The George-Anne

August 30, 2018

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Events on Campus

THURSDAY
- Intramural Sports Sign Up
- Open-Flag Football and Archery Tag All Day
  @ The RAC
- Bouldering Night Out 7:00pm
  @ The RAC

FRIDAY
- Student Organization Essentials Workshop 3:30pm
  @ The Russell Union Theater
- Women's Soccer vs. Stetson
  7:00pm
  @ Eagle Field

SATURDAY
- Shuttle to statesboro's main street farmers market 10:30am
  @ The Russell Union Drive
- Football Season Opener Against South Carolina State
  6:00pm
  @ Paulson Stadium

SUNDAY
- Women's Soccer vs. Davidson State 7:00pm
  @ Eagle Field

Weather Notes:
Look out for scattered storms at the first home game for the Georgia Southern football this weekend.

Organization Spotlight

Circle K International

We are a service-based organization. We volunteer locally: Joint Circle K International helps you meet new people, and it gives you the opportunity to make a difference in the world. Contact at Kg04004@georgiasouthern.edu

Circle K International (CKI) (Braden Vaughn, Vice President, Karina Guevara, President)
Major Slackerz

WITH ALL THE MONEY YOU SPENT ON THAT CAMO SHEET YOU COULD HAVE JUST BOUGHT THE PARKING PERMIT.

THEY CAN’T TICKET YOUR CAR IF THEY CAN’T SEE YOUR CAR.

Why I Can’t Cook

Let’s do this

AIEEE EEE

George-Anne: Vintage - “Super Goose” (12/20/15)

NOW THAT I’VE CAPTURED YOU, SUPER GOOSE, NO ONE CAN STOP ME, PROFESSOR F, FROM RUINING EVERYONE’S GPA!

POW!

Walking home from class in August

Georgia Heat

... and how it feels

J.D. McCarthy

But how, Super Goose? How did you break free from your bonds?

A simple mistake really...

You used duck tape...

LAAAME
TRIGGERISH BREAKDOWN

ASHLEY JONES
Ashley is a senior journalism major from Augusta.

Georgia Southern University has been surrounded by much controversy since the famous “Triggerish” incident transpired this past summer. Most students are aware of the poor choice of words and careless mistake, but for those of you who have been living under a rock, here’s the breakdown of events. For the context of this story, the sender is the student who sent the racial slur and the receiver is the one who received it.

Coming Again?

A GS student was becoming acquainted with their soon to be roommate, through text. In the midst of the two new roommates introducing themselves, the sender mistakenly sent a racial slur to the receiver, that she meant to send to her other white friend. The receiver, like any normal person screenshot the conversation and sent it to their friend who then shared the screenshot in a group message. Other recipients in the group message began to share the screenshot through social media and of course this private conversation became not so private.

GS students were outraged not only because the sender made the racist comment, but also because GS took little to no known action regarding the incident. I’m sure most students know that racism is still alive and well, but when it’s exemplified so close to home, it becomes surreal. Last year, I had all white roommates and after that incident surpassed, it made me think what did they really have to say about me behind closed doors? Did they see you as me or was I just another n-word to them.

Though the sender apologized to the receiver and insisted that it was auto-correct that made the mistake, there’s was no coming back from that horrific statement. Honestly the fact that the sender tried to challenge the receiver’s intelligence with such a malarky excuse was the “icing on the cake”. What infuriated me was the statement that the sender made, “Her insta looks pretty normal, not too n*ggerish”. So, her insta still looked a little n*ggerish just not too much to the point where you wouldn’t want to live with her? Like that isn’t the most blatant racist thought or comment I’ve ever heard. So now there’s levels to being black? Is this a thing amongst the non-African American community.

Who Was Wrong

The big argument in this situation was who was wrong? Many students said hands down, the sender was in the wrong, which I also agree with. However, if we look at this incident in the context of the law, what the sender said was meant for a friend in a private conversation. She just so happen to make an imprudent mistake and sent the text in the wrong private conversation. If we were operating in terms of the law, it’s actually the friend of the receiver who posted the private conversation to the web that would actually face repercussions for breaking privacy laws. With that being said, being racist in private, still makes you a racist. This incident shed a light on GS that needs to be shown. Quiet racism is a big deal around campus and we can continue to quietly hate other races or we can try to find the root of the problem and fix it.

Takeisha Brown, director of the Multicultural Center, gave me her opinion on the matter.

“Takesha Brown is the Director of the Multicultural Center for Georgia Southern University.

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their historical themes in terms of racism and the history of race in the United States and what means for people of color and not only in institutions of higher learning, but also just as you go about your everyday life. The history that people feel with that word. So there’s a lot of conversation amongst different generations of black folks about what the n-word means and how a lot of young people will use it more casually in conversations whereas a lot of older people like our grandparents and other people are like you said the n-word that pretty much like any other four letter words that considered profanity. With the response you kind of have to understand where people are coming from, I think for a lot of people it wasn’t so much that people were angry at her because their probably was some anger at her, but it was also more so the historical context around it. We’re in this situation where people struggle with racism and that’s something that our country has always struggled with, so when these situations happens it’s like tearing a band-aid of a scar that’s not healed,” Brown said.

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Situations at night:

offered safety tips to help Statesboro Police Department, information specialist for Madison Warren, community kidnapping of three women, suspect's suicide investigation following continue kidnapping Statesboro Police

CANDLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PHOTO COURTESY OF

Bradley Justin Cochran, 40, was accused of kidnapping three women in Statesboro and driving them to Candler County.

The Georgia Bureau of investigations released a photo of the car Cochran lit on fire.

The women fled the vehicle on foot and Cochran fled the area in the stolen vehicle. All three women were found and are safe.

Statesboro Police offer safety tips to stay safe at night

BY SHIANN SIVELL
THE GEORGE-ANNE STAFF

In light of Sunday’s kidnapping of three women, Madison Warren, community information specialist for Statesboro Police Department, offered safety tips to help students avoid dangerous situations at night:

• Try not to be out alone, there’s safety in numbers.
• Always be aware of your surroundings. Try not to go into areas you’re unfamiliar with. If you have to, try not to be out their alone or note the nearest building.
• When in a car, always keep doors locked, and don’t roll down your window for strangers.
• Try not to park beside a van without windows or with sliding doors. If one pulls in beside you, get in or out on the opposite side.
• Try to park under a light when driving at night.
• If you ever feel like you’re being followed, go back into the building you just left. Do not get into your vehicle alone.

Madison said that students who feel followed should call the Appalachian Judicial Circuit Superior Courts with one of the conditions being that he enroll in a drug treatment plan in Statesboro.

On Sunday, Cochran left the residential program where he had been staying and checked into a motel on South Main Street, according to the SPD's press release. Nine hours later, Cochran committed the kidnapping and carjacking of the three victims.

According to the SPD's press release, the SPD had no contact with Cochran since his arrival in Statesboro in 2017. Cochran did not know the victims and apparently chose them at random.

The SPD said the investigation is still active and asks anyone with information concerning the case to contact the SPD at (912) 764-9911. Anonymous tips can also be submitted to www.tipsoft.com or by texting a tip to “TIPSSPD plus your message” to 274637.

Statesboro Police continue kidnapping investigation following suspect's suicide

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER AND EMMA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

A man accused of kidnapping three women in Statesboro on Sunday was found dead in Metter on Monday.

Bradley Justin Cochran is believed to have kidnapped three women in the Food World parking lot off Fair Road. According to a Facebook post by Statesboro Police Department, his death was the result of an apparent suicide.

According to a press release from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, information indicates that Cochran, armed with a knife, forcefully entered a vehicle occupied by the three victims and forced them to drive to Candler County where he sexually assaulted and threatened them.

The women fled the vehicle on foot and Cochran fled the area in the stolen vehicle. All three women were found and are safe.

Statesboro Police also discovered a burning vehicle behind the Growers Supply store on Lillian Street around 10:15 p.m. Sunday night. They believe Cochran stole the vehicle from one of the victims before driving it to Metter and setting it on fire.

Investigation continues

The SPD said in a press release Wednesday that the investigation of the kidnapping will continue despite Cochran committing suicide.

In a press release, the SPD said they discovered that Cochran was a resident of Pickens County, Georgia until 2017.

Cochran has two pending criminal cases in Pickens County, including a 2016 arrest for possession of methamphetamine and a 2017 arrest for child molestation, according to the SPD’s press release.

Cochran was released on bond for both charges through the Counties.

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Statesboro to adopt underage permits for certain bars

BY EMMA SMITH
THE GEORGE-ANNE STAFF

The underage permit will allow patrons under the age of 21 to attend bars for live performances. It is expected to be enacted by the end of 2018.

The Statesboro City Council voted to adopt an Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance amendment to create an “underage permit” for certain bars.

The permit will allow these bars to admit customers under 21 for live performances.

There is currently no set date for the permit to be adopted, but it is expected to be around the end of the year, City Attorney Cain Smith, said.

About the permit

The permit will be enacted in pubs and bars with fully-operating kitchens, Smith said.

Chapter six of the City of Statesboro Code of Ordinances defines a bar with kitchen as “any public place with its primary business being the service of alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption that has an adequate and sanitary kitchen and dining room equipment.”

A pub is defined as any public place serving alcoholic beverages with “40 percent or more of its total annual gross sales of from the sale of prepared meals.”

The permit also enables 18 to 20-year-olds to remain on the bars’ premises after 10 p.m.

"With the permit, these establishments are able to choose their ‘Cinderella hour’, or when everyone has to leave," Cain Smith City Attorney

Owners of these bars are allowed to apply for an underage permit, and if they receive it they would be allowed to hold up to 12 events per year open to patrons under 21.

They would have to notify city hall no less than 10 business days prior to the events being held, which can only be under certain circumstances.

The kitchens must be open and serving food for the entire event, and all events must be either live musical concerts or performing arts presentations.

“It’s not like we’re just going to have an 18-and-up night, it’s got to be in conjunction with something,” Smith said.

Smith said the rules of the permit are in response to Michael’s Law.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar said he supports the decision to approve the law because he feels it allows establishments to create an environment for new Georgia Southern students.

“It offers business owners the opportunity to cater students coming to Statesboro that are going to be looking for things to do while providing a safe environment as well,” McCollar said. “I think we’re moving in the right direction as far as creating alcohol ordinances.”

For more information regarding the permit, contact Statesboro City Council at (912) 764-5468.
Online Registration
Aug 20 - Sept 4

Play Begins
September 10

NEW SPORT!

Online Registration
Aug 20 - Sept 4

Play Begins
September 17

Register at IMLeagues.com/GeorgiaSouthern

LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING?

Multiple positions in product marketing, events, social media, and internal organization event planning.

All majors welcome.

Internship credit available as well!

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Ironhead Gallon extends NFL career, signs with Super Bowl champions

The Philadelphia Eagles, announced Monday their signing of former Georgia Southern safety Deshawntee “Ironhead” Gallon. Gallon signed as an undrafted free agent with the Philadelphia Eagles Monday.

“[I’m] very excited about Ironhead Gallon being able to sign with the Philadelphia Eagles today,” GS Head Coach Chad Lunsford said. “I know he’s very excited about it and we’re very happy for him.”

Philadelphia’s roster is at 90 now and must be trimmed to 53-man roster by Saturday, Sept. 1.

At GS, Gallon was named the All-Sun Belt team in Sept. 1. At the Eagles, Gallon joins a stout defense, according to ESPN NFL Draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr.

Ironhead Gallon (27) racked up 102 total tackles his senior season earning him First Team All Sun Belt honors. Gallon was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles Monday.

“Blind Willie” McTell statue to be unveiled Friday

The unveiling ceremony for the “Blind Willie” McTell statue, which will be placed outside the Statesboro Convention Visitors Bureau, will be held Friday morning.

Marc Moulton, Georgia Southern University art department graduate program director, was selected to construct the sculpture.

“He’s a very impressive sculptor, and he was great to work with,” Bob Mikell, chairman of the Blue Mile Statesboro Stars, said. “But also, the whole Blue Mile Project is an effort by the community and GS to create closer ties, physically and symbolically, so to have him be the sculptor of someone who’s important to the community, Blind Willie was a great fit.”

Blind Willie was born in 1903 and was blind from infancy. McTell went on to become a blues legend, being inducted into the Blues Foundation’s Blues Hall of Fame in 1981 and the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 1989.

“We wanted someone who really celebrated the culture of Statesboro,” Mikell said.

The unveiling ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 31, from 8:30-9:30 a.m and will feature representatives from the Blue Mile Committee.

Statesboro hosts its first Downtown Getdown

Statesboro is hosting its first Downtown Getdown on Friday on East Main Street from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The goal of the event is to bring people into the community and students from GS together to celebrate before the first football game of the season against South Carolina State.

“I thought that this was an excellent opportunity to get the students up on campus and the community together in a situation where we can celebrate kicking off a new year for Georgia Southern University,” Mayor Jonathan McCollar said.

The event, which has partnered with organizations like Coca-Cola, will also feature local vendors, bands, line dancing and family-friendly activities. GS mascot Gus and other members from GS Athletics are expected to attend as well.

“Statesboro has a very beautiful downtown, and we want to show it off and introduce it to those students that [are] coming in [who are] brand new to the area,” McCollar said.

According to its website, a portion of the funds raised at Downtown Getdown will be donated to local charities that the community votes for.

No bed bugs found in Henderson Library

Georgia Southern University found no evidence of bed bugs in Zach Henderson Library following a student complaint on social media.

On Thursday night, a GS student’s tweet went viral after posting photos of what looked like bed bug bites when she was in the library Monday night.

GS hired Knox Pest Control to inspect the library this week. No bed bugs were found.

“I don’t know what the cause might have been, but so far we have no evidence of any bed bugs,” Bede Mitchell, dean of libraries, said.

This is not the first time that bed bugs have been reported in the library. Mitchell said there were bugs found in a localized area of the library during the summer of 2017.

“Now, because it was summer and there weren’t that many students around, we did go ahead and close the library for several days so that they could confirm that it was not anywhere else in the library, and so that they could mitigate thoroughly in the area without anybody being around,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell also said that the GS Student Health Services confirmed that the student did not have bed bug bites.

The student later said on Twitter that a visit to the doctor confirmed that the bites are not bed bugs but some type of skin
Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column, and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium, and difficult.

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flannigan

Level: Difficult

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7 8 3 6 1 9 2 4 5
9 5 2 4 7 1 3 6 8
1 4 6 8 3 2 7 9 5
3 7 1 9 6 5 4 8 2
2 9 8 5 4 7 1 3 6
4 6 5 2 1 3 9 8 7
6 3 7 1 8 9 5 2 4
5 2 9 3 7 6 8 1 4
8 1 4 7 5 2 6 9 3
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Level: Easy

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6 3 8 1 7 2 5 4 9
2 7 1 5 9 4 8 6 3
3 5 9 4 2 8 7 1 6
9 1 4 2 7 6 3 8 5
6 5 7 8 4 3 4 9 2
3 4 8 6 5 1 2 7 9
7 9 6 3 1 4 5 2 8
1 9 3 5 6 2 4 7 8
5 8 4 7 3 9 6 2 1
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To contact the creative editor-in-chief, email prodmg@georgiasouthern.edu
Even though there is a drug that is considered a cure for acne, dermatologists will prescribe anything else to college aged students before using it due to the potential risks it can cause to its patients.

This medication is Isotretinoin, which is basically a retinoid or a strong derivative of vitamin A. When a high dose of vitamin A is taken, it can decrease the amount of sebum oil in the body which will then decrease the severity of acne.

Since the age of 12, Nikki Schulz, a 22-year-old senior psychology major at Georgia Southern University, has been seeing a dermatologist for her acne. Since then, she has experimented with various medications, ointments and face washes to be able to manage the deep, painful cystic acne.

“While I was 21 and my acne was still really bad, I didn’t think that was normal,” Schulz said. “It was getting to the point where it was painful, the cystic acne. So, I just decided it was time [to try Isotretinoin]. I tried everything else.”

Schulz started Isotretinoin at the end of 2016 and stayed on the medication for a course of about nine to 10 months. The average length of treatment lasts between five to six months.

“According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 85 percent of people between the ages 12-24 experience some form of acne. For patients on Isotretinoin though, the acne is far worse as they experience painful cystic acne that goes far deeper in the skin.

Many patients that are recommended for Isotretinoin have become resistant to all other forms of treatment and when they stop treatment, they will experience very little to no acne.

Dr. Morgan Thakore, dermatologist at Harmonie Medical in Evans, Georgia and assistant professor of dermatology at Augusta University, said dermatologists will treat regular acne with other options first.

“The main concern with it is females that are on Accutane [Isotretinoin] cannot get pregnant so that’s why it is very closely regulated,” Thakore said.

Schulz said that her doctors made sure that she was taking the necessary precautions.

“They did make sure I was signing off, that I was taking a birth control pill and made sure that if I was having sex, we were using condoms,” Schulz said.

**Side effects for pregnant women**

Although this medication can be beneficial to people who experience painful cystic or nodular acne, this drug is quite controversial. The main issue is female patients who get pregnant while taking the drug, regularly experience miscarriages.

“Due to the risk of severe birth defects and/or death to a fetus exposed to the drug in-utero, any woman who is pregnant or may become pregnant should never take the medication,” Dr. Brian DeLoach, medical director at GS’ Health Services, said.

If a patient were to get pregnant with high doses of vitamin A in her system, it could cause a miscarriage, premature birth, birth defects or even developmental/intellectual disabilities.

Since the early 1980s when the company Roche put Isotretinoin on the market under the brand name Accutane, programs have been implemented to prevent patients from getting pregnant while on it. Some of these have included the Accutane Pregnancy Prevention Program, the System to Manage Accutane Related Teratogenicity and iPledge programs.

**iPledge**

Today, there is the iPledge program, which is a national database where each patient, prescriber and pharmacy must be certified before being able to work with the Isotretinoin medication.

The iPledge program currently requires female patients to sign a contract stating that if they are to engage in sexual intercourse, they will use two forms of birth control. Not only that, but they are subjected to monthly pregnancy tests, blood panels and quizzes before they can get pregnant.

The FDA issues a “black box” warning—the highest warning—on the medication Isotretinoin to inform patients of fetal abnormalities that could occur if women were to get pregnant.

Timeline information courtesy of medshadow.org

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**BY TARA BAILEY**

The George-Anne staff

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The Food & Drug Administration approved to put Isotretinoin under the brand name Accutane.

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1982 1984 2005

1982 The Food & Drug Administration approved to put Isotretinoin under the brand name Accutane.

1984 The FDA issues a “black box” warning—the highest warning—on the medication Isotretinoin to inform patients of fetal abnormalities that could occur if women were to get pregnant.

(Aug.) The FDA puts out an alert on Isotretinoin that recommend that patients are observed in changes in their mood.

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Page designed by Jayda Spencer To contact the features editor, email gaartsandent@georgiasouthern.edu
NOT TO USE ACNE CURING DRUG

Despite the efforts to prevent pregnancy, a study published in the Journal of American Academy of Dermatology found that there are approximately 2.7 pregnancies for every 1,000 treatments of Isotretinoin.

If a woman were to get pregnant, she would need to immediately talk with her doctor, Thakore said. “It can cause very bad developmental outcomes so it’s usually something if a female were by chance to get pregnant while they’re taking the medicine. Typically, they would have to terminate the pregnancy or they would be very like to miscarry,” Thakore said. “We do very extensive counseling regarding that.” This does not mean that female patients are forced to abort the child, but rather that they would need to go to counseling to figure out their options moving forward.

Unlike females, males are not subjected to the same regulations. Before receiving each prescription, they only need to check up with their doctor once a month and then answer the questions via the iPledge website.

Despite the potential risks, Thakore explains that it can still be a great option for those suffering from severe acne. Thakore said, “We certainly don’t always start with it but a lot of times if people have really bad acne and tried and failed lots of other things, then Accutane [Isotretinoin] can be a great medication.”

SIDE EFFECTS:

Dry lips and mouth • Minor swelling of the eyelids or lips • Crusty skin

• Nosebleeds • Upset stomach • Thinning of hair

If any of these effects persist or worsen, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Information courtesy of WebMD.

FDA introduces the iPledge program in order to prevent women from getting pregnant while on the medication.

2005

2007

FDA warns people about buying the medication online because it can prevent patients from taking it safely.

2007 & 2010

The FDA updated the iPledge program to ensure that patients do the following: agree to use two forms of birth control, take monthly pregnancy tests, and prescribers and pharmacists are iPledge certified.
EAGLES HOST BULLDOGS IN FIRST GAME OF LUNSFORD ERA

BY McCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne Staff

The first opportunity for the Georgia Southern football team to put the 2017 season behind them comes Saturday as South Carolina State comes to town.

The Bulldogs are the Eagles’ lone FCS opponent this season, and the two teams haven’t met since 2010 when GS won 41-16 in Paulson. The Eagles are 7-0 against the Bulldogs and are 35-2 all-time against MEAC teams. And while all these records are good, history won’t matter on Saturday. There’s a sense of uncertainty in the opening week for GS’ game plan, especially because the Eagles don’t know which quarterback SCST will go with. “They’ve got two guys,” Head Coach Chad Lunsford said. “The second guy they have listed on their two-deep, he looks like he may be the starter now. Seems to be a guy that has more play-making ability.” The guy who’s one on the Bulldogs’ quarterback depth chart is redshirt-junior Dewann Ford. At quarterback in 2017, Ford threw for more than 1,700 yards and eight touchdowns in 10 games. He also flexed his dual-threat ability as their second-leading rusher with 354 yards and two touchdowns. The guy who is two is sophomore Tyrece Nick from Johnston, South Carolina. Nick played in four games for the Bulldogs in 2017 picking up 27 passing yards and 84 rushing yards. So it’s unsure who the Eagles will see Saturday night, but Lunsford said that they will be ready for anything. “Going into the season, these first couple of games are hard because they’re basically just guessing games,” Lunsford said.

On the defensive side for SCST, the Bulldogs will have a lot of guessing as well. The defensive only returns six starters from a year ago to face a GS offense that also doesn’t have an extensive film to go off of outside of the backfield. In the same way the Eagles are going through a new era from the top, the Bulldogs have an interim defensive coordinator and a new offensive coordinator. Bennett Swygert will be the offensive coordinator for SCST and Jonathan Saxon fills the interim defensive coordinator slot after serving the past three seasons as linebackers coach.

GS has won the last 20 non-conference games played in Paulson and they look to extend that streak to 21 Saturday, Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.

SPECIAL TEAMS TO BE A ROCK WITH BASS AND BAUERLE KICKING

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

With big returning players to special teams this year like Tyler Bass, we should expect to see some big results this season.

Kicking-wise, Bass is pretty solid having made 80 percent of his field goals as he made 15 of 19 field goals attempted. To add onto that, out of the 15 made, 13 of those were from 40-49 yards out.

The redshirt junior was also an asset in kickoffs, averaging 64 yards per kickoff and accumulating 3,457 yards throughout the season. Compared to the opponent’s average of 58.1 yards that’s pretty impressive.

Bass is also the only Sun Belt kicker to be named to the Lou Groza Award preseason watch list, so great things are expected of him this season.

Replacing Myles Campbell at punt returner for the Eagles is sophomore Wesley Kennedy III, who last season averaged 15.67 yards on punt returns as a true freshman. Kennedy was also a huge asset as a kickoff returner while he collected 70 yards total from the two kickoffs he returned.

Another old face coming back is redshirt sophomore Magill Bauerle who will be assumed to take the spot of punter Matt Flynn who was a redshirt senior last season and graduated.

But there are some new faces this year that will be sure to be an asset to the special teams, one of those being freshman Anthony Beck II. The punter holds every school record for punting from his alma mater South Effingham High as well as being named a 2017 all-state region 5A punter by Recruit Georgia.

There are big expectations from this season as a whole from the football team, but it looks like special teams are ready to fulfill their side of the bargain.
Behind an experienced secondary and a new coordinator, the defense looks to anchor team

RYAN KOSTENSKY
The George-Anne staff

With the 2018 College football season just days away, Georgia Southern looks to right the ship and return back to the tradition of winning they once new and loved.

A season after finishing 2-10, which put the Eagles at 117th overall out of 130 FBS teams, a new coaching staff and a new culture is finding its way into Statesboro, an idea that gives fans hope everywhere around.

How the team finishes in the upcoming season has a lot to do with how the defense plays. Last season, the Eagles gave up 32.2 points per game, while only scoring on average, 20.8 points per game, so looking at why they finished with only two wins shouldn’t be quite the mystery. Opponents averaged 180 rushing yards per game, and over 230 passing yards per game. Per game overall, opponents averaged 410 yards a game, an astronomically high number.

In the off-season, Chad Lunsford had his ‘interim coach’ title removed when he became the new head coach of Georgia Southern University, and he brought along Scot Sloan from rival Appalachian State, where Sloan coached for eight seasons. Sloan was the Mountaineers’ secondary coach until 2017, when he was promoted to co-defensive coordinator. Sloan helped lead App State’s defense to become perennially elite, and his 3-4 defense brings hope to GS that they can find some of that magic.

The combination of leadership and a new scheme looks positive for the Eagles in becoming better defensively, but it all starts with the big men up front. In a group full of young talent just waiting to be developed, there are two seniors to watch—Deshon Cooper, a redshirt-senior defensive end out of Atlanta, and Logan Hunt, a senior defensive end out of Sandersville, Georgia. These two players will be vital in wreaking havoc on opposing quarterbacks, making the jobs of the linebacker core and defensive backfields much easier.

All-in-all, look for GS to show improvements on the defensive side of the ball and no more 400 yard passing games.

The Georgia Southern football team struggled to put up points in 2017, but now with a more experienced and comfortable offense, the Eagles should be able to drive the football much more efficiently.

The Eagles’ offense seemed to be uncomfortable for most of last season, and it showed on the scoreboard. They averaged just over 20 points per game, in large part due to trying to shake up their game plan from the traditional triple-option style. This season, the Eagles plan to revert back to that old-school option look, with a few slight modifications, and they will do so with a much more experienced roster. The offensive depth chart shows the Eagles planning to start no freshmen, instead they will line up with players who all have some experience at the collegiate level.

Most notably of those players who now have experience under their belt is starting quarterback, Shai Werts. Now a sophomore, with a year of starting experience, you have to feel that expectations are on the rise for the Eagles’ QB.

If Werts is able to feel more confident in the pocket and under center, you have to start to like the Eagles’ chances, especially with a running back in the backfield like Wesley Fields.

Fields, a senior, is expected to be the veteran leader for the offense this fall. The explosive playmaker was named to the Doak Walker Award Watch List for 2018, an award giving out to the nation’s best college football running back.

With the experience and leadership the Eagles can now boast on the offensive side of the ball, they have much higher expectations for the 2018 season.
The fall of Urban Meyer leads to the rise of citizen journalism

Several weeks ago, Brett McMurphy broke the news about his findings in former Ohio State assistant football coach Zach Smith’s domestic abuse of his wife. McMurphy, a journalist who was laid off by ESPN last year during their mass layoff, wasn’t signed with any media outlet and posted a well-written, AP-style article on his personal Facebook page.

This journalist and tycoon of breaking news in the college football realm investigated and reported on a serious issue, casting a dark shadow on a man once idolized for his prestige on the sideline. McMurphy unveiled allegations of Meyer having knowledge of Smith’s abuse and not reporting it, which isn’t in compliance with NCAA Title IX laws.

The Buckeyes’ head coach was suspended a mere three games for his inability to come forward and confess to what he knew of Smith’s domestic abuse of his wife, Courtney Smith. Three games. Three non-conference, meaningless, low-competition games. He won’t be paid for those three weeks, but Meyer is still the proprietor of a contract that will pay him $5.7 million in 2018.

If the scene wasn’t so heavy, the Board of Trustees’ decision would be laughable. This whole investigation and “this situation,” as Meyer pathetically called it, was uncovered by a journalist that had been laid off by one of the biggest sports media outlets in the world just a year before. A citizen journalist who, despite criticism from other mediums and Buckeye Nation trying to negate everything he said, reported the truth in a time where the truth can be a smokescreen.

It’s not news that journalism is under attack. President Trump has tried to make the media and those who deliver “fake news” the villain in America countless times. There’s now a negative dialogue toward all kinds of media on all sides of the political spectrum.

The news here is that the resilience of the journalist will not be denied. We see this with McMurphy and Meyer. We saw it with Larry Nassar. We saw it with Jerry Sandusky. And we will continue to see journalists take down prominent sports figures.

The truth is out there, and as long as there are journalists and people in the media who seek to find and deliver the facts, the truth will prevail.

McClain Baxley

McClain Baxley is a junior journalism major from Cumming.
EAGLES TO TRAVEL TO TUCSON FOR MATCHUP WITH PAC-12 CHAMPIONS

BY RYAN PYE

Although the entire 2018-2019 schedule has not been completely set, the Georgia Southern Basketball team knows of at least one more opponent they will face off against in late November, the Arizona Wildcats. As first reported by the Tucson Star, the Wildcats are playing Georgia Southern in replacement of their originally scheduled game against Texas Southern. When it was first released, the overall difficulty of Arizona’s nonconference schedule was brought into question, so the school decided to replace Texas Southern with the Eagles, who are ranked 69 spots higher than the Tigers, in hopes to improve their strength of schedule. Regardless of their schedule, Arizona has been a national powerhouse of college basketball in recent years, and the game marks a huge chance for the Eagles to gain national attention and respect in the basketball community.

With the Eagles having to replace two starters from last year’s squad, traveling to Tucson to square off against the Wildcats will be quite the challenge, and naturally the Eagles will more than likely be a large underdog.

Georgia Southern’s match up with Arizona is set for Thursday, November 29, from McKale Center in Tucson. The rest of the non-conference opponents that the Eagles will face off against in 2018-19 are set to be announced sometime next week.

A BOWL GAME ISN’T TOO FAR OUT OF REACH

Ryan Kostensky

Georgia Southern kicks off their 2018 season in just days from now, hosting FCS foe South Carolina State University, looking to right the wrongs from the previous season. As if anyone needs to be reminded, the Eagles went 2-10 in 2017, including losses to both rivals (Georgia State, Appalachian State) and a neutral-field loss to the FCS school, New Hampshire. With six home games on the 2018, an oddity for the Eagles as of late, the results of home games will most likely influence whether or not they go bowling for the first time in years. These home games, however won’t be easy. Georgia Southern sees App State, Troy, and Arkansas State all roll into Statesboro through the course of the season, and the teams that finished in the top of the Sun Belt a year ago.

So what will this team look like in the 2018 season? I believe they will take a step up on both sides of the ball, but the major improvements will be seen on the offensive side. Shai Werts, the redshirt-sophomore quarterback is set to take over for his second season in the position, so with a full year under his belt, I expect the team will be far more productive than the year prior. Defensively, this team will perform better than last year, they are more experienced and with the new 3-4 defensive scheme that was installed in the offseason, look for Georgia Southern to take a step up. If a prediction had to be made about the upcoming season, I’d say that the Eagles make it to the six-win plateau for the first time since 2015, getting them into what’s been the all elusive bowl appearance. Georgia Southern finishes 7-6, with a victory in their bowl game.
Both basketball teams were able to defend Hanner on Saturday.

The women’s team got their first conference win of the season, while the men got back on track after two consecutive losses. Both teams travel to Arkansas this weekend to...