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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

GSU chapter loses members following investigation

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE & DEVIN CONWAY

The George-Anne staff

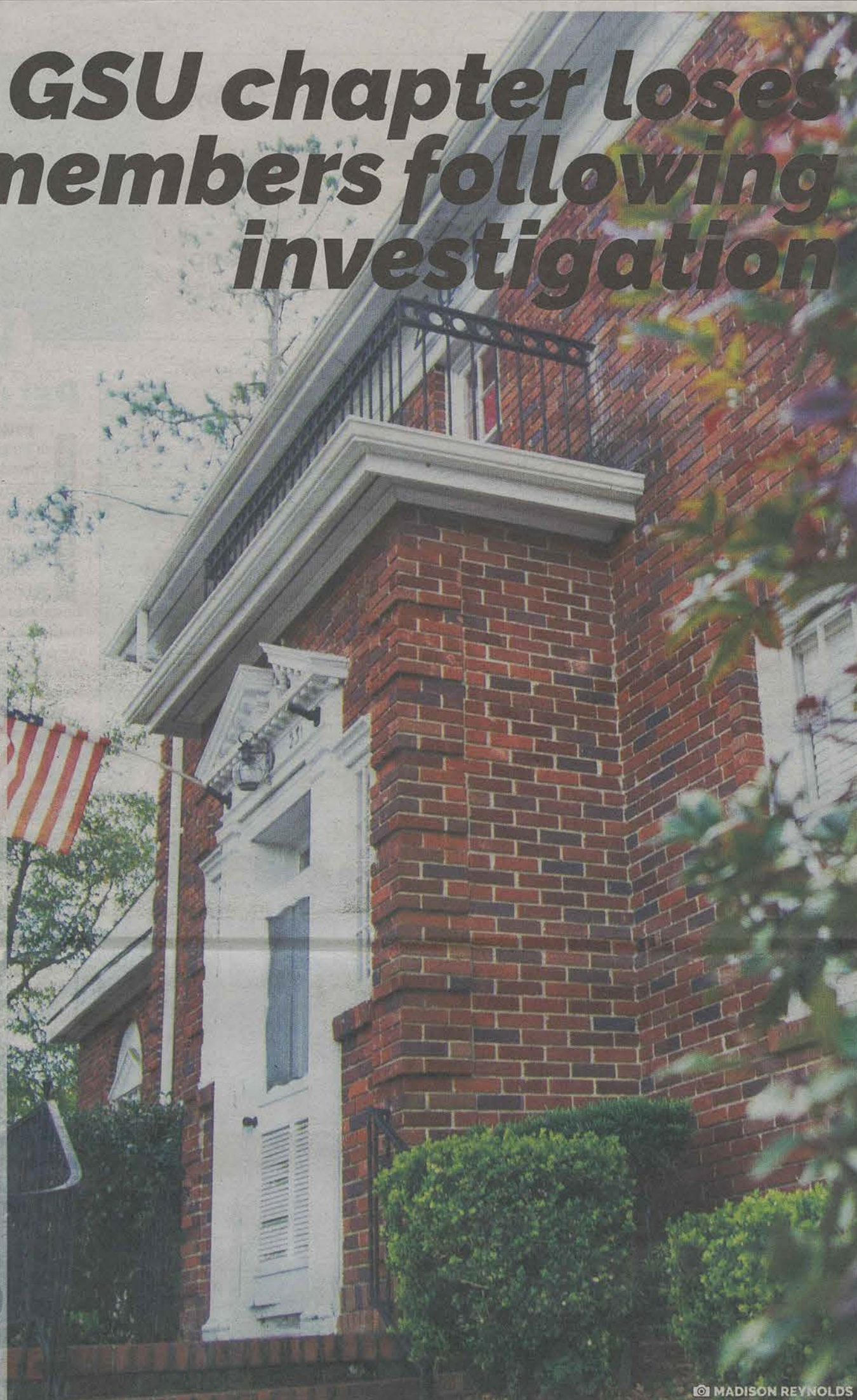
Just before the fall rush period of 2015, the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Office conducted a membership review of Georgia Southern University's chapter due to drug and alcohol allegations.

This investigation led to the expulsion of roughly 80 percent of their members according to Mikhael Tomlinson, sophomore journalism major and current president of the chapter.

See **FRATERNITY** cont. page 4

"I have friends in every single fraternity, and one slip-up can destroy a whole brotherhood. It could happen to anybody."

-Mikhael Tomlinson
President of Sigma Phi Epsilon



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PRESIDENT SEARCH

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GSU begins identifying final five candidates

Sleeping Beauty

PAGE 7

Moscow Ballet brings classic fairytale to the PAC

FINAL STRETCH

PAGE 10

Georgia Southern basketball travels west for last two games

Tuesday



High: 80°
Low: 57°

Wednesday



High: 67°
Low: 40°

Thursday



High: 73°
Low: 50°

Friday



High: 70°
Low: 42°

Its looking like its going to be a roller coaster this week with temperatures peaking at 80 degrees and dipping all the way down to 67 the next day. This is the warning, plan your days accordingly.

Weather Bar

PELL OR PUNISHMENT?

By Johnetta Moore
Pell, a grant established in the 70s, is helpful for low income students attending a university or college. According to the Huffington Post, the Pell grant can not be used for anything that is not a two-year or four-year college or university.

Students who are going to trade schools are not eligible for Pell because there are not enough hours in the field they are studying. Some colleges are considering padding different programs with less than the 600 hours needed for eligibility for Pell Grant, which would mean extra work and more classes.

This action has been deemed unethical by community college administrators and could cause trouble.

A program launched last fall, EQUIP (Educational Quality in Innovative Partnerships) tests the use of Pell Grant for training programs by community colleges. However, programs still are required to at least have a minimum of 450 hours, which still leaves a gap for those who are studying in a program with less hours than that. Information is still being gathered on EQUIP according to the Huffington Post.



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FEBRUARY 16, 2016

MARCH 08, 2016

APRIL 05, 2016

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SPORTS SHORTS

-The softball team played 5 games this weekend; winning 3 (University of Iowa, 7-4 and 10-2, Coastal Carolina University, 8-4) and losing 2 (University of Iowa, 0-11, and Coastal Carolina University, 5-9).

-Men's Tennis won all three games this weekend: 4-1 against Nicholls State, 6-1 against Jacksonville State and 6-1 against SCAD.

-Women's Tennis won against Nicholls State on Friday, 4-3.

-The baseball team beat Radford three times this weekend: 6-3 Friday, 3-2 Saturday and 10-2 Sunday.



REFLECTORGSU.COM
by Cheryl Nuzum

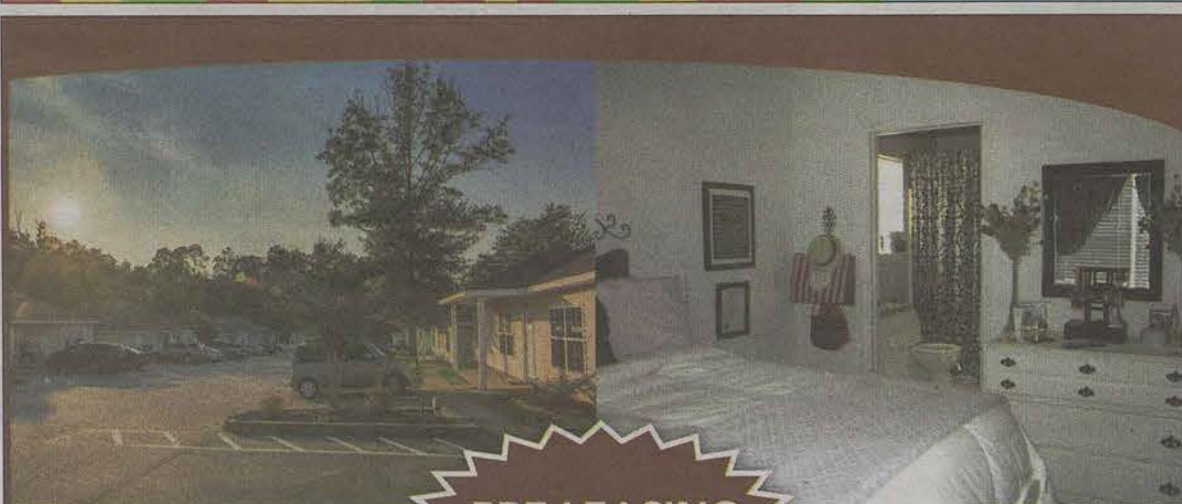


**A Harry Potter
Magical
Mocktail Recipe:
Butterbeer**

PHOTO COURTESY OF REFLECTORGSU.COM

Butterbeer, the wizarding world's version of Coca-Cola, has millions of people around the world reading the Harry Potter books and wishing they too could sit in the Three Broomsticks and enjoy one with their classmates. Well, the Three Broomsticks pub may be fictional, but the drink doesn't have to be. In honor of the newest book being released, we found this recipe, allowing us to turn the fictional beverage into a nonfictional treat.

Read the rest on Reflectorgsu.com



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Letter to the Editor

African American history month

JAMAR A. BOYD II

Boyd is a senior sports management major

Carter G. Woodson in February 1926 founded Negro History Week a time meant to celebrate the contributions of African Americans in American history. Today we celebrate Black History Month the entire month of February. Little known fact, Woodson chose February to honor the birth months of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

I'm a proud black in this modern day Civil Rights era. A time where innocent black men are gunned and shot done sensely. Blacks are denied their basic rights daily as the established stereotypes

cloud the mind and vision of the majority. We even who have a black President whose progress had been limited due to Congress's inability to work with a black man. Just calling it like I see it.

The contributions of African Americans go beyond my current knowledge. I do know this, America would've never risen to this height it has today, had it not been for us black folk. Those same black folk you refer to as them, y'all people, niggas, niggers, monkeys, coons and the more. But be reminded, those same black folks aided Thomas Edison in his discovery of light and the light bulb, developed the stop light, developed the cell phone and the list could go on. Hell, we've established our own college, produced the finest of the finest and still exist today.

Those black people, mainly women, even raised white children and a more of a mother than the one who birthed them. That's American history.

If I have one problem it's this. The manipulation of our culture by the majority. You listen and sing our music. Dress, calling it new trends, how we dress. And the list goes on. Yet, you have a problem when we identify and confront racism. Yet, you have a problem with the fact that institutionalized and systematic racism still exist in America. Yet, you have a fact that whites still look at us, black people, as less than. But, the hell with that.

We, African Americans, have more to offer and have offered more than any other race. We are a chosen people and a intricately designed and uniquely developed people.

Tell a people who has women and brothers of all shapes and sizes, with such beauty, elegance and poise. I'll wait, the answer is you can't. So, let me leave you with this.

Learn to appreciate African Americans, our accomplishments, our contributions, our culture, our faith, our love, our sincerity and our uniqueness. Because we aren't going anywhere. We're here to fight discrimination, injustice and racism. We're here to confront and fight for the likes of Flint, MI and St. George's Parish in Louisiana. We're here to stay.

Happy black history month. Happy African American Heritage Month. And may God bless you and may his grace and mercy continue to abide.

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.

INK IT THROUGH



SKYLER BLACK

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

Oh man, it's an opinionated outlook on getting tattoos. This should be totally original and not cliché at all! I'm here to tell the world how getting tattoos has sincerely changed my life. Not in that corny life changing way like buying a blender so you can eat everything in smoothie form. But in a real way. In an emotional and intellectual way.

Getting a tattoo isn't the same as just buying something nice for yourself because it's "treat yo' self" day. Getting a tattoo is an emotional commitment to a piece of art that will be on your body for the rest of your life, in most cases. I have received four wonderful works of art on

my body in my short time on this earth and each one represents something important to my life. While I strongly believe that you can do whatever you want to with your body, tattoos need - I'll say it again, need - to be thought out clearly and for a good amount of time. I cannot tell you how many tattoos that I have seen on people that mean something that doesn't pertain to them anymore. I'm not just talking about names of ex lovers but I'm talking about flags, bands, words, the list is endless.

Over the last four years, I have spent upwards of \$600 for people that I barely know to permanently ink images onto my body. I was only 18 when I received my first tattoo. Now, as a 22-year-old college student, with four tattoos, I can say that I have no regrets getting them. The process of getting a quality tattoo is longer than most would expect. You have to come up with an idea, find the right artist for you, make an appointment and finally sit through the experience for



around one hour.

Recently, I received another tattoo on my calf which took three hours. This tattoo is something that I have been thinking about for around six months and have been looking for an artist that I could trust for another two weeks. So I'll say it again, it is necessary to think the tattoo through. There is a massive difference between a "good" tattoo artist and a "professional" tattoo artist. Any tattoo, no matter how well thought out it is, can

be bad if the artist is bad.

Before I got any of my tattoos, I was not the type of person that would even think of getting something permanently etched into my body. I was closed minded to the "ink lyfe" and was terrified of marking myself. But as time went on, I found that I could make an emotional connection with tattoos. This mark that lasts a lifetime with a major connection to your body and soul. That can display what you can't really say in words.

Tattoos have profoundly impacted my life and have added something important to it. These additions to my body aren't just things that I think look good, but things that mean something to me.

That represent something important that has happened in my life or my view of life itself. In my not so humble opinion, tattoos are an extension of yourself. They bring out the inner beliefs, thoughts, and loves of the wearer. Ink can be used as a form of expression just as well as painting, writing, singing and dancing. But if you ever think about getting tattoo, please for your future think it through.



Sigma Phi Epsilon's former house is located in downtown Statesboro. The house was vacated in accordance with fraternity policy.

FRATERNITY *cont.*

GSU had little involvement in the investigation and chose not to impose any of their own disciplinary action, while the national office conducted the membership review.

"There was an investigation prompted by [Sigma Phi Epsilon's] national office in the fall. This is an instance where the national office took the lead in addressing an issue and handled this through a membership review process," Mark Whitesel, associate dean and director for student conduct, said. "The University action in this case was an interim suspension by the University while the investigation through the national office was happening. This was lifted at the conclusion of their investigation and motion to restore the status of their organization as active."

According to Teresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, any national headquarters of a Greek organization can expel members without involvement from the university's office of student conduct.

"The University process would not expel or remove individual member from an organization, this would be done

by the national headquarters or the local chapter. On occasion we will work with the national headquarters of an organization on an incident to align sanctions and avoid redundancy. This is done when possible," Thompson said.

Through membership review, a fraternity's national headquarters can expel members who do not meet the fraternity's standards.

"[Sigma Phi Epsilon] is committed to creating a safe and healthy experience for all members. One way that we support that experience is through the membership review process, wherein we identify members who are willing to live up to their standards," Andrew Parrish, strategic communications director from the fraternity's national office, said. "The alumni, the fraternity's headquarters staff and the Georgia Southern administration are committed and actively working to provide a safe and healthy fraternity experience on the Georgia Southern University campus."

Tomlinson denies that the allegations levied against Sigma Phi Epsilon and its members are true.

"They aren't true. Things weren't happening how they were describing it. The investigators made it out like

we were disrespecting the new guys, but we weren't. I'm not sure where the allegations came from, and there was no evidence to support their claims," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson claims that the national office conducted the membership review without real evidence.

"With a fraternity, an accusation is as good as a conviction. I mean, that's just how it is," Tomlinson said. "Usually, if an accusation comes up like this—not just with our fraternity, but with any fraternity—an accusation is as good as a conviction. You don't really need evidence."

Tomlinson said that approximately 50 out of 60 members of the chapter were expelled, and the remaining members no longer have their fraternity house in downtown Statesboro.

"I don't know how the decisions were made on who stays and who goes, because, I mean, all of the brothers were involved in philanthropies. [All of the brothers] had great grades. All of the brothers were supportive of each other," Tomlinson said. "They were all great guys. It's hard not having those guys around anymore, because a lot of them helped me become who I am right now. I'm doing great in school. If it weren't

for my brothers, I wouldn't be as successful as I am here."

Tomlinson denies that the fraternity was involved in any wrongdoing and believes the fraternity should not have been held responsible for, as Tomlinson speculated, incidents with underage drinkers using false identification.

"If some of those guys who were underage and did have a fake ID and were able to drink alcohol, you can't blame it on the fraternity, because you can't monitor everybody. It's hard to do with 70 or 60 guys, it's hard. I really think it could've been handled a different way," Tomlinson said.

When a customer presents to a licensed alcohol distributor false identification that appears, for all intents and purposes, to be legitimate, Georgia law exonerates bartenders from liability and shifts legal responsibility to the customer.

"[The national office] made us seem like we were drug addicts. It frustrates me, because I know that we're not like that. How we're being depicted to nationals, and to other fraternities on different campuses, and we were depicted that way—it doesn't sit well with me," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson believes that membership reviews of fraternities are frequently mishandled.

"The thing is, it does happen all the time. We're an off-row fraternity—we have a plot on row, we just don't have a house there—but, I mean, any fraternity could be on the chopping block at any moment," Tomlinson said. "I have friends in every single fraternity, and one slip-up can destroy a whole brotherhood. It could happen to anybody, it's really not just us. A lot of fraternities are going through things like that. It happened to us, but we wouldn't want to see it happen to anybody else, because it destroys a lot of people."

While the fraternity now only has 15 official members, according to Tomlinson, the current and former members have remained friends.

"We're definitely all friends. It's hard to remain in contact, with me anyway, because I'm always doing something with the fraternity. Because [the fraternity] was so big, and now so small, there's a lot more responsibility on fewer individuals," Tomlinson said. "So I don't really have that much time to hang out with them, but when I do see them, [there's never] remorse. It's never awkward or anything like that, because we didn't do anything [wrong]."

First GSU president candidates announced

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University has revealed the first two candidates in the search for a new university president. Here are brief descriptions of the candidates:



David Brennen will begin his campus visit on March 1. His open forum will take place on March 2 at 4 p.m. in the Foy Building.

David A. Brennen

- Dean and professor of law at the University of Kentucky since July 2009
- Earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Florida Atlantic University in 1988
- Earned his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1991
- Has taught at the University of Georgia, Mercer University, Temple University, the University of Alabama, the University of Richmond, Syracuse University and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University School of Business
- Has received professional honors from Harvard University and the American Law Institute

Timothy C. Caboni

- The vice-president of public affairs at the University of Kansas since June 2011
- Oversees the communications, marketing, and advocacy efforts at the University of Kansas
- Earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication and rhetoric at Louisiana State University in 1992
- Earned his Ph.D. in leadership and policy studies from Vanderbilt University in 2001
- Former associate dean at Vanderbilt University



Timothy Caboni spoke to the campus on Feb. 29. Caboni is scheduled to leave campus on March 1.

For updates concerning the presidential search visit thegeorgeanne.com.

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Puzzles

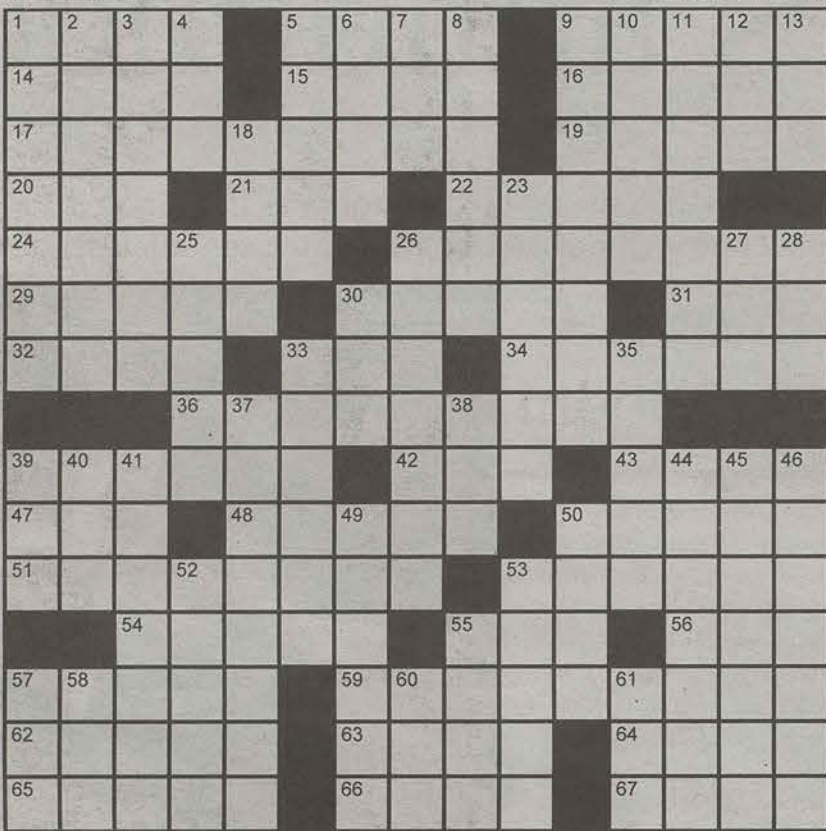
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The George-Anne 3/1/16 Crossword

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Across

- 1 Cried
5 Swain
9 In a fog
14 Super berry
15 Legal claim
16 Varnish resin
17 Medley
19 Yellowstone creature
20 Curling surface
21 Diminutive
22 Asian capital
24 Marks in Spanish class
26 Buffeting
29 Went nowhere
30 Pakistani material
31 Likewise
32 Barker
33 Jellied delicacy
34 Diner
36 Attentiveness
39 San ___, Tex.
42 Can you dig it?
43 Photos
47 Cambodian coin
48 Illuminated
50 Burgundy grape
51 Portly
53 Religious mystic
54 Begins to heat up
55 Deli sandwich
56 Accelerator bit
57 Dagger mark
59 Fortune predictor
62 Anatomical sac
63 Exuberance
64 Initial stake
65 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
66 Split apart
67 Despicable



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Down

- 1 Forest denizens
2 Conservationist's concern
3 Kneecap
4 Restaurant calculation
5 Music genre
6 Leprechaun's land
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8 Concord
9 Frenzied, out of control
10 For all to hear
11 Water softener
12 German river
13 Pass on
18 Overdue
23 City south of Salem
25 Look closely
26 Withdraw
27 Neighbor of Swed.
28 Nation, in Hebrew
30 Hula hoop?
33 Self-interest
35 Lukewarm
37 Dalmatian coast almost extinct language
38 Duchamp contemporary
39 Havana residue
40 Born
41 Rodents
44 Hoosier State
45 Companions
46 Straphanger
49 Perfume sampler
50 Short shot
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53 Towhead
55 Fiber source
57 Sapporo sash
58 Insolent term of address for a boy or man
60 Black and tan ingredient
61 Subway alternative

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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT

The Moscow Festival Ballet returns to Statesboro to perform the classic tale of Sleeping Beauty. The performance is one night only and tickets are currently available at the PAC.

BY ARAYA JACKSON AND ANNIE MOHR
The George-Anne staff and contributor

A world of elaborate costumes, divine poise and theatrical music makes the Moscow Festival Ballet's performance of "Sleeping Beauty" a one of a kind event for the Statesboro area.

According to Columbia Artists Management, a website about the Moscow Festival Ballet, they were founded back in 1989, when dancer Sergei Radchenko decided to combine principles of two already existing ballets and form a new independent company. He is the group's artistic director, and strives to ensure a lasting representation of classical Russian theater.

Since its establishment, the group has completed two European tours, two United Kingdom tours, a two month tour of Japan, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong and performed at festivals in Turkey and Greece. This renowned group started in the United States in 1997 with a Coast-to-Coast tour, and has come back sporadically years since. This 2016 tour is their first since 2014.

Although many may find ballet to be outside of their comfort zone, it doesn't take a professional dancer to enjoy the art. Ballet encompasses an

athleticism and grace that can be appreciated by anyone.

Stacie McDaniel, interim director at the Performing Arts Center hopes that students will enjoy this theatrical take on the familiar childhood story.

"I know that we hear the word ballet and anyone who hasn't studied the subject may have a reaction that this type of thing just isn't for them," McDaniel said. She encourages that "Dance is timeless, especially a title like "Sleeping Beauty" is something that will appeal to everyone."

If it is your first time at the ballet, don't fret. Here are a few tips to help you appreciate what you are going to see:

IT'S HARD WORK

"A ballet company can rehearse from sunrise to sunset. The amount of hard work put into a production is incredible," Isabella Axelson, sophomore exercise science major, who's been dancing since age four, said.

NOT JUST ANYONE CAN DO THIS

"Most professional dancers begun training around the age of five or six. The peak age to audition to be part of a company is around seventeen and many dancers will train their entire lives and never perform on the professional level," Axelson said.

Ballets are a good opportunity to get dressed up, bring a date or a friend, and experience something

that you normally can't in a place like Statesboro. Plus, if this group has traveled all over the world and they have chosen to come perform for us here at Georgia Southern, they deserve an audience turn out of appreciation.

There's hundreds of hours and gallons of sweat put into these routines, in order to deliver a beautiful performance. The showing of "Sleeping Beauty" will be Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and can be purchased online or through the Performing Arts Center box office.

PAY ATTENTION

"Ballet tells a story. Even the smallest hand motions can describe a major part of the story. Really focus on the movements and facial expressions," Mollie McLaughlin, junior exercise science major, who's been dancing for over 10 years, said

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MADISON REYNOLDS

BEST SHAKES IN THE 'BORO

Comparing fast food milkshakes in Statesboro

Statesboro has multiple options for milkshakes that vary in quality and taste. Nine local restaurants were compared to find the best.

BY KAT SHUMAN
The George-Anne staff

Let's be honest, you're not going to the RAC anymore, and you're not going to get the spring break body of your dreams. It's time to drown the sorrows in alcohol and milkshakes.

The George-Anne is so graciously filling your lives with an in depth analysis of the shake scene in Statesboro. Sydney Jordan, junior pre-business major, Madison Reynolds, senior multimedia film and video production major and I have attempted to grade milkshakes on four categories that we believe to be the most relevant to college

students. The categories we chose are: price (because we're all broke), calories (because we're all fat, and apparently one would be concerned with calories when eating shakes), consistency (because who wants to have a soupy shake or try to drink ice cream through a straw), and taste.

The only shake that every restaurant in Statesboro had in common was a chocolate milkshake. Almost everyone had vanilla except for Zaxby's; what the heck Zaxby's?

That's okay though. Let's answer the long-awaited question: Whose milkshake brings all the boys to the yard?

TOP THREE WINNERS

1. CHICK-FIL-A:

Chick-fil-A received the best scores in price, calories, consistency, and flavor landing it the prestigious award of "Best Shake in the 'Boro."

2. STEAK 'N SHAKE:

SNS was so close to receiving the "Best Shake in the 'Boro" award. It was only topped by CFA in the consistency category.

3. DAIRY QUEEN:

Though DQ did not excel in any categories, it ranked above average in all categories winning it the bronze medal in the Statesboro Shakes Olympics.

CALORIES

Who had the lowest cal shake?

1. CHECKERS:

If you're craving a shake, but don't want to consume a meal's worth of calories eating one, Checkers had the lowest calorie chocolate shake at 350 calories.

2. ARBY'S:

Arby's came in second place with 449 calories per small chocolate shake.

3. STEAK 'N SHAKE:

Steak 'n Shake came in second place with only 550 calories per small chocolate shake.

CONSISTENCY

Because who wants a shake that's too thick to drink (CookOut)? #Shade

1. CHICK-FIL-A:

CFA's chocolate shake had nearly perfect consistency. It was thick, but not too thick. It could be sipped through a straw with minimal effort.

2. BASKIN-ROBBINS:

Baskin-Robbins was a close second. This shake was a tad more runny than Chick-Fil-A, but it was still delicious.

3. STEAK 'N SHAKE:

Steak 'n Shake was also close, but was more runny than Chick-fil-A and Baskin-Robbins. It left some thickness to be desired.

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Arby's came in close behind McDonald's with a small shake costing \$2.07.

3. SONIC:

A sonic mini-shake was the third most affordable at \$2.24.

BEST FLAVOR

Flava Flav

1. BASKIN-ROBBINS:

If you're looking for taste, Baskin-Robbins is no doubt the place to go. It had a rich chocolate-y taste that no other restaurant compared to.

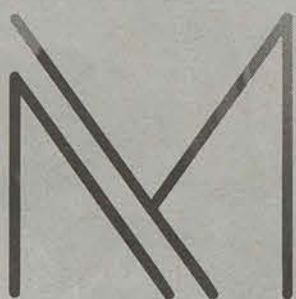
2. CHICK-FIL-A:

Chick-fil-A came in second for flavor. Though chocolate-y, it did not compare to Baskin-Robbins.

3. STEAK 'N SHAKE

HONORABLE MENTION:

COOK OUT: This restaurant, surprisingly, did not excel in any of our rankings, but we would be amiss not to award honorable mention to the restaurant with the most shake variety in Statesboro. Cook Out has 42 flavors year round and 3 seasonal flavors. Such variety. Much diversity.



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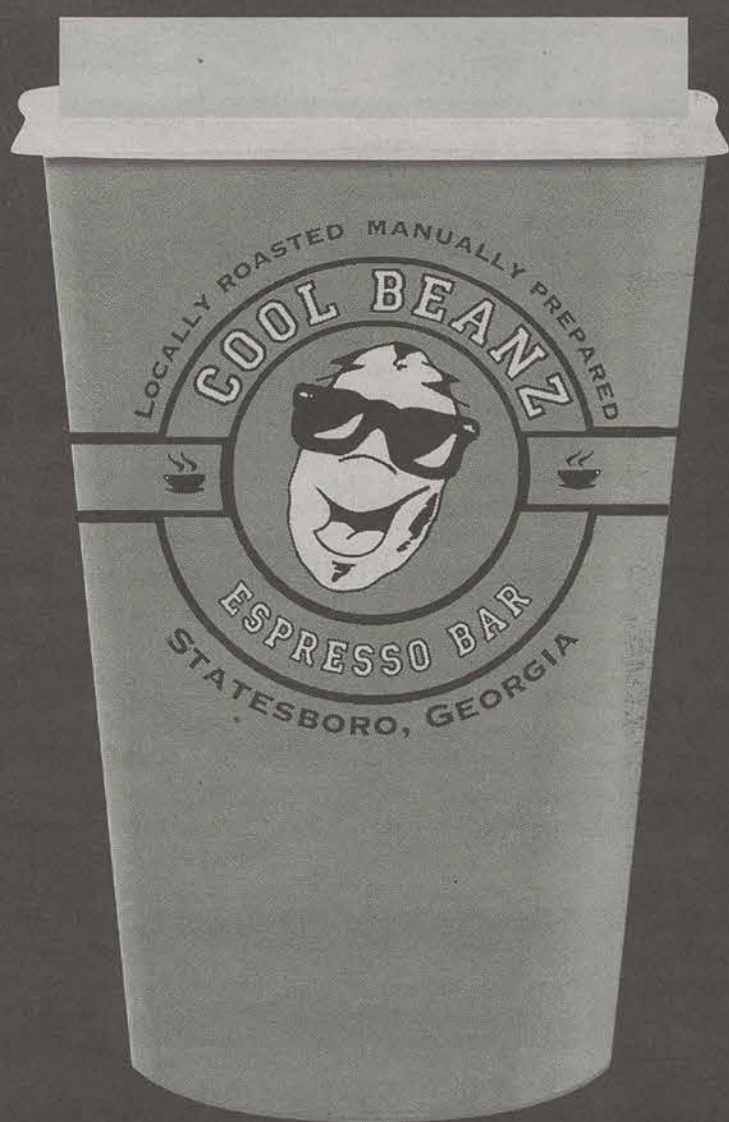
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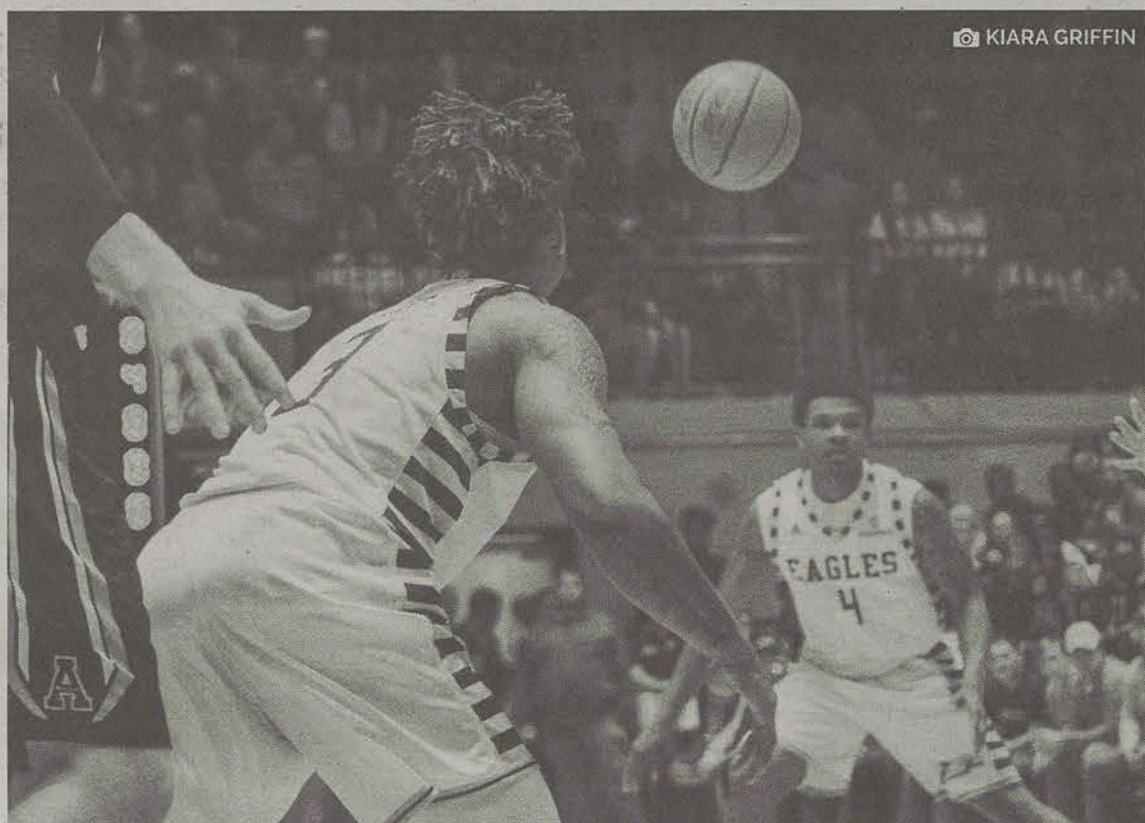
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GEORGIA SOUTHERN RESTED FOR FINAL ROAD TRIP

The Eagles had the weekend off after their final home game last Thursday. They will travel to Louisiana to face the top of the Sun Belt this weekend

Ike Smith and Tookie Brown move the ball on offense. The freshmen have consistently led the team in scoring this season.



BY MARQUS WILLIAMS
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University has ended their home game stretch by sweeping rivals Georgia State and App State. The Eagles still remain fifth in the Sun Belt conference with an overall record of 14-14 and a conference record of 10-8.

The Eagles have two games remaining on their schedule before they go into conference play as they have secured a spot in the Sun Belt tournament. The lowest possible seeding they would have is seventh, if they lose their last two games and South Alabama and Georgia State win their next two. The highest possible seeding for

the Eagles would be third, but they would have to win out and have Texas-Arlington and Louisiana-Lafayette lose at least once.

Texas-Arlington plays three more games this season going up against Texas State, South Alabama and Troy. Louisiana-Lafayette and the Eagles face off in the last game of the regular season for them both as they will battle it out for the fourth seed in the tournament.

The fourth seed in the tournament is crucial for teams as it gives them a first round bye and they don't have to play until the quarterfinals of the tournament. That gives teams extra time to prepare and rest while also relieving teams of one less game to play

and possibly lose.

"We all need [the rest]. We just gotta get our rest and then we gotta refocus," head coach Mark Byington said.

The Eagles don't have the ability to be a top two seed like last season and not play until the semi-finals, but getting to that fourth seed in the tournament and not playing in the first round would put the Eagles a step closer to making a run in the tournament and making it into the NCAA tournament.

The Eagles will play against Louisiana Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette away from home, but they will try to use their momentum from the last two games to propel them to victories.

"We're getting a lot of momentum. The last two games were a big confidence builder and we're going to need it going into this tough road trip," sophomore guard Mike Hughes said.

The Eagles hope to stay focused and win out for the best way to get to March Madness.

"We've got one of the toughest road swings in the league going to Louisiana, with those two teams. We've positioned ourselves with 10 wins in the league already," Byington said. "We gotta try to get a win or two down in Louisiana, keep the momentum going for the tournament and then try to get magic down there."

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UL MONROE	13-5
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UT ARLINGTON	10-7
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The Eagles are 4-4 on the season. They will host the College of Charleston tonight.

BY KEVIN KENEELY & STEPHANIE MATZELLE

The George-Anne staff and contributor

The Eagles bounced back after a 16 inning loss to Georgia Tech on Wednesday by taking three out of four games against Radford University this weekend.

Wednesday night's matchup against Georgia Tech was the longest game ever played between the two teams and was the longest game GSU had played since April 21, 1996 against Clemson, when the Eagles beat the Tigers 9-7 in 18 innings.

In the game, Yellow Jackets, CJ Ballard broke a school record with eight at bats, while CJ Brazil, Jordan Wren, Ryan Cleveland, Will Hudgins, Kent Rollins and Logan Baldwin all tied the record with seven at bats.

GSU had a 3-2 lead over GT heading into the top of the ninth inning before giving up a run to GT that tied the game up at 3 a piece.

The game ended after 16 innings when Brandon Gold hit a home run to deep center field, bringing in three runs for the Yellow Jackets and giving them a 6-3 lead that proved too much for the Eagles to

overcome in the end.

GSU was able to knock in two more runs in the bottom of the 16th inning as Zach Cowart hit a double to the left field wall that made the score 6-5.

"Sometimes that last out is the toughest to get," GSU head coach Rodney Hennon said. "Nobody wants to win any worse than these kids."

He was very happy with the way the team did not give up after not closing the game out in the ninth inning, he felt like these players could've easily just given up, but instead they kept fighting till the end.

"This is a team game, we win as a team, and we lose as a team," Hennon said.

Regardless of the loss, Hennon believes that if his team keeps playing the way they played Wednesday night that it will pay off in the end.

"I thought we got a great effort from everybody on that pitching staff," Hennon said. "Our guys kept battling right down till the last out."

The Eagles were able to keep hitting the ball well during the four game series with Radford, putting 20 runs up against them.

Cleveland and Brazil led

the way for the Eagles during this four game series with four hits apiece, while Baldwin contributed with six RBIs.

Evan Challenger, Chris Brown and Brian Eichhorn were able to pick up wins during this series. Challenger struck out a career high nine batters in his outing Friday night.

GSU looks to continue their success at home with a game Tuesday night at 6 p.m. against the College of Charleston. The game will be played on ESPN 3.

Eagles pick up three wins in Coastal Carolina Invitational

BY ROBERT GEORGE

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University softball team traveled to Coastal Carolina this past weekend to play in their third non-conference tournament of the season. The team went 3-2, picking up wins against Iowa and Coastal Carolina.

The Eagles were blanked 11-0 by Iowa in the first game of the doubleheader against the Hawkeyes, but responded with a 7-4 win in the second game. After falling behind 0-4, the team scored seven unanswered runs to seal their first win of the tournament.


After falling to host Coastal Carolina in the third game, the Eagles bats exploded in a 10-2 rout over Iowa. Taylor Rodgers and Morgan Robinson led the way for the team with 4 RBI's and two hits each. Freshman

Dixie Raley went the distance in the shortened game, striking out four and allowing just two earned runs.

The Eagles finished the tournament on a high note, defeating Coastal Carolina 8-4. Raley was lights out in the circle, giving up four runs on six hits and striking out a career-high 11 batters.

At the plate for the Eagles, Alesha Mann had a career day, going 3-4 with a home run, a double and 5 RBI's. Robinson and Hannah Farrell each added an RBI. Lydia Witkowski continued her hot start to the season by going 2-5 with a run scored. She is hitting a team-high .389 so far.

The Eagles return to action this weekend at the Eagle Classic, which will be played at Eagle Field. Their first game of the round-robin will be on Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. against North Dakota.



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