



Tensions build as National Conventions draw closer

Dustin Fox
Staff Reporter

The presidential campaign is intensifying as candidates prepare for the Republican National Convention, beginning July 18, and the Democratic Convention, which will commence July 25.

Only three Republican candidates — Donald Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. John Kasich — remain since Florida Sen. Marco Rubio sus-

pended his campaign March 15 after a loss in his home state.

Wisconsin held a GOP Town Hall Tuesday in anticipation of the state's primary election April 5. Many of the questions asked, however, seemed to focus on the recent Twitter feud between Trump and Cruz.

Last week, the two candidates took to Twitter after an ad endorsing Cruz surfaced with a photo of Trump's wife. The Republican frontrunner retaliated by saying he would "spill

the beans" on Cruz's wife, and posted an unflattering photo of her.

Cruz denied being involved with the original ad and said that politicians should respect one another enough to not attack their families. He also claimed a National Enquirer article that said he had been unfaithful to his wife was sourced by one of Donald Trump's political advisors.

Kasich seems to want to avoid all the drama. During Tuesday's Town Hall, he said, "I can say all kinds of

things to get people stirred up, but leaders don't do that."

All three major candidates said Tuesday that they were unsure if they would be able to endorse the Republican candidate, regardless of who it is.

Meanwhile, after Sen. Bernie Sanders won five of the six primaries and caucuses held last week, Hillary Clinton's campaign is feeling the pressure. However, after Sanders

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Harry M. and Edel Y. Ayers Lecture Series

Former Guardian editor discusses climate change campaign

Adam Higgins
Associate Editor

Alan Rusbridger discussed The Guardian's climate change campaign March 17 on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library.

Rusbridger, Chairman of The Scott Trust Ltd. and Guardian editor for 20 years, spoke to a packed room of JSU students, faculty and local community members as part of the annual Harry M. and Edel Y. Ayers Lecture Series.

The Guardian called the campaign "Keep it in the Ground," referring to fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas.

He developed the idea for the campaign in December 2014, five months before he stepped down as Guardian editor. Rusbridger said that he perceived an overwhelming scientific opinion in favor of the existence and threat of climate change.

"I asked myself, 'have we done

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Marie McBurnett/The Chanticleer

Alan Rusbridger discusses The Guardian's climate change campaign March 17 on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library. Rusbridger spoke to a packed room of JSU students, faculty and local community members as part of the annual Harry M. and Edel Y. Ayers Lecture Series.

Governor's officials visit campus, speak about state programs

Alissa Camplin
Staff Reporter

The political science department Tuesday hosted a special event featuring three cabinet secretaries and a policy advisor from Gov. Robert Bentley's office.

The Action Institute from Grand Rapids hosted the event entitled, "Opportunity and Merit: Building Alabama's Future."

John-Bauer Graham, Dean of Library Services, welcomed guests to the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. President, John M. Beehler, introduced the first guest speaker, Jeanna Ross — a cabinet official and Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood

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Alissa Camplin/The Chanticleer

Jim Byard Jr., a cabinet official and director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, spoke Tuesday on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library.

Christian leaders discuss homosexuality

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Reporter

It was The Beatles who said, "All you need is love." Or was it? In the Bible, Jesus said in short terms, "Love me and love others." Despite the various denominations of Christianity, that one thing has remained consistent. But is that really it? Is love really all you need?

Tony Derousseau loved his father, but he never knew that his son was gay. In the dim lighting of the local Starbucks, the air thick with the pungent smell of coffee that clings to your clothes for days, he speaks of his father with a sad half-smile.

"I think the reason I waited so long to come out was because my dad was still alive. And I loved my dad. But he was the kind of person that the term 'faggot' you know, it came out of his mouth a good bit," Derousseau says.

Derousseau believes that his father would have eventually come to accept him as he

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CONVENTION, from page 1

called for a debate in New York prior to the state’s April 19 election, Joel Benenson, an aide for Clinton’s campaign, said the debate would not happen unless Sanders changed his tone.

Benenson said that Sanders said at the beginning of the election season that he would never run negative advertisements, but has been airing ads aimed against Clinton.

“Let’s see if he goes back to the kind of tone he said he was going to set early on. If he does that, then we’ll talk about debates,” Benenson said.

Sanders’ campaign has seen new momentum after winning five states last week. An incident at a Portland rally kept Sanders in the spotlight after his victory.

A small bird landed on his podium Saturday, interrupting his speech and earning a standing ovation from the crowd. Sanders reacted on stage by saying the bird was a dove in disguise, and called for world peace. The incident led to the trending hashtag #BirdieSanders.

Hillary Clinton took to Wisconsin Tuesday, speaking on gun violence to rally support before the primary election next week. She likened gun violence to a disease and said that Americans must come together to tackle the issue.

While Sanders held rallies with crowds of thousands, Clinton hopes her intimate conversations with the people of Wisconsin will win her the state.

justice to what is probably the biggest story in the world?” he said.

The Guardian assembled an alliance of reporters of various beats and launched Keep it in the Ground March 2015. The newspaper partnered with the environmental non-governmental organization 350.org. Prince Charles, author Helen Macdonald and the United Nations later joined the campaign.

Keep it in the Ground began advocating for fossil fuel divestment, which involves companies getting rid of stocks, bonds and investment funds that support the industry.

Within a few weeks, the Guardian Media Group, which owns The Guardian, divested, making the organization the largest yet known to do so.

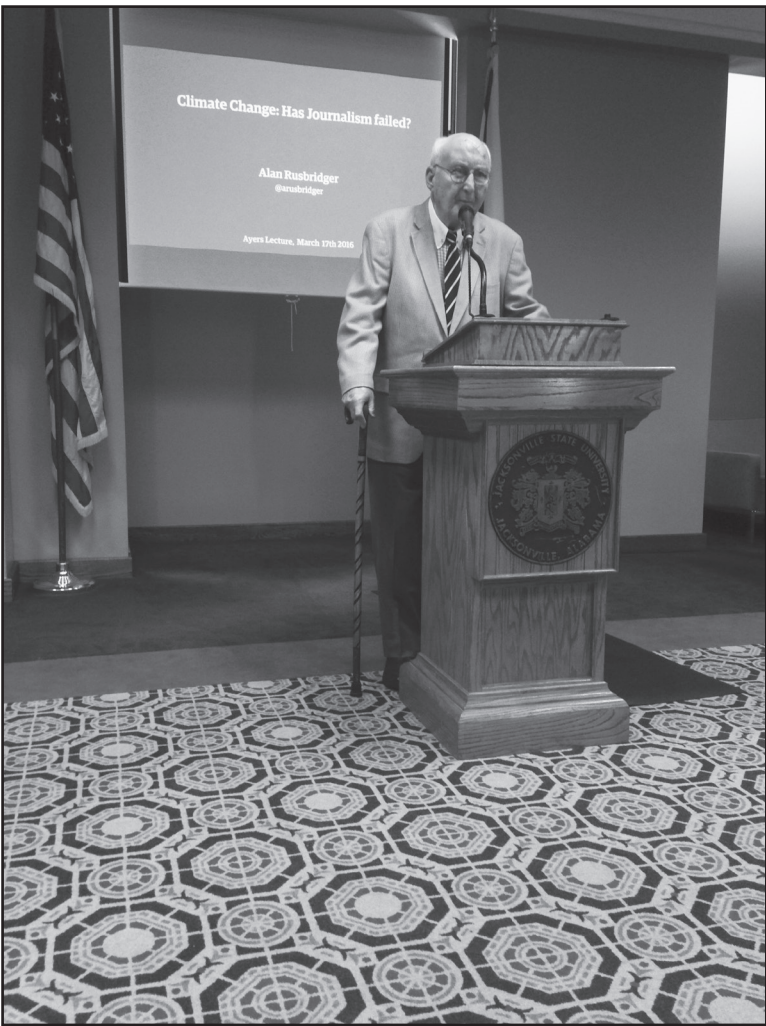
The campaign pushed for the Bill and Melinda Gates’ Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, the largest charitable foundations in the world, to also divest from the industry.

Guardian readers participated by writing letters to executives at the Wellcome Trust and recording short films for Bill Gates. Neither foundation divested.

“If I’m wrong, the downside is negligible, but if the scientists are right, this is the biggest challenge facing the human race today,” Rusbridger said.

He also said newspapers were not providing adequate coverage.

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Marie McBurnett/The Chanticleer

H. Brandt Ayers, publisher of The Anniston Star, spoke briefly before introducing Alan Rusbridger.

In 2013, The New York Times abolished their climate desk, which consisted of seven reporters and two editors; within a year of doing so, The Times had a 40 percent overall drop in climate change coverage, according to Rusbridger.

As part of their campaign, The Guardian invested in journalism to expose fossil fuel reserves around the world and explain the story of the industry.

“I may have broken every rule in the journalistic book. We’ve crossed the line from reporting to saying ‘there is something you can do about this,’” Rusbridger said.

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Development.

Ross spoke about the First Class Pre-K program which, according to Ross, prepares four-year-olds for kindergarten, increases graduation rates, increases college attendance, reduces crime and delinquency.

“It’s not just assessments that we’re seeing huge differences in. They’re reporting that these children have initiative, and with initiative comes resiliency that we need our adults to have, as well,” Ross said.

Joanne Hale, a cabinet official and acting Secretary of Information Technology, spoke next.

Hale introduced the Cares program, which takes and verifies information a person provides when applying for government programs, and checks potential eligibility for other programs.

Cares is beneficial because those who apply for government help often have problems going to multiple offices, or do not believe they would qualify for other programs, according to Hale.

Another program, First Net, creates a network for first responders at the state, county, tribal and municipal levels to communicate

safely and efficiently.

Hale said Alabama is trying to reinvent the DMV system so that more tasks, like renewing a license or changing a name, can be done on a kiosk or online to help diminish long lines at offices.

Jim Byard Jr., a cabinet official, spoke about being the director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Byard mentioned the programs and the local impact of ADECA. His main advice was “do for one as if you could do for all, and be present in the moment.”

David White, a policy advisor, spoke about the health care issues in Alabama. He spoke about the possible dangers of the state ending Medicaid, which currently covers “roughly one million, mostly kids,” according to White.

White declared that all should be concerned with Medicaid.

“If it goes under, Children’s Hospital goes. Most of your rural hospitals are gone. Most of your pediatricians are gone. Dentists, too. Don’t think ‘I’m middle class, I have Blue Cross. I don’t care.’ Yeah, that’s fine. But you may go to a doctor that leaves or a hospital that shuts down

without Medicaid,” he said.

Newly-elected JSU Chief Justice Amy Sims said she is interested in having a bike lane in Jacksonville, and that the event helped provide her direction on how to start her plan.

“Jim Byard had a lot of good information on how to get funds, grants, and all sorts of information on how to get something community-oriented, like a bike lane,” Sims said.

“I hope that once I take office, I can get more information on it and see how much headway we can make.”

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STUDY BREAK

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BLISS?

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Need Advice?

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Email chantynewstips@gmail.com with your problems and look in the paper next week for our newest "Dear Chanty" section.
NOTE: All entries will remain anonymous, and Chanty will respond to all inquiries.

Campus crime report: 03/16 to 03/29

03/16/2016
Violation of Student Code of Conduct
Ladiga Trails Townhomes


03/16/2016
Automobile Accident
McArthur Street

03/16/2016
Identity Theft
Regions Bank

03/17/2016
Assist Other law Enforcement Agency
Salls Hall

Witness a crime?

For emergencies, dial 6000 from any campus phone.




03/17/2016
Information Report - Lost Property

03/18/2016
Criminal Mischief
Meehan Hall Parking Lot

03/28/2016
Violation of Student Code of Conduct
Ladiga Hills Apartments

03/29/2016
Unlawful Breaking & Entering a Vehicle
Ramona Wood

Chicken Scratch



“A student in bed will remain in bed until acted upon by a large enough panic.” -Newton’s lesser known fourth law.

Is it sleeting right now? What the hail?

If the was a purge, I would probably go to the bookstore and steal the books I need for next semester.

When you have a working draft due tomorrow and you’re still looking at the heading like...I’ve still got time.

Me: “I NEED this.” Wallet: “Nah, you don’t. PUT IT BACK AND NO ONE GETS HURT.”

Why is there no comfortable temperatures in any of these buildings?

Why do I use my phone every morning when I wake up and make myself late? It’s all my fault but I can’t stop.

I won’t be impressed with technology until I can download food.

I was late for class because I was busy wiping pollen off my car.

Submit today!

Have something you want us to see? Use [#chanticleerjsu](#)

Dear Chanty,

I’m close to graduating, and went I went to sign up for the fall, my last semester, I found out that one of the classes I absolutely have to take is only offered in the spring semester. I really don’t want to have to stick around (no offense, JSU) for another semester. Part of me thinks that would be a waste of time, but part of me thinks it may be okay to wait around. I don’t know what I want to do after I graduate, and since I have housing and a steady part-time job, it may not be the worst thing to wait around another semester and try to sort out what I want to do after I graduate. I feel like I’m not prepared for the real world. I’m really okay with either, but there are cons to both sides.


Sincerely, Graduation Procrastination

Dear Graduation Procrastination,

Let’s think this through. If you wanted to graduate on time, the university will work with you. You may not be in a traditional classroom setting for it, but departments want to see you graduate on time just as much as you want to graduate. Now, it you live in university housing, that’s a lot of money you’ll be spending on living. As much as staying may sound like a good option, you also need to realize you are putting your future on hold, and maybe you are uncertain about your future. Try to make it where you can graduate when you planned. If not, then you can spend the next few months deciding what you are doing for your future.


Yours truly, Chanty

7-day weather outlook




TODAY

Rain
High: 76°
Low: 63°




FRIDAY

Partly Cloudy
High: 76°
Low: 50°




SATURDAY

Sunny
High: 67°
Low: 41°




SUNDAY

Sunny
High: 69°
Low: 39°




MONDAY

Sunny
High: 75°
Low: 48°



TUESDAY

Partly Cloudy
High: 67°
Low: 38°



WEDNESDAY

Sunny
High: 72°
Low: 46°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Latin Ensemble, Steel Band perform together

Alissa Camplin
Staff Reporter

The David L. Walters Department of Music hosted the Jacksonville State Latin Ensemble and Steel Band concert Tuesday night in the Performance Center of Mason Hall.

Dr. Andy Nevala and Dr. Tony McCutchen direct the Latin Ensemble. In addition, both professors also arranged pieces that the ensemble and band played during the concert.

The nine-person ensemble performed four pieces, including “Isn’t She Lovely”, which was made famous by Stevie Wonder, “No More Trouble” by Bob Marley, “Sunrise Prince” by Dave Gregoric, and a finale of “Come Together,” written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Co-director Andy

Nevala arranged “No More Trouble” and the JSU Latin Ensemble arranged “Come Together.”

Sophomore Grant Walker played the alto saxophone in the Latin band, and he said he enjoyed the band’s trip to New Orleans a few weeks ago.

“It was so much fun,” Walker said.

Two of the pieces were recorded last year, and two of them were from their trip to New Orleans.

After a brief intermission, the JSU Steel band took the stage. They began with a ten-minute piece entitled “From Beyond,” written by Winston Scarborough. It featured many key changes, and according to freshman Kevin Geeter, it was the hardest piece to play.

“I didn’t sign up for this at the beginning of the semester. Someone had to drop the class, and it opened



Alissa Camplin/The Chanticleer

The steel band waits in their casual attire to begin performing their next piece during their concert in Mason Hall on Tuesday night.

a spot up. I came in a month behind everyone else,” he said. “It’s my first time doing it.”

However, Geeter said he plans to continue to play in the Steel Band.

The Steel band also performed “Rosanna” by David Paich and “Nightwatch”

by Mark Ford.

The program concluded as both bands joined to perform “Runaway Baby” by Bruno Mars.

Director Tony McCutchen arranged “Rosanna” and “Runaway Baby” for the groups.

The Department of

Music will host more concerts within the next few weeks. A free Percussion Ensemble concert will be next Wednesday, April 6 at 8 p.m. in the Performance Center of Mason Hall. The concert will feature music arranger Frank Ford, who will

also be in attendance.

Another concert will be April 7 at 7 p.m. It will take place at the Oxford Performing Arts Center in Oxford, Ala.

It will feature Chamber Winds, Wind Ensemble, and the Symphonic Band. It is in memory of LCPL USMC Squire Wells.

Viewers, critics disagree on *Batman vs Superman*

Collins Maroa
Staff Reporter

Critics did not have very kind words for Batman vs. Superman: The Dawn of Justice, as it received two and a half stars on rating site, Rotten Tomatoes.

However, everyday viewers seemed to disagree with that as the DC comics movie is breaking records already and has a rather high rating on IMDB, 7.5 stars. Within the first weekend, the film had brought in a cool \$172 million in domestic sales, a new record for a March and Easter weekend opener.

Ben Affleck stars as the black-suited, tech-equipped Batman, while Henry Cavill is the cap wearing, S-chested Superman. Jesse Eisenberg is not left behind, starring as Lex Luther, but this time, with unkempt hair and not the common bald

head that Superman fans are accustomed to. The film pits the two beloved superheroes against each other and is considered a sequel of Zack Snyder’s Man of Steel.

It begins by reminding the viewers of where the two heroes came from, re-enacting the death of Bruce Wayne’s parents and the destruction of Metropolis by Superman in Man of Steel. It is a slow-progressing movie that tries hard to achieve a climax, but for some, it may fail to do so.

‘The Dawn of Justice’ is a what could be considered a ‘graphic run movie’ as the CGI effects have no blemish and were definitely micromanaged to ensure no mistakes were made. The script is however, a bit clogged and may be a bit complicated for someone who is not fully into

DC Comics and its vocabulary.

A lot of the actions in the movie seem to suggest a Justice League sequel in the near future, as several parts of the story line are left open and unanswered.

Some of the other DC comic heroes involved in the movie are Wonder Woman and Aquaman, played by Gal Gadot and Jason Momoa respectively. Gadot is known for her role in ‘The Fast and the Furious’ film series, while Momoa is known famously for his role as Khal Drogo in HBO’s ‘Game of Thrones’.

This has proven to be the kind of film where professional critics and viewers are at loggerheads over whether the film deserves a high rating, or if it should be thrown to the trash. Much of the fan base had strong concerns about Affleck coming into this role, and the



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opinions are just as scattered as the movie reviews. That being

said, ‘Batman vs Superman: The Dawn of Justice’ may be a film

that one has to see for themselves in order to judge.

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Competing hairstyles are becoming equal among women

Amber Harris
Special to The Chanticleer

“Going natural,” which means keeping your hair relaxed, is one of the many topics women discuss while sitting in salons getting their hair done.

Throughout the salon waiting room, women discuss how perms are burning, and how straightening combs are too close to the scalp. Let’s be honest. Women are very sensitive about their hair, but hair is not just hair anymore; it is a statement. When you turn on the television, search the web, or pick up magazines, you see women who have natural hair.

From teeny-weeny afros to dreadlocks, natural hair caused an enormous culture change. Commercials for natural hair care lines, such as “Dark and Lovely” and “As I Am”, have featured black models who have natural hair, persuading many women to choose natural hair instead of a perm.

Black women accepted hair breakage, burning, and permanent hair loss for a very long time. They accepted what society said beauty was.

But celebrities like Jill Scott and Lauryn Hill changed things by pioneering the natural hair movement during the 90s. Now, the argument is between both hair types.

Jaqueline Hill has experienced both types of hair. Even though Hill has had natural hair for three years, she did not intend to make the choice. Instead, she wanted to see how long she could go without a perm.

But once her perm and natural hair met, she realized how hard it was to manage them both. Instantly, she cut all of her relaxed hair off.

“When I was getting my hair relaxed, at that time, I thought it was okay. Usually, it was what we thought was the way to go. It was easier to manage, not knowing the harm it was causing. I was wondering why my hair line appeared to be lighter than the rest of my face. When I went natural, however, the light areas disappeared. My

hair was unhealthy when I got the perms. It might have looked healthy, but honestly, it was not,” Hill said.

When asked about her natural hair, she excitedly said, “Oh my God, it is freaking awesome. It is thicker, it is healthier, and I can do a lot to it. Overall, I think natural hair is better because you are not exposing your body to all of those harsh chemicals.”

Many naturals like Hill often say that the harsh chemicals are what they don’t like about having relaxed hair. LaToya Hearn feels differently about her hair.

“I will never go natural no matter how much someone pays me to do it. I walk into the workforce and see women natural all the time, but I do not want to go natural. It is too much work. Power to the women who have natural hair,” Hearn said.

Maintaining natural hair takes time and hard work. It can be kinky and curly depending on your hair type.

To maintain healthy hair and retain length, it is good to practice regimens and daily routines. One thing to keep in mind is the Liquid, Oil, and Cream method. The LOC method is used to retain moisture and stop breakage.

The liquid is a leave-in conditioner, and it is used after washing your hair. The oils consist of essential oils, and the cream is any butter cream product.

It is important to wash natural hair every week and condition it every three days. Before bed, do twists to maintain curl patterns.

A relaxer is a cream that women use to straighten their tight curls. It makes the hair very easy to straighten because the chemicals in the cream relax the natural curls.

Many relaxers give strict directions of applying the cream one-eighth of an inch from your scalp. Also, it directs users to put a substance, such as grease, around the parameters of the hair line. If not done correctly, it can cause burns or sores on the scalp or skin.

Relaxers include toxic ingredients such as sodium



www.celbrity-gossip.net

Lauryn Hill is a singer/songwriter who prefers to wear natural hair. She is one of the women that pioneered the natural hair movement during the 90s.

hydroxide, a strong caustic base used especially in making soap, rayon, and paper.

“You do not want to get a relaxer on your skin or scalp. It can cause an irritation reaction that can burn the skin. When you burn the skin, you can mess up the top layer and cause discoloration. The skin is very sensitive, which makes it easy to cause micro-damage which can leads to major damage,” said Dermatologist Stacey Haynes.

Haynes said she encounters patients who come in because of perm damages. Most of the time, it is due to a Relaxer Irritant Contact Dermatitis Secondary Infection.

She describes the infection as a big scalp that is yellow and contains pus. It is sometime bloody, crusty, yellowish, and you can lose hair in that area.

The National Medical Association explains the infection as an “Irritant contact dermatitis complicated by deep-seated staphylococcal infection caused by a hair relaxer.”

While browsing YouTube, you will see tutorials of well-known users who are now making videos about natural hair. Many YouTubers are showing naturals how to maintain healthy hair and suggesting products that grow hair and

retain length. They are also showing naturals how to do twist outs, braid outs and crochet braids.

What makes natural hair healthier than relaxed hair are the raw products like shea butter, black soap, and peppermint oil.

Madame C.J. Walker established her very own natural hair care line, which influenced other entrepreneurs to do the same thing. Today, most stores sell natural hair products that are only for that specific hair type.

The thought of being nat-

ural is now shaping others to understand that natural hair is here to stay. Women are allowed to wear their hair how they please.

Both types of hair can be healthy. Women nationwide are now taking the steps to accept their natural hair, and nothing is changing their minds. Women who are wearing relaxed hair are also holding on to their rights.

There are no real winners in the fight, and there is still much to learn. But it is important to remember that pain is not always a gain.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Bentley scandal is no laughing matter

Kevin Spann
Political Columnist

An audio recording of Gov. Robert Bentley engaging in a sexually explicit conversation with his chief advisor Rebekah Mason was released March 23.

While the recording is difficult to understand due to either poor sound quality, or an issue on Bentley’s part, there is little mistaking the subject matter of the conversation. The recording seems to have been made by Bentley’s family in order to get to the bottom of his relationship with Mason, though the exact details of its release are not yet clear.

Bentley has since admitted it is him in the recording, but denies that the relationship ever entered a physical level. Whatever the particulars of the relationship, the audio seems to confirm that Bentley’s divorce was related to his relationship with Mason as had been rumored.

The story quickly went viral and was lampooned on MSNBC as well as numerous news outlets. While one might be tempted to laugh at this, it is a serious issue for the state.

Alabama now has the dubious distinction of having both a Governor and Speaker of the House at risk of being removed from office. With this scandal, Bentley has also become the next in a series of recent Alabama governors to have their administrations bogged down by scandal.

In fact, while former Gov. Don Siegelman has his defenders, one has to go back about 18 years to the administration of Republican Gov. Fob James to find a Governor whose record was not blemished by a troubling scandal.

Since the audio was released, it has been questioned as to whether Bentley will be forced to resign — like Gov. Guy Hunt in 1993 — or perhaps impeached on a charge such as abusing state funds in order to facilitate his relationship with Mason.

Calls for Bentley’s resignation have been bipartisan, from Democratic leader Craig Ford to Republican State Sen. Bill Holtzclaw. Any Democrats who view Bentley’s potential resignation as a cause for celebration however, are mistaken.

From endorsing Gov. John Kasich for his party’s presidential nomination over Donald Trump or Ted Cruz, to insisting that the state obey the U.S. Supreme Court’s same sex marriage ruling, Bentley has at times practiced a relatively moderate brand of Republican politics.

If he resigns, Democrats may see less such moderation from Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey, who has been more closely affiliated with the tea party. Given the Republican Party’s dominance at almost all levels of the state, this scandal is also unlikely to make Democrats odds of reclaiming the governor’s mansion much better.

As the state gears up for another round of budget disputes to deal with insufficient funding, the black cloud being cast over Bentley is also unlikely to make negotiations any more productive. This is particularly true since Bentley had broken ranks with the majority of his own party by insisting tax increases are needed to deal with the state’s deficit.

Lastly, we should all be able to sympathize with an individual whose private life has been dragged out for public ridicule; this should be no cause for celebration.

NCAA, ESPN show bias in favor of men’s basketball over women’s

Nathan Cavitt
Sports Columnist

The NCAA women’s basketball hasn’t been shown as much respect as its counterpart in the men’s division.

That statement was made even truer when the NCAA released information showing that men’s college basketball teams are paid for each tournament game they participate in.

According to an article published by the New York Times, each game a team plays (not including the championship) earns the team’s conference roughly \$260,000 this year, plus \$260,000 each of the five following years.

So the total value of a victory in the men’s tournament is approximately \$1.56 million.

Which brings the question: How much do the women make? The answer is none.

The NCAA doesn’t reward colleges for women’s basketball tournament games, nor do they really seem to care that they are happening.

Turn on ESPN and watch for an hour. Odds are you won’t hear a peep about women’s basketball, but when it comes to the men’s tournament, that’s a whole different story.

Or go to ESPN.com. Men’s college basketball is on the front page, and in order to find the Women’s division, you have to dig a little deeper.

It’s poor representation of women’s basketball, and the quality they put forth each game.

Whether that’s a fault of ESPN or the NCAA, it doesn’t really matter. The point is that women

do not get the same respect as men when it comes to athletics.

I’ve watched every game of the tournament so far, both men’s and women’s. Both are about the same quality, and boy can some of those girls play.

Syracuse’s Brianna Butler can hit a three-pointer that’s like a work of art, and she’s not even the best player on the team.

Chantel Osahor of the Washington Huskies is one of the most dominant centers I’ve seen in basketball. She can take it up near the basket, or drop back for a quick shot.

Not to mention the University of Connecticut who has yet to lose a game. Do you know how hard it is to not lose a game? It’s near impossible, and those girls almost make it look easy.

Yes, the men’s basketball tournament is important—it is one of the most thrilling events of the year, but in my opinion we should give the women some love to.

The Final Four play April 3 when No. 2 Oregon State plays No. 1 UConn at 5 p.m. on ESPN. The day ends with No. 7 Washington taking on No. 4 Syracuse in a quality matchup at 7:30 on ESPN2.

Can Washington continue its unlikely journey to the championship as a No. 7 seed? Will UConn remain undefeated? Those are but two stories heading into the Final Four.

If you are a fan of good sports, then Sunday is the day for you. Take a little time and give the women the respect they deserve—you can watch the men play the day before.

LEADERS, from page 1

was, but that it would have taken some time. His mother and aunt, who were present at his wedding last October, accepted it from the beginning.

While his mother attends a non-denominational church, and his aunt a Southern Baptist one, Derousseau doesn’t go anymore.

“My husband is an atheist and I like to view myself as agnostic,” he says.

“I’ve seen Christian people before and I’ve said, ‘This is my husband.’ And they’re like, ‘Oh that’s great.’ But there are some people and you say, ‘This is my husband’ and you see that glint in their eye. And you ask people why this is so wrong and they say ‘you know it says in the Bible...’ Well can you tell me where it says it? No one can ever tell. It’s just the way people are programmed. Because someone said it was wrong at some point, it must be wrong,” Derousseau says.

For “John,” there was no love lost when he was outed to his parents. They were angry, disappointed and confused as to what they had done “wrong.”

“John” still loved them, but he didn’t feel loved at that time; he felt alone. He felt that he had no one to defend him.

He says that he made the decision to leave home; he moved away to another city

where he eventually met his future husband “Jim.”

“John” speaks in a low voice in his home in the Midwest. It’s late and he’s just put his two young children down to sleep. His house is still as he talks about his husband’s cooking skills, playing Wii bowling with his son and his daughter’s first steps. Church has always been part of his life and continues to be.

“It’s a Methodist church right now. This Methodist church that we’re at right now seems to be the one we like,” he says.

It was a church that wound up outing him to his parents; it was a church youth minister who harshly questioned him.

And it was the beliefs of a church that separated him from his parents.

But it’s also in a church that he now finds solace.

According to a 2014 study by the Pew Research Center, more than 70 percent of Americans identify as some form of Christian. Although the number is down from 2007, it is still a pronounced majority from other religions.

Christianity is separated into several thousand denominations, all with varying ideas and beliefs that stem from interpretations taken from the Bible.

Episcopalians, are more inclusive, insisting that everyone is made exactly

the way God intended. It seems to be either one side or the other, with no middle ground.

Pastor Roland Brown is used to being questioned about these types of things. He’s been the pastor at Golden Springs Baptist Church in Anniston, Ala. for many years and isn’t surprised by much.

Southern Baptists are typically conservative; their outspoken beliefs on abortion and homosexuality are well known. Pastor Roland confirms it.

“While I don’t speak for all Southern Baptists, we believe that homosexuality is a sin. Just like adultery, just like murder, just like lying,” Pastor Roland says.

On the other side of town, sitting in his office in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Father Bryan Lowe smiles when discussing his casual apparel for the day: slacks and suspenders over a school polo. Father Bryan answers with passion about his church’s stance.

“Our perspective is that sexuality is a gift from God. The church is sometimes perceived as anti-sex, and we’re not; we’re just anti-sex that isn’t being used as God intended. So we believe that God intended sexuality to be used in a committed relationship between a man and a woman,” Father Bryan says.

Episcopalians have al-

ways been a little different. In 2004, they elected the first openly-gay Bishop, which caused mass controversy among not just other Christian denominations, but also their own.

“The Episcopal Church believes God created everyone just as they are,” says a priest of the Episcopal Church, who asked that their name not be printed.

“We do not believe homosexuality is a sin to be forgiven and we don’t believe it’s a lifestyle that people choose. We realize a lot of people do not agree with that.”

With all the different opinions, it isn’t surprising that people are confused. It’s hard to decide which denomination is right and which is wrong.

They each have their own beliefs inspired by the same book. But even with their different ideas, they do seem to agree that Jesus called his followers to love.

“We believe that we are being led to love our neighbors and include all people,” says the Episcopal priest. They believe Jesus did all He did to show people how to love.

From the middle ground of the Cooperative Baptists, who make no stand one way or another, they refer everything back to Jesus.

“The scripture verse that backs up everything is when Jesus says the most impor-

tant law is to love God and love your neighbor as yourself,” says the CBF pastor, “After that it doesn’t matter. If you get that then you can bicker about the rest.”

Father Bryan mentions Pope Francis and the year of mercy. It doesn’t necessarily mean agreeing with everything they do, but it means loving them anyway.

“To me, the great commandment in John’s gospel when Jesus says love one another as I have loved you, that’s pretty huge. Homosexuality is one of the challenges, but it’s not the only challenge. I see too many people mistreated because of who they are. The big picture says love God; love your neighbor. I think ultimately that’s what we’re going to be judged on. Did we love or not?” he says.

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”

The words of Jesus in the book of Matthew, chapter 22, verses 36-40, ring strong and clear. Words that speak of love. Love me and love others, He said. Perhaps The Beatles had it right. Maybe all you DO need is love.

SPORTS

Gamecocks Side Bar

JSU Upcoming Action

4/1
-Men’s Tennis
vs Eastern Kentucky 10 a.m.
-Women’s Tennis
vs Eastern Kentucky 10 a.m.
-Baseball
at Southern Illinois 1 p.m.
-Beach Volleyball
vs New Orleans 4:30 p.m.

4/2
-Track and Field
at Troy Invitational
- Women’s Tennis
vs Morehead State 11 a.m.
-Men’s Tennis
vs Morehead State 11 a.m.
-Soccer vs UAB 1 p.m.
-Softball
at Tennessee State 1 p.m.
at Tennessee State 3 p.m.
- Beach Volleyball
vs Lincoln Memorial 1:30 p.m.
vs Spring Hill 4:30 p.m.
-Baseball
at Southern Illinois 2 p.m.

4/3
-Women’s Golf at ASU
Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate
-Baseball
at Southern Illinois 1 p.m.
-Softball
at Tennessee State 1 p.m.
-Beach Volleyball
at ULM 1:30 p.m.
at UAB 4:30 p.m.

4/4
-Women’s Golf at ASU
Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate

4/5
- Softball at UAB 4 p.m.
-Baseball at UAB 6 p.m.

4/6
- Men’s Tennis at Troy 1 p.m.
-Baseball at UAB 6:30 p.m.

OVC Baseball Standings		
School	OVC	O/R
Jacksonville State	9-0	16-7
SEMO	9-0	17-8
Austin Peay	6-3	14-9
Morehead State	5-4	15-9
Tennessee Tech	5-4	12-10
Belmont	3-3	13-11
Murray State	3-6	12-15
UT Martin	2-7	7-18
SIUE	2-7	4-17
Eastern Kentucky	1-5	11-14
Eastern Illinois	0-6	4-20

OVC Softball Standings		
School	OVC	O/R
Eastern Kentucky	7-0	23-6
Jacksonville State	7-0	17-13
Morehead State	6-1	17-13
SEMO	5-2	11-14
UT Martin	3-4	18-15
Tennessee Tech	3-4	11-19
SIUE	3-4	9-16
Eastern Illinois	3-4	9-21
Murray State	2-5	12-17
Belmont	2-5	9-23
Austin Peay	1-6	5-19
Tennessee State	0-7	7-25

Softball still perfect in OVC

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Reporter

The JSU softball team continued their winning streak in the OVC with back-to-back wins against SIUE.

The Gamecocks started the day with their first win against SIUE 4-2, and defeated them again 6-3 that evening.

The wins stretched the Gamecocks’ winning streak in the OVC to 7-0.

JSU broke the scoreless first few innings of game one after Emily Church doubled to right center field.

Both Taylor Sloan and Ella Denes scored off the double, giving JSU the early 2-0 lead.

Jamie McGuire homered moments later to left center field.

Church scored with McGuire and put the Gamecocks up 4-0.

JSU had their winning lead, but SIUE would not be denied.

SIUE managed an unearned run during the fourth inning.

The fifth and sixth innings were scoreless for

both teams.

SIUE took advantage of the seventh inning, but only managed one more run.

Whitney Gillespie worked hard during game one.

Gillespie only allowed two runs with five strikeouts and three walks.

During game two, SIUE jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead over the Gamecocks through the first two innings.

However, in the bottom of the second, the Gamecocks started their run toward what would become a win.

Jordan Bullock started things with a triple up the middle.

Gillespie, who sat on third, headed home for the Gamecocks’ first score in game two.

Emily Woodruff doubled next and Bullock scored moments later.

JSU closed in on SIUE 3-2 at the end of the second inning.

The third inning was quiet for both teams and the fourth was scoreless for SIUE.

The Gamecocks exploded

in the bottom of the fourth.

Denes singled and sent Leila Chambers to home for the tying score 3-3.

Denes advanced to second on a wild pitch, and Bullock scored a run, putting the Gamecocks ahead by one.

Stephanie Lewis singled and headed to second base on a fielding error, allowing Denes to score unearned.

Woodruff scored the sixth and final run behind her.

The last three innings were quiet for both teams, and JSU took their second consecutive win against SIUE.

Taylor West pitched her hardest in the second game.

She allowed only three hits, had two strikeouts and no walks.

Casey Akenberger allowed three runs on five hits when she came into the game.

The Gamecocks move to 17-13 overall but remain undefeated in conference play.

They take on OVC opponent Tennessee State in a three-game series in Nashville, Tenn. beginning April 2.

Track and Field takes three events

ATLANTA – The Jacksonville State track and field team finished second at the Emory Classic after collecting 133 points over the two-day event in Atlanta, Ga.

The Gamecocks collected 14 top-10 finishes in the 21 scored events and had three individuals win their respective event.

Freshman Erica Edwards claimed gold in the high jump, while two-time Ohio Valley Conference Field Female Athlete of the Week, Courtney Bennett won the shot put and then

finished second in the discus.

Edwards turned in a winning leap of 5-05.00 in the high jump.

JSU had a pair of top-10 finishes in the event at Selma Tarvin placed 10th after a jump of 4-09.00.

Bennett’s marks are worthy of another weekly honor from the conference office as the Hinesville, Ga. product won the shot put with a toss of 42-04.

Bennett was just short of winning the discus after a mark of 113-03.

In other field

events, sophomore Samantha Patterson had the best mark in the pole vault after turning in a jump of 11-03.75.

Sophomore Laura Sewell also had the same mark and took second in the event.

On the track, senior Whitley Towns won the 800 meter run.

The Boaz, Ala. native returned to the track to finish second in the seeded portion of the women’s 1,500 meter run.

Towns’ mark of 4:39.42 broke the school record, which she held

from the 2015 season.

S o p h o m o r e Blake Perry paced the JSU sprinters with a silver finish in the 100 meter hurdles.

Perry clocked a time of 15.32. Junior Gina Carnovale finished fourth in the 400 meter event with a time of 59.26.

Sophomore Dayja Simon placed fifth in the other 1,500 meter event with a mark of 5:05.07.

JSU will compete in the Troy Invitational on Saturday, April 2.

-JSU Sportswire

Women win third straight; Men lose

JACKSONVILLE –

The Jacksonville State women’s tennis team recorded its third consecutive OVC win after topping Southeast Missouri, 5-2, on Saturday at the JSU Tennis Courts.

The Gamecock men fell for the first time in conference play with a 5-2 setback to Tennessee Tech.

In the women’s match, JSU (5-12, 3-1 OVC) claimed the doubles point with wins at No. 2 and 3.

Courtney Conley and Sadey St. Amant teamed up to blank the SEMO pairing of Annisa Warasanti and Emila Montenegro, 6-9.

The point was clinched at No. 2 as the Jax State duo of Claudia Marsala and Diana Mirceta edged Isabella Krupa and Mila Majtan, 7-6.

In singles, JSU won four of the six matches, including a three set win by St. Amant at No. 5. Marsala saw SEMO’s Krupa in singles at No. 2 and collected a 6-2, 6-3 win at No. 2.

Genevie Ulanday needed little time downing Majtan, 6-2, 6-2.

Ulanday moved to 3-0 in OVC singles matches this season.

Mirceta picked up her second win of the day with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Warasanti.

After falling in the first set to Anais Emelie, she bounced back to win 6-3, 7-5.

In the men’s contest, Tech took the doubles point with wins at No. 1 and 2 to get the first point of the match.

The Golden Eagles notched two wins in three set duels.

Pedro Wagner split the first two sets with Eduardo Mena at No. 1.

Mena won the first set before Wagner regrouped to extend the match to a third set, but fell 6-4 in the final set.

JSU’s Liu Shao Chun battled TTU’s Marcos Bernardes to a third set before suffering a loss. JSU’s two points came from Jaryd Reese at No. 2 and Andres Gomez at No. 6.

Reese ousted Alex Arovin – 6-0, 7-5, while Gomez and Jorge Alfonzo went the distance with a third set.

Alfonzo won the opening set 6-1, before Gomez stormed back to win 6-4, 10-8.

JSU continues OVC play next weekend with a pair of home matches against Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State on April 1 and 2 respectively.

-JSU Sportswire

Bennett earns second OVC honors

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – For the second straight week, Jacksonville State’s Courtney Bennett earned recognition from the Ohio Valley Conference as she was named the Co-Female Field Athlete of the week after a pair of top-10 finishes at the Alabama Relays.

Bennett, from Hinesville, Ga., took eighth in the shot put with a mark of 45’07” last weekend in Tuscaloosa, Ala., which ranks first in the OVC this year.

The mark also set a new school record.

She also placed fifth in the discus with a toss of 153’08”.

Bennett’s discus mark is also the best in the conference this year.

-JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Giraldo honored as OVC’s top golfer

SORRENTO, Fla. – Freshman Valentina Giraldo led the Jacksonville State women’s golf team this week, and was also honored as the OVC Female Golfer of the Week.

The native of Ibague, Colombia, finished second in a field of 118 competitors at the Morehead State Spring Citrus Challenge in just her fourth tournament as a Gamecock. The performance was set up by a school-record 65 on Sunday that put her in the early lead.

That record-breaking opening round set the JSU record for low round and for low round vs. par and included eight birdies and just one bogey.

-JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Records break as Women’s Golf team shines

SORRENTO, Fla. – In just her fourth tournament as a Gamecock, freshman Valentina Giraldo put a permanent mark on the Jacksonville State women’s golf team.

Giraldo raced ahead of the field on the first day of the Morehead State Citrus Spring Challenge on Sunday, firing a school-record 65 on the par-72 Red-Tail Golf Club.

A native of Colombia, Giraldo joined the team prior to the start of the spring semester.

At 7-under, she led the 117-player field by five shots over a three-way tie for second.

She helped JSU get two shots ahead of a four-way tie between Ball State, Western Kentucky, Elon and Florida Gulf Coast.

Giraldo made easy work of the RedTail track, birdying eight holes and recording just one bogey to best the previous school record of a 6-under 66.

The previous record was set by Lourdes

Lopez Caballo in the 2011 F&M Bank Austin Peay Intercollegiate.

Giraldo is the 20th player in school history to break 70 in a round.

It was the second lowest round by an OVC golfer this season.

She made the turn with a 5-under 31 and played the final nine holes at 2-under to post the record-breaking score.

Western Kentucky’s Emily Alexander, Ball State’s

Kelsey Sear and Elon’s Heather Munro each carded a 70 on Sunday and are tied for second, five shots behind the Jax State frosh.

Gamecock senior Melania Bajo Geijo is tied for 20th in the field after an opening round 74, while freshman Karina Kukkonen’s Sunday 76 has her tied for 42nd.

Sophomore Natalia Azcue is tied for 58th after a 77, while junior Angie Varona’s 80 is tied for 84th.



JSU Sportswire

Beach Volleyball gets first win

JACKSONVILLE – It was a day of firsts for the Jacksonville State beach volleyball team as the Gamecocks secured their first single-dual victory in program history during the first-ever home beach contest at JSU.

The anticipated home debut of JSU beach volleyball didn’t disappoint as the Gamecocks’ No. 1 duo with Hannah Kirk and Charis Ludtke came from behind to defeat Louisiana- Monroe’s top pair of Taylor Zaeske and Kaitlyn Shearer, 2-1.

The day began with the No. 5 and 4 pairs meeting in the early session at the sand court adjacent to Stephenson Hall.

Freshman Jordan Moorer and junior Hope Gaskin started things off for Jax State in front of an eager crowd gathered to watch the inaugural sand event.

Mandee Eberle and Anna Katherine O’Leary were the second tandem to take to the sand.

The two were

unable to find the success they had a week ago in a set win over Coastal Carolina, falling to ULM in straight frames.

Following a lunch intermission, the No. 1 pairs took center stage to kick off the second half of the day.

The Kirk/Ludtke pairing has been one of the strongest for the Gamecocks all season, and their hard work finally came to fruition on Tuesday afternoon as the two left their marks in the JSU record books.

The Warhawks started strong in the opening game, but JSU fought back to make it a contest late before falling 21-15.

In the second game, Ludtke and Kirk held point-for-point with ULM’s Zaeske and Shearer, a duo who combined had won 48 career duals entering the day.

Needing to win by two, there was no stopping when the teams reached 21.

JSU eventually scored back-to-back points to take a thrill-

ing game two, 26-24.

Kirk and Ludtke didn’t look back in the decisive third frame on their way to a 15-7 dual-clinching victory.

The action continued with Allyson Zuhlke and Kira Hahn-Ventrell at the No. 2 spot followed by Mackenzie Rombach and Ashley Clingan in the final game.

Zuhlke/Hahn-Ventrell fell in a tightly contested 21-15 match, while Rombach and Clingan ended the day with a 21-16 setback,

Across the board it was a strong day for the Gamecock program only 10 days into its inaugural season.

“First I want to thank everybody that helped put on the tournament today, from the maintenance staff that had our court ready, Eric Brasher, and the administration who put everything together,” said head coach Terry Gamble following the event.

“Next I want to thank everyone that

came out and supported the team today.

It was a great atmosphere, and I know the girls enjoyed having everyone out to watch them.”

“As for how we played, I have to start with Char (Ludtke) and Hannah (Kirk) and getting the first win in school history.

They played great and I could not have asked them to play any better.

I’m really happy for them and proud of what they did.

For the other girls, the improvements made in only two weeks has been fun to watch.

They have bought into becoming better players and I’m excited for how much they’ve improved.”

Jax State wraps up its inaugural beach campaign this weekend in Birmingham at the UAB Blazer Beach Duals. JSU will play five matches including duals against New Orleans, UAB and a rematch with ULM.

-JSU Sportswire

Torres leads Men to 11th place finish

LAKE WORTH, Fla. – Pablo Torres claimed a Top 20 finish, and led the Jacksonville State men’s golf team to 11th place at the Florida Atlantic Slomin Autism Invite over the weekend.

Torres, a junior from Bogota, Colombia, used a final-round 74 to cap a three-day score of 215 on the North Course at The Fountains Country Club on Sunday.

He finished 20th in the field of 107 golfers on the par-71, 6,876-yard layout.

The Gamecocks shot a 293 on Sunday after opening with a 286 in the first round and following that up with a second-round 291.

Their 54-hole score of 870 was just one shot out of the Top 10 and only 11 shots out of the Top five.

Ole Miss ran away with the 18-team event, carding an 11-under 841, 11 shots better than UConn in second and 15 ahead of UCF in third.

Torres took advantage of the par five holes on the course, playing those at 5-under for the event.

He recorded one eagle, on the 522-yard par five first hole on Sunday.

He opened the tournament with an even-par 71 and followed with a 1-under 70 on Saturday.

Freshman Benedikt Thalmayr was the Gamecocks’ low man on Sunday, when he turned in an even-par 71 to cap a 218 that tied him for 36th in the field.

Four birdies and four pars led the freshman from Ouching, Germany in the final round.

Junior Camillo Aguado’s final-round 73 put the finishing touches on a 54-hole score of 220 and tied him for 44th, while junior Bo Hayes and junior Jamie Mist each tied for 50th with 221 on their 54-hole card.

They both shot 75 on Sunday.

The Gamecocks now turn their focus to the OVC Championship, which will be held on April 25-27 on the Fighting Joe Course at the Shoals on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Florence, Ala.

-JSU Sportswire