Race to Victory

Gubernatorial election extends past Tuesday night as additional votes are counted.
Weekend Calendar

Thursday
• Pull Tags from the Holiday Helper Tree!
  @9 a.m. Russell Union
  The Holiday Helper Tree is a Georgia Southern tradition, and this year we are celebrating 25 years of giving back to the local community!

Friday
• Volleyball vs. Georgia State
  @6:30 p.m. Hanner Fieldhouse
  Come watch as the Eagles host conference foe, Georgia State! Single-game tickets are $5 in advance for adults and $8 on game day. Youth tickets, ages 4 to 12, are $3 in advance and $5 on game day.

Saturday
• Football vs. Troy
  @1 p.m. Nessmith-Lane Conference Center
  It’s Senior Day at Paulson Stadium as Georgia Southern hosts Troy in the final home game of the season. It’s also AG Day. We hope you can make it out.

Sunday
• Warm Clothing Drive
  @ Human Resources, Student Union, the RAC, Henderson Library, Dining Commons and all residence halls.
  Please consider donating new or gently used cold weather clothing and accessories that you no longer need. All sizes of coats, hats, gloves, scarves and warm clothes are accepted.

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“What Does Your Vote Mean To You?”

This election season, The George-Anne stood outside the Williams Center on campus and asked the Georgia Southern community to write down what their vote meant to them.

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Organization Spotlight

Chinese Club

We bring awareness about the Chinese Culture to the Georgia Southern campus! The Chinese Club wants to solidify and expand our presence in the Georgia Southern community. We understand that we need the assistance of the campus media to achieve this goal. Contact us at hercampus.com/georgia-southern

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Tips

5 tips to help you put your stress to rest
Stress seems as if it is a part of our daily routine as we tackle classes, extracurriculars and jobs. Worry and anxiety can make us feel like there’s a huge weight on our shoulders. To help with this, here are a few tips to put that stress to rest.

1. Get a Planner
2. Clean
3. Relax
4. Don’t Procrastinate
5. Exercise

When life starts to feel overwhelming or you want to save yourself from future stress, try out one of these tips.

By Alexi Simpson

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Why do you think it is easier to support corporate businesses versus local ones?

Taylor Neloms (Right)
“Honestly, I feel everybody supports corporate businesses better because they have easier mode of transportation to get to you. They have easier ways of getting the product that you want immediately. Local businesses unfortunately do not have the funding or they can’t exactly be every where at once to get you the products you want immediately.”

Anthony Morris (Left)
“Corporate businesses have a lot more other franchises that kind of built into their funding, so it’s less upon them to have to supply the same product as much as a local business person.”

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#PETSBORO

Grace Anne and Bean
Grace is a sophomore theatre major, and Bean “loves everything, but right now she’s obsessed with kittens. She also uses vegetables as chew toys.”

Want you and your pet to be featured next time?
Post your photo on Twitter with the name of your pet and a little bit about you (name, year, and major). Make sure you include #petsboro and tag @seenatsouthern

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#WHATSGSU

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#REFLECTORTIPS

5 tips to help you put your stress to rest
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Caption This!

Write your caption here and tweet it out to @SeenAtSouthern

Last Week’s Winner

“Every time he goes sailing... Gus gets his lime!!”
By Stephanie

For a chance to be featured, give us your best caption either online or in print. Tweet us @SeenAtSouthern

Tweetin’ Eagles

“I believe that my role as a white woman is to use my privilege to show up and support my friends of color in a dismissive educational climate.”
-Elisabeth Malloy, junior political science major
@TheGeorgeAnne

“If it’s up to students to stand up and do something about what’s going on, I want to be one of those students.”
-Ashley Strickland, junior sociology and women’s gender and sexuality studies major
@TheGeorgeAnne

Students issued an open letter Thursday to Georgia Southern Interim President Shelley Nickel in response to usage of the N-word on campus. The letter listed 12 demands. Full Story: bit.ly/2DnecPD

How people spend election night

By Coy Kirkland

Come on west coast! Please?

By Coy Kirkland
WHY AREN'T WE MORE ANGRY?

DYLAN CHAPMAN

I’m going to start this bad bad post off with a quote from just a regular Twitter user that I liked. “We’re literally going to die because of catastrophic climate change. Do you want to politely ask our politicians to pass climate change policy, and if they say no do you have to respect them and wait 2-4 years to vote. Let’s rethink this y’all.” -@_nem05

Now, if you’re anything like me, that tweet was a little sobering. I’m sure anyone reading this has been aware of the climate report by the UNITED NATIONS. This wasn’t a climate report by some fringe eco-group. No. This was a joint report by the United Nations. Not only that, but in opposition to calling that report alarmist, a lot of scientists are calling it straightforward optimizing. If you haven’t heard about it yet, then I’ll give you the short and skinny from a news source that you can’t write off asquota-liberal propaganda”.

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor. To contact the opinions editor, email letters@georgiasouthern.edu

Opinions Writer
Kaitlin Sells

Statement of Operations

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published student newspaper in Georgia.

The newspaper is published once weekly, on Thursdays, during most of the academic year. On Mondays, an online edition is available. All issues regarding content should be directed to the respective editor. To contact the editor, visit the George-Anne at gagdor.georgiasouthern.edu.

Advertising

The newspaper accepts advertising in any reasonable form. Rates may be call 912.478.6158 or 912.478.8556. For questions e-mail advertise@georgiasouthern.edu

Opinions

The George-Anne receives additional support for Opinions. If you have questions regarding Opinions, contact the editor at the above contact information.

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Corrections

Contact the editor at gazdor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

Staff List

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Opinion & Editorial Manager Toranda Smith Engagement Managing Editor Brendan Ward

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Creative Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Troika

Creative Managing Editor Cody Kirkland

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If you would like to submit a letter to the editor please follow the guidelines below. All submitted materials should be mailed or e-mailed to the opinion editor at the address below. Students who are interested in publishing their work in the George-Anne should include their academic major, position, campus affiliation, and a brief description of the article. Submissions must be 350 words or fewer, typed, and signed by the author. Each submission is subject to editing. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions, or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Senate, Georgia Southern University, or the University System of Georgia.
The Holiday Helper Tree kicks off its 25th anniversary

By Rachel Adams
The Georgia-Anne Staff

The Holiday Helper Tree kicked off its 25th anniversary of helping people in the community receive a gift during the holiday season in the Russell Union Commons Nov. 1.

The Holiday Helper Tree is an annual event hosted by the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement to help students, faculty and staff connect with the local community during the holidays, Jordan Wilburn, community engagement coordinator, said.

Wilburn recalled that almost all 800 tags on the tree were filled last year, and she expects the amount to be around the same number this year. The tags represent people in the community who are in need of a gift.

There are 17 local non-profit organizations participating in the event, including Westwood Nursing Center, Children’s Medical Services and Statesboro Head Start.

“We ask them to send us names of individuals who might need some kind of extra encouragement during the holiday season and what kind of gift they might need or want,” Wilburn said.

To celebrate the silver anniversary, the tree has golden tags that have specific volunteering activities students can participate in any time of the year, Wilburn said.

“I think it’s important because it teaches our students not only what they need for their degrees here at Georgia Southern,” Eileen Smith, creator and co-founder of the Holiday Helper Tree, said. “But it teaches them life lessons about giving and helping others, and gives them a hands-on means to participate in those situations.”

When the program was created in the fall of 1994, there were not a lot of programs that catered to the needy during the holiday season, Smith said.

“We were kind of pacesetters with that,” Smith said.

“We want to hear that this is passed on from generation to generation and that it has become a true Georgia Southern tradition,” Smith told everyone at the kickoff.

At the kickoff, the tree was lit and 15 children from Statesboro Head Start sang and danced to “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and a version of “Jingle Bell Rock.”

Tags are available from Nov. 1 to Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Russell Union stage.

“If you’re not physically at the kickoff, you can air out there [sic] grievances on race relations, matter. This is the opportunity where everyone can air out there grievances on race relations, diversity and inclusion with impunity.”

“Expect more discourse on diversity and race to come from the SGA office,” Housey said.

“The SGA will also have a large role in the implementation of the resolution over the coming period,”

“KeyShawn Housey, SGA senator-at-large, introduced a proposal to promote and improve discussion regarding diversity and inclusion at the solidarity walk on Oct. 19.

Housey later held a listening session on Oct. 22 to discuss and answer questions about the resolution.

The resolution reads: “The Georgia Southern University Student Government Association supports the implementation of an ethnicity and diversity training curriculum and providing students and staff the platform to speak their grievances regarding race, diversity and inclusion.”

Housey said in an email that as of Nov. 3, the resolution was passed by SGA as university legislation and that all its contents have now been put into effect University-wide.

“I have been notified that members of the administration have read the legislation and are beginning to work on their role in its implementation,” Housey said. “I expect that myself and President Steele will work closely with them throughout the process.”

The SGA also has a large role in the implementation of the resolution over the coming period.

“Expect more discourse on diversity and race to come from the SGA office,” Housey said.

“As such, I want to remind the students of both campuses that anyone is allowed to join in on our conversations within the office. Furthermore, over the coming weeks, SGA Senators on both campuses will begin work and complete the training to become certified Diversity Peer Educators under the Office of Multicultural Affairs.”

Housey’s plans include adding a new course into the core curriculum that focuses on diversity and inclusion.

Students will also have a chance to be involved in the upcoming changes by providing their feedback and opinions. The President’s Cabinet, Presidential Diversity Advisory Council and the SGA must provide a report on the progress of race relations at GS, which will be completed based on feedback from students and faculty.

The Holiday Helper Tree started its 25th anniversary on Nov. 1. To participate, students can grab a tag of the tree located in the Russell Union.

“Expect more discourse on diversity and race to come from the SGA office,” Housey said. “That report cannot be done without the input of not just students but faculty and staff at every sector university-wide giving their 100 percent honest feedback on the matter. This is the opportunity where everyone can air out there grievances on race relations, diversity and inclusion with impunity.”

“The report will explain where we have grown as a university regarding diversity and inclusion and where we have regressed as a university,” Housey said. “That report cannot be done without the input of not just students but faculty and staff at every sector university-wide giving their 100 percent honest feedback on the matter. This is the opportunity where everyone can air out there grievances on race relations, diversity and inclusion with impunity.”
ELECTION RESULTS

KEMP LEADING BUT ABRAMS HINTS AT NOT CONCEDING

By Matthew Enfinger
The George-Anne staff

Republican gubernatorial candidate Brian Kemp held a tight lead over Democratic opponent Stacey Abrams Tuesday night, but Abrams has hinted at a possible runoff between the two candidates.

According to results published by the Associated Press, out of the 3,886,414 reported votes, Kemp received 50.5 percent, Abrams received 48.6 percent and Libertarian candidate Ted Metz finished with 0.9 percent.

Despite the 75,386 vote margin behind Kemp, Abrams hinted at not conceding to the results Wednesday morning.

“If I wasn’t your first choice, or if you made no choice at all, you’re going to have a chance to do a do-over,” Abrams said.

USA Today reported that Abrams’ campaign said they were waiting for tens of thousands of absentee and provisional ballots to be counted.

Rick Allen wins 12th district
Incumbent Rick Allen defeated Democratic candidate Francys Johnson for the U.S. House seat for the 12th congressional district.

According to politico.com, out of 249,077 votes, Allen received 59.5 percent while Johnson received 40.5 percent. Johnson finished with a 47,107 vote margin above Johnson.

Both candidates took to Twitter to respond to the outcome of the race.

Secretary of State’s office to certify final results of election no later than Nov. 14

The Georgia Secretary of State’s office plans to certify the final results of the gubernatorial election no later than Nov. 14.

According to a press release by the Georgia Secretary of State’s office, Clarke, Fulton, Hall and Gwinnett counties have completed tabulation of their absentee ballots.

Less than 3,000 non-provisional votes remain state wide, according to the press release. County officials have reported less than 22,000 provisional ballots cast state wide.

Counties have until Friday to verify provisional ballots and until Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. to certify their results.

Current standings of candidates
The Associated Press reports 3,919,761 votes were reported.

Republican Brian Kemp still leads with 50.3 percent of the vote, while Stacey Abrams received 48.7 percent and Libertarian Ted Metz received 0.9 percent.
Students issue open letter to Georgia Southern president in response to usage of N-word on campus

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER

The Georgia-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University students walked out of their classes on Nov. 1 to participate in a protest sit-in at the Carroll Building Atrium. The students later marched to the president's office at the Marvin-Pittman Building to deliver an open letter of demands to President Shelley Nickel.

The march was organized by students Zachary Payne, Joshua Ahiaikwo and Tyler Hicks, in response to the usage of the N-word in the “triggering” incident over the summer and the recent allegations against professors Karen McCurdy and Rebecca Kennerly.

"Walk-in out" students are encouraged to sit-in, talk to each other and sometimes we don’t take the time," Jallow said.

March to Marvin-Pittman

The crowd of protesters left the Carroll Building Atrium and walked down the pedestrian path until Sweetheart Circle, ending on the steps of the Marvin-Pittman Building. The protesters chanted “Different people, same problem,” and “Love, not hate, will make America great.”

While on the steps of Marvin-Pittman, Ahiaikwo read from an open letter that would be given to Interim President Shelley Nickel. The open letter contained several demands, including a call for McCurdy and Kennerly to issue a public apology for promoting hate.

Other speakers include Student Government Association Senator KeyShawn Homsey, Gay-Straight Alliance President Ashley Strickland and Elisabeth Malloy, junior political science major.

Meeting with Nickel

After speaking on the steps of Marvin-Pittman, Payne, Ahiaikwo and Hicks met with Nickel, vice president of student affairs Georj Lewis and the university’s lawyer.

Payne said, after leaving the president’s office, he felt optimistic about the conversation. "They seemed to show genuine care and understanding for the GS family and like they were trying to truly help us create change on our campus," Payne said. "The next steps for us is to continue the conversations we started, not just with the president but between faculty, staff and students. Continue to work on open, honest communication between everyone."

Of the 12 demands made in the open letter, Ahiaikwo said the conversation only covered nine due to time constraints. Ahiaikwo said there will be further conversations with the university to continue the dialogue on accomplishing the demands listed in the letter.

“All they have done is to agree to try to brainstorm ideas with us because they said they don’t know how to do these things and they need students to tell them.”

Although there is not a set date for the next meeting, Ahiaikwo said he sees the meeting taking place sometime in November. Nickel sent an email to the GS community Thursday evening in response to the protest, march and open letter.

Nickel said in the email:

"Today I met with a group of students who held a peaceful march on the Statesboro Campus. I continue to be impressed with the student leaders and how they are approaching tense situations with maturity and conviction. We had a meaningful and productive conversation. I heard their concerns and they heard that the University is taking their concerns seriously. We are a university that respects all people and values diversity and inclusion. As we work through these challenging situations together, it’s crucial we maintain a respectful posture and listen. Today was a positive step forward and we will continue the dialogue.”
For more information on accommodations related to access or participation, please contact OSA at 478-7270 at least two weeks prior to the event.

November 9
3:30 pm
Russell Union 2052

Presented by Organization Leadership Consultants:
Austin Mathis & Maria Madrigal

The organization President and 1 additional leader MUST attend a renewal workshop.

Renewal Workshop Dates

Wednesday, April 3 | 5:30 pm | Williams Center Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, April 10 | 4:00 pm | Williams Center Multipurpose Room
Thursday, April 18 | 5:00 pm | Williams Center Multipurpose Room
Tuesday, April 23 | 6:00 pm | Williams Center Multipurpose Room
Thursday, April 25 | 5:30 pm | Williams Center Multipurpose Room

Advocates are strongly encouraged to attend.
2 Wings points will be awarded for Advocates attending.

STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY BUZZ

HOLIDAY HELPER TREE
OPEN 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. | CLOSES NOV. 16 | RUSSELL STUDENT UNION
LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Come visit the Holiday Helper Tree in the Russell Union Commons and pull a tag!

FALL JOB FAIR
CRI
CLOSES NOV. 9 | THE RAC
Are you interested in joining the CRI family? The CRI Job Fair and applications for spring 2019 CRI employment will close this Friday!

EMOTIONAL WISDOM WORKSHOPS
COUNSELING CENTER
HELD EVERY TUESDAY | 5 PM | COUNSELING CENTER
Visit - https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/counseling/ for full schedule.

SHUTTLE TO THE MAINSTREET FARMERS MARKET
CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
NOVEMBER 10 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM | MEET AT RU CIRCLE

EDUCATION CAREER FAIR
CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
NOVEMBER 15 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | NESSMITH-LANE BALLROOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OR ITS UNITS PLEASE VISIT STUDENTS.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU
**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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**Level: Easy**

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A CORNER OF SOUTHERN
Director Mical Whitaker brings "The Amen Corner" back to Georgia Southern's theatre

BY SHIANN SIVELL
The George-Anne Staff

A pious church elder. A treasured mother with a damaged heart. An absentee father with blood on his lips and lost love in his soul.

These characters are only a few that make up the intense cast of playwright James Baldwin's "The Amen Corner," a three-act play that has a special place in Georgia Southern University's heart and history.

"The Amen Corner" follows the story of Margaret Alexander, a single mother and pastor who must re-evaluate the role of religion and family as her son stands on the brink of manhood and begins to choose his own path.

Such themes as hypocrisy in the Christian religion and generational disagreements will be explored throughout the story. Through these themes, the play demonstrates how such issues are still as prominent today as they were when the play was written in the 1950s.

Integrating Southern
Theatre director and former professor Mical Whitaker returned to direct the play despite being retired from the theatre profession.

Whitaker was hired by GS in 1981 as the theatre program's first African-American instructor. His first production was a light musical piece. "It was understood when I was hired that I would do a black theatre piece," Whitaker said. "I and the faculty decided that I didn't want my first play to be black. I didn't want to get pigeon-holed."

Whitaker went on to direct "The Amen Corner" in 1982 as the campus's first all-black cast production and the play served as a major step in the school's integration process, Whitaker said.

James Baldwin, the writer
Whitaker has directed several productions of "The Amen Corner" around the country, two of which Baldwin himself saw.

"[Baldwin] went to my show in New York and in Chicago," Whitaker said. "I was very blessed."

The play's themes of church and belonging mirrors Baldwin's life and experiences with church.

"James Baldwin was a child preacher, a prodigy," Whitaker said. "Then he left church totally and became a writer."

According to Baldwin's essay "Letter from a Region in My Mind," he left the ministry due to his growing passion for writing and dissatisfaction with the ministry, which he began to view as hypocritical and racist.

Whitaker said one aspect that he loved of Baldwin's work was his ability to love himself and mankind despite its flaws.

"[Baldwin] loved being black, he's absolutely in love with it," Whitaker said. "He gets angry about it because there's so many disappointments in [his] brotherhood. At the same time, it has this wonderful sense of 'afrocentric' love. It's this love of your own people despite their faults."

From the pages to the stage
Peyton Rowe, senior political science major, will play the character of Sister Moore, one of the pious elders of the church who acts as a major antagonist.

Rowe describes Sister Moore as someone who is proud to never have been married or given in to the advances of a man.

"She has saved herself for God," Rowe said. "She becomes jealous of [Margaret] because she is a woman who has had kids, married and separated, but she gets to be the preacher in the lead of this church."

A major aspect of Rowe's character is her generational differences with the starring character, Margaret Alexander.

Margaret will be played by Deja Holmes, senior theatre major, who had to develop a maternal mindset for her role.

"There were a lot of rehearsals, a lot of work with Mical," Holmes said. "There were ensemble building to build those relationships. I have a son [in the play] so I had to work on that a lot to make the relationship seem realistic."

Whitaker said that a quote by the character Odessa could sum up the meaning of the play, as well as Baldwin's own views of religion and humanity.

"Maybe I don't love the lord like you, but I know something else. I know how men and women can come together and make each other happy, and make each other sad. If you only knew a little bit about what people go through in the low, black place they find their feet, you would have a meeting here tonight."

"The Amen Corner" will run at the Black Box Theatre in the Center for Art and Theatre from Nov. 7 to Nov. 14. All weekday shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday's show beginning at 2 p.m. There will be no Monday show.

Tickets are $12 for general admission, $6 for students, faculty and staff.

For ticket reservation, call 912-478-5379 or buy tickets online at Georgia Southern University Marketplace.

The church set of "The Amen Corner," where the theme of hypocrisy in the Christian faith will be the focus of the story.

A full view of "The Amen Corner" set. Despite taking place in the 1950s, the overall themes regarding racism and generational differences are still reflected in today's society.

SHIANN SIVELL/Staff
Director Mical Whitaker awaiting the rehearsal of "The Amen Corner." Whitaker is currently retired from the theatre profession but still lends his expertise to certain productions on campus.
5 tips to help you put your stress to rest

BY NOELLE WALKER
The George-Anne Reflector staff

Stress seems as if it is a part of our daily routine as we tackle classes, extracurricualrs and jobs. Worry and anxiety can make us feel like there's a huge weight on our shoulders. To help with this, here are a few tips to put that stress to rest.

GET A PLANNER

Trying to keep track of everything you have to do for the day just from memory alone is nearly impossible, especially when you have so many things going on in your life. If you take a few moments and write down in a planner all your assignments and things you have to do over the course of the semester, you'll save yourself a lot of trouble and missed deadlines. Knowing ahead of time what you have to accomplish everyday will be a huge relief.

CLEAN

A lot of people don’t enjoy cleaning, but the outcome has a lot of benefits. “Clutter bombards our minds with excess stimuli (visual, olfactory, tactile), causing our senses to work overtime on stimuli that aren’t necessary or important,” according to Psychology Today.

For many people, the act of cleaning itself can help reduce stress as well. Having a clean living space will give you an environment you enjoy being in. You won’t have to worry about finding objects, tripping over a pile of clothes or having to clear off your desk full of water bottles so you can use it.

Something as simple as making your own bed can make you feel better.

RELAX

As college students, we seem to be constantly on the go. But taking some time out of your day—or even just your week—for yourself can do a lot for your mind. Whether it’s taking a bubble bath or reading a book, clear your mind of everything you have going on for a while.

DON’T PROCRASTINATE

Procrastination is never a good thing. Working on assignments continuously will save you from pulling an all-nighter, where you clutch your coffee and panic as the clock gets closer and closer to your deadline. Know when your assignments are due and plan to do a little bit every day.

A planner can help with this.

EXERCISE

Exercising has many great health benefits. “Exercise reduces levels of the body’s stress hormones, such as adrenaline and cortisol,” according to Harvard Health Publishing.

Along with this, your self-confidence will improve as you start to achieve your ideal body. As your waistline shrinks and your strength and stamina increase, your self-image will improve,” according to Harvard Health Publishing.

So, whether you decide to relax your mind and body with yoga or channel your inner track star, exercise will affect you in a positive way.

When life starts to feel overwhelming or you want to save yourself from future stress, try out one of these tips.
Nakol Franks returns for junior season, looking to put last season's woes behind her

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne Contributor

Graduating from Wren High School in Greenville, South Carolina with a 4.8 GPA and leading the Georgia Southern women's basketball team in total points last season, junior Brittany Nakol Franks knows a thing or two about making her mark on and off the court.

Coming from an athletic family, Franks grew up with a strong work ethic. With all three of her younger siblings looking up to her, she knows she must be a good example. Her sophomore season, the 5-foot-7 guard went a month-and-half without missing one free throw and accumulated a .912 percentage from the line.

"Right now, we're placed in 10th in the Sun Belt preseason poll, but I think we could definitely finish in the top six," Franks said.

Coming off of a 5-25 overall record and 2-16 in the Sun Belt last season, the Eagles worked hard during the off-season to improve on the offensive side of the ball.

"Most of our workouts are based around our offense, so we had individual workouts to find different ways to score better," Franks said.

With no seniors on the roster this year, Franks will have to step into the leadership position. With 14 starts and 11 games putting up double-digits last season, she is more than capable of taking on this responsibility.

When she's not leading the Eagles in total points scored in a season or gaining 52-57 from the free throw line, she enjoys reading mystery novels, cooking any type of breakfast foods and spending time with her family.

"When I think about home, I miss my family the most," Franks said.

With her father formerly playing basketball for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and North Greenville University, he is constantly pushing her to be a better player when training.

"It's fun playing the same position as him because we always joke around about who scores more," Franks said of her dad. "Growing up, he really emphasized hard work, and I think that's where my work ethic comes from. We have a very tight relationship."

Though Franks considers herself somewhat of a procrastinator with her academics, she made the Sun Belt Conference Honor Roll last season. As an exercise science major, she prefers to be hands-on with her classes and is aiming toward a career as a strength and conditioning coach.

Before choosing GS, Franks finished her high school career with 1,060 points, was appointed to three All-Region teams, was named as the 2013-14 Maxpreps Player of the Year for South Carolina and was appointed to three All-State teams.

"I chose Georgia Southern because it's the perfect distance from home. It's not too big here, which I like, because I'm a small-town person," Franks said.

"Everyone is super kind and it's the perfect distance from home."

When asked what advice she would give to any rising female collegiate basketball player, she emphasized dedication and effort.

"Come in ready to work. Don't come in expecting to be a star," Franks said. "You have to sacrifice a lot of your time, so be ready for that. To help everything move along smoothly, take advantage of campus resources. You have to have class because of traveling, there are people around campus who can help you stay on track."
RETURNING FOR SENIOR CAMPAIGN, BROWN READY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

BY RYAN PYE
The Georgia-Anne Staff

In perhaps one of the biggest scares of the off-season, Georgia Southern’s star point guard Tookie Brown initially decided to declare for the NBA draft. But after long and careful consideration, he decided to come back for his senior season as an Eagle.

Brown said a lot of thought was put into the decision, and even though his brothers were interested, he feels he made the right choice.

“I GET TO COME BACK AND GET MY DEGREE, AND PLAY WITH MY BROTHERS AGAIN.”
Tookie Brown
junior point guard

Brown made it very clear on what he wants to accomplish during his final go around here in Statesboro.

“While I’m at school, I’m just trying to have fun and enjoy it like everyone else,” Brown said. “But my goal for my senior year is to try and win a Sun Belt Championship.”

Brown has had quite the career at GS, from his favorite memory of nailing the buzzer beating shot against Arkansas-Little Rock last season, averaging nearly 18 points per game and being an outspoken team leader both on and off the court.

“As a point guard, you’re always gonna have to be a leader and be vocal,” Brown said.

And his coach, Mark Byington, recognizes Brown’s athletic abilities and tough mentality day in and day out. He even referred to him as the team’s engine and unquestioned leader.

“Coach Byington always gave me the keys to be a leader,” Brown said. “So I took the job and am just trying to get guys better.”

Getting better, both individually and as a team, is in fact all that Brown is worried about. He even goes as far as going “ghost” on social media, where he does not access any of the popular pages until the season comes to an end.

When asked about the motives and reasoning behind this, Brown said, “I did it last year as well. I just try and focus on basketball to improve and help my game.”

Brown has a history of being doubted. From being called too small to succeed, or being on a team that is deemed the underdog, he simply finds a way to prove everyone wrong. In response to pre-season polls showing the Eagles finishing behind Georgia State and Louisiana-Lafayette in some cases, in the ‘Sun Belt, Brown responded just as you would anticipate.

“We don’t worry about the polls,” Brown said. “All the stuff is gonna show on the court.”

Doubted, and yet proven to be one of the league’s best all around players, Brown and the rest of the Eagles set out to overcome the final obstacle left in the senior’s illustrious career, a Sun Belt Championship and birth to the NCAA tournament.

SUN BELT FOOTBALL STANDINGS

CONFERENCE OVERALL

EAST
TREY UNIVERSITY 5-0 7-2
GEORGIA SOUTHERN 4-1 7-2
APP STATE 4-1 6-2
COASTAL CAROLINA 2-3 5-4
GEORGIA STATE 1-4 2-7

WEST
LOUISIANA MONROE 3-2 5-4
ARKANSAS STATE 2-3 5-4
LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE 2-3 4-5
TEXAS STATE 1-4 3-6
SOUTH ALABAMA 1-4 2-7

GLENN LOOKING TO CONTINUE DOMINATION ON THE BOARDS IN SENIOR SEASON

BY RYAN PYE
The Georgia-Anne Staff

Bouncing back from injury is no easy task, but Georgia Southern’s Montae Glenn made it clear he’s going to be at full strength when the season rolls around. The senior forward said he’s put in a lot of effort and care into getting back to 100 percent in the off-season, and has high hopes for the team in his last campaign as an Eagle.

A simple, yet encouraging quote sums up what Glenn wants for his team in 2018-19.

“I want to make it the best one I’ve had since I’ve been here,” Glenn said.

Since he has been on the squad, the team they’ve come as close as possible, but they’ve not been able to win the Sun Belt Conference Championship. That is something Glenn wants to change during his final season.

Glenn was the team’s leading rebounder last season, but he credits the rest of the team and coaching staff with all of his success on the boards.

“We worked hard on boxing out and pursuing the ball,” Glenn said. “I just had a good vision where the ball would land once it hit the rim.”

Gathering so many rebounds was crucial to the Eagles’ success last year because the team was vastly undersized compared to many of their opponents. This year, Glenn will have some new, taller guys to help in the rebounding area, but even with the extra help, Glenn doesn’t plan to switch up his gameplay.

“I want to keep the same mentality and go out there aggressively and get the ball,” Glenn said.

Even with the key additions to the lineup for the upcoming season, many pre-season polls predict the Eagles to finish, at best, second in the Sun Belt.

Most people would think that rankings like that would anger players and the team, or at least draw some attention, but Glenn says it’s exactly the opposite with the Eagles.

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GLS ATHLETICS
Montae Glenn returns for his senior season after a strong junior year.

“Most people would think that rankings like that would anger players and the team, or at least draw some attention, but Glenn says it’s exactly the opposite with the Eagles.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS
Morgan Carr
Four things we know about the tenth game of the season against Troy

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The Georgia-Anne Staff

The Eagles are going into their 10th game of the season and their final game at home. Here are four things we know about the upcoming game against Troy:

Both teams are 7-2
The Trojans hold an overall record of 7-2 like the Eagles, but the Trojans are undefeated in the conference being 5-0. Their only two losses are to No. 22 Boise State and Liberty University. Troy has also pulled over wins over teams like ULM, Coastal Carolina and Georgia State. On the other hand, the Eagles will be looking to bounce back after ULM beat them 44-25.

The Eagles are 6-11 against the Trojans
First meeting in 1934, Troy has taken most of the wins over GS and currently holds a win streak of one. When the Eagles faced off against Troy last season it was Chad Lunsford’s first game as head coach after the firing of Tyson Summers, and the Eagles have yet to lose a game at home with the help of the Power of Paulson and look to continue that undefeated streak.

Kickoff is to take place in Paulson Stadium on Saturday at 1 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN3.

It’s senior day for the Eagles
Along with it being the last home game of the regular season, GS will honor their seniors Saturday.

SIX PLAYERS TO WATCH WHEN THE EAGLES HOST THE TROJANS

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS
The Georgia-Anne contributor

Coming off of a tough loss to University of Louisiana-Monroe, the Georgia Southern Eagles are on to the next work week. The team remains focused on taking things week by week, and the game this week against the Troy Trojans will be no different.

Sitting at No. 2 in the Sun Belt, the Eagles still have goals that they plan on attaining, and their momentum will not be stopped. The Eagles are adamant about their ability to get to the ball and grind out another win.

With that being said, there are a few players to watch in the upcoming week:

**TROY**

**KALEB BARKER, #7, QB**
With two interceptions on the season and 1,013 passing yards Barker has made his statement and continues to do so. The junior from Decatur, Alabama has made 10 touchdowns this season and only had two interceptions, making him a big part of the ‘Trojans’ offense. There will be plenty to see from him when his arm is up against the GS defense.

**B.J. SMITH, #28, RB**
The Troy running back has 138 carries on the season and is dynamite on the field. After his last game Saturday, he set a school record with his fifth straight game, with over 100 rushing yards. His ability to run the ball is something to be watched.

**Chris Harris Jr., #32, LB**
His total yardage comes to a whopping 860 yards and the numbers keep increasing. One of the highlights of his season has been his long rush to make a 78-yard touchdown. He is planning on making more moves like this, and this week is another opportunity to do so.

**Davarius Bargnare, #10, CB**
This slotback from Orlando, Florida got a slower start to the season, but Eagle Nation has seen him emerge in the passing weeks. In his game against ULM, he had a total of 23 receiving yards. He is getting ready to take on the Trojans and, as a freshman, has much potential to shine. A leader since his playing time in high school, as he grows into his position as an Eagles, fans will start to hear his name more and more.

**WESLEY FIELDS, #21, RB**
The senior running back from Americus, Georgia has made continuous moves this season and has racked up many yards. Putting him at the top of the charts, Fields has 131 carries and total yardage of 647. With another conference game around the corner, Fields looks to add to his conference yardage of 443 for the season. This Saturday is another opportunity for Fields to rack up yardage and maybe even make a rushing touchdown to top his previous one of 47 yards.

**Logan Hunt**

Harris, a sophomore from Savannah, Georgia, is ready to emerge this Saturday as a part of the strong GS defense. His total tackles on the season come to 28 and he alone has soliced 14 of those. A strong asset to the defensive side of the ball, his ability to get there first and stop a strong offense is evident. The Trojans will have a hard time stopping the agility of Harris.
**REESE EXPECTS TO CONTINUE HARD-HITTING IMPACT ON SENIOR DAY**

**BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY**
The Georgia-Anne Staff

Sitting at 7-2 (4-1 in conference), the Eagles can move back into first with a win on Saturday and will rely on the senior leadership that has gotten them there.

Senior inside linebacker Tomarcio Reese has been the captain on the defensive side all season long.

Like most collegiate football players, Reese played football at a young age. The senior mentioned he had a brief stint in wrestling but did not like it. The linebacker talked about the role football has played in his life.

“Playing football was the third grade,” Reese said. “I’ve just been playing since then.”

Reese recorded an interception in the season-opening game against South Carolina State and has been a stronghold on a defense that struggled mightily in 2017.

The senior opened up about how the unit has been able to adapt and how the turnaround came about so fast.

“Chemistry is better,” Reese said. “I feel our coaches have a better scheme for us to let us fly around and have fun and just, we all believe in one another.”

Reese, like many athletes, has his own way of getting mentally focused for the upcoming game, and the linebacker keeps it simple and talks about what he does.

Although the team lost to ULM in disappointing fashion, the Eagles still control their own destiny and beat rival Appalachian State, a feat Reese had never experienced.

Reese talked about the magnitude of the victory against the archival from North Carolina.

“Oh, big one,” Reese said. “You know, just letting everyone know that we’re still here and we mean business, and we just want to redeem ourselves from last year reality.”

When he’s not on the gridiron, Reese loves to spend time outdoors.

“Play the game, go fishing and ride horses,” Reese said, noting that he learned to love riding horses from an uncle who resides in Mississippi.

Saturday’s contest will be Senior Day for Reese and the rest of the seniors, but victory against Troy, as well as wins against Coastal Carolina and Georgia State to close the season, perhaps the biggest game in Paulson Stadium will occur in the form of the inaugural Sun Belt Championship.

For now, though, Reese and GS have set their sights on redemption and taking down Troy. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Five takeaways from women’s basketball’s 81-65 loss to Wofford

**BY AMANDA ARNOLD**
The Georgia-Anne contributor

With a young team, the Georgia Southern women’s basketball team started their season by hosting the Wofford Terriers. A quick start from Wofford set the tone for the game, in which GS would never lead in the effort.

Here are five takeaways from the season debut:

The team was lacking on defense and rebounds

Wofford dominated the Eagles, producing a lead as large as 26 points in the fourth quarter. On several occasions, Wofford players were left unguarded, and three out of the five players in the starting lineup ended in double digit point values over fifteen.

For Wofford, Chloe Wanink, remained mostly untouched and closed out the game with 30 points (12-18 FG, 5-7 from the three-point line) while most rebounds were grabbed by Jamari McDavid, who led the game with 12 rebounds.

Sarah Moore led GS with six rebounds.

There was little ball movement by GS, which Wofford took advantage of

The Terrier defense figured out GS’s offense pretty early and put pressure on them in the paint. On offense, there were multiple moments of offensive confusion and Wofford was responsible for eight steals.

GS gave up four turnovers in nine possessions in the third quarter.

Brown alone in fighting effort

Alexis Brown was a standout player as expected, but a poor game from last season’s offensive star Nakol Franks left her fighting on her own. Brown was low aggressive, but the Eagles, with 14 points, two steals, one assist, and three rebounds.

Franks went 2-8 in FG and 1-6 from the three. It is crucial for these two to work together and find a rhythm. Junior Hailey Dias-Allen stepped up to the plate and put up 14 points, one assist and four rebounds.

Eagles started slow and Wofford pounced

The Eagles allowed Wofford to set a rapid pace of the game within the first two minutes, leaving them looking frazzled and unprepared.

Besides some spurs in the second quarter by GS, Wofford had control of the game and showed their aggression.

GS tried to play catch up the entire game and called seemingly multiple back-to-back timeouts to reset their strategies.

Wofford scored 13 points from GS turnovers alone.

**Women’s basketball drops first game of season**

**BY KAITLIN SELLS**
The Georgia-Anne Staff

The women’s basketball team started their season off with a 81-65 loss to Wofford at home Tuesday night.

The Eagles started the first quarter slow as they missed many of their shots and their possession game showed to be sloppy. Wofford took advantage of that and ran up 12 points in consecutive three pointers to start the game.

The Eagles started to wake up and were able to put 10 points on the board before the end of the first, but Wofford still held a 12-point lead.

GS found their momentum in the second quarter and they cut Wofford’s lead close, only trailing by two points as they went on a 10-point streak to make the score 22-20. Wofford responded and ran up 19 points before halftime, leaving the court leading the Eagles 41-33.

The Eagles gave Wofford more room to score as the Eagles, through a lack of experience, would never lead in the effort. When GS switched to a more aggressive and direct approach in the second quarter, they lessened the Wofford lead and only trailed 41-33.

This change of play shocked the Wofford defense, allowing the Eagles to go on a 10-0 run. According to Head Coach Kim Dray, they went 5-2 in the three-point line, which is a cause for concern.

"Just say my prayers and listen to music." Tomarcio Reese defensive linebacker

Last year’s scoring leader Nakol Franks gets boxed out by Chloe Wanink. Wanink led both teams with 30 points.

Morgan Carr

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GET AHEAD OF THE GAME

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