Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate
STACEY ABRAMS
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TAKESHIA BROWN discusses
the “N”-word Project
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GS VS NEW MEXICO
Things you need to know
Page 13
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

@SeenAtSouthern

Our photographers went out on campus and snapped some photos depicting life at Georgia Southern. Come back every week or follow our Twitter, @SeenAtSouthern, to see if you have been spotted!
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

Major Slackazz

*This will be my first election I'm voting in, so I just came to hear their personal opinion instead of hearing videos of their speeches...*  
- Kierra Davis, recreational therapy, junior @TheGeorgeAnne

*I'm excited to get to meet her to hear what she's about and what she has to offer in Georgia.*  
- Zaraa Kame, Biology major, junior @TheGeorgeAnne

“I’m ready to go and vote Brian Kemp for Governor now. Instead of people first, how about Americans first?”  
-Taylor Murray, Information Technology Sophomore @TheGeorgeAnne @CSouthern

“I'm excited that Stacey Abrams is the first female African American running in the state of Georgia and she has very progressive views that are going towards the future as opposed to staying in the past.”  
-Cailyn Grunert, Public Health - Grad Student @TheGeorgeAnne
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is the George-Anne perpetuating the idea that the media is biased?

OLIVIA THOMPSON

Olivia is an English major minors 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 piece failed to mention any 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 law, and there is no mention of the impact number of students who voted in this poll.

It seems as if the most recent news article posted on The George-Anne’s website was 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 bases on potential affiliations or notions that politics are “boring,” even if they are categorized in the opinions section. I want true read facts and opinions for all sides of the current issues, and I assure I am not the only one. This is why I should remember that they pride themselves on the inclusion of all students, and they should also remember their audience is composed of people with many differing opinions and viewpoints. I am not suggesting that The George-Anne’s reporters stop writing or publishing left-leaning pieces, but I am saying that reporting should be done as fairly as possible.

At this moment, I see nothing of the sort. It does seem as if The George-Anne is just perpetuating the stereotype that liberal opinions and liberal-minded news has taken over the medical and muddled the waters when it comes fair, balanced, and accurate journalism. I think, we can do better than the think the students of Georgia Southern deserve better than that.

To contact the opinions editor, email letters@georgiasouthern.edu.
BY RACHEL ADAMS
The Georgia-Anne staff

The Dean of Students Office has announced that early voting will be available on campus from Oct. 23-25 for any student 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 campaigning 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.

Amina Diop, freshman information technology major, encouraged everyone to vote.

"You should vote. You have the right to vote," Diop said. "Your voice should matter. You can make a difference, even if you don't think you can."

"We don't think you can make a difference, even if you don't vote," Diop said. "Your vote counts. If everyone votes, we can make a difference."

"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 next step is approval by the planning department of our site development plan," Van Otteren said. "Generally speaking, 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 Van Otteren hopes to make his mark in the mead-making business.

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"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.

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Student organizations to hold solidarity walk in protest of “triggerish” incident

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne staff

Student organizations are planning to hold a solidarity walk on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus 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 @st looks pretty normal not too n’nverish,” 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 about 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.

“IT I’ll go ahead and say this. Leader Abrams, get after their asses.”

EDUARDO DELGADO
GS Young Democrats President

JANICE LAWS AND FRANCYS JOHNSON TAKE THE STAGE

Born in Jamaica, Laws talked about her embodiment of the American dream before encouraging listeners to vote her into the Georgia insurance commissioner’s office.

“I’m here to fight for you, for 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 TAKES THE STAGE

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.”

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.”

ABRAMS DISCUSSES HER PLATFORM

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.

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.
"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.
By Matthew Enfinger
The George-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 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. He’s taking a very selective context of the things I’ve said 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. I’m simply saying they should be allowed 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 legislature that we can get that done as well.”

Stacey Abrams thanks the audience before leaving for her next speech in Savannah.

If elected, Abrams would be the first African-American female governor.
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.’ Maybe that’s not what you meant to write?

People are all over the place on this argument, more so than they said the Q-word? Don’t ever say the F-word.

And then I think we start to limit things.

Then we start to limit things. And then I think we start to limit conversation about how we can move forward in this country and society, and really deal with differences.

Then when we start to limit words, we get into censorship, and I think we have to be cautious of that.”

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 offensive 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.

But to say it is considered offensive and should be protected free speech, I think we open ourselves up to other problems. If we think about what we type on some of our Twitter accounts, and we think about what we say to some of our friends when other people are around, other people would consider some of those things hate speech.

I think that when we start saying that this word is bad because black people don’t like it and [that] no one should be able to use it, then we open up ourselves to say, ‘What are we going to say about women?’ Can we start saying the B-word? What about that C-word? What about gay people? Can we use the Q-word? Don’t ever say the F-word.

Then we start to limit things. And then I think we start to limit conversation about how we can move forward in this country and society, and really deal with differences.

When we start to limit words, we get into censorship, and I think we have to be cautious of that.”

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.

Again, 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.

But how they were treated and how that word was used to dehumanize and commodify them, that’s not something that I want to be identified with as a black person. So, I couldn’t imagine telling another black person that.

Now, it would be hypocritical of me to sit here and say I’ve never said it. Alright, I think there’s some situations where, you know, you deal with people, perhaps men, where they haven’t necessarily made me the happiest human, and I’ve said, “Oh, that N-word”, with an “a” at the end, because there’s a difference.

And those aren’t moments that I’m proud of. Those are times where I challenge myself to use something else, because what are you really trying to get at?

I’ve heard the arguments that it really just means ‘ignorant person,’ well, I think there’s other things we can say to describe those people.

So for me, I prefer for no one to use it. Just the history attached to it, for me, it’s too heavy.

And again, to say that it’s okay for this group but not okay for this group, we get into that dangerous area where we start to control what people can say, and it really doesn’t do much to move [the] conversation forward.”

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 the reasoning, 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 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 1963, 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.
The George-Anne 10/18/18 Crossword PuzzleJunction.com

Across
1 Stratago piece
4 Horse course
8 Roasting rod
12 Jai ___
13 Wing (Fr.)
14 Secret message
15 Squirrel's stash
16 Lambs
17 Talipot palm leaf
18 Kaput
19 Salad cheese
20 Girdler material
21 Visored cap
22 Sea eagle
23 Fruitcake item
24 Initiate
26 Related
28 Tartan cap
31 Atacama Desert site
34 "You said it, brother!"
35 Albos, to Porthos
36 Ely of Tarzan fame
37 Goat god
39 Musical ability
41 Reef river
42 Suffix with infant
43 Crowning
45 Should, with "to"
47 "Flies in Slang" author
48 Barbershop request
49 Reed dweller
50 Fawn's mother
51 Eastern newt
53 "Once ___ a time..."
55 Scarecrow stuffing
60 Skedaddle

Down
1 Single-master
2 Incomplete
3 Yang's opposite
4 Horse opera
5 Haiphong locale
6 Aquatic plant
7 Cayes, Haiti
8 Sir Walter, for one
9 Fishing need
10 Inactive
11 Freshwater duck
12 Distress signal
13 Inquire
19 Doctor's charge
20 Bright star
23 Daughter of Eu
25 Vigor
27 Castle part
28 Zingy taste
29 Nanjing nanny
30 In perfect condition
31 Alpaca young
32 Phone button
33 Arrow poison
34 Debate side
38 Swiss river
40 Seafood delicacy
44 Egg dishes
46 Howl
48 Kind of truck
49 Riviera season
50 Takes out
52 Banquet
54 Kitchen light
55 Gulf sultanate
56 Dissenting vote
57 Antares, for one
58 Like some pizza orders
59 Drubbing
60 German title
63 Pitcher's asset
64 Mal de ___

Activity
Gallon
Rates
Spine
Aglas
German
React
Spite
Cheap
Hands
Reptile
Store
Chords
Keeper
Rhyme
Students
Clerk
Kilogramme
Roars
Successfully
Click
Leave
Secretly
Sword
Closely
Lends
Severe
System
Compose
Limited
Shape
Taxes
Cross
Newest
Sheer
Uncles
Crowd
North
Shorts
Unusual
Depend
Operas
Should
Upper
Drain
Opportunities
Signs
Utter
Dreams
Pancake
Sinking
Vases
Emotion
Piles
Sleep
Walking
Estate
Pilot
Snails
Exactly
Plural
Soils
False
Press
Solar
Folds
Proud
Spend

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: Easy

5 1 4 2 2 8 1 3 6
3 6 5 2 5 9 3 4 8
1 7 1 4 5 3 9
4 9 5 2 9

Level: Difficult

5 1 4 2 2 8 1 3 6
3 6 5 2 5 9 3 4 8
1 7 1 4 5 3 9
4 9 5 2 9

To contact the creative editor-in-chief, email prodmg@georgiasouthern.edu
Free hot & iced coffee with your copy

Located at the Russell Union Rotunda

Every Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
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:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **Both Teams Have a Loss to a Power-5 Team**
   GS and New Mexico State both have losses to Power 5 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 very different, 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.

4. **The Win Would Be the First Non-Conference Road Win for the Eagles Since That Saturday in the Swamp**
   That’s right. Georgia Southern hasn’t won a road conference game since 2013, when they took down the Florida Gators and made history.

The win would break a streak that’s lasted nearly six years, in which the Eagles have been handed heartbreaking losses to teams like UGA, Georgia Tech and North Carolina State.
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.”

Raised in Jacksonville, 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 soccer I’ve played for my entire life.”

His freshman year, Talavera started all 18 matches and played an impressive 1,639 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.

“IT WAS A REALLY GOOD HONOR FOR ME TO BE CAPTAIN. I’M TRYING TO GIVE MY BEST FOR MY TEammates.”

Gonzalo Talavera
GS Soccer Captain

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

Talavera and the rest of the Georgia Southern’s offensive line are one of the many reasons that the Eagles have been so successful this year.

“Honestly, I think we have a pretty good team to make history in the program.”

Talavera and the rest of the Eagles are ready to make history and make a deep run in the Sun Belt tournament.

As for hobbies and things he does for fun, the senior also talks about football, insinuating that it was his hobby.

Rainey and the Eagles look to become bowl-eligible by winning at New Mexico State on Saturday. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. Eastern.

“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/SA

PHOTO COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS

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

Page designed by Morgan Carr
Eagles continue to sit at nationally ranked No. 64 despite adding two 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.

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.

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, Appalachian 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

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 equates 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.

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’ offense 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.

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-- The Georgia Southern student section cheers on the Eagles as they took the win over Arkansas State.
SLEEP CLINIC
(COUNSELING CENTER)
4 - 5PM ON TUESDAYS | OCTOBER 2-23 | COUNSELING CENTER
Having difficulty falling or staying asleep? Think your sleep routine could use a little improvement? Sleep Clinic is a four-week, drop-in workshop to help students improve sleep. Content of the workshop is based on Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Insomnia, an empirically validated treatment modality for improving sleep. No prior registration is necessary. It is strongly recommended that students attend all four sessions.

LEADERSHIP SPEAKER - RICHARD HIGHT
“LEARNING TO MAKE CHOICES”
OCTOBER 22 | 6PM | WILLIAMS CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
(Office of Leadership & Community Engagement)
This is an FYE Success Series Event and there will be attendance verification provided.

MINDFUL YOGA
WEDNESDAYS FROM 4 - 4:45PM | COUNSELING CENTER
THURSDAYS FROM 10 - 10:45AM | COUNSELING CENTER
A fusion of mindfulness practice and yoga for health and wellness.

WILLIE J. BURDEN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 26 | GEORGIA SOUTHERN GOLF COURSE
(CAMPUS RECREATION & INTRAMURALs)
Student Entry - $75
To golf and/or support the scholarship fund, please visit the website that have been established for both the golf outing and the fund at https://chp.georgiasouthern.edu/willie-j-burden-memorial-fund/

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STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY BUZZ
STATESBORO CAMPUS

INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEW STUDENT ORG?
New Org Chartering Workshop
October 19 | 3:30 pm
Russell Union 2052

SOLD SERIES
STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE:
AN EDGE FOR LEADERS
Presented by:
Office of Career and Professional Development
October 23 | 5:30 pm
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