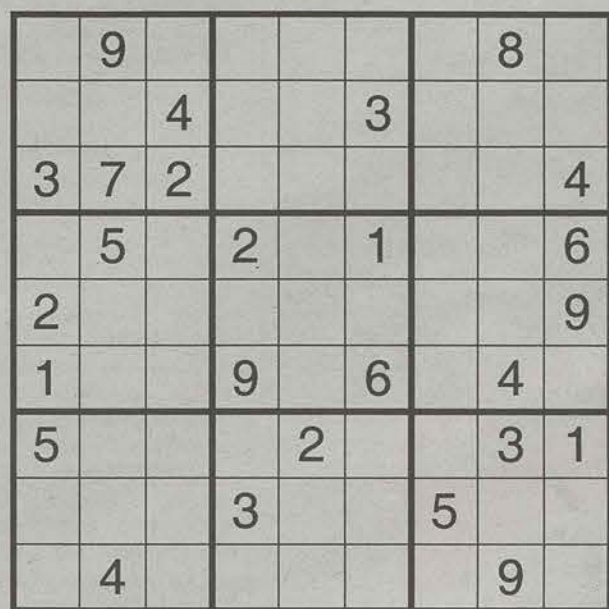
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Puzzles

2-18-16

3

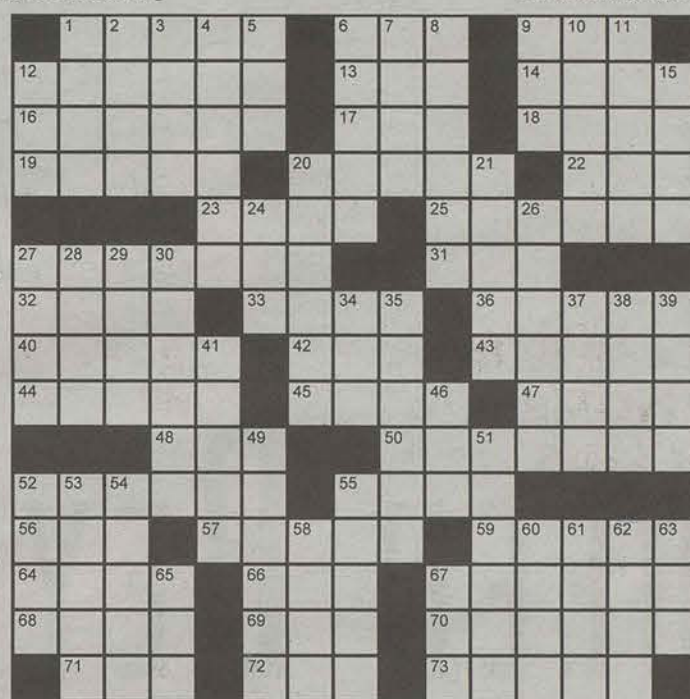


The George-Anne 2/18/16 Crossword

PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Honeydew, e.g.
- 6 World Service provider
- 9 Wood sorrel
- 12 Hogan dweller
- 13 Salad topper
- 14 Root beer brand
- 16 Russian pancakes
- 17 Blood letters
- 18 Party pooper
- 19 V.I.P.
- 20 City-like
- 22 Kind of patch
- 23 Potter's tool
- 25 Soft silver-white ductile metallic element
- 27 Blatant deception
- 31 Quick on the uptake
- 32 Wife of Zeus
- 33 "Drat!"
- 36 Oven emanation
- 40 Writer Jong
- 42 Bishop's jurisdiction
- 43 Bounded along
- 44 Physically weak
- 45 Cry of pain
- 47 Org. with a mission
- 48 Pen point
- 50 Plaid fabric
- 52 Park structure
- 55 Dome
- 56 Wise one
- 57 Acquired relative
- 59 Mine passages
- 64 Roswell sightings
- 66 Cup handle
- 67 Nativity scene
- 68 Ballet wear

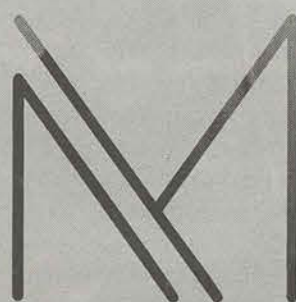


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- 69 It has strings attached
- 70 Exhaustive
- 71 Strong cleaner
- 72 ___ capita
- 73 Cashing in one's chips
- 9 Eccentric
- 10 Wrist joints
- 11 French farewell
- 12 Peacock network
- 15 Junk E-mail
- 20 On pins and needles
- 21 Sherpa's home
- 24 Append
- 26 Undiluted
- 27 White hat wearer
- 28 German mister
- 29 La Scala highlight
- 30 "Phèdre" playwright
- 34 "The Matrix" role
- 35 Trifle
- 37 Moonfish
- 38 Arizona city
- 39 Garden figure
- 41 Cover story?
- 46 English
- 49 Study
- 51 Just about
- 52 Joint problem
- 53 Horrible
- 54 Bubkes
- 55 Fruit-peeling device
- 58 Tahoe, e.g.
- 60 Supermarket section
- 61 It's clicked on a computer
- 62 Hoodlum
- 63 Collector's goal
- 65 Take to court
- 67 No-goodnik

Down

- 1 Stag
- 2 Blackhearted
- 3 Track assignment
- 4 Plains Indian
- 5 Refusals
- 6 Get on ___
- 7 Lettuce variety
- 8 Waste pipe



MISCELLANY

Now accepting submissions!

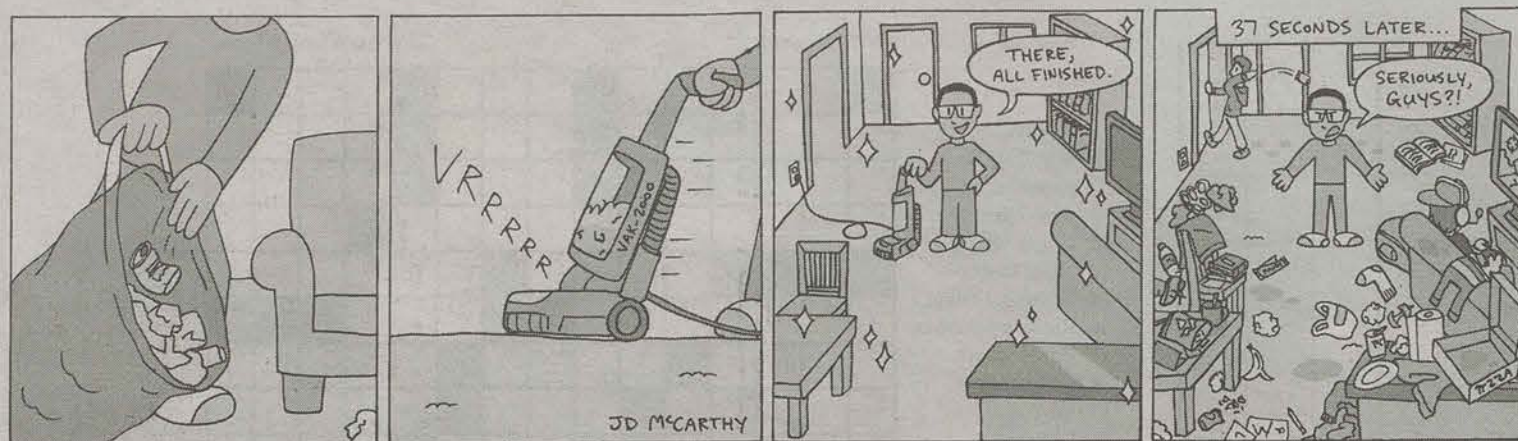
Your work will be judged and placed in an exhibition that will move throughout campus. Visit our website for more information.

Early Bird Submissions: Feb. 29-Mar.11
Reg. Submissions (\$5): Mar. 12th-25th
Judging Dates: Mar. 26th-April 8th
Unleashed Event: Monday, April 18th

Submit your work and unleash your creativity at miscellany.reflectorgsu.com

Categories include:

Poetry
Short fiction & nonfiction
Song lyrics
Photography
Paintings
Graphic design
Sculpture



QUEEN BEYONCÉ & King Kendrick

Employing fame to promote social issues



SKYLER BLACK

Black is a senior writing and linguistics major from Warner Robins, Ga.

Celebrities have been using their fame as a platform for social and political ideology for decades. The last few years have been controversial to say the least and through social media, the conversation has been started. It is only fitting that during Black History month, two of the biggest stars in the music industry would start the biggest conversation of all on two of the biggest stages available.

In the last two weeks, the world has been graced by the musical performances of Kendrick Lamar and Beyoncé Knowles. From the day before Super Bowl 50, when Beyoncé released her newest

hit "Formation," to Kendrick's performance at the Grammy Awards, the music industry has shown us, once again, it can be used to send a message.

Beyoncé's "Formation" video is a powerful compilation of imagery from her childhood and the present state of the United States. She shows scenes from a hurricane torn Louisiana repeatedly. Beyoncé is also able to show her southern heritage through the lyrics and imagery paired together. With the imagery of Louisiana and the Black Lives Matter movement, we are shown things that should open our eyes. The message she is telling the world is something that we should already be aware of but are too scared to talk about. She is showing the volatile nature of the nation when dealing with matters of equality. A crudely spray painted "stop shooting us" juxtaposed with a line of police officers in front of a child tell the public to start paying attention to the social injustice that is taking place.

While the music Kendrick performed was not brand new music, the images that he depicted while at the Grammy Awards were used to create a new reaction from the people viewing them. He performed a mashup of two of his hit songs and a never before

heard song. Kendrick came out onto the stage in chains and a prison uniform with a group of men while singing "The Blacker the Berry" to help shed light on a struggle of racial injustice. Again, the issues and ideas that Kendrick brings forward in his music and performance are not new. Racial injustice is not a new idea that is surprising people when it is brought up. The final image that the audience is left with is a silhouetted Kendrick standing in front of a stark white image of Africa with the word "Compton" written in the center.

The purpose of both of these performances is to create this conversation with America about the inequality that runs rampant across the nation. A quote from Victor Hugo, a French poet, states that music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent. But sadly, a large population believes that these performances were racist and wanted to organize rallies against Beyoncé and Kendrick.

I am genuinely terrified when the people of this world cannot understand that these topics need to be brought up. We are meant to create a community where the members within it can

voice their opinions and not be created into pariahs. These celebrities are trying to bring the voices of millions forward for the face of America.

Beyoncé and Kendrick choose the date and venues of these performances for a specific purpose. They were aware that the eyes of America would be watching these televised events. Super Bowl 50 drew in 111.9 million viewers on television according to CNN while the Grammy Awards drew in 24.9 million viewers according to deadline.com. Two of the biggest celebrities in the nation were able to show millions of people around the world a message that was bigger than the songs themselves.

People seem to not understand that the Black Lives Matter movement is not a fad that is going away. These movements do not need to go away. In fact, they are necessary to continue conversations that America is desperately lacking. Celebrities are not the only people who can start the conversation. We can make the change in our own society if we just understand the issues and address them.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Bigshow's Burgers and Bar permanently closed

After three years, Bigshow's has closed. The sports bar was well known for its wide selection of burgers.

BY BAILEY ADCOCK
The George-Anne staff

Statesboro favorite, Bigshow's Burgers and Bar, has officially closed its doors. Bigshow's was known for their burgers, claiming to have "the best burgers in the 'Boro."

Bigshow's was considered a local version of Hooter's with a friendly female wait staff, special activities and musical performances. Students across Georgia Southern's campus are shocked by the news.

"I was disappointed because it was the only place within walking distance that I could go relax, get a burger, and play trivia with my friends," Russell Land, freshman finance and economics major, said.

The establishment featured trivia on Monday nights, beer pong on Tuesdays, poker on Wednesdays, open mic night on Thursdays and live local bands on Friday and Saturday nights.

"They also had a wing challenge I wanted to try, but I won't get to do that," Land said.

Bigshow's opened originally in January 2013 at their first location on Brampton Avenue. The restaurant and bar was a hit when it first opened.

"I don't know if it had to do with the fact that it was just like a new restaurant in town that everybody wanted to try, or if

it was just because we were a burger joint that served beer and it was a female-only wait staff," Jessie Frary, GSU alum and former Bigshow's waitress, said.

Bigshow's not only featured a lengthy menu of burgers and other classic bar food, the bar was fully stocked with a wide range of beers and liquors.

Though Bigshow's had their loyal student fan base, some people were not happy with their service in the past few months.

Former managers were unwilling to give relevant comments about why the restaurant closed down, but online reviews show that there was much to be desired at the restaurant.

A few of the more recent reviews retrieved from Yelp say "this 'restaurant' is a nightmare" and "you're better off going to the McDonald's down the road."

The closing of Bigshow's follows the closing of many other local favorites. Fuzzy's Taco Shop closed at the end of last year, as well as Hungry Howie's Pizza.

Though these restaurants have shut down their business, their closing opens up the chance for more restaurants to possibly come into town in the future.

MADISON REYNOLDS

**PRE LEASING
FALL 2016!**

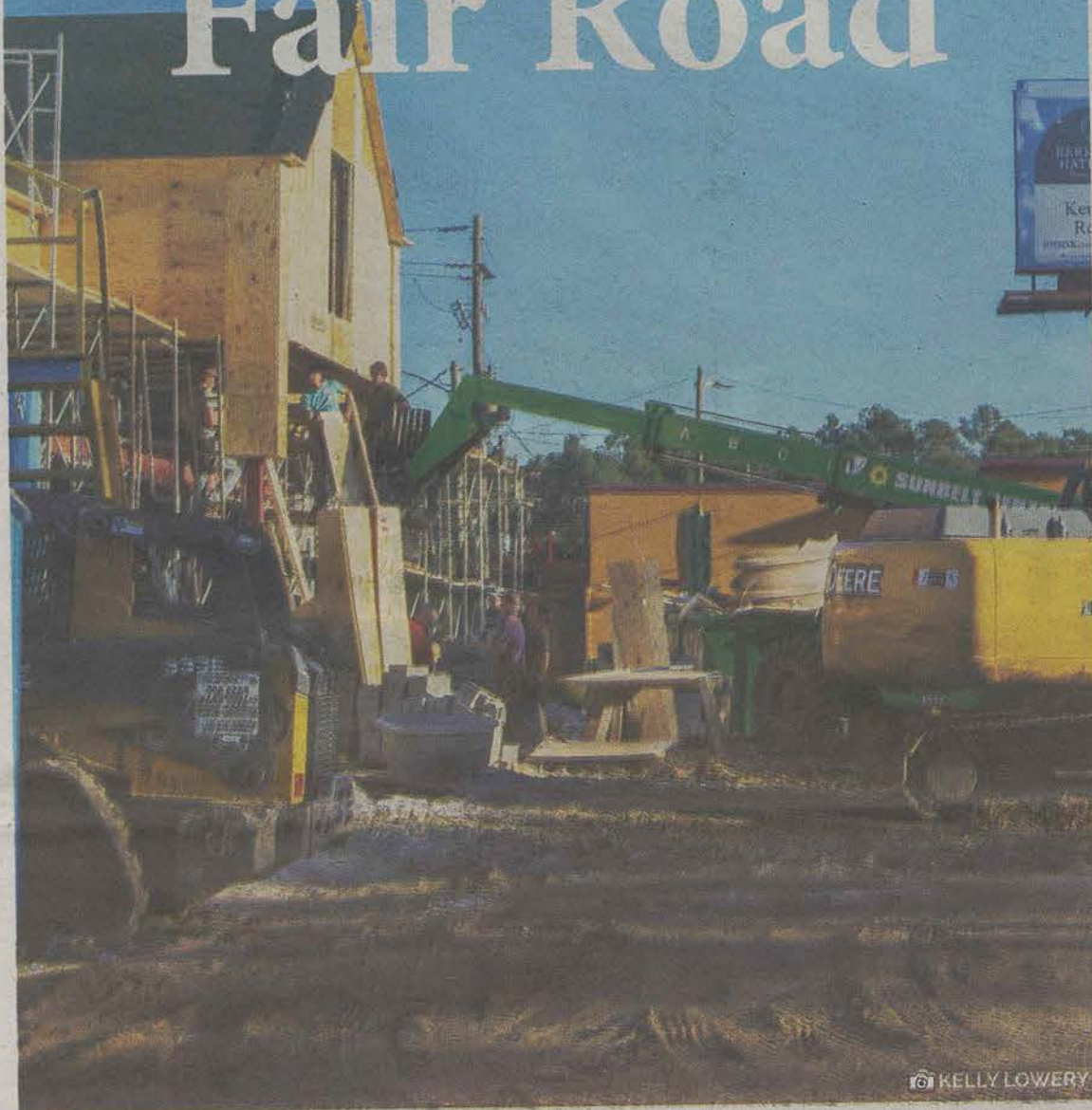
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New Flash Foods coming to Fair Road



Construction of a new Flash Foods is underway on Fair Rd. No timetable has been given for the project.

BY BAILEY ADCOCK
The George-Anne staff

Developers are constructing a new Flash Foods on Fair Road between Popeye's and Heritage Bank. Construction is being done by the Solid Rock Company, a construction company out of Jesup, Ga.

This will be the second Flash Foods in Statesboro, with the other located at the corner of Main Street and Veteran's Memorial Parkway.

Flash Foods is known to many students as having some of the cheapest gas in town. As of Tuesday, Feb. 16, the Flash Foods on Main St. was only charging about \$1.69 per gallon of regular fuel.

"I like Flash Foods. I like cheap and convenient gas," Rachel Parker, junior childhood and family development major, said.

The new location on Fair Road will be closer for most Georgia Southern students.

"I feel like it will make cheap gas more convenient so I don't have to drive all the way across town," Jessica Browning, sophomore childhood and family development major, said.

Like many gas stations around town, Flash Foods has a few loyalty programs you can take part in.

Their Go Blue payment card, a franchise credit card, allows cardholders to save 5 cents per gallon and receive 2 percent cash back on purchases made within the store.

As a non-credit alternative, Flash Foods provides customers with a loyalty program called Rewards in a Flash.

This program provides frequent customers with discounts and rewards just for being customers. These rewards range from free drinks to cash back to contests and sweepstakes.

Flash Foods features monthly and daily specials on snacks, gas, and other purchases. February's specials include two Java Monsters for \$4, Crack Jack'd snack mix two for \$4 and 'all Stride gum flavors are only 99 cents.

On the other hand, their daily deals include two king-sized Hershey's bars for \$3.33, Buy 10, Get 1 free beverage clubs and 49 cents money orders.

"I don't have a car, so I don't pay attention to the gas prices, but if I could walk to one to get snacks and stuff that'd be great," Megan Moss, freshman accounting major, said.

Construction permits were acquired in November 2015, but no date has been announced for completion.

"I feel like it will make cheap gas more convenient so I don't have to drive all the way across town,"

JESSICA BROWNING

Sophomore childhood and family development major

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SHAKESPEARE COMES TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

BY RACHEL KELSO

The traditional Shakespearean play is reimagined in the 1920s. Both the set and costumes were inspired by the Great Gatsby.

It's Shakespeare like you've never seen before. The Georgia Southern Theatre Department is performing a new rendition of William Shakespeare's famous comedy "Twelfth Night."

"Twelfth Night" tells the story of a crash-landed woman disguised as a man who gets tangled up in a complicated and comedic love triangle. However, there's a twist.

"Our production of 'Twelfth Night' is taking place in the 1920s and kind of has a New Orleans French Quarter flavor to it," Gage Crook, director and GSU alumni, said.

According to Crook, the change of setting did not greatly affect the show or its content. He did, however, make small adjustments to the production, such as cutting all lines referencing swords due to the more modernized weaponry in the 1920s.

"I [think] that it [is] a fun place to set the story," William Leach, sophomore theatre major, said. "The thing I love about William Shakespeare's work is that you can really take it and make it your own and do so much with it."

Leach will be playing Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a rich, cocky and foolish character. "He's a little fabulous," Leach said. This is his first Shakespearean role that he's ever performed. The main and understandable struggle he faced with the script was the language. "It's a huge challenge to learn a whole different language," he said.

Crook agreed with Leach, admitting that the language barrier is difficult at first for everyone involved.

"For me, the challenge has been making sure I get exposed to the language enough to where I am comfortable with working with it," Crook said.

Shakespeare isn't just challenging for those on stage and working with the script.

"Shakespeare, when you are re-interpreting period, can be challenging," Dr. Sarah McCarroll, GSU theatre professor, said.

She is designing the costumes for "Twelfth Night" and explained how she researched other film and theatre takes on the 1920s era to help inspire her designs.

"I spent some time looking at contemporary re-imaginings of the time period," she said. "For menswear, I looked at a lot from the Robert Redford version [of 'The Great Gatsby']."

With Shakespearean style including Elizabethan and complicated pieces, the setting change actually made for a simpler design process with more room for interpretation and creative changes.

While one may get wrapped up in the endless design possibilities, a designer has one true goal. "The most important thing to think about [when designing costumes] is how you're telling the story of a character with their clothing," McCarroll said. Comedies and tragedies, as she explained, are

designed completely different than one another.

The director, designer and cast must all have a common understanding of any revisions to a production in order to give every element of the show a cohesive theme.

Crook explained how much he enjoys collaborating with actors and designers to create the best show possible. "Just looking at the cultural excesses and things in the 1920s, I think it lends itself really well to 'Twelfth Night,'" he said. "We're right where we need to be."

"Twelfth Night" will be opening Thursday, March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are \$6 and all others are \$12.

DATES: MARCH 3-5

LOCATION: PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PRICES: \$6 FOR STUDENTS, \$12 FOR OTHERS

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2/18 WEEKLY BUZZ -2/24

Keeping you in the know about Student Affairs and Enrollment Management events, designed with you in mind.

FEBRUARY 18TH

UPB: Mr. GSU Scholarship Pageant Informational Session

Time: Tuesday, February 16th, Wednesday, February 17th & Thursday, February 18th 5:00 - 6:30 pm.
Wednesday, February 24th & Thursday, February 25th 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: Russell Union 2052

Mr. GSU attends traditional and community events and represents the student body in all that he does. Anyone that is interested in participating, must attend at least one information session (no exceptions) and submit an application.

Application timeline:

Opens: Tuesday, 16 February at 6:00pm (via MyInvolvement)

Closes: Monday, 29 February at 5:00pm

***Contestants must meet all requirements to be eligible.

Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

FEBRUARY 23TH

SOLD Series Workshop - I'm Too Busy To Be Mindful! How to Incorporate Mindfulness Into Your Daily Life

Time: Tuesday, February 23rd 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: Nessmith-Lane Assembly Hall Room 1915

College students are very busy people! It's easy to become stressed out, annoyed, and anxious when thinking of the ever-growing To Do lists that we all have. Incorporating mindfulness into your life can help you reduce stress, improve your memory, and have fewer relationship issues. Come learn how just 10 minutes a day can help!

Contact Information: Kristen Van Noord

Kvannoord@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

FEBRUARY 24TH

UPB Presents: 80's Skate Party

Time: Wednesday, February 24th 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: Williams Center Multipurpose Room

Join the University Programming Board for the first ever 80's Skate Party! Break out your neon sweatbands, leotards and leg warmers and roller skate the night away with us! We're transforming campus life and this is a new event that you won't want to miss! Students, you must bring your Eagle IDs. Also must have socks to participate.

Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

Leadership and Civic Engagement Awards

Recognize and award yourself, a friend, exemplary students and student organizations! Take a moment to complete the appropriate short nomination form for any deserving student leaders or student organizations. Nominations are due no later than Friday, March 11th by 5:00 PM. <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/LeadServe/leadershipawards/>

Contact Information: randi-bastian@georgiasouthern.edu

Academic Success Workshops.

To register call, 912-478-5371 or email asc@georgiasouthern.edu

Locations Cone Hall Room 2003

Thursday, Feb 18th 5:45-6:35pm	Study Tips for Political Science	Dr. Kevin Cook
Monday, Feb 22nd 2:00-2:50pm	Learning Styles	Dr. Mike Czech
Monday, Feb 22nd 4:00 - 4:50pm	Preparing for Exams	Ms. Jackie Varnell
Wednesday, Feb 24th 5:30pm - 6:20pm	Time Management	Mr. Mike Baugh

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

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

THE BUZZ LIST

KAT SHUMAN

Assistant features editor



► **It's Kanye's World:** Kanye West has finally released his long awaited gospel album. "The Life of Pablo" has ten tracks, but none of them are more talked about than "Famous." Taylor Swift is certainly not a fan of the song, as she is mentioned in it: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex / Why? I made that b**ch famous." Though West claims he got Swift's approval for the song, she denies it and said that she objects to the song's "strong misogynistic message."

► **We're Just Living In It:** "Famous" isn't the only headline Kanye West made this week. On Saturday, West announced, "I write this to you my brothers while still 53 million dollars in personal debt... Please pray we overcome... This is my true heart..." on Twitter. The world was shocked and wondered how West could be in so much debt. He quickly went to Twitter and responded, "Yes I am personally rich and I can buy furs and houses for my family, but I need access to more money in order to bring more beautiful ideas to the world."

*If you would like to donate to Kanye West to help bring more beautiful ideas in the world, don't.

► **Swift Sassses Back:** Did you think I was done talking about Taylor? Of course not, Swift won Album of the Year at the Grammys Monday. In her acceptance speech, she called out Kanye West saying, "... there are going to be people along the way who will try to undercut your success or take credit for your accomplishments or your fame. But if you just focus on the work and you don't let those people sidetrack you, someday, when you get where you are going, you will look around and you will know that it was you and the people who love you who put you there." #TeamTaylor.

► **The Frozen Look:** No, I'm not talking about Elsa, though millions of girls have spent hours braiding their hair in attempts to look like the Disney Princess. I am talking about the Frozen look developed by Rihanna for the New York Fashion Week that has caught a lot of attention. Model Gigi Hadid and her sister Bella rocked this look walking down the runway. Will it catch on? Girls everywhere were wearing feathers in their hair only a few years ago, so I'm not ruling anything out.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY

BEAUTY QUEEN BREAKS THE STATUS QUO

Harley Strickland isn't your typical beauty queen. Outside of pageantry she enjoys hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.

BY ASHLEY GILLEY
The George-Anne staff

Whether it's hunting or having her own gun collection, Harley Strickland, the winner of Miss GSU, is proving that there is more to pageant queens than meets the eye.

"I love to hunt and fish," Strickland said. "If I'm not in classes or pageants I'm out in the woods doing something."

A lot of time and effort goes into Strickland preparing for a pageant. It includes work outs, interview coaches and watching the news so that she knows what's going on in the world.

Putting oneself through all of this seems a little odd, but Strickland has her own reasons for participating in pageants. In her youth she was shy and would hide behind her mother, but participating in pageants improved her public speaking and ultimately bought her out of her shell.

She isn't all business, as explained by her fun tradition before a pageant. "I always have a huge coke before I compete," Strickland said.

Strickland is also a huge fan of Reba McEntire and her music. She listens to her on the way to interviews and especially likes songs such as 'Fancy' and 'The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia.'

One of the things she loves the most about competing are the elegant dresses. She works at a gown shop called Frills by Scott.

"I love feeling beautiful in a beautiful gown," said Strickland.

Strickland wants to help people with the recognition that comes from winning the crown, her personal platform is patients in hospice care. She uses her talent for sewing to make the hospice patients pouches for their walkers, as well as outfits for her dog Ozzy, the morkie.

Strickland shared an anecdote that illustrates why her advice to other competitors is to never give up.

Junior year of high school she competed in the school pageant and didn't place after messing up an onstage question. To make it even more humiliating, the mother of a fellow competitor was a substitute teacher and made fun of her afterwards in front of the entire class.

Strickland decided to prove this woman wrong.

With practice, she made sure to be ready when the next pageant came along.

The following year she not only placed, but also won the title and proved to the woman and herself that she could go above and beyond.

Name: Harley Strickland
Age: 20
Hometown: Claxton, Ga.
Major: Multimedia Journalism
Year: Junior



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Q&A WITH MARK BYINGTON

FAVORITE TEAM GROWING UP?

"The Chicago Bulls. There used to be a WGN channel where most of the Bulls game would play on TV and me and my Mom would sit around and watch Bulls games every night. I also grew up cheering for the Dallas Cowboys."

FAVORITE PLAYER?

"Michael Jordan was definitely my favorite athlete growing up."

WHERE DID YOU PLAY BASKETBALL IN COLLEGE?

"Played at UNC Wilmington. Started for three years and played in two conference championship games and won two regular season championships."

MEET COACH B

Mark Byington is in his third season as head coach for the men's basketball team.

BY MARCUS WILLIAMS
The George-Anne staff

Most people know about the star players on a team, the underrated player that just always seems to get the job done or the player they just like the most, but not many people know about the coaches that put it all together. Mark Byington is Georgia Southern University's men's basketball coach and has coached the Eagles since 2013. His career record at Georgia Southern is 48-41 and has made it to the SoCon semifinals in 2014 and the Sun Belt Championship in 2015.

His accomplishments are respected but he's more than the guy with the whiteboard. From Salem, Virginia, there's much to know about the Eagles basketball coach.

Byington played multiple sports growing up but had football and basketball special in his heart up until the time he had to choose between the two to play for in college. He decided to play basketball and became an all-conference player his senior year. He also won two conference titles as a player as well as being on the

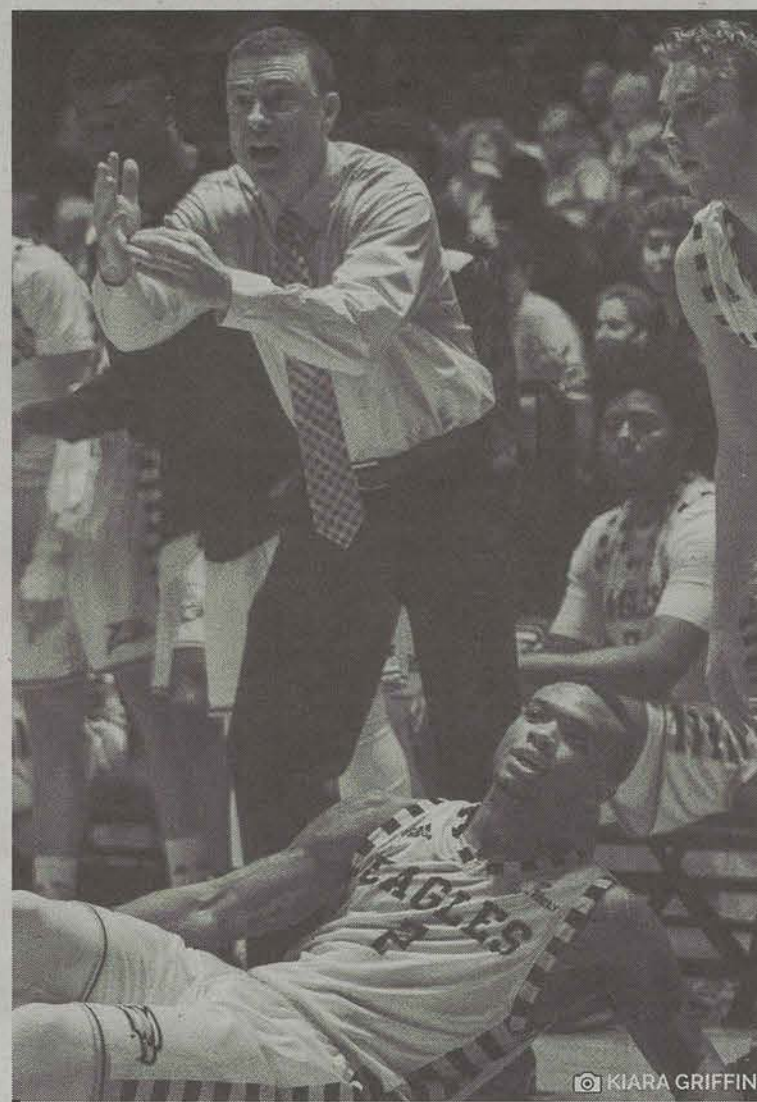
academic team for two years. After his basketball career in college was over he went through some travel and semi-pro teams before his playing career ended.

Even though his playing career ended, he realized he still wanted basketball to be in his daily life, which enticed him to the career of coaching.

"I never thought I was going to be a basketball coach until basketball was taken away from me. I wasn't one of those people saying I wanted to be a basketball coach," Byington said. "I felt empty inside and I missed the competitiveness, I missed being around teams and then the light kind of clicked on."

He returned to graduate school and became a graduate assistant at the University of Virginia from 2004-2005.

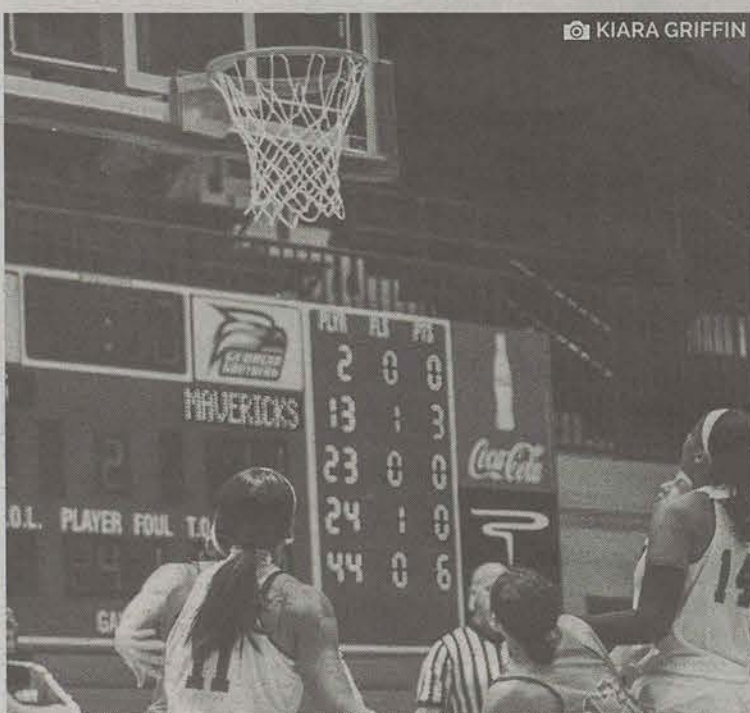
Byington is the cool, calm and collected kind of coach that can get intense in the heat of the game and truly knows his guys better than most. He knows the value of the lessons and teachings learned from his past coaching experiences, as well as the tough and busy schedule of a student athlete and how to bond with his players.



Byington is 48-41 in his tenure with Georgia Southern. The team will host Arkansas State tonight at 7:30 p.m.

"I always keep a book, a knowledge book of different things I've seen and I like and the books keeps getting bigger and bigger. But it's something I've kept along the way," Byington said about keeping track of old and new coaching ideas he likes.

Byington is a player's coach and his players have shown the respect and trust in him to make them into better players and people by always believing in what he says and playing as hard as they can.



The Eagles box out the UT-Arlington Mavericks under the rim. They are 4-10 in the Sun Belt this season.

EAGLES FIGHT FOR A SPOT IN SUN BELT TOURNAMENT

The women's basketball team is currently one game back from the final spot in the tournament. They begin a four-game homestand tonight against Arkansas State.

BY KEITH SMILEY
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern women's basketball team is lacing up their shoes tonight for their run at the eighth spot in the Sun Belt tournament.

With only six games left in the season, there is no room for error as head coach, Kip Drown, prepares his players for what's ahead.

"The team has been on the road for three of the last four weeks which is a tough stretch, but we have two of the best teams in the conference in Arkansas State and Little Rock coming in. I think Little Rock is playing as well as anybody right now. We have our work cut out for us, we have to have a good week of preparation and we are going to have to

be ready to match both teams' athleticism and toughness. I would rather be in Hanner than anywhere else, but it will still be a very tough weekend," Drown said in an interview following their recent lost against South Alabama.

The Eagles are only one game back from eighth and currently sit at 10th place in the standings. Appalachian State and Georgia State are holding down the 8th and 9th spots in the conference. GSU will be hosting both rival teams in the following weeks.

However, GSU will have bigger fish to fry as they take on the top two teams in the Sun Belt. Arkansas State comes to town tonight followed by Little Rock this Saturday.

This is déjà vu all over again for Drown and the Eagles as

their last four game stretch was away games and against all four upcoming teams. In that road trip, the Eagles went 2-2, falling to Arkansas State and Little Rock. This time around, the Eagles will have home court advantage in all four games and will look to sweep the season series against App State and Georgia State.

GSU, GA State and App State will all face off one more time against each other and all three teams will have to face Arkansas State and Little Rock again in the final stretch.

The race for the eighth spot will probably come down to the wire for all three teams as the season unfolds. Tip off for the game tonight is at 5 p.m.

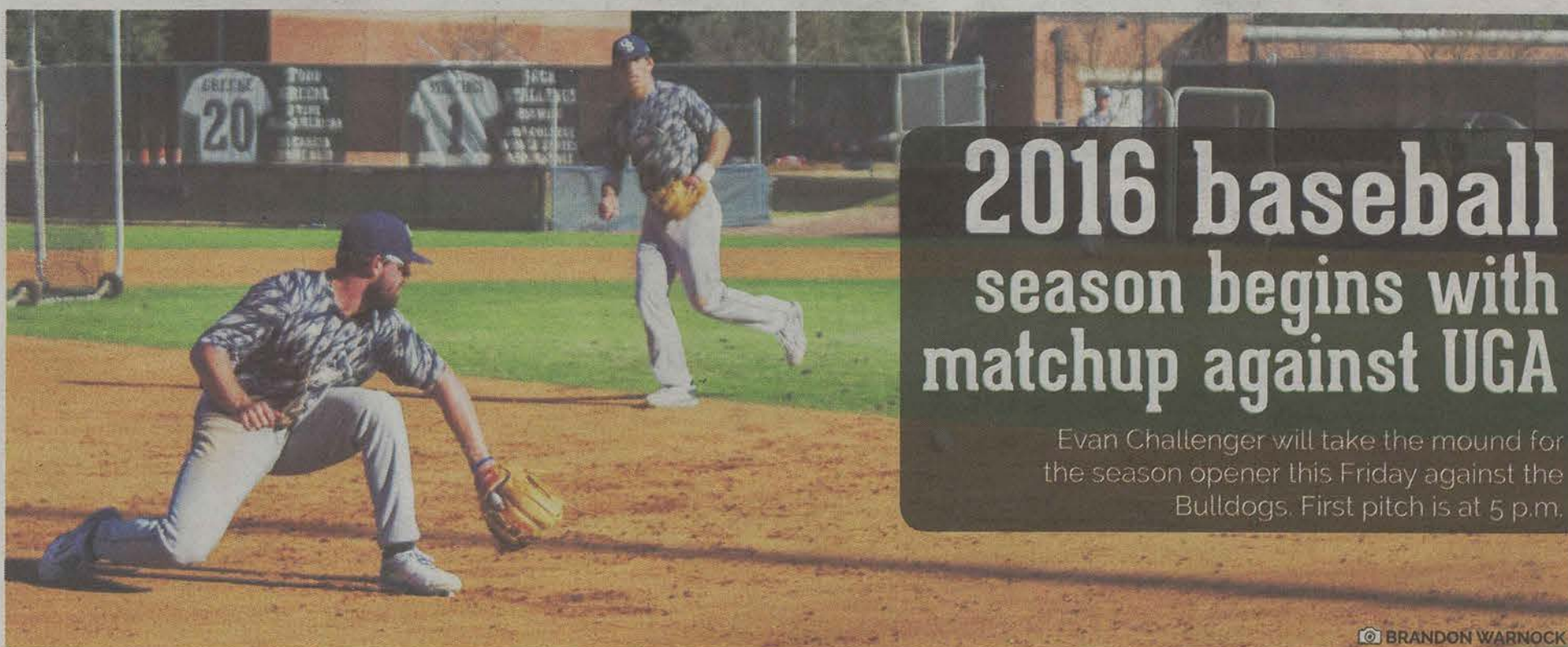
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2016 baseball season begins with matchup against UGA

Evan Challenger will take the mound for the season opener this Friday against the Bulldogs. First pitch is at 5 p.m.

BRANDON WARNOCK

The Eagles are returning to the diamond after finishing with a 30-27 record in their 2015 campaign. The first home game will be against Georgia Tech on Feb. 24.

BY KEVIN KENEELY
The George-Anne staff

This Friday, the Georgia Southern University baseball team will travel north to Athens to take on the University of Georgia to open up the 2016 season. It will be a three-game series and will

wrap up Sunday afternoon.

GSU is looking to keep its winning streak going against UGA as it swept UGA last year and is 7-2 against them over the last three seasons.

UGA had a dismal season last year, finishing 26-28 overall and 10-19 in SEC play, giving them a 7th place finish in the SEC East last season.

GSU on the other hand went 30-27 overall and 18-12 in conference play, giving them a 4th place finish in the Sun Belt. GSU is losing six starting

positional players and one of the three starting pitchers they had last season.

Head Coach Rodney Hennon has been making sure his team gets better every day and feels very confident in his team entering the season. He is not worried about the team's upcoming season and feels like these younger guys will be able to step in and contribute to the team's success this season.

"Obviously they wouldn't be here if they didn't belong

so we are excited about what some of those guys will be able to do to help our team," Hennon said.

Similar to GSU, UGA is losing a good bit of their starters from last season. UGA lost its top pitcher and co-captain, Jared Walsh, after the 2015 season to the draft. Walsh finished his senior year going 5-2, with a 2.60 ERA. Walsh also made 41 starts in the field, playing first base, right field, and designated hitter. He ended his senior season with

a .306 batting average, which was the team's second best last season.

Outside of losing their top pitcher, UGA will be returning some of their top players, including center fielder Stephen Wrenn, outfielder Keegan McGovern, and RHP Mike Mancuso.

After the opening series with UGA, the Eagles will host Georgia Tech next Wednesday, at J.I. Clements Stadium in the 2016 home opener. First pitch for that game will be at 6 p.m.

Swim & Dive prepares to take on Athens

The Eagles are heading north to compete in the CCSA Championships. The meet will run from Feb. 17-20.

BY KEVIN KENEELY
The George-Anne staff

The swimming and diving team will travel to Athens this Wednesday to compete in the CCSA Swimming & Diving Championships.

"The kids are looking pretty sharp right now and starting to feel a little bit of rest," head coach Nate Kellogg said. "They have a little more bounce in their step."

Kellogg feels pretty good about his team's chances going into the meet.

"I think that we have a shot to be top-2 if we're really on, and I fully expect us to be really on so we are preparing for a close meet, a tight meet and so that'll be exciting," Kellogg said.

Kellogg has been really stressing to the team to just relax and not to make this meet seem bigger than it actually is.

"They have a little more bounce in their step."

Swimming and diving are honest sports and by that I mean, whatever you put in, you'll get out," Kellogg said.

The team finished 5-2 this season and 4-0 in conference play. More impressively, the team is mainly made up of freshmen.

With this being the last time the seniors will have the opportunity to compete together, Kellogg has been stressing to them to take in everything leading up to the championship.

"Soak up the moments being around your teammates and not having to worry about internships or summer plans," Kellogg said. "Just stay in the moment because in (a couple days) they won't have any of this, so just stay in the moment as long as possible."

The CCSA Swimming & Diving Championships start this Wednesday and will run through Saturday.



TAHIR DAUDIER

The Eagles finished 5-2 overall and a perfect 4-0 in conference play. They are riding a three-game winning streak headed into the meet.

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OLC

EAGLES COMPETE IN SUN BELT INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Track & Field team will travel to Birmingham, Ala. for the meet. It will run from Feb. 22-23.

COURTNEY BONACCI

The team has steadily improved heading into the Indoor Championships. They will try to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships on Mar. 11-12.

BY DERIK WUCHTE
The George-Anne staff

The Sun Belt Indoor Championship will be taking place this coming weekend in Birmingham, AL. The team has gotten a chance to compete indoors this season, giving them a feel of what to expect. They have returned from the Samford Stand Alone Multi in Birmingham. With the main event of the indoor season approaching, the Eagles are ready to give it their all.

The primary reason for competing at Samford was because of the indoor venue. This will be the same exact track and field used for the Sun Belt Indoor Championship.

Head Coach Kelly Carter knew about the meet. As he explained, although the meet wasn't exclusively Sun Belt competition, it was still an opportunity for the Eagles to compete at the venue. It helped prepare them and acclimatize the team to the location.

With the indoor championship approaching, the team is able to take their past experiences and put them ahead.

"As a whole, I think that everyone is ready. They're putting their best foot forward," Carter said. "They've had chances to go to different places. We've gone to Clemson, we've gone to Winston-Salem at JDL and they've run against some really good competition. They got a chance to see what it's like and experience that, so I think they're going to be prepared."

The team has been split across the board with their indoor competitions this season. Since indoor regulations differ from outdoor, not every event is the same for the two. A variety of Eagles have been seeing a lot of competition over the past few weeks.

"I'd say all of them are doing well. Our freshmen are doing well. Our seniors: I'm really happy for," Carter said. "They had a chance to experience Sun Belt for the first time last year and some of them got a chance to see what they were up against. In terms of preparing different, I can't say, but they're ready now. They had a chance to go out there, prepare for this and it gives an opportunity for our underclassmen to see what it takes. They've modeled that behavior. I'm excited and looking forward to conference."

Keyanna Harris is a senior who has been an Eagle for four years. She is a normal

top-5 placer at competitions. At Samford, she just finished with a sixth place finish in her event of the High Jump.

"I'm really excited for the championship that we have coming up," Harris said. "We're looking to build on what we've been doing so far, this semester and this season, which is improving individually and focusing overall, as a team. We're making sure that all the moving parts of our team are each doing what they have to do."

As Harris explained, indoor to outdoor can differ greatly, or hardly at all. It normally comes down to track versus field events.

"For me, I'm a high jumper," Harris said. "For high jump, which is a field event, it doesn't change as much, like indoor to outdoor. But for most events on the track, indoor, it can sometimes be a little more tough. Indoor can be a little tougher with the air and the tighter space, but once you have run on a couple of tracks indoor, it's easier to get used to it. We've got a couple of meets under our belt so I think we're ready for our meet in Birmingham."

With her senior status, this will be Harris' final indoor championship of her career.

"I've been doing track since I was eight years old. I'm 22 now so it's been a really long road. This is going to be my last indoor season ever. It's weird to think about and I haven't been able to think about it," Harris said. "I've been trying to focus on getting my workouts in and everything like that. We started off, the senior class, as sort of a large group and we've dwindled down a little bit. It means a lot to us, who are still here, and still working to finish off the season, finish off the year and graduate. It's the last go-around: we're just trying to do all that we can in order to make it a meaningful one."

Track and field will compete in the Sun Belt Indoor Championship in Birmingham, AL from Monday, Feb. 22 to Tuesday, Feb. 23.

"Come out and support us, if you can; if you can make it to Birmingham," Carter said. "Come out and support us. Follow us on social media. Come out and support the girls if you can. They love to have people contact them. We love the family atmosphere of the university and our girls would love to feel that more also."

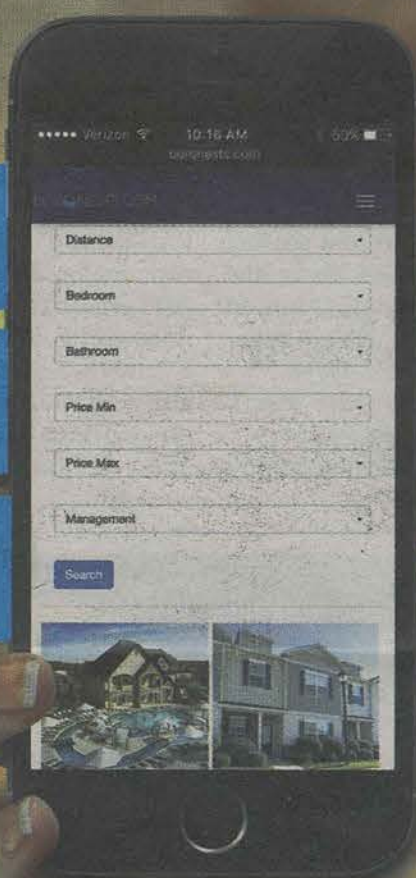
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