

International association gives emergency management students the opportunity to gather experience

Minnie Marbury
Senior Staff Writer

The International Association of Emergency Managers is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the “Principles of Emergency Management” and representing those professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters. This organization has over 5,000 members worldwide.

Dr. Stacy Mann is the Adviser for the International Associa-

tion of Emergency Management chapter at JSU.

The student chapter was founded when Mann joined the Department of Emergency Management at JSU in August 2011 as a faculty member.

Former department head, Dr. Barry Cox asked Dr. Mann to try to get the chapter active.

“Our programs are entirely online so trying to get students interested in working on a student organization virtually is difficult. However, a small group of students really have worked hard in creating a solid foundation.”

said Dr. Mann.

The student chapter introduces students to the organization and tries to increase awareness of emergency management and provide networking opportunities for students.

Emergency Management affects all disciplines. Programs for teaching emergency preparedness are often headed up by teachers in K-12 so education majors have a huge impact on emergency management. Businesses are often affected by disasters, so business continuity is important.

Business majors would really benefit from becoming involved, as the majority of small businesses do not recover from disasters.

Public administrators and political scientists also are affected by disasters as all levels of government must mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from disasters.

“The majority of our executive board will be graduating in May so we really need students who are interested in further advancing the mission of the chapter

See Emergency Pg. 2



Above: Student healthcare will now be going through RMC located in Anniston.

Stephen Gross/THE ANNISTON STAR

Board of Trustees approve healthcare resoulution

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Board of Trustees at Jacksonville State University passed a resolution that will outsource student healthcare to Regional Medical Center beginning in the fall semester of 2013.

Services will include things at JSU’s on-campus site, an off-campus office accessible via the Gamecock Express, and at RMC Jacksonville.

Services will also include family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, primary care, urgent care, women’s health, men’s health, mental health screenings, laboratory testing, radiology services, rehabilitation services,



physicals, immunizations, medication management, check-ups, and health fairs. There are also opportunities for education in infection control, safe sex practices, and campus safety, as well as nutritional and faith-based counseling, and wellness clubs.

It is not known at this time how the extended health services will affect students’ pocket-books, as the Board is not set to

decide on that matter until their April meeting. One possibility is that each student will be charged a health fee each semester, and another possibility is an increase in tuition.

While many students seem to agree that the decision is good for students without insurance, they are concerned about how it

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Inside:

Gamecocks stun Racers

Jacksonville State claims first ever win over Murray State, 65-64.
>Complete story, Pg. 8

“A wonderful experience”

SGA President Jason Sumner visits D.C. for President Obama’s second inauguration.

> Complete story, Pg. 3



Hough named to All-American Team

JSU’s Jermaine Hough has been named to the College Sports Journal Freshman All-American Football Team



> Complete story, Pg. 7

JSU Judo/Jujitsu club continues to shine and impress

Tiffani Foster
Staff Writer

The JSU Judo/Jujitsu Club was founded by Grandmaster Larry Beard. Grandmaster Beard came to JSU in the year 1999, but it wasn’t until 2001 that he founded the club. “We’ve been around for about 11 years,” said Beard. “We’ve got quite a few people that attend regularly.”

The club meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Pete Mathews’ Coliseum dance hall.

For this meeting, about seven students were in attendance. Five of the attendees were regular members, and two of them were there

for the first time.

“This is my first time coming here,” said Math student Georgie Marsh. “I work at a lifeguard at the pool and I see these guys walking around in their uniforms all the time. Since I was free tonight, I figured I’d come and see what it was about.”

Ms. Marsh hit the ground running: her first task was to learn how to hit the floor properly. The training was vigorous, as she soon learned. After Grandmaster Beard showed her the technique, he worked extensively with her to ensure her mastery of it. While she was getting her feet wet, the other members were on the mat practicing Judo throws.

“It’s a really good stress reliever,” remarked Anniston City Police Officer and club member Logan Harrelson, “and its very beneficial for anyone wanting to know more about self defense.”

The members took turns on the mat practicing the Judo technique of throwing. Their system was a system of give and take: to earn the right to throw someone, you also have to be thrown. However, before you can do either, you have to learn the proper way to do both to ensure your safety and the safety of your partner.

After she was done with her training, Ms.

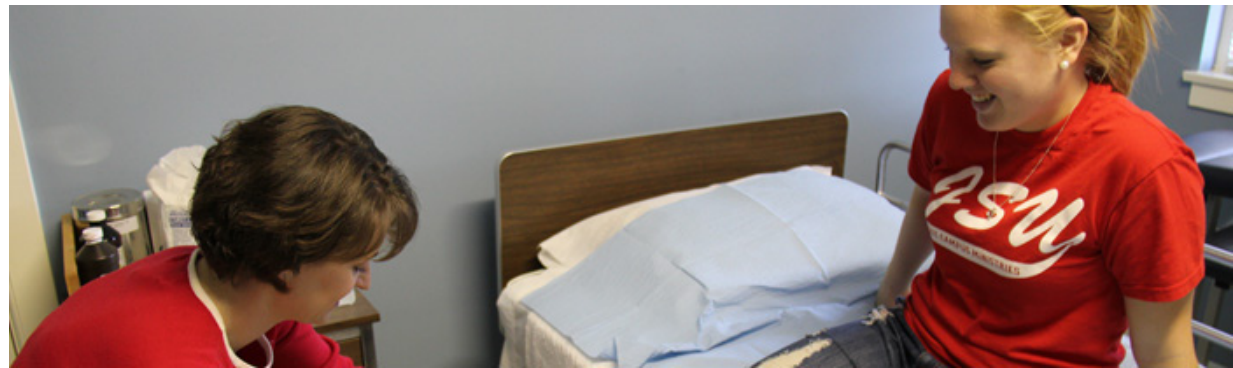
See Jujitsu Pg. 2

will affect them.

From Pg. 1
RMC

“Like myself, there are tons of people that have never used the school’s healthcare services,” says Junior Alex Lang. “If anything,

wouldn’t mind paying a little extra on my tuition for affordable health insurance and be able to see any doctor, any day that I choose. But if I have to start paying to see the on-campus doctor, I better be able to see the doctor any day, any time and



NewsWire

they need to find a way so that if you want to use the services, you can pay for it. All students shouldn’t be charged.”

Junior Curtis Holman says, “I feel that this proposal is going to help the students who don’t have any health insurance. But for the ones who do have health insurance, it’s not really going to matter. It will just be an extra charge on us.”

“I think it’s irrelevant for students that are on their parent’s insurance,” says History major Nicole Easterwood. “I think it’s completely moronic to charge everyone the health fee when most won’t use it. If JSU would offer affordable health insurance to students who need it, [...] things would be better and students who need to see a doctor can without the fear of incurring even more debt than they already have with student loans.”

Students are hoping that extended hours at the center will mean that they will have access to doctors when they need them. “I unfortunately have no personal insurance, and being a nontraditional student, am too old be on my parents insurance,” says Art student Jeremy Bagwell. “I

not pay the same as I would to see a doctor off campus.”

Another Art major, Ashlee Jones, echoes the sentiment. “Every time I have ever tried to contact the Student Health Center, no one would answer the phone or return my calls, so they felt ineffective and useless. Hopefully this decision will improve the Health Center for the better.”

The on-campus facility will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. during the school year. Summer hours will be 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The off-campus location is at the office of Dr. Wyndol Hamer, which is on Pelham Road, across the street from the Jacksonville RMC hospital. Care will be available there from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The emergency room at RMC Jacksonville is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

From Pg. 1
Jujitsu

Marsh joined the rest of the group over by the mat. She lined up shyly in the back of the line. After she was called to the mat, the Grandmaster and the others carefully instructed her on how to perform the “Tsurigoshi,” one of the original Judo throws.

After her first try, she then proceeded to practice the move on the other members. When asked how it felt, she whispered excitedly “I actually liked it. It kinda felt like ‘rawr.’” She then took her place in line to continue the activity.

Although the ratio of men to women in the room was 3 to 1, the women who participated where not intimidated. They showed the same amount of strength and resilience that the men in



Above: A file photo of students enjoying a demonstration of judo/ujitsu performed by members of the club

the room showed.

Even in this environment, chivalry was not dead. As Marsh was waiting in line for her turn to be thrown on the mat, the gentleman in front of her whom the others affectionately called “Bloom,” stepped to the side and graciously told her “Ladies first.”

From Pg. 1
Emergency

and to assist in its growth. We would really like to see students from all disciplines become involved in the organization,” stated Dr. Mann.

The Mission of IAEM is to advance the profession by promoting the principles of emergency management; to serve our members by providing information, networking and professional development opportunities; and to advance the emergency management profession.

“We have amazing guest speakers every month, who speak to us virtually through videoconferencing and teleconferencing. A couple of months ago, we had one of our graduate students who worked on the emergency plan for the London Olympics speak, and it was one of the most interesting talks I’ve heard in a very long time,” said Dr. Mann, “Last month, we had a speaker talk about the effect of disasters on public utilities and power companies. It might not sound like the most interesting topic, but you would be AMAZED at how the speaker made the topic relevant to every single person.”

“Since 9/11, businesses have increased their awareness and understanding of having business continuity plans,” stated

Jody Hodge, President of the Student Chapter. “Many business students are learning about that and will see the importance of it when they step into the

as social workers help survivors in finding shelter, supplies and other needed items to recover,” said Hodge, “Nursing and health students will find that



corporate world. Manufacturing students will need to understand their supply chain so that their factories can continue to function.”

The membership drive will be February and there will be more information posted about this event.

“Social work is an important part of emergency management

public health departments are an integral part of an area’s emergency management plan. Nursing and health students will find that even if they work at a hospital, they will be informed of an emergency and the type of injuries they can expect to see.”

Alpha Kappa Psi hosts “Project Runway Black Out”

Ebonee Roston
Senior Staff Writer

On January 28, Alpha Kappa Psi organization hosted a fashion show called “Project Runway Black Out” in the Leon Cole Auditorium.

The doors opened at 6:30 p.m. and the show ended approximately 8:30 p.m.

John Morton was the executive producer of the fashion show, however, other organizations and volunteers also helped make this fashion show possible.

Guests were asked to donate three dollars before walking into the auditorium.

There was a diversity of songs playing during the fashion show.

The models included people from different organizations. The models walked down a black carpet and posed for the photographer as if they were at a photo shoot.

All the models walked with confident smiles and had every guest’s attention.

Clothes from Dillards, Old Navy and Swank Boutique clothing store were the fashionable trends on display for everyone to see.

The show also consisted of comedy performances, a dance performance, R&B/Rap performance and a small, entertaining competition from selected volunteers in the audience.

Volunteers had to make a fashionable outfit out of a black trash bag onto a human manikin.

After the show, John Morton thanked everyone for attending, volunteers, models, clothing stores and other organizations that helped make the show a success.

Fredrick Surls is a junior who also was a participant in helping prepare the show.

“The show was very good. It took us a while with practicing and setting up, but when I saw the finished picture I was very proud of the time and effort we put into it. The models and everyone worked so hard to pull everything off and I really think that the show will be something people will say is one of the highlights of this semester,” said Frederick Surls, who was a participant of the show.

Rakeya Morrow, junior and Nursing major was one of the many pleased audience members.

“I felt like the fashion show turned out to be a great success. It was a lot of participation and everyone came out and supported. I think everyone in the fashion show did really, really well,” said Morrow.

Keiasha Jordan, a senior and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sister had plenty of positive things to add: “I mainly went to go support my sorority sister who was participating in the fashion show. I like the fact that it included a variety of people on the campus from international students, IFC, Panhellenic Sororities, AKPsi members, NPHC and Independents, which showed diversity. Overall it was a good show and I really enjoyed myself,” said Jordan.



Unwind Online!

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Photo courtesy of Calera High School Eagle Marching Band

The Calera High School Band from Calera, AL marches in President Obama’s second Inaugural Parade.



Photo courtesy of Jason Sumner
SGA President Jason Sumner poses in front of the Capitol building.



Jason Sumner
The car that President Obama rode in for his inaugural parade.

“A wonderful experience that has truly inspired me”

Jason A. Sumner
President, Student Government Association

I recently had the opportunity of attending the 57th Presidential Inauguration in our nation’s capitol. The trip was one of the most amazing experiences that I have been honored to be a part of thus far. I traveled with the Calera High School Marching Eagle Band, which was chosen among fifteen other ensembles to perform in the inaugural parade out of 28,000 applicants nationwide. This was a stunning achievement for the Band Director at Calera High School, Mr. Ryan Murrell. I was honored to present the students of the band with a certificate of recognition in lieu of Governor Bentley. I was not alone in this endeavor, as JSU Student Senator Kenneth Smith personally secured this certificate as well as a letter of recommendation that helped secure the band’s place in the parade.

Murrell is a JSU Graduate and a

Marching Southern-er alumnus, having served as the Head Drum Major in 2009. I am proud of his accomplishment, as he has only been the director of this program for six months.

We departed for the nation’s capitol on Friday, Jan. 18th, traveling throughout much of the night to Washington D.C. Upon arriving we immediately began touring. We started with the Smithsonian Institution, which consists of multiple museums and buildings within the center of the city.

The following day we visited Arlington National Cemetery and the former home of General Robert E. Lee. Featured at the Cemetery are those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom’s and liberty each of us enjoy daily. Some of the more specific sites to see within the national cemetery are the burial site of President John F. Kennedy. Featured at president Kennedy’s final resting place is the eternal flame, which represents his dreams and hopes for our na-

tion.

The Cemetery is also home to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is guarded 365 days a year, 24 hours a day by a select unit of servicemen. Each of these guards must complete extensive training after being selected for the position, which is very difficult to obtain. Further, each guard is required to have extensive knowledge of the cemetery.

The Cemetery also hosts the mast from the U.S.S Maine and memorial to the Sailors whom lost their lives on this vessel, triggering the start of the Spanish-American War; and a memorial to the crew of the Challenger.

In addition to Arlington, Washington is home to some of our greatest monuments. Featured prominently in the city is the Washington Monument, which is a giant obelisk that towers over the capitol. Facing the Washington monument is the Lincoln Memorial, which boasts a nineteen-foot-tall statue of the 16th president and

both the Emancipation Proclamation and his second inaugural address reside upon the inner walls of the memorial.

The memorial is surrounded by other prominent features, such as the Korean War Monument, the Vietnam Memorial and the World War II Monument. I also visited the recently completed Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial which features a wonderfully done statue and famous quotes through out the entirety of the landmark.

On Monday, Jan. 21st, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I with many others from across the nation lined Pennsylvania Avenue for the Presidential Inauguration and parade that was to follow. Over 800,000 people were present in the city for the event from all over the country and some from other nations. It was truly a breathtaking event and sight.

The Parade began around two o’clock in the afternoon and lasted for hours as there were five sepa-

rate divisions, each prominently featuring a branch of the United States Military. I am proud to say that the students of the Calera High School Marching Eagle Band were in the third of these divisions, and represented the state of Alabama with pride and class. I will never forget the look upon their faces as they passed. The notion that they would soon be before the president’s review stand must have been truly breathtaking. I can not begin to express the excitement and joy for these young people as the event was an opportunity of a life time. For Ryan, this experience had brought him full circle, having marched himself in the 55th Presidential Inaugural Parade in 2001 with the Homewood High School Marching Patriot Band.

On the last day of our trip, we toured the United States Capitol Building, one of my favorite stops of the entire trip. This structure is profoundly amazing in every aspect, so spe-

cial that it does not have an address. The rotunda is geographically in the center of Washington D.C. and features amazing art work, much of which can be found in American History text books from our youth.

In conclusion, whether you’re interested in politics or government, or history or not, I strongly recommend that each of you take the American pilgrimage to our nation’s capitol. You will not be disappointed, and perhaps, just as I did, you will become refreshed in the spirit of pride for our nation and cause as a people. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly share with you a wonderful experience that has truly inspired me.



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Arts & Entertainment

Local band doubles down on soul sound

Meredith Speciale
Staff Writer

Double Wide Soul is a self-proclaimed blues, jam band from right down the street in Anniston. Their headquarters is an old Monsanto chemical testing facility off of Noble Street, which could account for the trippy atmosphere their studio radiates. Or it could be the plethora of posters, tapestries, and records littering the walls of the place, featuring artists like: The Beatles, Bob Marley, The Who, Grateful Dead, and Johnny Cash, among others. There is even an old receptionist’s area that the band now has filled with sound equipment and instruments.

The group features Brandon Strother, 25, on guitar and Matthew Gravitt, 28, on drums. The band originally had five members, but through familial obligations and generally bad timing, three members were unable to keep up with the commitment.

“Originally, I tried to put a band together with a couple other people who I quickly realized were not serious about playing music,” said Gravitt, “about the time that I met Brandon.” The two quickly realized that they hit it off and shared a similar view and musical style.

Historically, the two-man band equation has been a successful one, stemming from the popularity of rock bands like The White Stripes and The Black Keys and singing and songwriting duos, like Simon and Garfunkel or John Lennon and Paul McCartney. That formula doesn’t change with Double Wide Soul. Gravitt and Strother are like brothers, and it really shows when they’re jamming together.

The two have been friends for years, and not only are they great together musically, but they are hilarious around each other, which may be the reason their music flows so well together. They describe their relationship onstage



Photos by Taylor Stacks Haynes

Drummer Matthew Gravitt, pictured above at left, alongside bandmate and guitarist Brandon Strother. The two friends form Anniston-based blues and jam band Double Wide Soul. The band will be playing several shows at local venues in February.

as a “groove.” “It’s a vibe. It’s not something that you can learn,” explained Gravitt.

“Matt can just stop, just throw a beat and stop, and we don’t have to worry about four other people getting it, because I get it, we’ve done it thousands of times,” said Strother.

Stylistically however, the two band members are very different. Gravitt found his roots and influences in old country music, as Strother grew up listening to old blues music. These guys are music lovers to their cores.

“The radio was all you had, you didn’t have cell phones to play on, and all these other distractions, you just had the radio,” said Gravitt, about his love of music from an early age.

Double Wide Soul’s sound is not something you can put your finger on. The guys look like a mix



between the Blues Brothers and ZZ Top, and their sound is not far off from that either. They have this exciting, soulful vibe to their music, but there is also that classic southern rock element. “We’re trying to bring back that blues sound,” said Gravitt. It is definitely something to experience.

Although the band covers lots of crowd-pleasing classics, Strother typically writes the band’s original songs. “The most fun gig to me was when we finally got to play all of our original songs,” said Strother. “We finally got to play the stuff that we’ve been working on instead of pounding away at songs that other people have written and we’re taking credit for. I hate taking credit for a song someone else has written.”

Double Wide Soul often plays locally in Anniston bars and venues. They have played shows in Birmingham, Atlanta, Nashville, and Memphis as well.

“There’s no better feeling in the world than playing to a crowd that is receptive of what you play and enjoys what you do,” said Gravitt, “and getting that energy back is what playing music is all

about.” And, man, do these guys give off a lot of energy. Sometimes between songs there will be some stage banter between the guys, or Strother will joke around with the crowd or the bartenders from the stage.

The guys have a few local shows planned for the beginning of February at Pelham’s Bar here on the square in Jacksonville, and at The Smoking Moose, a bar on Noble Street, in Anniston. Exact dates and times of the performances will be announced on the band’s Facebook page.

Double Wide Soul is planning a move to Colorado Springs, Colorado in the next year, to “just keep on moving and keep on progressing.” The band’s hope for the move to Colorado is simply getting gigs, writing more songs, and continuing to grow as a band.

“We’re just trying to get some people on the left side of the country to listen to Double Wide Soul, and we’ll progress from there,” said Strother. “Then one day, who knows, we could be as famous as the dude who sang ‘Chocolate Rain.’”



WLJS Top 10 for the week of January 31st, 2013

1. P.O.S. - Weird Friends (We Don’t Even Live Here)
2. Swell Daze - Lost Your Head
3. Paper Parlor - Eyes
4. Feedback Revival - Delta
5. Math The Band - Mission Statement
6. What Made Milwaukee Famous - Gone and Done It Now
7. of Montreal - Our Love Is Senile
8. BennFrank - Who
9. Cub Scouts - Evie
10. Manafest - Pushover



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‘Beasts of the Southern Wild’ beautiful, but still falls short

Zach Tyler
A&E Editor

It’s safe to say that 2012 was a great year to go to the movies--there were plenty of box office blockbusters from veteran directors, and some pleasant surprises from first-timers at film festivals too.

New York-native Benh Zeitlin’s drama fantasy “Beasts of the Southern Wild” is not one such surprise. It’s a little more complicated than that.

Released on June 27th, 2012, the movie tells the story of Hushpuppy, played by the adorable and talented Quvenzhané Wallis. She received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress for her performance.

At the time of filming, Wallis was only six years old; she’s nine now, and still the youngest nominee by at least four years.

Hushpuppy lives in the Delta bayou area of Louisiana with her alcoholic father Wink, played by Dwight Henry. Together they eke out an existence in the rag-tag community of “The Bathtub,” home to some of Louisiana’s finest examples of alcoholic trash people.

Wink isn’t the most loving father figure to Hushpuppy. His working theory for raising his daughter seems to be to virtually neglect her, so that when he dies of alcohol poisoning or liver failure she won’t notice him being gone.

Unfortunately, Hushpuppy’s mother is nowhere to be found—she left Wink shortly after giving birth. Frequently throughout the film, Hushpuppy finds herself wishing for her mother to appear and bring stability to her life. Spoiler alert: it doesn’t happen.

Although it’s never implicitly stated, Hurricane Katrina makes an appearance in the film as well. As Hushpuppy grows and the relationship between her and her father changes, similarly catastrophic change is wrought on the ecosystem of the bayou when the



Quvenzhané Wallis, above, stars as the indomitable Hushpuppy in “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” which premiered in Los Angeles and New York last June. Wallis received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress for her part, despite being only six years old when it was filmed.

storm makes landfall.

There’s a lot of sadness in “Beasts of the Southern Wild.” All of the adults who appear in the film live pathetic lives and drown their sorrow in drink. As the storm of the century prepares to wash their very homes from beneath their feet, residents of the Bathtub have better things to do... like get completely smashed.

It’s not pretty, but that’s part of what made the movie interesting. It’s shocking to think that people could actually live this way, much less raise a child in those conditions.

However, the grittiness of the bayou has a strange effect on the precocious Hushpuppy—it tempers her. Through the fires of adversity and loss, Hushpuppy finds the inner strength her father tried so hard to instill in her.

Instead of being stifled by the stagnation surrounding her, Hushpuppy’s character shines through it like a beacon on the ho-

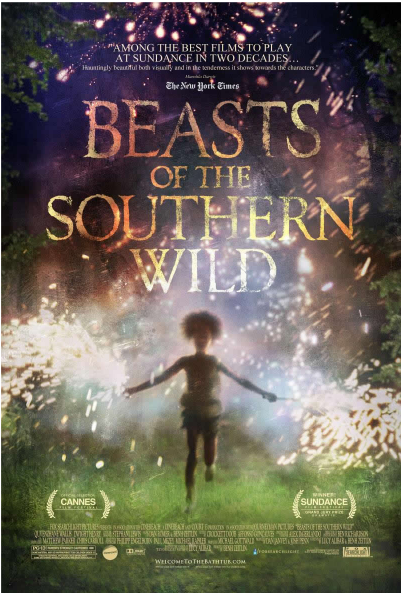
rizon.

There’s no doubt about it: “Beasts of the Southern Wild” was made for Quvenzhané Wallis. It’s been nominated for four Academy Awards in the categories of Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actress.

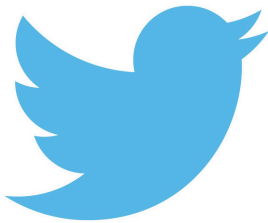
But for all that, Zeitlin falls short of really impressing this critic. His movie is heartfelt, original and even beautiful because of Wallis’ performance, but just isn’t all that compelling in the end.

By all means, see “Beasts of the Southern Wild;” just don’t buy too deeply into the hype surrounding it.

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Op/Ed

Immigration reform is common sense

Zach Tyler
A&E Editor

America is a country proud of its immigrant heritage.

But for more than 30 years now, a country that takes so much pride in being a melting pot has had an ironic problem—illegal immigration, and the best way in which to stem it.

Immigration reform is no new issue; rather, it’s a persistent one. Lobbyists and political organizations have been trying to change the dialogue around immigration in Washington for decades.

The system in place is broken and stilted. It can take years for an individual to acquire American citizenship. Sometimes, there’s no hope at all for ever becoming an American.

The Reason Foundation, a public policy think tank based in Los Angeles, California, published a flowchart graphic in 2008 illustrating the many ways immigrants can apply for and receive citizenship.

In the best case, applicants can expect a wait time of at least seven years. Even with a natural-born American citizen as your sibling or adult child, you could wait up to 28 years for a chance at the American dream.

Twenty-eight years, and that’s doing it the legal way.

Not only are we saddled with a busted path to legal residency and

citizenship, we’ve got upward of 11 million illegal immigrants in the country already.



Dishonest employers are all too eager to take advantage of those undocumented workers who can’t complain when they’re paid less than minimum wage for long hours of punishing physical labor.

Until very recently—as recently as November 2012—political polarization among lawmakers ensured any amendments to the current immigration process would be hard-won.

That climate may be changing thanks to the way the Hispanic vote affected the election.

On Monday, the “gang of eight”—Senators Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., John McCain, R-Ariz., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Robert Menendez, D-N.J., Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Michael Bennet, D-Colo.—proposed an initiative intended to streamline our immigration system.

The group went public with its plans just a day before

President Obama was to deliver a policy speech at a high school in Las Vegas, Nevada outlining his own plan for a comprehensive overhaul of the outdated system.

The White House released a fact sheet detailing the President’s expectations for “commonsense” immigration reform (many of which are shared by the gang of eight) after the speech.

His plan revolves around four principles: strengthening control over America’s border, cracking down on the hiring of illegal workers, providing a path to earned citizenship for immigrants already here and simplifying the existing immigration process.

What’s ridiculous is that Obama proposed nearly the same policy back in 2009, but was unable to get any traction on the issue because many Republican lawmakers refused to consider a policy offering amnesty to illegal immigrants.

Now that the GOP realizes how essential Hispanic voters are to political power in 21st century America, they may be all too eager to compromise with Democrats on immigration reform to gain favor with a demographic that they haven’t been popular with.

Writing about controversial subjects is tough

Emily Hayes
ehayes@times-journal.com

In the business of journalism, reporting on controversial subjects lands you the Pulitzer Prize.

Sara Ganim won for her coverage of the Jerry Sandusky scandal. Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein’s breaking report about Watergate put them in the history books.

But this girl — this reporter — hates controversy.

During my almost four months at the Times-Journal, I’m dealing with more and more. I dreaded asking Hugh Taylor, the Ruhama principal who was elected superintendent of the DeKalb County Schools, to justify his children’s attendance at a private school.

During election season, I didn’t want to ask Circuit Clerk Pam Simpson and her challenger, Ben West, for comments about state GOP Chairman Bill Armistead’s press release about Simpson’s alleged “lack of morals” during the campaign.

I hated having to repeatedly call former state Sen. Lowell Barron’s hospital room, attempting to get the status on his recovery from a tractor accident that broke his neck —

although I must note he was extremely nice about it, and that probably doesn’t



really qualify.

I hate controversy. I’d be perfectly happy writing about features about female firefighters in Henegar, a local woman who committed the ‘26 Acts of Kindness’ campaign following Sandy Hook

I want to write about Rainsville Technology Inc. employees participating in 5K races and new nonprofits opening to help local cancer patients.

But in this business, we are here to inform the public. And to give both sides a chance to tell their story.

Do I enjoy busting up city council meetings with unpleasant questions? Of course not, although I’m sure many people will feel that way right. I would much rather report on the good things a city is doing. It’s difficult

to repeatedly ask the hard questions.

But it has to be done. Absolutely. It is impossible to write only the good, and when stories come along, the other party — whoever he or she happens to be — must be given the chance to comment. We as journalists must hold people — especially politicians — accountable. Whether or not I hate being the one to ask, and whether or not I’m shut down with the “no comment at this time” line.

In life, there will always be scandal, and because of this fact, I will occasionally catch a story that isn’t warm and fuzzy.

While I’m told I will eventually develop thick skin, there’s a part of me that hopes I won’t.

Because I never want to be someone who revels in controversy, who thrives off reporting the unpleasant.

Ganim can stick with her Pulitzer. I’ll stick with the acts of kindness.

Emily Hayes is a staff writer for the Times-Journal. Her column appears Thursdays, where this was first published. Her email address is ehayes@times-journal.com.

www.jsu.edu/chanticleer

Want to study abroad in Costa Rica? It can happen in May 2013!

This May term Jacksonville State University will start a Study Abroad program in Costa Rica. We had an interest meeting on January 29th at 4:30 in Stone Center RM 306. Students will be in Costa Rica for three weeks immerse in the language and culture. This course will give our Spanish majors and minors the opportunity to expand their curriculum and at the same time earn 6 credit hours. For more details , those who could not attend the meeting may e-mail Dr. Eduardo Pacheco at epacheco@jsu.edu.



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Letter to the Editor

Hello Chanticleer folks:

As you may or may not be aware, the story about the JSU Herbarium in the last issue has caused quite a stir. It had numerous problems, including bad grammar, incomplete sentences, incorrect words (suppository instead of repository!!), and a photo-caption misidentifying one of the people in the photo (that's Bernice Moser on the right, not Francine Hutchinson). Some of the information was incorrect as well (For example, we're only half a year into our project, not post-3 years). We understand that accidents happen, and we don't really have any hard feelings, nor do we want to hurt anyone's feelings.

Jimmy K. Triplett, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and Curator,
JSU Herbarium

Sports



JSU Rifle ready for OVC

WEST POINT, N.Y. - The Jacksonville State rifle team posted its best aggregate score of the season against Army and Mississippi to claim the top spot in the tri-match on Sunday at the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center.

The Gamecocks, who tallied a 4676, needed their best total score as they edged the Black Knights by one point. The Rebels registered a final score of 4654.

Army edged Jax State in the smallbore competition, 2318-2317, but JSU topped the Black Knights with a 2359 total in air rifle.

Junior Monica Fyfe led the JSU charge in the match as she shared top-shooting honors in air rifle with JSU’s Sam Muegge and took second in smallbore. The Winnipeg, Canada-native registered a

594 to match Muegge. Fyfe finished five points back of Army’s Michael Matthews in smallbore with a 584.

Freshman Samantha Bullard carded a 590 to claim fourth place in air rifle. Sophomore Cole Tucker took fourth in smallbore with a 581. Brent Books and Bullard rounded out the top-ten in smallbore with final scores of 577 and 576 respectively.

The Gamecocks now turn their attention to defending their Ohio Valley Conference title this weekend as the 2013 OVC Rifle Championships commence on Saturday, Feb. 2 on the Morehead State campus.

~ Sportswire



JSU's Shamira Barrett

Sportswire

Barrett sets record

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Jacksonville State junior sprinter Shamira Barrett has earned the adidas® Ohio Valley Conference Female Track Athlete of the Week after a stellar weekend at the Indiana Relays.

Barrett’s weekend included a win in the 400 meter dash on Saturday with a time of 56.14 and breaking the program’s all-time mark in the indoor 200 meter event on Friday. The mark of 56.14 put her at the top of the conference performance list in the 400 meter distance. Barrett, from Adairsville, Ga., claimed silver in the women’s 200 meter invitational event after clocking a time of 24.44. The previous record was set by current Gamecock Laveeta Oliver, who posted a mark of 24.52 in February of 2011. Her time in the 200 meter event ranks as the second-fastest time in the OVC this season.

She concluded her weekend by running the final leg of the 4x400 meter relay event. The Gamecocks turned in a season-best time of 3:47.26.

~ Sportswire



JSU's Jermaine Hough

Sportswire

Hough named to All-American team

Jacksonville State’s Jermaine Hough has been named to the College Sports Journal Freshman All-American Football Team.

Hough played in all 11 games as a true freshman and finished seventh on the team with 42 tackles, including 29 solo stops.

The Lovejoy, Ga., native was second on the team with six tackles for 34 yards loss. He also led the team with three interceptions, while recording 11 passes defended, eight pass breakups and one quarterback hurry.

Hough was the National Freshman of the Week by The Sports Network on Oct. 22, 2012, after recording two interceptions to help Jax State claim a 31-28 overtime win over No. 17 Tennessee State and snap the Tigers’ seven-game winning streak. He also claimed OVC Newcomer of the Week honors that same week.

-Sportswire

JSU wins second stright over APSU

Jordan Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Jacksonville State entered Thursday’s game versus Austin Peay tied with their longest losing streak of the season, two-games; the Gamecocks kept that streak at two with an 81-74 win.

Austin Peay scored first which gave them their only lead of the game. Junior guard Brian Williams put the Gamecocks on the board with a three pointer that gave JSU a 3-2 lead.

With high energy and tight defense, JSU dominated the first eight minutes of play. The Gamecocks had three blocks, one steal and had forced four turnovers up to that point. JSU led by 14 with a score of 23-9, their largest lead of the game.

The Governors regrouped. They tightened up on defense, forced bad passes and managed to go on a 13-1 run. JSU led 24-22 with 6:07 remaining in the first half.

After a timeout, the Gamecocks came back strong and managed to go on a 13-4 run to end the half. JSU led 37-26 at halftime

After halftime, senior guard Mason Leggett put the Gamecocks back up by 14 with a big

three-point basket.

The Gamecocks seemed firmly in control for most of the second half; Austin Peay had other plans. The Governors battled back to within five points with 53-seconds remaining. JSU led 73-68

The Gamecocks padded their lead with a dunk by junior forward Nick Cook and free throw shooting by Cook and Williams.

The Gamecocks won 81-74.

Prior to the game, Ronnie Boggs looked to be more fatigued than the other players. “When we’re having trouble scoring, he’s a guy we try to get a look,” said Head Coach James Green. “Whatever it is, it’s not good enough to not play.”

“Once I got going I had to just suck it up and keep pushing through it,” said Gaines. “Coach told me to fight and that’s what I did.”

Gaines fought his way to 28-points as he lead the gamecocks in scoring.

Junior guard Brian Williams finished with 17-points and hit four of his six three-point attempts. He also led with 8 assists.

Senior guard Ronnie Boggs finished with 16-points and led JSU with seven rebounds and seven

steals.

Austin Peay’s leading scorers both finished with 18-points, junior guard Travis Beltran and freshman forward Chris Horton.

“When you watch that team, they’re so capable because they can score. When you relax, they run off seven or eight points,” said Coach Green.

“We new we wanted to keep the pressure on because we felt like we let it slip away,” said Brian Williams when asked about the 13-4 run before half-time.

“I think that was some maturity with this team to be able to gain composure and have the detailed focus to get ourselves back,” said Green when asked about the same 13-4 run.

While JSU sealed the victory with free throw shooting, going 20/23, Austin Peay lost the game at the foul line, going 6/13.



Tarvin Gaines scored a season high 28 Thursday night

Sportswire

Gamecock ranks/standings

NCAA Rifle Top 10

1. West Virginia
2. TCU
- 3.. Kentucky
4. Alaska- Fairbanks
5. Army
6. Jacksonville State
7. Air Force
8. Nebraska
9. Memphis
10. Ole Miss
11. Murray State
12. Nevada
13. NC State
14. Ohio State
15. Navy

OVC M. Basketball standings East division

- Belmont (8-0) [17-4]
Eastern Kentucky (6-2) [16-5]
Tennessee State (6-3) [12-10]
Morehead State (5-3) [11-11]
Jacksonville State (6-4) [14-7]
Tennessee Tech (2-6) [8-12]

West division

- Murray State (6-2) [15-5]
SIUe (3-5) [7-11]
Eastern Illinois (3-6) [6-16]
SE Missouri St (3-6) [11-12]
UT- Martin (2-7) [5-16]
Austin Peay (1-7) [5-17]

Upcoming Action:

- Saturday: Rifle
(OVC Championships)
M Tennis @ Chattanooga
WBB vs Morehead State
MBB vs Morehead State
Sunday: Softball Fan Day
(2:00 at University Field- Free)
Monday: M Golf @ Sea Best Inv.

Next week’s issue will include previews for both the upcoming softball and baseball seasons.

Softball opens season in just eight days against St. Louis in Hammond, LA on Feb. 8. The Gamecocks open renovated University Field Feb. 19, against Alabama A&M and start OVC play on March 16, against Tennessee State, JSU was picked preseason favorite to win OVC.

Baseball opens season in 15 days as the Gamecocks will travel to Kennessaw State. The Gamecocks will reach OVC action on March 8, with a week-end series at UT- Martin.



Sportswire

Junior Guard Brian Williams led the Gamecocks with 17 points as Jax State picked up a historical win over OVC foe Murray State Saturday

Gamecocks stun Racers

Jacksonville State claims first ever win over Murray State 65-64

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

Pete Mathews Coliseum was alive and rocking Saturday afternoon when the Gamecocks faced Ohio Valley Conference powerhouse foe, Murray State, in front of more than 3,400 fans. Jax State had failed to ever beat the Racers in the 16 previous meetings since joining the conference. Murray State just earlier this year won their program’s 600th OVC game, no other school has more than 500 OVC wins.

With a postseason ban, JSU knew this would be their only shot at MSU this season and came out ready for a big game. The early part of the game was physical on both sides, as it would remain throughout the game which included four technical fouls, two on each team.

With 8:27 left in the first half JSU trailed 13-17, but moved within three of the Racers after a Brian Williams free throw. The free throw began a run that would propel the Gamecocks into the lead. Senior Mason Leggett, from Zachary, La, officially put JSU on top with a layup in what would finish as a 12-0 run that spanned five minutes. Before the half Jacksonville State expanded their lead to nine and hit the locker rooms with a 30-21 lead, finishing the half on a 17-4 run.

Murray State under second year head coach Steve Prohm is 46-6 having only lost on the

road once. The Racers stormed out of the half and made it clear an upset wasn’t going to be easy. MSU slowly chipped away at the lead and with 9:53 remaining a three by Racers’ standout Isaiah Canaan made it a two point game, 45-43. The lead was gone and the Gamecocks would have to fight the final nine minute for a win.

JSU climbed back to a 53-46 lead but Nick Cook, who had battled down low all game had to leave with four fouls allowing the Racers to get back in the game with inside buckets.

Murray State tied the game at 57-57 with 2:30 remaining. Two possessions later, JSU was locked down by a reenergized Racer defense but Ronnie Boggs finally found the slightest space and stepped back to nail a three pointer as the shot clock horn went off. Jax State led 60-57 under a minute to play.

After a missed MSU shot, Leggett drained two free throws after being fouled to go up 62-57, but MSU hit a quick three and would find themselves down just one, 63-62 with 12 seconds remaining. JSU’s inbounds pass was bobbled out of bounds to give the Racers the ball under their own basket with just ten seconds remaining.

On the inbounds MSU gave a lob toward the basket that was knocked in to take a 64-63 lead, the first MSU lead since 8:00 to go in the

first half. Jax State quickly inbounded the ball to Brian Williams who rushed down the court and was fouled attempting a shot on the side of the goal. With 2.4 remaining on the clock the arena went quite as Williams stepped to the line.

The first shot bounced before falling through the net, but the second was nothing but net. A final half court heave from MSU was no good as Jacksonville State had knocked off Murray State for the first time.

Coach James Green called it the biggest win he’s been a part of in the five years he’s been at JSU. Junior Brian Williams finished with a team high 17 points including his final two clutch free throws, Boggs and Tarvin Gaines each had 13, and Leggett added 12. Gaines led with eight rebounds followed by Cook with seven, and the play of Rinaldo Mafra and Rico Sanders can’t be underestimated as they both contributed in ways that don’t show up in the box score.

The Racers fell to 15-5, but still hold a comfortable OVC lead, while the Gamecocks improved to 14-7 and promise a non-losing season for the first time since the 2005-2006 season.

Super Bowl XLVII preview

Jordan Smith
Senior Staff Writer

The most popular unofficial holiday in the United States is this Sunday, Super Bowl Sunday.

In Super Bowl XLVII, the 13-4-1 National Football Conference Champion San Francisco 49ers will take on the 13-6 American Football Conference Champion Baltimore Ravens.

A Super Bowl is never short of drama, but this one seems to have more than usual.

These two teams’ journeys began on January 22, 2011. The Ravens missed and opportunity to go to Super Bowl XLVI when tight end Dennis Pitta dropped the go-ahead touchdown and when kicker Billy Cundiff missed the game tying field goal on the very next play. San Francisco lost their opportunity after punt returner Kyle Williams fumbled the ball in over time. The Giants recovered and kicked the game winning field goal.

The next weekend at the Pro Bowl, Ravens’ linebacker Ray Lewis said “No more Pro Bowls!” He wanted to make it back to the Super Bowl, which would make him ineligible for the Pro Bowl.

On October 14, 2012, Ray Lewis tore his triceps and was sidelined indefinitely due to surgery. After a week 14 loss to the Washing-

ton Redskins, the Ravens made a controversial decision to fire then offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and promote quarterbacks coach Jim Caldwell to replace him.

The decision paid off as the Ravens clinched their second straight AFC North Division Championship and made the playoffs.

On November 11, 2012, 49ers’ quarterback Alex Smith suffered a concussion and was replaced by Colin Kaepernick. Head Coach Jim



Harbaugh made the controversial decision to keep Kaepernick as the starter and bench Alex Smith who almost led them to the Super Bowl the year prior. The decision paid off and the 49ers won their second straight NFC West Division Championship.

Ravens’ Linebacker Ray Lewis announced that he would play in the playoffs and that he intends to retire after the post-season. Lewis led the Ravens through the playoffs as they defeated the Indianapolis Colts, Denver Bron-

cos and New England Patriots. His final game in his historic career will be in Super Bowl XLVII. He kept his vow from 2012 of, “no more Pro Bowls.” This future NFL Hall Of Famer will be remembered of one of the greatest linebackers of all-time.

Colin Kaepernick led the 49ers to victory over the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons.

As if this game didn’t already have enough drama, Super Bowl XLVII features a sibling rivalry. For the first time in NFL history, the two opposing Super Bowl head coaches are brothers, Jim Harbaugh of the San Francisco 49ers and John Harbaugh of the Baltimore Ravens. Neither coach has managed a losing season in the NFL.

San Francisco is the home team and has opted to wear their red jerseys as they did in Super Bowls XIX, XXIV and XXIX. This will mark their sixth appearance in the Super Bowl and they are a perfect 5-0. A win would tie them with the Pittsburgh Steelers with 6, more than any other team.

Baltimore is the away team and they will wear white jerseys just as they did in Super Bowl XXXV. This will mark the second appearance in the Super Bowl and they are also undefeated in Super Bowls.