

The Chanticleer

WEATHER: High 50, Low 23, Clear

FORECAST PG. 3



Kara Coleman/The Chanticleer

The goal of Alabama Saves is to create a culture of saving rather than a culture of debt.

Alabama Saves encourages saving, not spending

Adam Fagan
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the lobby of Merrill Hall hosted the Alabama Saves event sponsored by Isaac Chappell Jr of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The event was held in recognition of the national America Saves Week, which runs from Sun, Feb 23 through Sat, March 1.

Chappell uses talks and lectures to spread awareness among college students

about the importance of saving money and further financial responsibilities such as identity theft prevention.

He encourages students to set savings goals by filling out an enrollment pledge form.

Not only can students set monetary goals, but also a purpose for those savings such as going on a vacation or education expenses.

Those who enroll in the Alabama Saves program will also receive a newsletter every three months in-

forming recipients of financial tips and recent financial news.

Chappell says the goal of Alabama Saves is to "create a culture of saving" rather than a "culture of debt" by teaching people to "make saving automatic."

Information provided included strategies on saving money when shopping, planning savings for emergency situations, saving for a home, and saving to avoid

See SAVING, page 2

For Panik, it's all about the music

Steffany Means
Staff Writer

Michael Panik has been intrigued with music for as long as he can remember.

The JSU student says that his uncle, Jeff Roper, was a big influence on him. Roper spent time on Broadway and was the one to introduce Panik to showtunes. Panik's mother claims he was singing before he could even talk.

Panik, 21, has spent time perfecting the craft of music. While in high school he started a band, Mr. Blackwell's Petty Thieves, with a few of his friends. They went around and performed at many different venues.

Panik loved the band but when they all went their separate ways for college the band had to break up for the time being.

Since Panik is no longer with the band he has been able to focus a lot more on his solo career.



Photo courtesy of Michael Panik/Special to The Chanticleer

Panik posts covers of songs on YouTube as well as his own original compositions.

Panik composes his own music and performs each of the vocal tracks on his songs. He has scored two short films and is currently working on another film.

In the film he is working on now Panik shows off his many different talents.

Along with composing the film score, he is also a writer, assistant director, actor, producer, and audio mixer.

Panik is also in the middle of writing a musical for his fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha.

See PANIK, page 2

Meehan: 'We will have spring break'

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

Thanks to a series of snow days not once, but twice this semester, students at JSU have been wondering how the cancelled classes will affect them. More specifically, they've been wondering how it will affect spring break.

According to university president Dr. Bill Meehan, it won't.

"We will have a spring break,"

Meehan says. "The students expect it, and the faculty demand it."

Meehan says that the university usually builds in a few extra days in the spring semester in case of a weather event. He says that barring any other major weather events, the semester should continue as scheduled, with no changes to spring break, finals week or the spring commencement ceremony.

Deadline for scholarships extended

Due to the severe weather we have experienced, JSU is extending the deadline for 2014-2015 scholarship submissions to March 8, 2014.

In order to be considered for any scholarship, you must complete the application and make sure you meet the qualifications and restrictions of the scholarship. Scholarship applications and listings are available at www.jsu.edu.

Questions concerning the JSU Scholarship program or scholarship application(s) can be addressed to Martin Weldon or Rhonda Noah at scholarships@jsu.edu or (256) 782-8385. Always include your JSU Student ID number in your correspondence.

- JSU news wire

Students rally in Montgomery

Kara Chatham
Staff Writer

Students from colleges and universities all over Alabama are gathering at the state capitol today for Higher Education Day.

SGA President Jade Wagner explains the purpose High Education Day as a day "for schools in Alabama to get together and rally at the capitol to remind legislators that we are important and care about higher education and so should they. That way when they make the budget they re-

See RALLY, page 2

One Large one topping pizza **\$6.99** (256)-435-7272
702 S Pelham Rd



Order online @ www.papajohns.com
Promo Code JSU699



Delivery, Dine in, or Carryout

Delivery Charges may apply. Customer pays all applicable sales taxes



SAVING, from page 1

debts and to pay off existing debts.

According to Finance major Christine Cheney, Chappell visited Dr. Scroggin's Investment class to give a talk about identity theft prevention and awareness.

General tips provided include:

Save loose change. It may not sound like much, but putting aside just 50 cents per day for a year can add up to \$182.50 in an emergency fund.

Keeping track of expenses is always important. Keep track of receipts from credit card purchases and always keep checking accounts balanced. Review purchases to ensure optimal spending with respect to savings.

Always be aware of discount opportunities and sales to get more for less.

Match indulgent expenses with an equal amount in savings: for every \$20 case of beer or \$9 movie ticket, place an equal amount in savings, and when



Dr. Benjamin Boozer/Special to The Chanticleer

Isaac Chappell, right, speaks with Tiffany Williams, left, and Nicole Mateo, center, from Regions Bank, during the Alabama Saves event in Merrill Hall on Tuesday.

those amounts cannot be matched it is time to rethink those purchases.

At 2:30 pm, Wayne Johnson, Branch Manager of the Jacksonville Regions Bank, gave a lecture to conclude the event at JSU and drive home the importance of saving and financial responsibility.

JSU's co-sponsors were also in attendance of the event. Dr. Robb Landry of the Finance Department sponsors ENACTUS at JSU, which seeks to spread financial literacy.

Dr. Ben Boozer, Assistant Professor of Finance in

the College of Commerce and Business Administration, is JSU's sponsor of the Financial Management Association (FMA), a student organization providing business students with networking opportunities and organizes trips such as to the Federal Reserve Building in Atlanta.

Landry and Boozer provided assistance for Chappell and provided the necessary channels to open JSU up for the event.

For more information about Alabama Saves and America Saves visit americasaves.org.

RALLY, from page 1

member to include us to try and help keep tuition down."

"Alabama is ranked 43rd in the nation for educational attainment of its working population," says Freshman Forum member Natalie Millar. "This means that the majority of working men and women of Alabama do not have a college education. Studies verify that a college education provides a greater chance of personal income success. Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness that adequate funding should be awarded to higher education."

The SGA does a lot behind the scenes to allow students the opportunity to participate in Higher Ed Day.

"We are a part of the Higher Education Partnership," Wagner says. "We work with the partnership all year long planning for Higher Ed Day and other lobby days. We also coordinate the buses that go down to Higher Ed, work with Sodexo in providing breakfast,

and we sign up and contact all of the students who go."

SGA Chief Justice Torsten Dryden says students need to be involved with Higher Ed Day.

"The students are paying for college and essentially they should want to lower tuition," he says.

JSU's student government will be attending the event with any student who chooses to accompany them. They will be listening to what the State Legislators have to say about education funding.

They will also be taking a stand to help raise the amount of money that is set aside for universities in the state of Alabama.

Freshman Forum Mentor and Senator Tyler Brown says he hopes that, "we can get that number [of how much is given to higher education versus the K-12 program] higher and have more degrees put out of Alabama and have more money given to the universities in general and also make tuition rates cheaper."

PANIK, from page 1

They will be performing the musical next spring.

Panik says that his style is influenced by sixties music. He loves how raw the music is from that era. "It is real people playing music together and that is what makes the difference," he says. Panik tries to stick with that style with his own music.

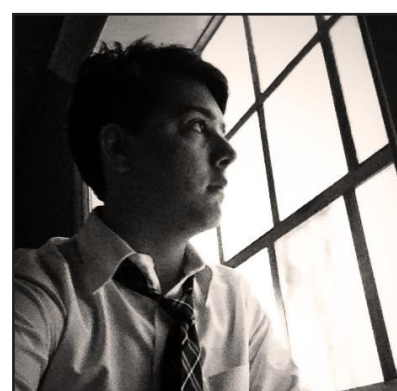
Panik enjoys recording his own music videos as well. He will record the video of himself performing each part of the song and then edit each clip together.

This past fall Panik posted his first music video online. Within just a short amount of time the video reached two thousand views.

Panik's goal is to start posting a new music video weekly.

This summer Panik will be moving to Nashville and playing any gig that he can get.

Panik says, "All of my plans



Courtesy of Michael Panik/Special to The Chanticleer

Panik says that his style is influenced by music from the 1960s.

are falling together perfectly and I have God to thank for that".

Panik will just be living in Nashville for the summer and plans to return there next year after graduation.

"I would love for people to not know who I am but for people everywhere to know my music," Panik says. "It's not about fame. It's about music."

Panik's Youtube channel is youtube.com/michaelpanik92.

Pre-registration schedule for summer and fall 2014

Students must be cleared by their academic advisors before registering for classes.

Register online via MyJSU.

March 17	Graduate/Doctoral Students 8:00 a.m.
March 18	Seniors 96+ hours earned 8:00 a.m.
March 19	Juniors 64+ hours earned 8:00 a.m.
March 20	Sophomores 32+ hours earned 8:00 a.m.
March 21	Freshmen 8:00 a.m.



Follow us. Like us.

Tournament to raise money for Reading is Fundamental

Alex Black
Staff Writer

JSU's Circle K club is recruiting players for the "Spike for What's Right" charity volleyball tournament in mid March.

All proceeds will benefit the Reading Is Fundamental program.

Reading Is Fundamental is just what it sounds like: A program that uses fun to motivate children to read more.

The largest nonprofit children's literacy program in the country, RIF provides free books

and other materials to low income kids from birth to age 8. RIF's mission has always been to inspire children by giving them a love of learning at an early age.

Hillarie Poole, Vice President of JSU's Circle K, is excited about the tournament.

Poole works on numerous charity events each year but she says Reading is Fundamental is special.

"I enjoy all our philanthropic projects but I really love that this organization puts new books in the hands of underprivileged children who have never owned

books before," she says.

As a student herself, Poole says she can appreciate what an important role reading plays in the overall educational process. She's proud that the JSU tournament will help the organization provide more books for more children.

Although Circle K was involved with a similar event in 2010, this will be the first time that JSU will host an actual tournament.

Poole says the volleyball competition is a great way for students to have fun, while also

contributing something to the community.

Teams will consist of six players each, competing in a bracket format.

The entry fee is \$12 per team, or \$2 per player.

Circle K will provide each team with scheduling details for the tournament.

The competition takes place March 14 from 1-7 pm at the Stephenson's beach volleyball court.

To sign up for the volleyball tournament, contact Hillarie Poole at hpoole@jsu.edu.

The Chanticleer Staff

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief



Zach Tyler
Associate Editor



Christiana Tyler
A&E Editor



Daniel Porter
Sports Editor



A millennial's guide to procrastination

Ash Nagar
via UWIRE

Those familiar with the concept of procrastination know that there is no making peace with the Internet – five minutes of Facebook turns into twenty, and the BuzzFeed link your friend shared has so many similar articles that you simply have to read them all.

This leads to the downward spiral of online pro-

crastination, which has consequences ranging from bouts of motivation to getting D's on all the tests you should have been studying for instead of wasting time on the Internet. However, there are small tweaks you can make to your procrastination routine to make it a little healthier and more useful. Whether you're unfamiliar with these websites or just a little too familiar with them, here are some relatively healthy ways to procrastinate:

Pinterest

Pinterest is a photo-sharing website which allows people to categorize "Pins" into different categories or boards. It's a unique website that allows users to truly showcase their personalities by sharing their bucket list dreams, DIY projects, quotes, funny memes, so on and so forth. It rose to fame because bloggers found a platform to share their DIY projects and fashion, hair, beauty, interior design, culinary and other miscellaneous ventures.

A healthy way to procrastinate on Pinterest is to search for projects and pins that are extremely relevant to your

hobbies and talents. If you are an artistic person and enjoy making birthday cards for your friends, Pinterest can introduce you to some amazing ideas and techniques. For those who love decorating their dorm rooms, there are thousands of wall décor, room arrangement and DIY décor projects for your perusal.

Those who are passionate about exercise and fitness will find a myriad of motivation quotes, routines, tips and memes relevant to their specific exercise and health interests.

Buzzfeed

It's difficult to explain exactly what BuzzFeed is; the website features viral content ranging from lists about pop culture moments to life hacks to well-being tips to any other kind of list imaginable.

Productivity's worst enemy is BuzzFeed, simply because at the end of every article is a list of ten similar ones that are too tempting to ignore. The sheer number and variety of posts ensure that every article is amusing and relatable. Quite honestly, there is no way to procrastinate in a healthy manner on

Buzzfeed. However, once in a blue moon, one occasionally stumbles upon a really interesting article about history facts, spooky art, beautiful pictures of nature, unbelievable historical coincidences, so on and so forth.

These relatively intellectual BuzzFeed posts can equip you with some mind-blowing facts to throw into conversations you have with your friends, family and professors.

Youtube

Youtube's most watched videos usually tend to be music videos and movie trailers. It is one of the easiest platforms to promote one's own creative work because its immense amount of daily traffic ensures that one video or another becomes viral per day – like Psy's "Oppan Gangnam Style", Rebecca Black's "Friday" and the sadistically amusing "Charlie Bit My Finger".

Youtube also has a feature displaying videos similar to the ones they just viewed, which makes it extremely easy to go from watching a video about babies' reactions to eating a wedge of lemon to watching one about Kim Kardashian's post-baby body workout regime. Some suggestions to procrastinating in a healthy manner on Youtube are:

- Watching music videos (usually through the VEVO channel) and buying the singles on iTunes

to support our music industry

- Subscribing to channels of certain internet celebrities like The Daily Grace, iSuperwomanii and JennaMarbles to lighten up your day by listening to their hilarious stories

- Searching for covers of your favorite songs – a foolproof way to identify ordinary users who have immense talent! Justin Bieber (a bad example, I'm aware) owes much of his fame to Youtube users who stumbled upon his covers and songs on Youtube.

- Looking up how-to videos about dorm room organization, good study techniques, meditation and ironically enough, videos about overcoming the urge to procrastinate

- Uploading videos of performances around campus

As vacuous as some of these sites are, their content makes for interesting conversation material. Or you could just get off the internet

This is perhaps the healthiest way to procrastinate! Taking a break from your work by exercising, painting, writing, socializing or even doing tiny chores like vacuuming your rug or reorganizing your dresser drawers are less addicting than, say, Pinterest and Facebook. They also lead to greater productivity – exercising visibly improves your study experience and also expands your lifespan, and finishing off your chores while writing an essay practically embodies the "killing two birds with one stone" concept.

Whether your go-to online procrastination forum is Facebook, 9GAG, Pinterest, Tumblr, TFM, Netflix or Youtube, the consequences of spending too much of your time online are extremely disturbing.

Not only are bad posture and declining vision extremely realistic issues that arise, so are the impacts that such behavior has on your social and academic life. Excessive time spent on Facebook might be better used in having face-to-face interactions and engaging in extracurricular activities around campus. If you must procrastinate, do so creatively and productively!

Campus crime report

02/25/2014
Theft of Property
Houston Cole Library

02/25/2014
Medical Emergency
JSU Stadium

02/25/2014
Information Report
Salls Hall

02/25/2014
Medical Emergency
Stone Center

02/25/2014
Information Report
Paul Carpenter Village

02/24/2014
Information Report
Grub Mart

02/23/2014
Domestic Violence
Stadium Tower
Parking Lot

02/22/2014
Theft of Property
Stone Center

02/21/2014
Unlawful Breaking &
Entering a Vehicle
Paul Carpenter Village

Upcoming SGA events:

February 27th
Higher Education
Day
Montgomery,
Alabama

February 27th-29th
Collegiate
Legislature
Montgomery,
Alabama

March 3rd-7th
Campus Safety
Week

March 3rd
Traffic Court
TMB Auditorium
4:00 PM

March 3rd
Senate Meeting
TMB Auditorium
6:00 PM-7:00 PM

March 3rd
SGA Candidate
Speeches
TMB Auditorium
7:00 PM

March 4th
Organizational
Council Meeting
TMB Auditorium
6:00 PM-7:00 PM



Chicken Scratch

I'm glad the Olympics are finally over, because they interrupted "Supernatural" on The CW.

The next time you look up at the night sky and think about wishing on a star, just remember: you could be a few million years too late, because that star is dead... just like your dreams.

It takes me thirty minutes to get a shower because I spend the first twenty-five reflecting on the origin of life, the universe and everything, and the last five actually bathing.

7-day weather forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Clear	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Rain	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
High: 50	High: 57	High: 64	High: 72	High: 58	High: 55	High: 54
Low: 23	Low: 38	Low: 43	Low: 52	Low: 37	Low: 31	Low: 36

Arts & Entertainment



Photo courtesy of JSU Field Schools

The JSU Frog Pond in White Plains.

Early Spring Frog Pond adventure this Saturday

Christiana Tyler
A&E Editor

Ponds are usually coated in a slime that repels people, but underneath that layer of green lives an organism that is both environmentally beneficial and fascinating.

Chris Pellecchia and Mandy Pearson, JSU Biology graduate students and naturalists, along with Dr. George Cline, a biology professor known fondly as Dr. Frogs, aim to help others see beyond the green of the top layers in ponds to the frogs beneath.

This Saturday at 6 p.m. Pellecchia and Pearson will be leading the Early Spring Frog Pond Adventure beginning at 6 p.m. at the JSU Frog Pond in White Plains, depending on weather conditions.

Located on two acres of seasonal wetland, the JSU Frog Pond is actually a wildlife preserve and observation area that is visited by frogs, owls, bats, herons, and song birds depending on the season. Wetlands, as a whole, provide a home to more than one third of all endangered plant and animal species, not to mention that wetlands themselves are endangered. The voices of frogs that will hopefully be heard at the pond will be the first of many this spring and according to Dr. Renee Morrison, Director of the JSU Field Schools, include Spring Peepers, leopard frogs, chorus frogs, and bull frogs.

Dr. Cline says, "My students and I will be collecting frogs for people to see and hear and touch. We'll also be looking for whatever organisms we can catch."

Dr. Cline, Pellecchia, and Pearson will help those that attend identify the different songs of the frogs and what they mean to the species it originates from.

Most will be able to get hands-on

experience holding the slippery amphibians and determining the species that can be found at the JSU frog pond.

Depending on the life cycle of the frogs that can be found in the wetlands at the Frog Pond, participants have often been able to hold a mass of frog eggs in their hands while they hatch.

According to Dr. Morrison, people have traveled from as far away as Texas and Florida to attend these unique learning opportunities, often gaining the knowledge to care for their local wetlands and ponds in the process.

Hosted by JSU Field Schools partnered with the US Forest Service and Choccolocco Creek Watershed Alliance, over three thousand have participated in over 45 pond programs in the past 17 years. Open to all, the program has seen events garner an audience of over 100 people, ranging in age from pre-K to grey headed.

The program is a part of Frog Watch USA, a flagship citizen science program that urges and encourages individuals and families to learn about the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians by reporting the frogs and toads that live in the area.

For over ten years, Frog Watch USA has had volunteers enter their information into a database that helps develop practical strategies to help in the conservation of the amphibian species.

The Frog Pond Adventure series begins this Saturday, March 1st, at the JSU Frog Pond in White Plains at 6 p.m. and requires a \$3 admission fee. Be sure to bring a flash light, audio recorder, camera, and hip boots (if you want to wade into the pond)

For more information and directions to the frog pond, visit www.jsu.edu/epic/frog2

Review: Bates Motel

Catherine Foote
Staff Writer

Netflix is constantly adding to its expansive library, and one recent must-see addition is season one of A&E's "Bates Motel," which is a series inspired by the 1960 Alfred Hitchcock film "Psycho." "Bates Motel" is also available on AETV.com to get fans and newcomers up to speed before season two premieres on March 3.

"Bates Motel" concentrates on Norma and Norman Bates, who have relocated to White Pine Bay, Oregon after the death of Norman's father. Acting as a prequel to "Psycho," with a modern spin and a few tweaks ("Psycho" takes place in Fairvale, California, for example), the series sheds light on the Bates' lives before the movie.

The series can be watched as a stand-alone piece and viewers do not have to watch "Psycho" before starting "Bates Motel."

Freddie Highmore, all grown up since his "August Rush" days, portrays a very complex, creepy, and likeable Norman Bates.

Norman fights an uphill battle with commonplace high school drama, his polar opposite older brother, hormonal teenage love interests, and a love-hate relationship with his overbearing mother, Norma Bates.

Norma Bates has her own share of issues as well, which is what makes the show so enthralling.

If the viewer can get past the insanely graphic nature of the pilot episode, which (spoiler alert) includes an unsettling sexual assault/murder scene that fuels the first season, then the rest of the series should be slightly easier to

digest.

Just as interesting as the main characters, the setting for "Bates Motel," White Pine Bay, Oregon, offers an array of odd townsfolk and scandal. Norma Bates purchases her new home and the motel out of foreclosure, which sets the show's drama in motion.

Even the law enforcement in town is a little off, which immediately confuses the viewer when it comes to which characters to trust or mistrust (in a



Photo courtesy of AETV.com

good way).

Norma and Norman's problems, which are often intertwined, make the show work. With twists, turns, and suspense, "Bates Motel" is a perfect match for a viewer who needs a break from mainstream prime-time television.

Gritty, thought-provoking, and at times, emotional, this series leaves the viewer reeling after every episode of season one.

One warning to the viewer about "Bates Motel:"

Don't get too attached to any single character. Every person, building, or organization in White Pine Bay, Oregon, has something ugly to hide.

"Bates Motel," season two, premieres on A&E on Monday, March 3 at 8 p.m. Until then, viewers may catch up on or discover season one with Netflix or AETV.com.

Jacksonville's GAMECOCK VILLAGE

...formerly The Grove

UNDER
NEW
OWNERSHIP!

PRICES START AT \$380

AMENITIES INCLUDE: a BASKETBALL COURT,
GYM, POOL, and HARVARD-STYLE LIBRARY

LEASE TODAY!

www.facebook.com/gamecockvillage

(256)782-1285 / 351 Nisbet Street, NW



FULLY-FURNISHED
COLLEGE APARTMENTS!

‘Winter’s Tale’ lacks sweetness

Jessica Graham
Staff Writer

It’s a tale that runs throughout the ages—literally, as *Winter’s Tale* jumps through time in confusing spurts. The film tries to find its heart through overly rich narration, “magical” storytelling, and weird lighting. But it lacks the heart and sweetness promised by the previews.

Winter’s Tale, directed by Akiva Goldsman, is the story of Peter Lake (Colin Farrell), a thief who was abandoned as a child by his immigrant parents.

Lake is constantly on the run from—get this—demons, the head of whom is his nemesis, Pearly Soames (Russell Crowe). Along the way, he meets Beverly Penn (Jessica Brown Findlay), a red-headed beauty who wins Lake’s entire heart in just a matter of minutes.

Lake somehow becomes destined to perform a miracle for a mysterious red-

head featured in a drawing made by the demon Soames’s blood. It’s basically a scribble that everyone else accepts as fact without question.

This scribble must mean Miss Penn, correct? It’s easy to see where the movie is going. Just add in more supernatural elements that make no sense and a surprise appearance by Will Smith as a laughable Lucifer, and you have yourself *Winter’s Tale*.

Moviegoers may expect to find themselves whisked away into romance and the supernatural, but instead have to settle for an ordinary world with awkward and out-of-place moments of mysticism.

For starters, Farrell’s character Peter Lake begins the movie in the present day. The audience will suddenly find itself thrown into the past as Lake runs from a group of suited men and somehow happens across a horse that can fly over tall

iron gates for a quick getaway.

And then, the demons and miracles and Lucifer get thrown in with little to no explanation. *Winter’s Tale* tries so hard to make itself magical and supernatural that it forgets to relate to the audience entirely and, therefore, misses its mark.

For a movie with so many big name actors, *Winter’s Tale* gives none of them the chance to take the story to where it needed to be. The writing falls flat and borders on sappy in some places, then becomes downright ridiculous in others.

Winter’s Tale does deserve credit where it’s due. The second half of the movie is, by far, better than the first half. Audience members can finally begin to connect to the characters as the story builds.

But the overall picture of the movie does not add up to expectations of a moving romance or a thrilling supernatural film.



Upcoming events on and around campus

February 27- March 2, 2014

Kiss Me, Kate will be performed in the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center at various times. See JSU drama website for more details. Ticket Purchase required.

February 28, 2014

Reginal Technology fair in Leone Cole Auditorium beginning at 7 a.m. Free.

Early Spring Frog Pond Adventure kicks off at 6 p.m. at the JSU Frog Pond in White Plains. Be sure to take a flashlight.

\$3 entrance fee required.

March 3, 2014

JSU Alumni and Faculty Big Band Concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Cheaha Brewing Company in Anniston. Free.

March 6, 2014

Local author Beth Drake to present at Spring Friends of Houston Cole Library. Get an autographed copy of her book beginning at 7 p.m. on the 11th floor of the library. Free admission

March 8, 2014

Vex Robotics State Championships for middle and high schools begin at 7:30 in Pete Matthews Coliseum. Free.

Take a Hike Series begins at 8:30 at the Pinhoti trail in Talladega National Forest or at 9 at the Walls of Jericho trail. Ticket purchase required due to bus provided to trails. Meeting place for each trail differs. See JSU calendar website for more details.

Second Saturday Space Safari begins at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the JSU Planetarium in Martin Hall. Ticket purchase required.

March 12, 2014

SAI Musicales presents Music in our Schools beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center. Free.

March 13, 2014

Arrive Alive distracted driving simulation begins at 10 a.m. on the Theron Montgomery Building Lawn. Free.

March 14, 2014

JSU Jazz Festival begins at 8 a.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center and Leone Cole Auditorium. Free.

Waterfall Tour and Hike begins at 9 a.m. in Cheaha State Park. Dependent on water levels. For more information see the JSU calendar website. Free.

Cultural awareness for JSU Cadets

Christiana Tyler
A&E Editor

Something big is coming. The ROTC on campus here at Jacksonville State University has partnered with International House students and Dr. John Ketterer, Director of the International House, to create sessions intended to broaden the understanding that Cadets in the ROTC have of the cultures around the world.

On the third floor of Rowe Hall on March 4 at 7 p.m., Cadets will be able to experience the language, customs, and courtesies found in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia through the teachings of International House students.

The ROTC has a program called Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP), which allows a certain number of Cadets each year to attend a tree week training seminar in a foreign country.

According to Captain Floyd Sawdy, a member of ROTC and Assistant Professor of Military Science at JSU, five Cadets were selected to go last summer.

This summer, only one Cadet is going due to funding cutbacks.

In response to these budget cuts to the CULP program, Dr. Ketterer and CPT Sawdy, along with other members of the ROTC, brained stormed the idea of bringing the culture of other countries to the Cadets.

Desmond Clay, a Cadet in the JSU ROTC and one of the main organizers of the cultural awareness sessions, says of the CULP cutbacks, “I wouldn’t say it’s the key reason but it’s one way that altered the class.”

According to the official army website, www.army.mil, minorities make up over 40 percent of the people fighting in the army.

Cadet Clay says of the army, “The army is very diverse. People see an average soldier and they think that’s the type of person that goes to Afghanistan and kick in doors. But that’s not completely true.”

For example, CPT Sawdy, when he finishes teaching here at JSU, is eligible to become a sort of Ambassador with tribes around the world, in order to help learn the traditions and cul-

tures of the tribe and help avoid starting wars due to misunderstandings.

“And that’s where avoiding conflict starts,” says Cadet Clay of learning about the cultures other than your own. “We’re trying to gain knowledge of a different culture so we can understand.”

CPT Sawdy says of the new cultural awareness sessions, “As leaders, sometimes we have to use critical thinking and think outside the box to ensure our students receive the best training. We believe this will be the start of a great relationship with the International House Students and Dr. Ketterer.”

Attendees will be divided up into three groups and a rotation will allow all the groups to be taught the different cultures that will be featured in the session.

While the program has been created specifically for Cadets, members of the public may attend provided they contact CPT Sawdy and request the privilege of attendance.

CPT Sawdy can be contacted at 256-782-8025 or fsawdy@jsu.edu.

A college student’s list of hobbies for every interest

Julia Bianco
via Uwire

Let’s face it: college can be downright boring. On those nights when you’re stuck inside, twiddling your thumbs at the computer, and waiting for all your friends to finish their homework, sometimes you need a hobby to fill the empty space.

The elusive, perfectly engrossing hobby can be hard to find, though, and finding a way to pay for all the wrong turns can be even harder.

Here’s a list of great hobbies for people with almost every interest. And, as an added bonus, they all come in at less than \$10 a pop.

If you’re the type who is always looking for a quick shot of adrenaline, rock climbing is the sport for you. Not only will

you get the thrill of climbing up to ridiculous heights, but you’ll also improve your strength and flexibility.

Be sure to check if your college has a rock wall, or if the gym by you has specials for college students.

For the artist, try crocheting. Crocheting is quick and easy to learn, and there are lots of videos available for free online to teach you all of the stitches.

Plus, with the large number of free and easy patterns you can find online, you’ll be able to start creating awesome projects in no time.

For the shopper: Online shopping (without actually buying anything) works well.

Online shopping takes out the risk of impulse buys—you get all the thrill of finding awesome products and adding them to

your cart, but, as long as you resist the need to click ‘Order,’ you get out without having to spend any money.

If you love reading the news, then you’ll probably love writing about it just as much. Try creating a blog using popular sites like Tumblr to start spreading your opinion on the topics that are most important to you: politics, television, movies, sports, you name it.

If you want to blog without having to create your own site, try using something already established.

For the performer, ballroom dancing works wonders.

Many colleges have ballroom dancing clubs or classes for little or no cost, so pick a partner and dance away!

Ballroom dancing is a great way to get an exposure to a type

of art that many people our age never get to experience.

For the cook, try gourmet cupcake making.

Cupcake making is not only delicious, but it’s also very rewarding. Your friends will be all over you for some delicious homemade cupcakes, which means that you’ll be the most popular kid in the dorm.

Plus, with hundreds of cupcake recipes available online, you’ll have your choice of flavors.

For the engineer: Legos building is great and relatively cheap. Assorted legos are available for cheap on eBay.

If you have a penchant for building things and a wild imagination, you’ll be able to create some really impressive structures just from cobbling together a bunch of random pieces.

Opinion & Editorial

Elections impact tuition

Brett Johnson
Staff Writer

I hear it time and time again: “My vote doesn’t really count, why waste my time?” My response begins with a pace-palm and ends with a lecture that the inquisitive listener never bargained for.

If you’re this person, I want to walk through why your vote really does matter and why your apathy is costing you time, money, and stress.

When we talk about ‘elections,’ we’re not just talking about who becomes President or Vice President. We’re talking about who sits on your local school board and who votes on your behalf in the city council or the state legislature.

These ‘elections’ are deeper than Fox News/CNN sound-byte politics. They decide how and when your garbage is picked up each week, what kinds of teachers provide your education, and most importantly to us, how the state budget is made each year.

“But I don’t give a rip about the state budget!” Yes you do. It costs you more and more every year that you aren’t caring.

See, state Representatives and Senators make this budget. These folks run for election every four years and decide how to spend our tax dollars.

They balance funding requests with limited revenue. They pit pre-kindergarten against two-year colleges, new textbooks against new facilities, educator pay increases against new programs, and four-year universities against K-12.

Jacksonville State University is a state-supported school. This means (contrary to popu-

lar opinion) that most of JSU’s operating costs are covered by appropriations in the state budget, which are made by our legislators—whom we elect.

This year is an election year, and it just so happens that the state budgets will be made within the next few weeks. As the old adage goes: the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

If college students continue to carry the “my vote doesn’t matter” mindset, so will the folks that represent us. If we’re not on the minds of our legislators, who are making budgets that determine our University’s funding, then what do you expect the outcome will be?

Typically, it’s underfunding for the University, which forces the Board of Trustees to raise tuition on you and me to offset the costs.

Fortunately, President Meehan has committed that (pending no drastic shortfall in state funding) tuition will not increase next year, so we can at least get that worry off our chest. But who can speak for the next year? Or the year after that? You and I, that’s who.

There is an election in November. On the ballot will be state Representatives and Senators, many of whom will have a record or a stance on Higher Education funding.

It is your job to make sure that position or record represents your interests. And your best interest, at least if you pay tuition, is more state funding and no increased tuition rates.

So, next time someone asks, you can avoid the face-palm and respond confidently: “Yes, elections really do matter—to all of us.”



The cost of higher education

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

It seems that a college degree is almost necessary for our generation. Once upon a time, it was possible for someone to actually work their way to the top of their field based on, well, their work. These days, most people would not even be considered for any sort of management position with a company unless they possess that magic piece of paper stating that they have earned a college degree.

For people who learn trades like cosmetology, options exist. They can skip the classroom process altogether by apprenticing with a professional in their chosen field.

I’m glad that doctors, for example, have to go to college before they can begin practicing. But for those of us in certain other fields, college is a hassle. It’s both a blessing and a curse. Sometimes I tell myself, “I’ve made it this far. Isn’t some college enough? How much difference is that degree going to make?”

Now, you can probably blame some of that on senioritis. But before you just write me off completely, let me tell you what higher education has both given me and has cost me.

When I graduated from high school at age seventeen, I didn’t even want to go to college. I enjoyed writing and drawing, and I just wanted to spend the rest of my life writing and drawing. That lasted one semester before my mom insisted that I go to school. Thanks to her, I’m not a starving artist now.

I didn’t really know what I wanted to study in college, but I enrolled in our local community college and began taking my core classes. When I transferred to JSU, I decided that

I wanted to major in Communications. I figured if I was a journalist, I could make a living from writing. I would also be working on something new every day, so I wouldn’t get bored with my job.

That turned out to be the best decision I’ve made in my adult life so far. Less than one year after transferring to JSU, I became Editor-in-Chief of The Chanticleer. I’ve also been a co-host on two different radio shows on WLJS, and spent one semester disc jockeying with one of my friends during her rotation shift.

But the best opportunity that being involved in the Communication Department has given me is a job. Ever since last summer, I’ve been spending my nights working the copy desk at The Aniston Star. I have also had the opportunity to read along with the Metro Editor and help edit stories, as well as write a couple of feature stories for the paper and for Healthy Living magazine. My co-workers are some of my best friends, and I have learned so much more at my job than I ever have in a classroom.

But there’s a catch: I cannot keep the job that I love so much, the job that’s in my field, if I want my degree. I have to complete an internship over the summer before I can officially graduate, but I can’t do what I’m doing now and get internship credit. I have spent the past week brainstorming with my editors and trying to find a way to make it work. But rules are rules.

For at least the next month, I will be in limbo. As a friend of mine put it, “It’s almost like you’re being punished for being one step ahead of the game.”

And that, my friends, is the true cost of higher education: leaving a job in my chosen field to satisfy the requirements of the school system, all for that precious piece of paper.



Technology roundup: upgrade your smartphone, or wait another year?

The Chanticleer’s Myron Jones discusses the pros and cons of this year’s most popular flagship models.

Myron Jones
Staff Writer

Smartphones have become an integral component of day-to-day life in modern society. Every user has different expectations for his or her smartphone. Some people use them strictly for business communication, while others use them for entertainment, books, games, and movies. Every year, manufacturers such as Apple, Google, HTC, LG, Motorola, Samsung, and Sony release an updated version of their current flagships.

A flagship smartphone is considered to be the latest and greatest that a manufacturer has to offer.

It is early in the year 2014, and a couple of this year’s flagships have already been announced. At this point, many are wondering “What should I upgrade to?” or “Should I even upgrade?” To best answer these questions, we should look at the next generation of smartphones in comparison to what is available now.

Current flagships include the iPhone 5S,

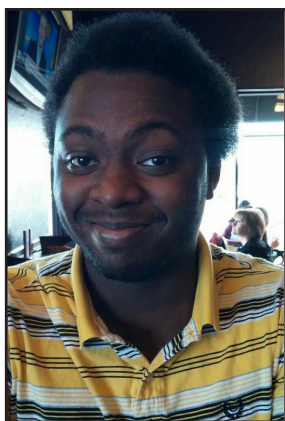
Nexus 5, HTC One, LG G2, Motorola X, Samsung Galaxy S4, and Xperia Z1. Each of these phones attempted to bring something new to the table. Apple introduced a fingerprint scanner on the iPhone 5S in addition to 64-bit processing. Google’s Nexus 5 introduced the latest version of Android, Kit Kat. HTC’s One introduced “Boomsound” with its dual front-facing speakers. The LG G2 introduced “Knock Knock”, a feature that lets you turn your screen on and off by double-tapping, and its unique button placement. Motorola decided to focus on touchless interaction with the Motorola X. Samsung added a plethora of features to its camera features, and a full HD screen to the Galaxy S4. Sony decided to make the Xperia Z1 extra durable with its water and dust resistance.

With the exception of Apple’s iPhone 5, all of these devices used quad-core processors, a sizable upgrade to the dual-core processors used in 2012 flagship smartphones. As you can tell, there was a lot going on in terms of innovation with the flagships of 2013. Phone manufacturers were extremely busy in making their names known and developing a strong preference. Unfortunately, this year we are getting less innovation, and instead, more of the same.

Samsung’s Galaxy S5 and Sony’s Xperia Z2 were both announced Monday as 2014’s first flagship smartphones. Neither of these phones has much to offer over their

predecessors. The upgrades to these devices are incrementally faster processors and slightly larger batteries, and not much else. Current Galaxy S4 owners who think the phone is not fast enough or does not have long enough battery life will most likely not see significant improvement by moving to the Galaxy S5. The Samsung Galaxy S5 does at least add a fingerprint scanner for more security, and Samsung is finally including water and dust resistance. Other than that, there is very little to get excited over if you are a current Galaxy S4 owner. Although only Samsung and Sony have showed their 2014 offerings so far, it is expected that other manufacturers will have very similar minor upgrades.

To answer the question of “Should I upgrade this year?” I would give a definite yes if you are coming from a midrange phone or a flagship from 2012 or prior. However, if you are in either of these positions, I believe a 2013 flagship would be just as beneficial as the 2014 models, and would save you some money in the process. Unless there is a technological breakthrough between now and fall, 2014 will not be an exciting or revolutionary year for smartphones. If you need a new device right now, the 2013 flagships should satisfy your needs; otherwise, it may be wise to try waiting until early 2015 when devices should hopefully see a large boost to battery life, efficiency, and usability.



Want to see your face on these pages? Got a complaint about campus parking, or a deep musing on the origins of life, the universe and everything? Send it to chantynewstips@gmail.com and you could be published in The Chanticleer’s Opinion & Editorial page!

Sports

Gamecock Sports Sidebar

Upcoming Action:

Friday: W Track @ OVC Champ.
BB vs Kennesaw State
Saturday: W Track @ OVC
BB vs Kennesaw State
WBB vs Belmont
MBB vs Belmont
Tennis @ Southern Miss
WBB @ Murray State
MBB @ Murray State
Sunday: M Golf @ Samford
BB vs Kennesaw State
Monday: W Golf @ Kiawah Is.

NCAA Rifle Top 15:

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

OVC W. Basketball Standings:

East:
Belmont (10-5) [13-15]
Eastern Kentucky (9-5) [15-10]
Tennessee Tech (8-6) [11-16]
Tennessee State (7-7) [10-17]
Jacksonville State (7-8) [11-17]
Morehead State (5-9) [11-16]

West:
UT-Martin (13-1) [20-7]
Eastern Illinois (7-7) [12-13]
SIUE (6-9) [10-18]
Austin Peay (6-9) [9-19]
SE Missouri State (5-10) [9-19]
Murray State (4-11) [11-16]

OVC M. Basketball Standings:

East:
Belmont (12-2) [21-8]
Morehead State (10-4) [19-10]
Eastern Kentucky (9-5) [19-9]
Tennessee Tech (8-6) [15-14]
Jacksonville State (4-11) [10-20]
Tennessee State (3-11) [4-24]

West:
Murray State (12-2) [17-9]
SIUE (7-7) [11-17]
SE Missouri State (8-6) [15-13]
Eastern Illinois (6-9) [10-18]
Austin Peay (5-9) [11-17]
UT-Martin (3-11) [8-21]

OVC Softball Standings:

East:
Jacksonville State (11-5)
Eastern Kentucky (6-6)
Tennessee Tech (6-7)
Belmont (5-6)
Tennessee State (4-11)
Morehead State (2-8)

West:
Eastern Illinois (9-5)
Murray State (7-5)
SE Missouri State (4-5)
UT-Martin (4-8-1)
Austin Peay (4-11)
SIUE (3-11)

OVC Baseball Standings:

Tennessee Tech (8-1)
SE Missouri State (6-3)
Jacksonville State (4-3)
Murray State (4-3)
Belmont (4-4)
Morehead State (4-4)
Austin Peay (2-7)
Eastern Kentucky (1-6)
SIUE (1-6)
Eastern Illinois (1-7)
UT-Martin (1-7)

Follow on Twitter
@ChanticleerJSU

Gamecock baseball wins weekend series against Valparaiso

JACKSONVILLE – Four Gamecocks pitchers recorded 11 strikeouts as Jacksonville State swept the series over Valparaiso with a 6-3 win at Rudy Abbott Field on Sunday.

Michael Mason (1-0) had four strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings to earn his first win of the season in relief, while Travis Stout recorded a four-out save for his third save of the season. Mario Losi (0-1) gave up five runs on eight hits in 6 1/3 innings to suffer the loss for the Crusaders.

Polk had three strikeouts, while Graham Officer had one, Connor Metcalf had two and Mason added four as the Gamecocks limited Valpo to just seven hits in the game.

Valpo jumped on Gamecock starter Adam Polk with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning to build a 2-0 lead, but Jax State answered in the home half of the first to tie the game.

Michael Bishop led off with a single and stole second before moving to third on an infield grounder. Griff Gordon then hit a deep fly to left field to score Bishop. Cal Lambert followed with a double down the right field corner and scored after Ryan Sebra singled up the middle to tie the score at 2-2.

Valpo scored its other run in the fourth inning after Bryce Hara led off with a double and came around to score on Jake Hanson's sacrifice for a 3-2 lead, but the Gamecocks would battle again to tie the game in the fifth inning.

Chase Silvani led off the winning with a walk and the stole second and third base and scored on Ed-

die Mora-Loera's RBI single to right center to tie the game at 3-3.

Jax State took the lead for good in the seventh inning after P a s c h a l

Petrongolo had a pinch-hit RBI triple to score Silvani, and Mora-Loera

later followed with a double to left

center to score two more runs for the final margin. Mora-Loera led the Gamecocks with two hits and three RBI in the game.

On Saturday, Karch Kowalczyk had three hits and drove in five runs to lead Valparaiso to a 10-3 win over Jacksonville State in college baseball on Saturday afternoon.

Drew Hasler (1-0) allowed just one run and seven hits after pitching seven solid innings on the mound to earn the win for the Crusaders. JSU's Zachary Fowler (0-1) gave up three runs on seven hits in four innings to suffer his first loss of the year for the Gamecocks.

Senior Taylor Shields scattered three hits in seven solid innings on the mound to lead Jacksonville State to a 10-0 shutout over Valparaiso in the first game of the three-game series on Friday at



JSU Sportswire

Michael Bishop (9) scattered several hits, RBI and runs scored through the Valpo series

Rudy Abbott Field.

Shields (2-0) threw just 76 pitches and had a pair of strikeouts while allowing only three singles to earn his second win of the season. Casey Antley had three strikeouts and did not allow a hit in three innings of relief to pick up his first save of the year. Cole Webb (0-1) gave up six runs and walked four to get stuck with the loss for Valpo.

The Gamecocks jumped out to the early lead after Griff Gordon and Paschal Petrongolo each drove in a run in the first inning to give JSU a 2-0 lead.

Jax State extended the lead in the sixth inning after scoring four runs on three hits, highlighted by a two-RBI single by Michael Bishop, while Andrew Bishop and Tyler Gamble each drove in a run as JSU took a 6-0 lead.

~ Sportswire

JSU Women's golf runner-up at South Alabama Invitational

MOBILE – Freshman Anne Albrecht and the Jacksonville State women's golf team each finished in second place at the University of South Alabama Women's Invitational on Tuesday.

Albrecht, a freshman from Winsen, Germany, carded a final-round 75 on the par-72, 6,071-yard Azalea City Golf Course, finishing the 54-hole event with a six-over 222. The Gamecocks turned in a 304 on the second and final day of the 15-team event, finishing just two shots behind Memphis' 905 for the team title. The Tigers used a 304 on Tuesday to climb past JSU.

Host South Alabama turned in the best team score of the day

with a 299 to finish in third, two shots behind JSU. In-state rivals Troy and Samford finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Albrecht started the day with eight-straight pars before a bogey on the par-4 ninth hole. She also bogeyed the 12th before her lone birdie of the day on the par-5 15th. A double bogey six on 16 was the only other blemish on her card. She finished two shots behind Leighann Cabush of Memphis, who won the 83-player field with a 54-hole score of 220.

Albrecht was joined in the top five by junior Maya Parsons, whose 223 left her in a tie for third. The Whitby, Ontario, native's final-round 74 was JSU's low round

on Tuesday and saw her birdie three holes. Parsons led the field in par-3 scoring at two under over the tournament, including a birdie and three pars on Tuesday.

Sophomore Melani Sisto used a 77 in the final round to finish with a 230 and in a tie for 17th place. Sophomore Melania Bajo Geijo's 78 put her in a tie for 22nd with a three-round total of 232. Freshman Angie Varona wrapped up JSU's lineup in a tie for 64th after a final-round 82 gave her a total score of 248.

The Gamecocks return to action on Sunday, when they travel to Kiawah Island, S.C., for the Edwin Watts/Kiawah Island Classic.

~ Sportswire

Jax State's Maldonado named OVC Softball Player of the Week

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Jacksonville State senior Amanda Maldonado became the third Gamecock in as many weeks to earn the Ohio

Valley Conference's Softball Player of the Week honor on Monday.

Maldonado, a first baseman from Tucson, Ariz., was voted the Player of the Week by the league's Sports Information Directors on Monday after going 8-for-15 with three home runs, seven RBI and a 1.200 slugging percentage in guiding the Gamecocks (11-5) to a 4-2 week that included a win over Purdue on Saturday. She joins Cadi Oliver (Feb. 10) and Kalee Tabor (Feb. 17) as the league's Players of the Week through the first three weeks of the 2014 season.

Her .533 average during a week that saw JSU sweep Alabama A&M on Tuesday before going 2-2 in the Wilson/DeMarini Classic at Auburn over the weekend.

Maldonado entered the weekend with just one home run in her JSU career before belting three during the week.

She opened the week by going 4-for-5 in a doubleheader sweep of Alabama A&M, grabbing two hits in each game. In the finale, she broke up a perfect game with a sixth-inning single before hitting a seventh-inning home run that lifted JSU to a 4-1 win.

Maldonado also homered in the first and last games of the tournament in Auburn, including a solo blast that broke a scoreless tie and gave the Gamecocks the lead for good in a 2-1 win over Big Ten foe Purdue.

She hit safely in all but one game during the week and reached base at least once in every game, boasting a .611 on-base percentage for the week.

~ Sportswire



JSU Sportswire
Amanda Maldonado is the third-straight OVC PotW selection from JSU

JACKSONVILLE STATE

Softball: Green pitches gem, Gamecocks down Purdue 2-1

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

The talent in the circle runs deep for Jacksonville State softball. Casey Akenberger and Tiffany Harbin, the school's strikeout record holder, have already both tossed no-hitters this season. However it was Logan Green who stifled the Big 10 Purdue Boilermakers last weekend with a gem of a pitching performance that led to a 2-1 Gamecock victory.

Green, a freshman from Hebron, MD., tossed the first complete game of her career last Saturday. Jacksonville State was taking part in Auburn's Tournament where JSU also faced the Tigers and Mississippi Valley State.

Green avoided trouble early when Purdue had a runner on third with one out in the bottom of the first inning. A strikeout and pop-out ended the threat for JSU. In the second, Amanda Maldonado hit a solo home run to right to give put the Gamecocks on the board first, 1-0. For Maldonado, it was her third homer in the past five games.

Green's cushion grew the following inning in the third when Ella Denes led off with a single and then advanced to second on an error. In the next at bat, freshman Taylor Sloan doubled home Denes for the second run of the game. In the bottom half

of the inning Purdue was able to get their only run of the game after a Paris Andrew leadoff-double. Andrew then stole third and later scored on a single before Green got out of the inning.

Entering the fourth JSU held a 2-1 advantage which didn't seem like enough at the time, but each inning as Purdue sat the Gamecocks down, Green responded shutting down the Boilermaker bats. In home half of the final frame, Purdue threaten with a pinch-hit double lead off the inning. Green next forced a foul out and then got a game-ending double play the unconventional way when a hit was shot right back to the circle. On Green's throw to first the runner took off. After the put out at first, Maldonado fired across the infield to Kalee Tabor, who applied the final out at third after the runner slid past the bag.

Green (3-1) struck out three and allowed just three hits all game in her stellar performance which leads JSU to a current 11-5 record. The win may have been a little extra special as a bounce-back game from having lost a heartbreaker

to the host Tigers of Auburn the day before in extra innings. The Purdue win also came on the day Jacksonville State University celebrated its 131st birthday.

thing for the game as Purdue played Coastal earlier in the season and won 11-5 and lost 3-0.



JSU Sportswire

JSU's Logan Green tossed a four-hit complete game in a 2-1 win over Purdue.

The Gamecocks next game comes against Coastal Carolina in Conway, S.C. in the Chanticleer Challenge tournament. JSU may have learned some-

JSU Rifle shoots at NCAA Qualifier

MURRAY, Ky. – The Jacksonville State rifle team solidified its footing for a fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Rifle Championships, finishing third at the NCAA Qualifier match, hosted by Murray State.

The fifth-ranked Gamecocks posted an aggregate score of 4660 to finish behind West Virginia and Nebraska. The Mountaineers, the nations top-ranked team, turned in a qualifier-best of 4691. The Huskers, ranked fourth in the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association's recent poll, carded a 4678. JSU scored a 2308 in smallbore and a 2352 in air rifle.

In smallbore, Jax State was led by senior Sam Muegge, who finished sixth with a 583. Juniors Cole Tucker and Dan McCall turned in a 576 and 575 respectively to place in the top-20 in the individual standings. Sophomore Samantha Bullard and junior Brent Books rounded out the smallbore score with marks of 574 and 570 respectively.

Bullard, from Uriah, Ala., was the top finisher in air rifle with a 592 to place sixth. Tucker closed out the day with a top-10 finish after carding a 590. Muegge had another solid day in air rifle with a 587 to finish in the top-20. A pair of JSU freshmen got their first taste of NCAA competition as Austin Cock and Brandon Muske posted equal marks of 585.

The NCAA will announce the eight qualifying teams and selected individuals today, Feb. 27. The selection show will be streamed live on NCAA.com, beginning at 4 p.m. CST.

The NCAA Rifle Championships will be held on March 14 and 15 in Murray, Ky.

~ Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

JSU's Miranda Cantrell (42) has been a leader for Rick Pietri's first-year team.

Basketball seasons wrap up Saturday against Belmont in Nashville

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

Its been a frustrating season to say the least for Jacksonville State's Men's basketball team. Coming off an impressive 17-11 run last season, the Gamecock had hoped that this year could have been one to contend at the top of the Ohio Valley Conference.

However, after a 0-5 start to the season there was only a brief time that JSU was firing on all cylinders, and that time has certainly stopped as the team finds itself in the midst of a seven game losing-streak.

At 10-20, JSU has only one game left in the season this Saturday when they host OVC-leading Belmont who holds a strong 21-8 overall record. Ending the losing streak won't be easy, but would certainly lift some spirits going into the off-season on an upset of that cali-

ber. JSU won't be participating in the OVC basketball tournament in Nashville after not holding a spot in the top eight of the standings. Belmont will likely be the top overall seed.

For key seniors Brian Williams and Nick Cook along with Giovanni Smith and Rod McReynolds, the season is far from what was expected going in.

Some leadership positions will need to be addressed over the offseason before next year rolls around as lack of effort, and not ability, plagued the team at times this season. Luckily Darion Rackley, perhaps the player who gives the most effort game in and game out, returns in 2014-15 along with D.J. Felder and Avery Moore.

While the men's seasons quickly comes to a halt Saturday, coach Rick Pietri's women's squad will get to play on after one of the most impressive

turnaround seasons imaginable. After a one-win campaign a year ago, Pietri stepped in a changed the atmosphere surrounding the program and has the team with 11 wins and 7-8 in conference hoping for an even OVC record if they can knock off Belmont in Saturday's finale.

At 7-8, JSU currently sits seventh in the conference standings, but has already locked up a spot in the eight-team postseason tournament.

With a win over the Bruins along with other OVC scores going a certain way Saturday, JSU could climb as high as third in the final standings.

Miranda Cantrell, Destiny McLin and Candace Morton are all averaging in double-digits scoring as Morton leads the team with 17 a game.

Once in the tournament, the Gamecocks have proved they can play – and beat – anyone on any particular day.