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The George-Anne

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THE GEORGE-ANNE

STUDY DRUGS

The reality of using unprescribed medications on a college campus

PAGE 7



TAHIR DAUDIER

Page 5



Settlement Reached

Families and attorneys hold press conference to announce agreement

KELLY LOWERY

SPRING WRAP UP

The football team finishes spring camp

PAGE 9



TAHIR DAUDIER

BREAKING RECORDS

Rebecca Parker shatters records on the track

PAGE 10



KIARA GRIFFIN

Tuesday



**High: 88°
Low: 64°**

Wednesday



**High: 92°
Low: 67°**

Thursday



**High: 91°
Low: 67°**

Friday



**High: 95°
Low: 66°**

It is heating up in Statesboro this week with temperatures peaking at 92 degrees on Thursday. It looks like the weather is reflecting the emotions we are feeling about finals.

Weather Bar

THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE USING 'GSU'

By Marquetta Green



Georgia Southern athletics has sent out a notice last week which prohibited the use of the term "GSU" in an attempt to avoid branding conflicts.

An email was sent out by Georgia Southern's athletic department explaining the changes in the Eagles logo that also included that the word GSU would be replaced with just GS for branding purpose.

According to the website UnderDog Dynasty, the change took place due to conflicts and mix-ups in reference to the schools, Georgia Southern University and Georgia State University. We may have come to the end of the "who is the real GSU?" debate.

"The university has moved to try to eliminate the use of GSU when referring to Georgia Southern. This would apply university-wide," Jan Bond, Associate Vice-President for the Office of Marketing and Communications, stated in an email sent to the George-Anne.

NEW \$20 BILL TO FEATURE THE FACE OF HARRIET TUBMAN

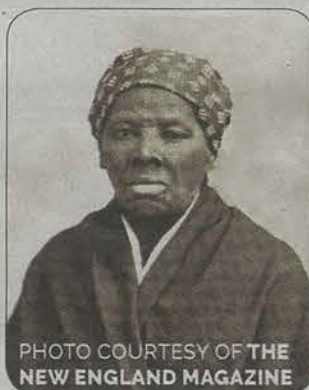


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE

By Kelly Strojny

The \$20 bill is going to be redesigned with Harriet Tubman's face on it. She will be the first ever-African American to be portrayed on American currency in 100 years. Andrew

Jackson, the seventh president of the U.S., whose face is currently

on the bill, will be moved to the back of the bill.

Harriet Tubman was a former slave and played a big role in the abolition movement. She escaped from slavery and she was said to have helped free at least seventy slave families through the use of the Underground Railroad.

The back of the \$10 bill will also be changed to honor the 1913 march that ended on the steps of the treasury building with the presented legacies of suffrage leaders. The back of the \$5 bill will also be changed to Martin Luther King, Jr.

The last time a woman was on paper currency was in the late 1800s, which was Martha Washington and Pocahontas. Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea are on dollar coins.

The three bills are supposed to be finished by 2020, which will be the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (women's right to vote). Not only will this be the first African-American to be on U.S. currency, but also it will be the first woman in history.

DEKALB COUNTY MAYOR WANTS TO BAN E-CIGS AND DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA

By Chris Carter

Ted Terry, mayor of the city of Clarkston in DeKalb county, wants to make some changes to city ordinances, including making e-cigarette smoking illegal indoors.

According to AJC, the expansion of the ordinance would reach to all forms of smoking including hookah and traditional cigarettes. The mayor has taken a very adversarial stance when it comes to tobacco.

The mayor also wants to decriminalize marijuana. Mayor Terry and Clarkson city public safety committee discussed the consequences of marijuana possession.

Terry feels that arrests for possession of marijuana are a waste of police resources. He would like to see it no longer be a crime to possess under an ounce of marijuana. Terry added that the "war on drugs" has been a failure and that police resources are better used elsewhere.

New research showing the harmful effects that smoking e-cigarettes can have has influenced the mayors call for action. Terry cited a study by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences about the chemicals in e-cigs and the "popcorn lung" condition which the Center for Disease Control categorizes as flavoring-related disease.

SPORTS SHORTS

-Women's Tennis lost on Friday 4-1 against Troy

-Men's Tennis faced South Alabama on Friday, losing 4-2

-The baseball team dropped their series against Little Rock this weekend, winning on Friday [3-2] but losing on Saturday [2-3] and Sunday [8-17].

REFLECTORGsu.COM

by Julia Fechter

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WHAT KESHA'S COURT CASE TELLS US ABOUT CAMPUS RAPE

PHOTO COURTESY OF REFLECTORGsu.COM

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, one in four women and one in fifteen men will be sexually assaulted while in college. Pop artist Kesha's recent court case does not just impact her, or even other female musicians. This case brings an extremely important issue into the mainstream. This case is a light shining onto the stage of campus rape.

Read about more facts related to the perceived grey area with campus rape and what Georgia law and Title IX say about it at: <http://reflectorgsu.com/what-keshas-court-case-tells-us-about-campus-rape/>

Puzzles

4-26-16

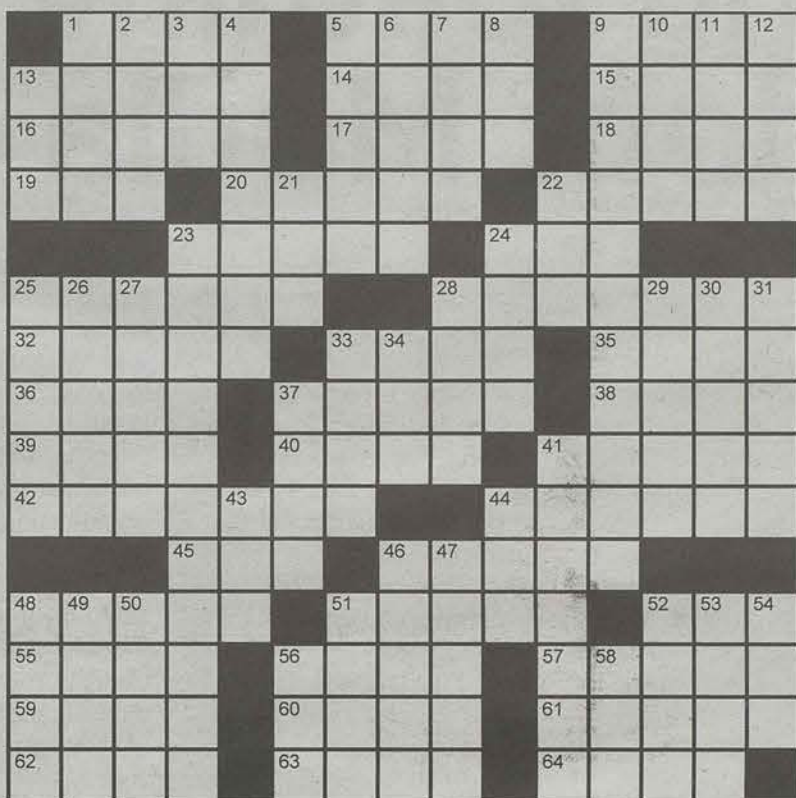
3

The George-Anne 4/23/16 Crossword

PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Know-it-all
5 Comfy spot
9 The Beehive State
13 Religious law
14 Ship's front
15 Lymph bump
16 Skips
17 Have coming
18 Ski lift item
19 Honeybun
20 Periodic event
22 Jingle
23 Squeeze
24 Clavell's "___ Pan"
25 Chaplains
28 Semidarkness
32 It shows the way
33 Hat-tipper's word
35 Understood
36 Half-moon tide
37 Take by force
38 "Green Gables" girl
39 The skinny
40 Sweat source
41 Treat badly
42 Rope hitch
44 Romeo's love
45 Charged particle
46 Fern-to-be
48 Rub the wrong way
51 Short-legged dog
52 Lion's home
55 Sari-clad royal
56 King of the road
57 Where "Aida" premiered
59 Dog in "Beetle Bailey"



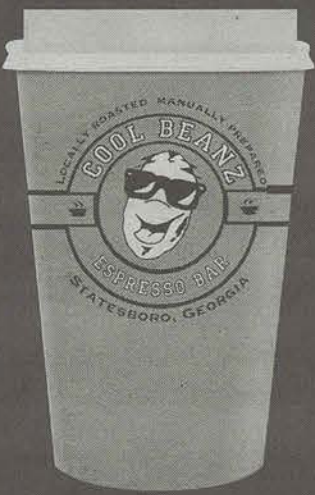
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- 60 Sheltered, at sea
61 More than miffed
62 Acquire
63 Friendly
64 Pizzazz
11 Genesis man
12 At this point
13 One of the finest
21 Survey choice
22 Ewe's mate
23 Offering
24 Proctor's call
25 Lose one's cool
26 Hippodrome, e.g.
27 After bank or down
28 Stupor
29 Lassitude
30 Taste, e.g.
31 Like dessert wines
33 Plaintive cry
34 It's inspired
37 Pair of oxen
41 Ear
43 "MS. Found in a Bottle" writer
44 Trot
46 Judicious
47 Introduction
48 Hot rum drink
49 Pro follower
50 Voting "no"
51 Fizzy drink
52 Prima donna
53 Leprechaun's land
54 Affirmative action
56 Turn left
58 Be in pain

Down

- 1 Up for it
2 Condo division
3 Go bad
4 Loosen
5 Eyeglasses
6 Tough tests
7 Driver's warning
8 Grass part
9 Inconceivable
10 Jug type





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Fear and loathing in Student Media



SKYLER BLACK

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

While you read this I want to assure you that this will not be a sad goodbye. My opinion is that there are only two ways to say goodbye; a bittersweet remembrance or the utter truth.

For the past two years, I have been part of an organization that has changed my view on life, friends and education. This organization has not only helped me reach out to opportunities that I normally would not have, but it has given me connections to new interesting people. The fact of the matter is that being a part of a group of people changes you, and sometimes that doesn't mean change for the better.

Being a member of this group taught me some of the most valuable lessons. I learned that if you want to be a part of a particular group, that you need to conform. I'm certain that we have all changed for an individual. If not, kudos to you, but changing for a group is different. You are transformed

into someone that you don't want to be with people that you don't want to be like.

Obviously, I'm not saying that change is bad, and I'm not saying that being a member is nothing but conforming. I'm trying to say that I learned to interact with people that I normally would not interact with. These individuals were sometimes people that I didn't like talking to or interacting with. This is the definition of life for everyone around us.

In every aspect of our lives, from birth to death, we are thrust into situations with people that we disagree with or dislike, yet we learn from these people and are molded by these people.

All of this said, there are so many amazing people that I have worked with throughout my semesters

here. My first boss that taught me to express myself in all of my work. My best friends who taught me that it's okay to mess up sometimes. The greatest professionals that I have worked with and taken care of me are in this organization, and I cannot be more thankful for these amazing opportunities.

So I say thank you to Student Media. Thank you to The George-Anne for preparing me fully for the world outside of college and my comfort zone. You have created a somewhat functioning adult that learned to grin and bare it throughout life's most frustrating people. Thank you for giving me best friends, amazing colleagues and some of the funnest semesters of my life.

What does 'organic' even mean?



CHERYL NUZUM

Nuzum is a junior English and communications major from Snellville, Ga.

'Organic' seems to be a food trend outlasting even 'gluten-free' and if I'm being completely honest, I'm totally on board. Anything stamped with an 'organic' label and a \$2 up charge goes straight into my grocery cart with a metaphorical pat on the back.

I feel as if I'm doing my body a favor. There's so much stigma around processed foods - with good reason - yet somehow even if I'm making spaghetti loaded

with red meat and cheese, as long as there's a little green label, then I'm convinced I just ate the equivalent of a grilled chicken salad.

I blame the Gwyneth Paltrow's and Gisele Bundchen's of the world. Noted for their extremely limited diets of no gluten, dairy or refined sugars - among other things - they provide this aura of pretension that we little people tend to mistake for authority. They are beautiful and glamorous and we want to be just like them.

Even though the majority of us aren't willing to commit to such a drastic diet change, something simple like buying packs organic chicken or baskets of fresh produce from the farmer's market is enough to make us feel like we're doing our part.

Even if we choose to make those simple changes though, what are we really

doing for our bodies?

What exactly is organic?

In order for livestock or produce to be labeled 'organic' there must be proof it was not produced using genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. This means that produce cannot be grown through GMO seeds and that the livestock being raised cannot eat GMO feed.

If something is labeled '100 percent organic' it must be able demonstrates that it is made from certified organic products and all processing is organic

However, some products have the label 'made with organic ingredients.' These products have to meet the same standards as above but only up to 70 percent.

Once upon a time, the regulations around organic food and labeling was pretty much a joke. However currently the USDA has really begun to

crack down on regulations on what can be labeled '100 percent Organic' or 'Made with Organic Ingredients.' The same, however, cannot be said for 'natural foods.'

There is no definitive definition on what can be labeled 'natural' according to the FDA. There are only three rules: cannot contain 1) added color 2) artificial flavoring or 3) synthetic substances. The rest is fair game. Literally anything can be labeled 'natural' as long as it doesn't contain one the three above restrictions.

Maybe there is something to be said for organic foods and labeling. However, no matter what the current food trends are or what fads the celebrities and athletes of the world are following, we should still pay attention to what is put in our bodies regardless. Eat what you want, just be aware of what exactly that is.

Originally published on the Reflector Community

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.

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Press conference held to announce settlement with trucking company

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE AND TANDRA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

One day shy of the one-year anniversary of the I-16 crash that resulted in the death of five Georgia Southern University nursing students and injured two others, a press conference was held regarding the settlement of the wrongful death lawsuits against Total Transportation of Mississippi (TTM), the trucking company that hired the driver who caused the crash.

"We confirm that Total Transportation of Mississippi, LLC and its insurers have reached agreements with the families of four of the young nursing students who died and with one of the young ladies who was injured in this terrible accident," John Stomps, CEO and president of TTM, said in an email. "Through their respective attorneys, we continue to talk to the family of the fifth student who died as a result of the accident and to others who were injured. We are grateful to all for their willingness to work with us toward resolution. On behalf of the employees of Total Transportation of Mississippi, I am profoundly sorry for the pain and loss we have caused, and we continue to pray for peace and healing for all affected by this tragedy."

Attorney Bob Cheeley, partner at Butler, Wooten, Cheeley, & Peak, LLP, spoke at the press conference to a small crowd of friends, family and fellow students of the victims.

"These parents want [TTM] to deal with these problems so no parents will have to deal with something like this ever again," Cheeley said.

TTM admitted that hiring truck driver John Wayne Johnson was a mistake, according to Cheeley. Johnson, who had a rollover and totaled his vehicle while working for Steven's Transport and was fired from his job as a mechanic for a bus company in Louisiana for sexual harassment, failed to meet the company's hiring policies.

"While Johnson had been deemed incapable of being [a professional driver by a former employer], he was welcomed at [TTM]," Cheeley said.

TTM is currently upgrading their equipment to the latest safety technology, including

collision mitigation systems that are capable of stopping a vehicle when a driver fails to react, says Stomps.

"Since founding Total Transportation in 1991, we have strived to make the company a safe one, with driver hiring standards, operational practices and equipment specifications that far exceed what is required by law. We have put in place additional procedural safeguards to ensure that our drivers meet the higher standards we set for ourselves," Stomps said in an email.

At the press conference, students were visibly shaken as Cheeley and family members of the victims spoke.

"Unfortunately, I have the opportunity to sit in one of these chairs [at the memorial garden], and as a parent... you understand the depth of the pain and the humility that also comes with being a parent," Jimmy DeLoach, father of victim Abbie DeLoach, said. "Do I think that the people at the trucking company were negligent? Absolutely. Do I think they should be held accountable? Absolutely."

For DeLoach, no amount of money gained from the settlement can make up for the loss of his daughter.

"I would trade my soul and my heart for just one more 'Dad, I love you. Dad, I'll be home in a couple of hours. Dad, I miss you,'" DeLoach said. "What is the value of that? How do you put thousands or millions of dollars on that? You can't do that... Life is not cheap, and life is precious. And that's why God gave us his son for eternity."

After the press conference, many tearful members of the audience embraced. For friends and family of the victims, the settlement of the lawsuit does not mark the end of the pain of losing their loved ones.

"We were prepared to do whatever we had to do [for the girls]... We had some of the hardest working lawyers," Kayla Wilkinson, senior marketing major and close friend to Emily Clark, said. "There's no amount of money or time that's going to make the days get easier. Every single day is going to be tough."



Two loved ones console each other. Families of the nursing students held back tears throughout the press conference.

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Newly elected SGA executive board looks to engage the student body

BY TANDRA SMITH AND ERIN MCGUINESS

The George-Anne staff and contributor



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN-WARREN TICKET

Elected president and vice president of SGA, Dylan John and Valencia Warren are eager to begin building relationships with the student body. Their campaign was very hands on and student oriented.

Dylan John and Valencia Warren were elected President and Executive Vice-President of the Student Government Association (SGA), after receiving 957 votes.

"Winning the election feels amazing. We had some students that came up to us that were very vocal about how they felt about our campaign and how they felt about how we were handling things and it was great," Warren said.

Warren is a senior logistics major that will be returning for graduate school in the fall for her masters in business administrations with a focus in logistics.

"The entire experience even with our opposition, has brought great friendships and valuable connections. The students are excited with us and we are excited with them and it's just an amazing feeling knowing we are getting ready to impact the students in a way that they have never been reached before," Warren said.

Almost 75 percent of the John-Warren ticket was elected by the student body to represent SGA. Included on the ticket were students from the Greek community, the Multicultural Student Center, international students and more.

"We made sure our ticket was very well positioned," John said.

John, who was born in Sri Lanka, is a senior construction management major that will also be returning to GS next fall for graduate school. John will be studying applied engineering with a focus in construction management.

Previous experience

John actually failed out of high school and said that college was not in the books for him. After coming to college, he wanted to change who he was and aspired to become active in his academics and student organizations.

John has been involved with 16 organizations, a few that he started himself at GS such as the Mock Mediation club and the Construction Management Association of America and has held 12 officer positions in his time at Georgia Southern.

"It's about dynamic thought and how you engage and how you strategize and I've learned that experience through mock mediation," John said. "I have six foundation words for my life: construction, business, mediation, training, diplomacy and international relations. If you look at my list of organizations they all relate to those six."

Both John and Warren started their college careers at different institutions, Warren at Valdosta State University and John at Middle Georgia State College. The newly elected SGA executives believe that their experience at different colleges has given them an insight to

the way other institutions run and allowed them to bring new ideas and perspectives on how to run a successful student organization.

During their campaign, the John and Warren ticket started a program called "Empower the Eagles" where they handed out two poker chips to a student, one to say that they invest in the student and think they are special at GS and another to pass along to someone else that the students wishes to invest in.

"[The poker chips] kind of captures what we want to do by reaching out individually to people and it was not something we advertised during the campaign because we wanted to connect with them on a personal level as well as unite GS," Warren said.

Campus Carry bill

Currently, some students, faculty and staff are concerned about the possible implementation of the campus carry bill in Georgia. However, John is against this bill.

"I am personally against it, as is our university administration. The most beautiful response [regarding campus carry] that I've heard was from our incoming president, Jaimie Herbert. He said statistics that may indicate that it's not going to be a campus safety problem," John said. "Regardless of the statistics, if one student is uncomfortable that is a problem."

Goals for upcoming year

As for next year, one of the things John wants to accomplish is being visible and transparent to the student body.

"It's about joining governments and I don't think we effectively do the trick down and we have to lead from the front and not sit back and expect engagement because that doesn't happen," John said.

Warren states that one of the issues that GS currently faces is the disconnect from the student organizations and SGA.

Warren hopes to build a strong relationship with the Office of Student Activities (OSA) to increase the connection between the student body.

John doesn't want to change student government but rather transform the way it runs by engaging students.

"We are not trying to reinvent the wheel, we are trying to make it spin better," John said. "From our survey, we saw that almost 80 percent of the students felt like they don't know who their representative are. We want to make a tangible effort to have student knowing and identifying who is representing them."

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TAHIR DAUDIER

Studying the stereotype of study drugs



Study drugs such as Adderall, Vyvanse and Ritalin are commonly found on college campuses and used in order to help one focus. The real effects of these drugs to those who are not perscribed can be far from beneficial.

BY KAT SHUMAN

The George-Anne staff

Note to reader: The following story contains accounts from students who share their experience with illegal study drugs. Their names are fictitious in order to protect to their identity.

As finals week approaches, the Henderson library will be full day and night as students work to finish term papers and cram for final exams. Parking will be impossible, study rooms will be full and many students, feeling overwhelmed with their workload, will turn to study drugs in attempts to maximize their study time.

"Study drugs" such as dextroamphetamine-amphetamine (trade name Adderall), methylphenidate (Ritalin) and lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse) are abused worldwide and especially so on college campuses during the months of December and May, when the majority of colleges end their semesters with finals week.

Adderall, Ritalin and Vyvanse are completely legal with a prescription. However, when used by students without prescriptions, they become Class II drugs.

Michael's Story:

"I didn't need to use in high school. I was probably a better student and studied more and not the night before the test." Michael*, a Georgia Southern student, recounts how his good study habits slipped away in college. He describes how he met new people in college and

became more outgoing than he was in high school.

"I got lazy and started doing my homework later, and it all caught up to me eventually," Michael* said.

He, like other students in college, uses study drugs. Michael* is not prescribed these medicines; he uses them because he believes they increase his focus and stamina when spending long nights in the library.

"I had a friend that told me that she was giving another friend Adderall, so I asked her for one," Michael* said.

That was the first time Michael* used study drugs. He had lots of homework due the next day and a test, so he decided to stay up all night depending on Adderall to keep him awake.

"I didn't feel tired. I felt pretty awake and felt like it was successful use of drugs," Michael* said.

An Academic View:

Georgia Southern professor, John Weaver, Ph.D., researches the posthuman condition, drugs and education, and popular culture. In his book, "Educating the Posthuman," Weaver cautions against the use of medicines like Adderall, Ritalin and Vyvanse. He believes that students have become a very drug-oriented culture and a pawn in a pharmaceutical game.

"Their [students] brains have become a market niche for pharmaceuticals and their bodies the new home for a little pill that removes the spirit

but helps them past a test," according to Weaver's book.

Weaver encourages students that, "there are better ways to deal with a heavy workload."

Mary's Story:

Mary*, another Georgia Southern student, used a friend's leftover study drugs as her first time. She said that she

"tried it, to try it." She said she cleaned her whole room and was quiet when she used study drugs for the first time. Mary* has continued to use study drugs since then.

"It forces me to stay awake and be productive. I think it's addicting. I have to focus and force myself not to do it. I can't just take it whenever. That

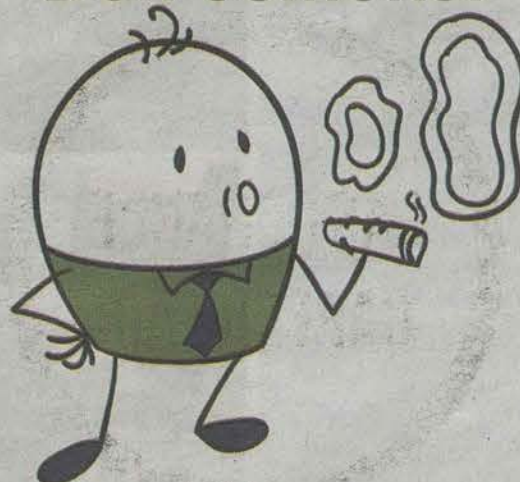
would be abuse," Mary* said.

Mary* believes that study drugs should be used when one needs an extra boost when work piles up.

STUDY DRUGS cont. page 8

College Health Tip #7

Don't smoke.



Premature wrinkles, dragon breath, smoker's cough and addiction. Who needs it?



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STUDY DRUGS continued

A Medical View:

Medical Director and Staff Physician at GS Student Health Services, Dr. Brian DeLoach, answered several questions about study drugs, such as, if Adderall, Ritalin and Vyvanse were linked to adult drug abuse.

"These medications, especially when taken by persons who do not have a diagnosed Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder [ADHD], do have the potential to be abused, and these individuals may develop tolerance, dependency and addiction to these medications," DeLoach said in an email.

DeLoach said that regardless of the type of medication, no one should ever take a prescription medication that was not prescribed for them specifically. These types of medications could have consequences such as:

1. Severe cardiac (ie, heart) side effects, increase the chance for an individual to have a seizure and have been associated with sudden death as well as depression, psychosis and violent or suicidal behaviors.

2. When taken by persons who do not really have ADHD, there is a much higher risk of that person developing an addiction to the medication and/or using it for its "upper" effects.

Richard's Story:

Richard has ADD and ADHD. He is prescribed Adderall, but admits to selling it. Richard* described his frustration with students who abuse study drugs.

"They [students who abuse] think Adderall will turn them into a supercomputer. That they can cram and ace an exam," Richard* said.

Richard* said that it is a serious stereotype that students prescribed to Adderall only make good grades because of the drugs, but he claims Adderall

them one." Richard* said.

A state law View:

Lieutenant Chris McBride works for the Criminal Investigations Department of Public Safety at Georgia Southern University. McBride said that under the Georgia State law, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription is a felony offense. One could go to prison more than a year and face a fine of more than one thousand dollars.

"Students think it helps them, but if you think it helps you, it's as simple as going to doctor and get a prescription. It's much easier that way," McBride said.

William's Story:

"It is what it is, right? I'm not an addict. I've never had problems,

staying focused, but with finals comes stress; you have to take it," William said.

William, a Georgia Southern student, recounts how high school was more structured and had a lighter workload than college. The freedom of college and the necessity of learning time management can intensify a student's pressure.

"I haven't used yet this semester. I did last semester, to focus on finals week. It's like I was hopping on the bandwagon, gonna see what's it's all about. It was in the heat of the moment. Like:

'Do you want to have one?' and I said, 'Sure.'"

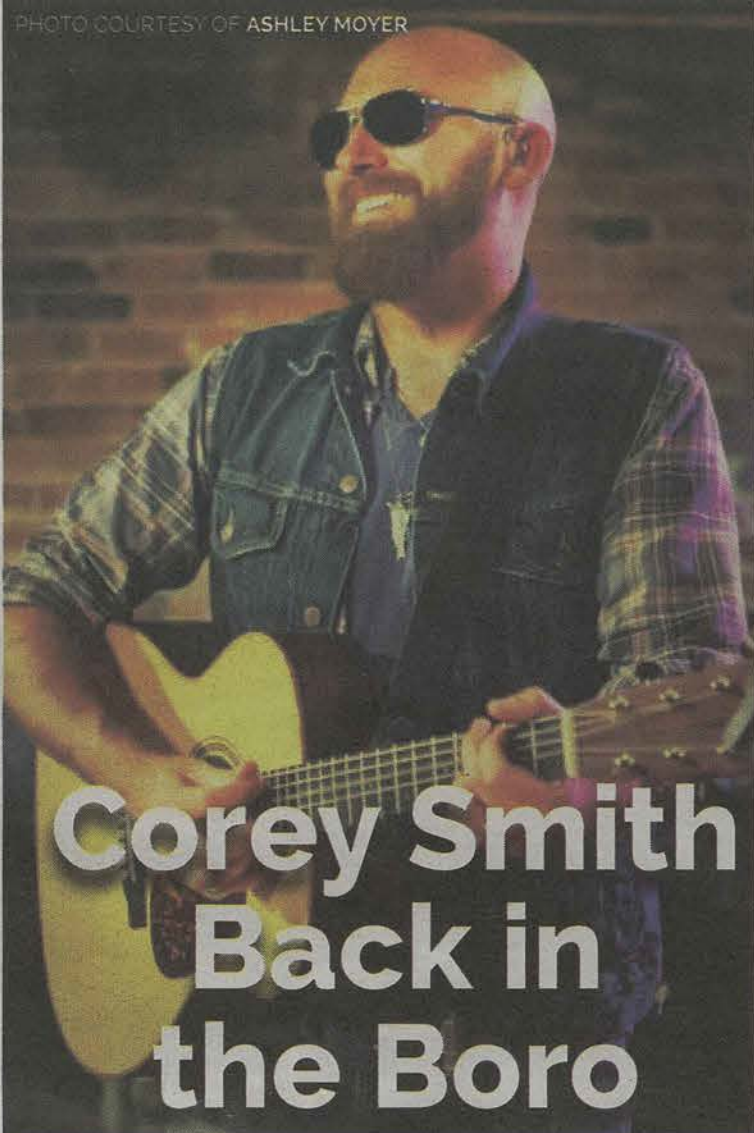
“It is what it is, right? I'm not an addict. I've never had problems staying focused, but with finals comes stress; you have to take it.”
WILLIAM*

helps people prescribed to the drug to do a normal amount of work in a normal amount of time.

Richard* has had a few people ask to buy his Adderall. He admits that he has sold it before, when coerced by manipulative peers.

"Once people find out, they pressure you to let them get it. You don't ever want to tell people that you take it. I was on campus, in the IT building somewhere, and I pulled my medicine out to take it. Some people jokingly asked for it, but like, they're serious about it. People get really aggressive in a passive way...They force you into giving them one or selling

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY MOYER



Songs from Corey Smith's new album "While the Gettin' is Good" will be played at South City, on May 5. Concert tickets can be purchased online.

BY ARAYA JACKSON

The George-Anne Staff

At first he was working day jobs and playing in small bar venues, like Retrievers, once or twice a month. Now, signed with a major record label from Nashville, Corey Smith has released his 10th album, "While the Gettin' is Good".

Smith has included Statesboro as a stop on his current tour, and he'll be playing at South City Tavern on Thursday, May 5.

Rare to find in an artist, Smith is a true singer/songwriter, writing each of his pieces himself.

"I don't write because I want to be on the radio, I don't try to write hits, I just write what I know and what makes me feel good and what I think is cool," Smith said in a phone interview.

His songs are a personal representation of himself and his experiences. According to his album's press release, this album explores themes of love, hometown pride and self-discovery. Smith has released multiple hits from "Fuck the Po-Po", "If I Could Do It Again" and "I'm Not Gonna Cry", which has been used at high-school graduations across the United States.

"I started playing music to make a difference. It's nice to know I can write something and it affects people's lives," Smith said.

"While the Gettin' is Good" album holds highly

anticipated songs from "Bend", "Taking The Edge Off" and "Blow Me Away." Working with Sugar Hill Records, Smith was able to go into an actual studio, edit, and mix his music the record label way for the first time.

"When people hear the difference, it's definitely there," Smith said.

Smith started out playing in college towns and bars, including right here in Statesboro, and it's a place where he feels very comfortable. He believes it to be his duty to invest back to the fans who have invested in him.

"It's a nice break from reality, it's an escape. It's why we play music," Smith said. "We focus on playing and hanging out and I hope an audience is just singing along and having their escape."

There's no better way to release after finals week and welcome in the summer than a good time at a country concert. Plus, it's Cinco de Mayo, and you'll probably be going out anyways. So grab your cowboy boots and a margarita to show Corey Smith a hell of a good GATA time. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from Xorbia Tickets online.

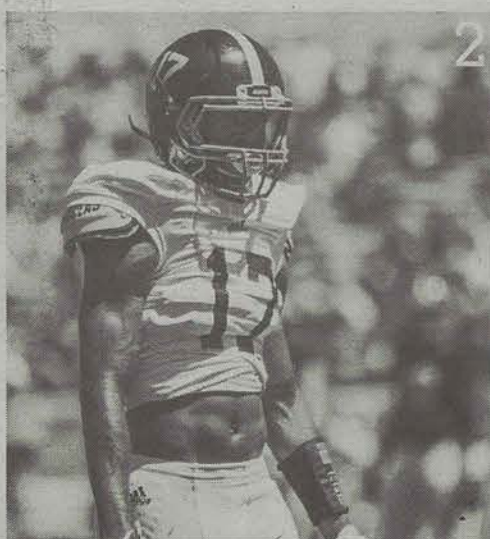
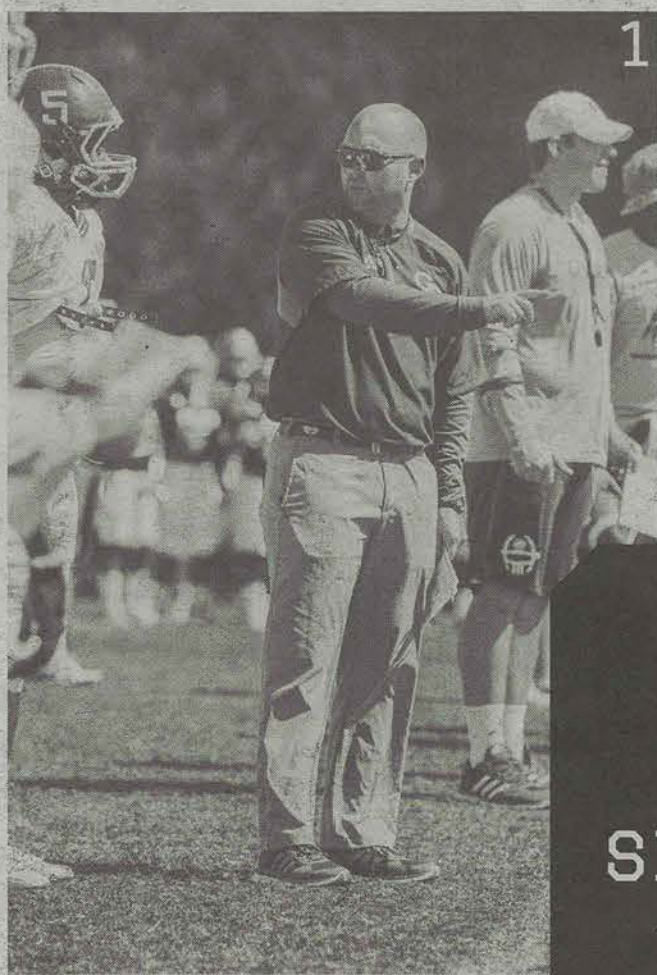
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EAGLES WRAP-UP SPRING PRACTICE

The football team has concluded spring ball, and will continue workouts this summer.



1. Coach Summers coaches up Darius Jones (5) at practice.
2. Malik Henry (17) rocking the crop-top.
3. Ryan Brown (26) carries the ball during a drill.
4. LeBaron Anthony (2) carries the ball on a QB keeper at the Blue-White game.
5. Chris DeLaRosa (34) makes a tackle at the line of scrimmage.

BY KELLY STROJNY
The George-Anne contributor

The 2016 GS football season is getting closer and the Eagles finished up spring practices and are getting ready for summer training and the upcoming season.

Head coach Tyson Summers shared how the team's progression has been with the last few practices and what he thinks the team needs to work on over the summer to help prepare for the fall season.

"I think we have had two good days this week," Summers said. "It gives us the opportunity to go in and watch the tape and make some decisions on some things that we're doing offensively and defensively and come back in and clean some things up. That was the idea of trying to have the

spring game a little bit early, so we could pick up another three or four practices."

The Eagles had their Blue-White game on April 16, which saw lots of energy and aggressiveness on the defensive side of the ball. One thing Summers has pointed out is that he is still looking for leaders on both sides of the ball that can rally their teammates when things don't go their way.

"As a unit we're getting better every day. It took us about ten practices to get into what we're supposed to do. Our guys have to step up and I think I have to step up as a leader too. We want to win every single game we can. We want to try to make it to the big bowl game," senior offensive lineman Andy Kwon said.

The team has also proactively worked on coming together

and building relationships on and off the field.

"Besides the football part, we want to become closer to each other every day as a family and just work with each other. Coach Summers emphasizes on how teams he won with were teams that were close to each other," Kwon said.

The players have adapted to the new staff in the short time they've had on the field, and are looking to build off that in the summer.

"Anytime you get change it's a little bit difficult, but I think we have come a long way since day one. I've seen a lot of progress in the team. As a team our goals are to be undefeated and go to the bowl game at the end of the year," junior linebacker Chris DeLaRosa said.

They will wrap up the spring with a few more practices to

help clean things up before the semester ends. They'll participate in workouts this summer on the field and in the weight room.

"We have to get more defined into what our assignments are and right now we put in a good bit on offense and defense. The biggest thing was that they came out the first week and I think that they had a lot of anxiety with the new staff and

the new practices. I think that they were extremely anxious when we started. Now I think that a lot of those things have become second nature to them," Summers said.

The team opens the 2016 season on Sept. 3, when they host Savannah State at Paulson Stadium.

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INSIDE THE MIND OF A RUNNER

Sophomore GS distance runner Rebecca Parker discusses how she prepares for a meet.

© KIARA GRIFFIN

The distance runners practicing on the track at Eagle Field. They will run again on April 28-30 at the Penn Relays.

BY DERIK WUCHTE
The George-Anne staff

On April 3 at the Florida Relays, sophomore Rebecca Parker broke Georgia Southern's school record in the 3000 meter steeplechase. She has been an important part of the school's distance running team this season for both track and cross country. Her success comes from the hard work she puts into running, but that success had to be founded before Parker could end up where she is today.

Parker started as a soccer player in high school. Cross country was collateral for her back in the day.

"I did [cross country] my

freshman year because of high school, to stay in shape for soccer," Parker said. "My sister kind of made me cause she wanted me to make the [cross country] varsity team. I hated it. I would walk into cross country meets and hated it. But then, that year, I made varsity. I was about to join another soccer team that summer. I started running like twice a day. I was like, 'I got to get into shape. I can't be that slow one in the back on the team.' And so, I kept running and then I got to cross country practice that next year. I was with our top runners."

With running, distance running in particular, Parker

found herself in a sport she could compete in. It had an organic flow to it unlike other sports. With soccer or tennis, an athlete needs to understand a list of complexities that start with serving or passing and end with collegiate-level performance. Track & field projects a different mentality onto its athletes.

"With other sports, you have to learn technique and there's so much to learn. With running, about anyone can run. Even if it's not competitive. I love the competitive aspect of it. It's my favorite. But, especially with the steeplechase, it's just something. The steeplechase gives you that extra something

to do. It's something to really focus on. I love and really enjoy doing it," Parker said.

The steeplechase is different than a traditional 3000 meter run. It includes hurdles and water jumps, which are jumps over a barrier into a small pit of water. Besides those obstacles, the rest of the run is linear around a normal outdoor track.

Parker is only a sophomore and to break a record at her year means room for improvement. When discussing her future achievements, her ambitions are set even higher.

"Time-wise, definitely, keep breaking my record. Maybe cut off a minute or

two in the 5K," Parker said. "Individually, I'd love to keep competing regionally in cross country and track. Maybe take the [track team] to regionals. Keep taking the team to these big competitions. To really compete against the top collegiate athletes; to be able to compete and keep getting higher up there in the level."

Parker plans to stay an Eagle and see how far the team can go while she is here. The season has a few competitions left, but, until it's all said and done, she will be working hard until the last event finishes.

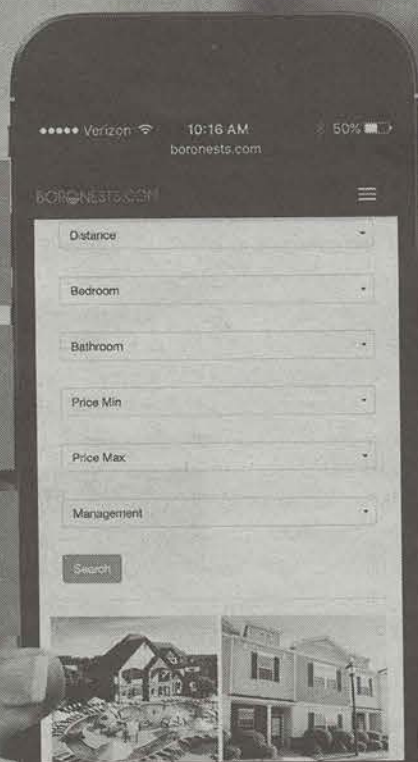
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GS Tennis teams knocked out of Sun Belt Championships

BY ROBERT GEORGE
The George-Anne staff

Both the Men's and Women's Tennis programs were eliminated in the first round of the conference tournament on Friday afternoon. The Men's team fell 2-4, and the Women's team 1-4.

The Men's team took on No. 2 seed South Alabama and came up just short. JC Alcala and Ze Moya were the only Eagles to win their matches on the day, as both earned points in singles competition. The team finished the season with a 15-7 overall record, ending one of the best seasons in the program's recent history.

"I commend the guys for having a good season, and looking back from a year ago, we made some strides.

It tells me we are on the right track as a program, and we have the right guys to make this program great," head coach Sander Koning said in an interview following the competition. "I believe we will really breakthrough as a program when we do that."

On the Women's side, the Eagles faced No. 5 seed Troy, a team that they had beaten a few weeks prior to the tournament. On Friday, however, Troy bested the Eagles 4-1. Guilia Repe won her singles match and was named to the Sun Belt Conference's All-Conference Second Team.

They finished the season 12-9 and 2-3 in the conference. With just two seniors on the team, the Eagles should continue to improve in the offseason and be ready for next year.



The man behind the mask

CJ Brazil has been a rock at catcher for the Eagles this season. The Marietta, Ga. native has started 35 of the 41 games this season.

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2016 stats for
CJ Brazil

Batting Average:
.256

Home Runs:
3

RBIs:
13

Runs:
27

Fielding percentage:
.992

BY KEVIN KENEELY
The George-Anne staff

Whether it is crouching behind home plate, making plays in the outfield, or standing in the batter's box, CJ Brazil endures everything the game of baseball throws at him.

Some people know him as "Sticks" because he wears the number 11, but his mom knows him as "Ceeg" and every once in a while his teammates will call him that whenever they hear his mom shout it from the stands.

He is easily the toughest man out on the field as in almost every game it seems he gets hit with a pitch or the follow through of the swing of a bat. In some cases, an opposing runner may even take him out at the plate in order to try to score a run.

Being fit and in shape has its ups and downs in terms of being a catcher. Sure it makes him nimble and quick, but his smaller size puts him in harms way of being taken out by a base runner.

This has never worried Brazil; he knows what its like to take a hit, as he also played high school football at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School.

"Being a catcher in the game, I feel like that's just something that you assume. Like when you're a receiver running across the middle, you kind of assume that you're going to get hit pretty hard by a linebacker," Brazil said.

Luckily for Brazil he has never had to worry about this, as it has always been illegal to take out the catcher at the high school, travel ball and college

levels. MLB has also come around recently enacting that rule into place prohibiting home plate collisions.

This rule recently caused havoc throughout the MLB as this play at the plate has always been one of the sport's most exciting plays, next to a base runner taking out a fielder to avoid a double play, but that's also illegal now.

"I don't want baseball to start being like football and becoming a little soft and taking out some of the rules," Brazil said.

Brazil has always been a huge fan of Yadier Molina, catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals. Molina is a prime example of a big league catcher who has for many years dealt with these potentially dangerous plays at home plate.

Molina is one of the greatest defensive catchers of all time and has a build that scared anyone trying to come home on him.

2012 was a different story for Molina as Josh Harrison, outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates, crushed Molina at the plate forcing Molina out of the game. What makes this story relevant is the fact that Molina, crushed and all, held onto the ball and the runner was called out at the plate.

That's exactly what Brazil is talking about when he says catchers have to be prepared and assume they are going to get hit. Molina did just that and saved his team a run in the process.

Brazil has had a few injuries himself over the years as he tore his meniscus

his senior year of high school in the first region game against St. Pius, rival high school to Blessed Trinity. And then just last year he tore his labrum.

Before these injuries and the reality that he may be just a step or two away from the MLB, Brazil grew up a fan of the sport.

With his parents being from New York, he was initially a fan of the New York Yankees, who have won the World

Series five times in his lifetime. But as he got older, he became a fan of the Atlanta Braves.

Ever since middle school, Brazil has been going to Turner Field with friends, family and teammates, which lead to the natural transition to becoming a Braves fan.

Brazil said, "And then you start actually knowing some people who play for the Braves, so it just becomes your home team."

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