Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate
STACEY ABRAMS

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OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

TAKESHIA BROWN discusses
the “N”-word Project

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Things you need to know
GS VS NEW MEXICO

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Weekend Calendar

**Thursday**
- Auxiliary Services Job Fair @ Russell Union Ballroom 2 p.m.
- Wild West at Lakeside @ Lakeside Dining Commons 5 p.m.

**Friday**
- Vered Kater: Resilience in Spite of Continuous Disaster Threats and Events @ Hendricks Hall, 2001 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Men’s Soccer vs. Georgia State @ Eagle Field 7 p.m.

**Sunday**
- Georgia Southern University Department of Music presents Jennifer Haselman & Vance Jones, voice @ Foy Building 5 p.m.

**Tips**

How to Keep Long Distance Relationships

“Long distance relationships never work out” is what you often hear once you start dating. A lot of people have pessimistic views on how much distance a relationship can withstand, but it’s always nice to hope that love is stronger than other people say it is.

1. Be friends first
2. Communicate... but not too much
3. Set Rules and Boundaries
4. Be Committed
5. Set a Deadline
6. Make Plans
7. Go the Extra Mile to Show You Care

By Alexi Simpson

**Organization Spotlight**

Black Student Alliance

Black Student Alliance is a multicultural student organization that focuses on minority students, faculty, and staff. Our main purpose is to unite those of Georgia Southern. We have a lot to offer and activities to offer within our sub committees, including URBAN ACT, Public Relations, Social Events, Fundraising, and Blaqshion. Contact us at blackstudentalliance.gsu@gmail.com

**WGGSU?**

How do you feel about couples who shack up together?

Dautri Erwin (Center)

“If you get married with somebody you’re going to be living with them for a long time, forever you say. But if you don’t know how they live and you can’t live with that, I’m not sure if it’s going to fly, if this is going to work so I need to test that out before I hop into something.”

If you want to know more about what’s good at Georgia Southern’s Campus check out more videos at thecirclegsu.com
Caption This!

Winning Caption: “Coy, this is mom, shouldn’t you be studying?”
- Marni Kirkland, @kirklandMarni

Honorable mention: “Pop, lock, and please take this”
-Yung Jodi, @lady_jeaux13
Is the George-Anne perpetuating the idea that the media is biased?

OLIVIA THOMPSON
Olivia is an English major minoring in political science.

Our student media seems to pride itself on inclusion of all people from different walks of life, but I have recently found that this is not the case. The George-Anne is not fairly reporting on political parties and the opinions of those parties at Georgia Southern. It seems as if they are cherry-picking what they want to report based on their own political opinions or agendas.

Specifically, this includes posting an article that features gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams. While it is evident that her opponent Brian Kemp has not come to Georgia Southern to speak, The George-Anne has missed opportunities to report on all sides of politics rather than just the liberal viewpoint.

Last year, the National Rifle Association came to Georgia Southern to hold an information session on campus carry; yet the only local news source to report this was WTOC. In a September article, The George-Anne visits the campus carry law again, yet the author of the article cites no more oppositional responses to the bill than support of it. This article also could misrepresent the true feelings of Georgia Southern students as a Twitter poll could easily skew numbers in favor of opposing the bill, and there is no mention of the small number of students who voted in this poll.

It seems as if the most recent news article posted on The George-Anne’s website about Republicans was in 2016. Other articles that have been published more recently such as “The Greatest Show on Earth” and “Hollywood vs. The White House: Celebrities Caught in Trump’s Crosshairs” about President Trump are not news, but they are opinions or feature pieces. The students at GS deserve the facts, not biases based on potential affiliations or notions that politics are “boring,” even if they are categorized in the opinions section. I want to read facts and opinions for all the opinions section. I want to read facts and opinions for all the students of Georgia Southern deserve better than that.

This is not the case. It seems as if the most recent article that was written by someone from the administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory, or the University System of Georgia. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, and the Student Media or the University System of Georgia. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, and the Student Media Advisory reserves the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for content. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, and the Student Media Advisory reserves the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for content.

STUDENT EMPLOYEES:
All submissions must be composed of people with a passion for writing and editing. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, and the Student Media Advisory reserves the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for content.

Students who want to submit articles or letters to The George-Anne should include their name, contact information, and a short bio. If you are interested in working with The George-Anne, please contact the Business Manager, Warren Fleurimond, at wfluri@georgiasouthern.edu.

Students and Staff:
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**APARTMENT ACROSS FROM PAULSON STADIUM CATCHES FIRE**

*BY MCIACLN BAXLEY AND MATTHEW ENFINGER The George-Anne staff*

The Statesboro Fire Department responded to a fire Sunday night at apartment complex Stadium Walk, located across the street from Paulson Stadium. Travis Hall, the tenant of the apartment, said his son alerted him of the fire.

“He came out of his room into the living room and he starting hollering,” Hall said. “I was like ‘Why you hollering for son?’ I went into his room and I said ‘What’s wrong with you?’ Then I came back out...the back wall was just fire.”

Hall said he tried to put the fire out by himself but was unable to because the flames were so immense.

Statesboro Fire Chief Tim Grams said the origin of the fire appeared to be in a back bedroom of the apartment.

Although the cause of the fire has not been determined, Grams said there are no signs of malicious intent.

“[I] thought there for a while that we might’ve had some extension into the apartment beside it, but we’re to the point now where we feel pretty comfortable,” Grams said. “We did have some small extension, but it’s just fire and heat. Based on everything the tenants are telling us, there’s no reason to suspect anything.”

Grams said the tenants were able to evacuate safely. No one was harmed in the fire.

**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO PUT ON CINEMA CLASSIC “NOSFERATU”**

*BY SHIANN SIVELL The George-Anne staff*

The Performing Arts Center will show the silent vampire film “Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror” on Oct. 26.

Released in 1922, “Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror,” or “Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens” in its original translation, is a German Expressionist horror film directed by F.W. Murnau and stars Max Schreck as the vampire Count Orlok.

The film was originally an unauthorized adaptation of Bram Stoker’s gothic horror novel “Dracula,” which Stoker sued over and as a result had all copies of the film destroyed after the court ruled in his favor. However, a few prints of “Nosferatu” survived and were released in the United States in 1929 just at the end of the Silent Film era.

The film will be accompanied by the Peacherine Ragtime Orchestra to accommodate for the old cinema theme.

Formed by virtuoso Andrew Greene at the University of Maryland in 2010, the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra recreates the syncopated styles of a bygone era, as well as, underscoring classic silent films using an immersive archive of over 12,000 original orchestral scores.

Silent films were originally accompanied by orchestras to add to the emotion of a scene, Box Office Manager Erin Barbeck said.

“It’s a nod back to how it would have been shown originally,” Barbeck said. “It’s more of an immersive experience for the audience.”

The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be $10 for students, staff and youth and $15 for non-Georgia Southerners.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the Black Box Theatre at (912) 478-7999.

**LOCAL MEADERY EXPECTED TO UNDERGO CONSTRUCTION IN EARLY 2019**

*BY RACHEL ADAMS The George-Anne staff*

Five Hives & Vines, a meadery and berry farm, is expected to start construction in Statesboro at the beginning of 2019.

The company is family-owned by Woonerf LLC, consisting of Eric and Debbie Van Otteren, their son and daughter-in-law Zach and Brooke Van Otteren and friends Wes and Ashley Vanmeter.

Eric Van Otteren said the plan is to open a meadery with an event center and a pick-your-own berry farm. There will also be beehives on the property, and the company will sell its own honey products.

“Our long-term plans are to grow the meadery in five years to a production level of 60,000 gallons of mead and cyser,” Van Otteren said. “We plan to have the event center holding weekly events, weddings, etcetera.”

Mead is an alcoholic beverage with honey, yeast, water and fermented sugar, Van Otteren said.

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**Georgia Southern to hold early voting on campus**

*BY RACHEL ADAMS The George-Anne staff*

The Dean of Students Office has announced that early voting will be available on campus from Oct. 23-25 for students registered to vote in Bulloch County.

Students will be able to vote on these dates in the Russell Union Ballroom from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

While the polls are open, no campaign materials are allowed within 150 feet of the Russell Union, including buttons, shirts, hats, posters, etc. To vote, students must bring their government-issued ID.

“You should vote. You have a voice. You have the right to make a difference, even if you don’t think you can.”

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“How it’s made is fairly simple, much simpler than beer. You just mix the honey and the yeast and the water together, and it makes the mead,” Van Otteren said.

The meads the company makes will be flavored with grapes, blackberries, blueberries and strawberries, all grown on the property. The honey will come from the bees kept on the property and from H.L. Franklin’s Healthy Honey, a company based in Statesboro.

“I’m a beekeeper and I was looking for other ways to use the honey, and when I came across mead I did a little home-brewing,” Van Otteren said. “I enjoy the process and I like bees, and I love honey, and so I turned it into mead. I’ve been a beekeeper since the mid-70s, and I’ve been a home-brewer and making mead for the last five or six years.”

Van Otteren is also working with Santana Majumdar, associate professor of graphic design at Georgia Southern University, and his graphic design class to design bottle labels and packaging.

Meaderies are on the rise, with more than 400 across the United States, and Van Otteren hopes to make his mark in the mead-making business.

“Meaderies are growing at about 30 percent a year,” Van Otteren said. “Generally speaking, the industry says there’s about one new meadery open every week now somewhere in the country.”

Van Otteren said he is very optimistic and excited about opening and what the company can bring to Statesboro, and what connections it can make in Savannah as well.

“The next step is approval by the planning department of our site development plan,” Van Otteren said.

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BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The Georgia-Anne staff

Student organizations are planning to hold a solidarity walk on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus on Friday in protest of a student’s usage of the N-word last summer.

The walk was organized by the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Other organizations participating include the NAACP, Know Your Worth, the Nation Council of Negro Women, African Student Association and MOVE.

The “triggerish” incident

Last summer GS received national attention when screenshots depicting a GS student using the N-word in a message to her future roommate went viral.

“Her insta looks pretty normal not too n’tiggerish,” the sender said in screenshots displayed on social media.

The message, according to posts on social media, used the actual N-word and The George-Anne has chosen not to publish the slur in its original form.

The sender sent a follow-up message apologizing and said the message was meant for someone else, adding that the use of the N-word was a typo on her phone. “I meant to say triggerish meaning like you seemed really cool nothing that triggered a red flag,” the sender said in screenshots displayed on social media. “I’m so embarrassed I apologize.”

Screenshots widely used on social media depicted the sender as Courtney Schaefer. Posts further explained that Schaefer is a member of GS’ swim team.

The university has not made a statement confirming that the sender was Schaefer. Schaefer was also reached for comment multiple times via email but has not responded.

The walk will begin at Russell Union at 3 p.m. and end at the RAC, where the GS swim team is scheduled to hold its first swim meet on the GS campus at 4 p.m.

Amanda Caldwell, head women’s swimming and diving coach, commented on plans for the protest of Schaefer.

“I can’t talk too much about that but what I can tell you is that there’s going to be distractions always,” Caldwell said. “I welcome people to use their First Amendment right and honestly maybe they show up and enjoy a swim meet.”

The George-Anne will provide live coverage of the protest on Facebook and Twitter.

McClain Baxley contributed to this article.
Georgia Southern packs Carroll Building atrium for Stacey Abrams rally

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams spoke at an early voting rally on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus on Tuesday. The rally was hosted by the Young Democrats of GS.

BY MCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne Staff

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams spoke to an emphatic crowd tightly packed into the Carroll Building on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus Tuesday night.

The rally was hosted by the Young Democrats of GS to encourage early voting. Along with Abrams, Congressional candidate Francys Johnson and insurance commissioner candidate Janice Laws also spoke about their campaigns and thoughts on Abrams.

When Abrams finally arrived from her rally in Hinesville just a few hours earlier, Beyonce’s “Run the World” played over the speakers before GS Young Democrats President Eduardo Delgado voiced his concerns to the excited audience.

“As a student, I’m concerned about student debt, accessibility and affordability of college,” Delgado said. “As a taxpayer, I am concerned with how our money will affect all Georgians in this state. And as a son of immigrants, I am concerned about if my state government will treat every single human being with dignity and respect.”

After thanking all in attendance and reminding onlookers when and where early voters can vote, Delgado used one of GS’ most noticeable slogans, GATA, to rile up the audience.

“Civil rights leader and pastor continued to hype up the crowd and chanted, “Love, not hate will make America great.”

After thanking all in attendance and reminding onlookers when and where early voters can vote, Delgado used one of GS’ most noticeable slogans, GATA, to rile up the audience.

“Georgia families, to ensure that we have affordable car insurance rates in Georgia,” Laws said.

With the crowd fully engaged, Johnson faced the crowd and chanted, “Love, not hate will make America great.”

The civil rights leader and pastor continued to hype up the crowd for the main event, but not without reminding them to vote for him by referencing GS. Johnson then ever so seamlessly introduced Abrams to an explosion of applause.

“I’ve preached here, I’ve pastored here, I’ve taught classes here, and I’m glad I can give what’s left of my time to the next governor of this state,” Johnson said. “Make no mistake about it. The best man for the job is this woman, Stacey Abrams.”

Abrams began discussing her platform, leading off with education. Abrams said she will fight to raise teachers’ wages and work to get more affordable college education.

“My answer to college debt is that we make college debt free in the state of Georgia,” Abrams said. “When he finally got the reins of power in 2010, he took it to a whole new level.”

The 44-year-old candidate went on to talk about her and Johnson’s fight against Kemp in court over voter scandals. A voice in the crowd suggested to lock him up. Abrams stopped mid-sentence and offered a different solution.

“We don’t do that,” Abrams said. “We vote him out.”

After wrapping up her anti-Kemp preamble, Abrams instilled Peach State pride in the audience, saying that Georgia is the “cradle of the civil rights movement.”

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The crowd roared with appreciation and praise to Abrams’ idea of a new HOPE Scholarship offered to those with “C” averages, as opposed to the current standard of a 3.0 GPA. A “Stacey” chant ensued to which Abrams had to take a step back.

Abrams met the Statesboro crowd with waves, a smile and a reminder of who she was, before attacking her opponent, Republican Candidate Brian Kemp, alluding to his suppression of voting numbers.

“He’s spent the last 10 years, the last decade, fighting against the right to vote,” Abrams said. “When he finally got the reins of power in 2010, he took it to a whole new level.”

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"I'm not going to be yet another education governor, because we've had those. We've had them around this country and we've had too many around the state of Georgia," Abrams said. "I'm going to be the public education governor of the great state of Georgia."

Abrams then transitioned into her ideas on jobs and working. She complimented current Governor Nathan Deal's efforts on the workforce, but she ensured that she would work to do even better.

By subtly sprinkling in jabs at Kemp, Abrams was able to keep the crowd invested in her platform focused on creating higher paying jobs for all.

"People shouldn't have to go into agriculture or hospitality to make a living in Georgia," Abrams said. "Why not create renewable energy jobs, because I'm going to tell y'all a secret, climate change is real. We can create 25,000 to 45,000 good paying jobs in Georgia if we acknowledge that renewable energy isn't the future, it's the now."

Later Tuesday night Abrams clarified her comment, saying she wants to diversify the economy and raise wages. Following her proposal of medicaid expansion, Abrams discussed the issue of mental health by introducing the story of her brother, Walter Abrams. Walter became reliant on drugs and was incarcerated in 2014, during which he was first diagnosed as having bipolar disorder. Since then, Walter has been released from jail three times, Abrams said.

Abrams used her brother's story to highlight the high rate of incarceration in the state of Georgia and the lack of mental health institutions outside of prisons.

**ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO VOTE**

Abrams brought the rally back around to the reason the three candidates were there, to encourage the audience to vote. "We can't do this alone," Abrams said. "Francys can't get elected alone. Janice can't get elected alone. We need your help, because I'm voting for me."

Abrams again commented on the 53,000 lost votes and said that Kemp's campaign was "shook." For the first time in her portion of the rally, Abrams mentioned turning the state blue in her closing statement. "We win by showing up and showing out every single day," Abrams said. "We win by showing that we believe in each other because the reality is we are Georgia."

After stressing the importance of voting early, Abrams gave a final thank you and headed for her tour bus as she had another rally at Savannah State later that Tuesday night.
Abrams answers questions about campus carry, accusations from Kemp campaign and working with republicans

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The Georgia-Anne staff

Following the the early voter rally, Stacey Abrams met with reporters outside of her tour bus to answer questions. Topics she discussed included:

• Possibly being Georgia’s first African-American governor
• Her approach to campus carry
• Responses to comments made by Brian Kemp’s campaign
• Working with Republicans

Q: What will it mean to you to be the first African American governor of Georgia?

Abrams: “As the first African American governor of Georgia and the first black woman to be governor in the history of the United States, it’s a signal that the face of leadership changing and expanding in our country and that means more people will see that they have the power to lead their own lives, they can thrive and that we’re knocking down more and more barriers to their access to power.

Q: One of the big topics on our campus is campus carry. What are your thoughts and what would be your approach on it if you are elected governor?

Abrams: “I believe that every person who is a responsible gun owner, who believes in the Second Amendment understands that safety begins with the owner of that weapon and that is why I do not believe there should be guns on our college campuses.

I believe that gun safety is completely in line with the Second Amendment. As someone who knows how to shoot a shotgun, I was taught by my great grandmother, I’ve shot shotguns I’ve fired an AR-15, and I tell you there is no reason for assault weapons in the state of Georgia.

I believe there should be universal background checks, that we need a three-day waiting period because there’s no such thing as emergency deer hunting. I know that domestic abusers and those that stalk should not have access to weapons. We need mental health support for those who are challenged and troubled and need comprehensive gun safety legislation in the state of Georgia. That is how we protect our campuses, but as governor, I will do my best to repeal campus carry in the state of Georgia.”

Q: The Kemp campaign likes to say things about illegal aliens, or as some might say, undocumented aliens in relation to you saying that you want to expand the HOPE scholarship to them or even seeking to let them vote in the election. Are either of these things true?

Abrams: “My opponent is attempting to distract from his failure to do his job by saying I said something I didn’t say. Here’s what I said clearly and completely out of context. I believe in the right for legal citizens to cast a ballot at the ballot. The problem is, legal citizens aren’t being allowed to cast a ballot under his leadership.

I do believe that students who graduate from our high schools should be able to go to our colleges. That’s good for Georgia and that’s good for America.”

Q: You said you wanted to expand Medicaid on day one and want to repeal campus carry. How do you plan to achieve that with a state assembly that’s most likely going to be Republican?

Abrams: “I’ve worked for Republicans for the last 10 years as state legislator and then for the last seven years as democratic leader. Actually I was in the legislature 12 years. I know that Republicans share my belief to expand medicaid because most of the hospitals that are shutting down are in their regions.

They’ve known, however, that Governor Deal refused to expand it and they’ve said they’ve kept silent. I’ve talked to a lot of them and I know we can expand Medicaid, and when it comes to repealing campus carry, if you look at the vote, it was a very close vote when it passed and I believe that if we bring it back up, enough folks are going to be elected this year to join those who are already in the legislator that we can get that done as well.”

Q: One of the big topics on campus is campus carry. What are your thoughts and what would be your approach on it if you are elected governor?

Abrams: “As the first African American governor of Georgia and the first black woman to be governor in the history of the United States, it’s a signal that the face of leadership changing and expanding in our country and that means more people will see that they have the power to lead their own lives, they can thrive and that we’re knocking down more and more barriers to their access to power.

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On Oct. 3, Takeshia Brown, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, sat down with The George-Anne Studio to discuss cards collected during the “N-word project.”

The “N-word project” asked the community of Georgia Southern University to write down their thoughts on the derogatory word.

With cards in hand, Brown spoke about some of the thoughts written down:

Q: Just from what you’ve been looking through, are there any thoughts that come to your mind from cards you have read?

Brown: “Well, I’ve seen some of these and so I’m just like, ‘hmm.’ I feel old because there’s one that was like, ‘Using the N-word is like a brotherhood.’ Like, how? I don’t understand that, and there was another one that said something about, ‘We’ve worked hard to be called the N-word.’”

People are all over the place on this argument, more so than they should use it, unless you’re able to use it, then we open ourselves up to other protected free speech, I think we have to be cautious of that.

“Using the N-word is like a brotherhood.”

Q: One of the cards that stuck out said, “I don’t think the N-word should be considered free speech. It’s offensive and other races should respect black people’s wishes for us not to use it.”

Brown: “Yes, so the slippery slope there is, when we talk about offense and restricting words for one group, or other groups of people against one group, and then we don’t do that for everyone.

I think the struggle with hateful words is that [they do] hurt your feelings. It’s not this, Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me! They hurt. Something comes up when you say certain things. For a lot of people, myself included, when you say the N-word, I’m going to think something. I’m going to feel things, and I’m going to have to sort that out and figure out how I’m going to act.

Q: What did you notice about offense and restricting words for one group, or other groups of people against one group, when you say the N-word? Does that mean the N-word?

Brown: “No, one should use it unless you’re black, though, so, what is your opinion on that? Should it be only for one race?

Brown: “Personally, Takeshia does not like to use the word at all. I don’t think anyone should use it. Just the history with the word. The connotations behind it.

Q: When I hear the word, I know how I feel. I think about my ancestors, dead people I’ll never meet, some people I get to read about because of [things] they have contributed to our society.

Q: We had a lot of people go with the opinion of, “Well, no one should use it unless you’re black, though,” so, what is your opinion on that? Should it be only for one race?

Brown: “Personally, Takeshia does not like to use the word at all. I don’t think anyone should use it. Just the history with the word. The connotations behind it.

Q: We had another card as well, a lot of cards, actually, that agreed with you on that, that it shouldn’t be used even by black people, although the respondents didn’t really go into explaining, and I myself was confused by that. So, thank you.

Brown: “I teach ‘Black Women in Society’ - fantastic class. In previous years, I’ve taught MLK and Malcolm X, talking about their teachings and the civil rights movement, and then who is left out of the movement and what it means for us now.

And one of the things that I’ve noticed year after year as a student gets younger... people think that the changes and the struggles that we’ve had with race and racism in the United States is something far-removed.

Alright, so we think, 1965 was 100 years ago. My mother was born in 1960, so in her lifetime, she’s experienced various things related to race in the United States that shaped who she is and shaped how she raised me as an African-American woman in the South and in the United States.

That being said, we aren’t far-removed from those things, but yet it feels like [we are]. My mom, when she started school, went to segregated schools, even though this was well after Brown vs. Board of Education when she started school.

So, well after 1954, most schools in the south didn’t integrate until [the] mid 60s early 70s. As people are integrating these schools, people were calling them the N-word, making them feel unwelcome.

So, the history for a lot of people, I think, is lost.”

To view more of Brown’s interview, visit www.thegeorgeanne.com.
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Every Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
BY RYAN KOSTENSKY
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern is traveling to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where they square off against the Aggies in a game that could clinch bowl eligibility for the Eagles. Here are four things we know about Saturday’s road contest:

GS LEADS THE SERIES 3-1
This game is the fifth meeting in five years between the two teams, with New Mexico State winning most recently in 2017. With the exception of 2015, where the Eagles drubbed the Aggies by 30 points (56-26), each game has been won by one possession. This matchup will be the first time the two teams face each other in a non-conference affair, due to New Mexico State’s departure from the Sun Belt Conference at the end of last season.

GS OPENS UP AS A 13-POINT ROAD FAVORITE
The Eagles, looking to become bowl-eligible for the first time since 2015, could see it happen on Saturday. New Mexico State (3-4) is coming off a record-breaking loss to Louisiana-Lafayette, who put up 66 points on the Aggies. With the exception of last week’s game against Texas State, the GS offense has played much better than the year before, and with a little passing in the fold, redshirt-sophomore quarterback Shai Werts could be set up to have a career day.

Both teams have a loss to a Power-5 opponent.
GS and New Mexico State both have losses to PS teams, with the Eagles losing to the then No. 2 Clemson Tigers, and the Aggies falling to the Golden Gophers of Minnesota. The games were played very differently, however. GS lost to Clemson 38-7 but forced four turnovers on defense, winning the turnover battle. The Aggies played an unranked Minnesota team and lost 48-10.

Kickoff on Saturday is scheduled for 6 p.m. Eastern.

Revisiting five questions from preseason halfway through the season

By McClain Baxley
The George-Anne staff

Way back in August, there were five big questions to be answered ahead of fall camp and the first full season for Chad Lunsford as head coach. At 5-1, the Eagles are ahead of schedule as far as returning to the national spotlight. Here are answers to the questions asked preseason with six games of work to look at:

1. How secure is Werts’ starting role at quarterback?
   In Georgia Southern’s six games, redshirt-sophomore quarterback Shai Werts has been electric. He’s averaging just shy of 79 yards rushing per game and eight touchdowns on the ground.

2. How much of a toll will moving to a 3-4 defense take on the defensive line?
   As alluded to earlier, the defense has been elite. A great deal of the success has come from the change to a 3-4 defense, allowing the four in the backfield to be more versatile. The defensive line for GS has been a beast, led by senior defensive end Logan Hunt and sophomores defensive end Raymand Johnson III. Hunt has sacked the quarterback four times, and Johnson III has accumulated two and a half sacks.

3. Is this the year a GS kicker wins the Lou Groza Award?
   Tyler Bass has been perfect through six games, going 7 for 7 on field goals and 20 for 20 on extra points. Sixty-nine percent of his kickoffs have been touchbacks. He even has four tackles.

4. How much of a toll will this be on the defensive line?
   As expected, redshirt junior kicker Tyler Bass has also attempted punting the ball, proving he can do it all for the Eagles. Bass has punted the ball three times, averaging 47 yards per punt.

5. Who is going to be punting for the Eagles?
   Redshirt sophomore punter Magill Bauerle won the punting job over freshman Anthony Beck. Bauerle has punted the ball 25 times, averaging just over 40 yards per punt.

The win would be the first non-conference road win for the Eagles since that Saturday in the swamp.
BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

Sophomore Gonzalo Talavera is a defender from Madrid, Spain who has played for the Eagles for two years, having had quite the impact as a team player.

Head Coach John Murphy found Talavera in Madrid, where he went 22-4-4 with his team, leading to winning his group. “I started when I was seven,” Talavera said. “Before that tried a bunch of different sports but since I started playing soccer I’ve played for my entire life.”

Talavera was former coach Craig Howie’s favorite. “I think we have a pretty good team this year,” Talavera said. “I really hope to come to first seed in the tournament. I think we have a good team to make history in the program.”

Sophomore Gonzalo Talavera dribbles the ball against Monmouth. Talavera is one of the captains for the men’s soccer team.

AT THE CENTER OF THE OFFENSE, RAINNEY USES MORE THAN JUST CELEBRATION IN SUCCESSFUL SENIOR SEASON

BY RYAN KOSTENSKY
The George-Anne Staff

In football, the center position is the only position that touches the ball on every play. Amidst their resurgence from the abyss that was 2017, Georgia Southern’s offensive line is led by the senior Curtis Rainey at center.

The Eagles have seen a total makeover of their offense from last season to now, and with all the scoring comes the celebration from the players. Although the NCAA doesn’t allow a lot of celebrations, players get creative to express themselves.

Rainey has his own celebration, picking up the player who just scored as a way to congratulate them for scoring. He talked about what the celebration mean and the importance behind it. “Since I play o-line, our whole job is to basically protect and make sure the other guys get there,” Rainey said. “Get the ball, you know, score and everything. It’s kind of my tribute to them. They scored so give them their moment to shine.”

In middle school, Florida, Rainey has been a key cog for the Eagles on the offensive line, starting all 12 games in each of the last two seasons after significant playing time his freshman year. Like many collegiate athletes, Rainey started playing football at a young age, in middle school to be exact, but he wasn’t able to start at a younger age because he was always bigger than the other kids.

“I started playing football in middle school,” Rainey said. “That was my first real interaction with football. I couldn’t play pop Warner because of my weight. They didn’t have non-weight limit teams so I just started playing in middle school.”

Rainey went on to mention that his first love wasn’t actually football but instead another sport. “I was a big basketball guy,” Rainey said. “That’s basically what I started playing, that was my first-love type deal.”

The senior center is one of the most experienced players on the GS roster, going through the ups and downs that the program has faced recently. When asked about what his favorite memory of his career so far, Rainey echoed the sentiments of his fellow teammates, talking about how the bowl game was his favorite.

“Definitely the bowl game,” Rainey said. “That was just a big stand-up moment for Georgia Southern, so it was a great experience.”

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

Page designed by Morgan Carr

“Football is basically all I do.”
Curtis Rainey
Senior center

Senior center Curtis Rainey lifts redshirt-senior running back Montae Garrett in the air after Garrett’s touchdown against UMass.

BLAKE KESSLER/SAF

SPORTS

TALAVERA TAKES PRIDE IN BEING THE CAPTAIN AND LEAD DEFENDER FOR EAGLES

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

Sophomore Gonzalo Talavera is a defender from Madrid, Spain who has played for the Eagles for two years, having had quite the impact as a team player.

Head Coach John Murphy found Talavera in Madrid, where he went 22-4-4 with his team, leading to winning his group. “I started when I was seven,” Talavera said. “Before that tried a bunch of different sports but since I started playing soccer I’ve played for my entire life.”

His freshman year, Talavera started all 18 matches and played an impressive 1,650 minutes of 1,650, which helped the defender be named Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week in September of 2017. “He plays in the position of central defender. He’s somebody that’s authoritative and understands the game,” Murphy said. “He communicates. He has the respect of the entire team.”

This season, Talavera has been a huge asset to the Eagles. Not only being a great all-around player by scoring a goal this season and notching five shots, Talavera was also named captain in the beginning of the season alongside junior Justin Little. Talavera and the rest of the Eagles have four more regular season matches before Sun Belt tournament play starts up.

“I think we have a pretty good team this year,” Talavera said. “I really hope to come to first seed in the tournament. I think we have a good team to make history in the program.”

Sophomore Gonzalo Talavera dribbles the ball against Monmouth. Talavera is one of the captains for the men’s soccer team.
AGGIES LOOKING FOR REPEAT OF LAST SEASON’S MATCHUP AGAINST EAGLES

BY RYAN PYE
The Georgia-Anne Staff

Through six games in the 2018 season, Georgia Southern holds a 5-1 record and remains undefeated in conference play. Their unexpected, successful start is definitely encouraging for Eagle Nation, but the team needs to continue to compete at a high level, even in games where they are highly favored, like this weekend’s match up with New Mexico State.

The Aggies will host the Eagles at 6 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, looking for their first conference win on the year. GS will look to take care of business against a 2-5 team, desperate to get things going in 2018.

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFENSE

The Aggies’ offensive line has been a bit inconsistent throughout the year, but has still managed to average just over 24 points per game. Three different quarterbacks have seen playing time at some point this season, but all signs point to the team leader in passing, freshman Josh Adkins, to be the main guy moving forward.

Adkins has thrown for over 1,000 yards and seven touchdowns, despite missing the first two games of the year. Their passing attack accounts for the vast majority of their offense, and collectively the Aggies are completing passes around 66 percent of their attempts, and have gained over 1,600 yards in the air through seven games.

The Aggies’ running game has not been able to establish itself at the level their passing game is playing at. The team has only gathered around 700 yards on the ground, which isn’t terrible, but is frankly overshadowed by their quarterback play.

Many different players have carried the ball for New Mexico State, but they have two different backs that receive the bulk of the carries.

Christian Gibson is the team’s leading rusher so far this season, racking up 344 yards and five touchdowns on the ground.

Jason Huntley has the most carries among running backs with 62 and has gained 252 yards and one score.

With NMSU’s offense only averaging around 100 yards per game on the ground, expect the Eagle defense to shift their focus to containing the Aggies’ dangerous air attack.

NEW MEXICO STATE DEFENSE

GS’ offense should be licking their chops heading into Aggie Memorial Stadium, because the New Mexico State defense has been horrendous in 2018. Opponents are averaging nearly 500 yards of total and over 40 points per game against the Aggies.

Though they haven’t been strong defending the pass either, NMSU’s rushing defense should be their main concern when facing GS’ traditional run-first offense.

The Aggies have let opposing teams rush for over 1,800 yards against them this season, which equals to nearly 260 yds per game, only on the ground.

Unless the Aggies can make some serious adjustments in an unreasonably quick fashion, expect the Eagle offense to have a field day running the football.

SUN BELT OFF TO UNEXPECTED START HALFWAY THROUGH THE SEASON

BY RYAN PYE
The Georgia-Anne Staff

The Preseason Sun Belt Coaches Poll has proved to be inaccurate for the 2018 season.

The projected favorite to win the conference, Arkansas State, is currently boasting a 3-3 overall record, and have started conference play at 0-2.

Unpredictability and college football seemingly go hand-in-hand, and that trend has continued in the Sun Belt Conference thus far in 2018, where teams like Georgia Southern are making a lot of noise that many experts did not see coming.

There is a lot of football left to play in 2018, but after six games, the Eagles sit atop the Sun Belt Standings with a perfect 3-0 conference record, alongside Appalachian State and Troy, who also remain unbeaten in the conference. App State and Troy were expected to be in this position, and with the Sun Belt Splitting into two divisions, the East and West, for the first time, both schools were projected to finish at the top of the East. This was definitely not the case for the Eagles.

After one of the worst seasons in school history, the Eagles were picked to finish in fourth place in the East, behind Appalachian State University, University of Troy and in state rival Georgia State University. But, to the surprise of many, GS has yet again established themselves as a contender, and a force to be reckoned with in the Sun Belt.

Conference play is just beginning to heat up, and it’s a guarantee that at least one of the three unbeaters at the top of the East are going to fall, so everyone in the division still has plenty of time to get things going.

The West Division of the Sun Belt has looked a little shaky in 2018. The West does not have a team with an above .500 record, and their current leader is Louisiana Lafayette, who has a 1-1 conference record.

Both sides of the Sun Belt are undoubtedly still up for grabs, but with quick turnarounds like GS’, and unexpected letdowns like Appalachian State’s, it’s safe to say no one really knows or can predict what’s coming next out of this conference.

Page designed by Morgan Carr
To contact the sports editor, email gasports@georgiasouthern.edu

EAGLES continuing to sit at nationally ranked No. 64 despite adding two more wins to record

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The Georgia-Anne Staff

The Eagles haven’t moved in the CBS Sports 129 rankings, as they still sit at No. 64 after adding two more wins to their now 5-1 record.

GS also remains the third-highest ranked Sun Belt team, falling behind Appalachian State, who has now risen to No. 20 and Troy who has dropped to No. 53.

The closest Sun Belt team to rank near the Eagles is the Arkansas State Red Wolves, coming in at No. 88.

Now with a 5-1 record, the Eagles look to climb the national rankings and secure bowl eligibility as they travel to take on New Mexico State Oct. 20.

The Georgia Southern student section cheers on the Eagles as they took the win over Arkansas State.

BLAKE KESSLER/GSA
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(COUNSELING CENTER)
4 - 5PM ON TUESDAYS | OCTOBER 2-23 | COUNSELING CENTER
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