



# The Chanticleer

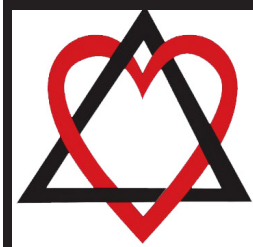
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1934

WEATHER: Coudy, High 59, Low 39

Thursday, November 9, 2017

inSIDE

In honor of National Adoption Awareness Month, one editor tells her story.



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## inTHE NEWS

### International House Presentation: Philippines

Philippine students will present on their home country and culture on Thursday, November 9 at 11 a.m. in the International House.

### Veteran Celebration on the Quad

Celebrate veterans and their service on Thursday, November 9 from 1-5 p.m. on the Quad. There will be free food and games.

### Veterans Day Ceremony

JSU and the City of Jacksonville will present the area's third annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 13 at 10 a.m. in the Pete Mathews Coliseum. The Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Support will be open in Dugette Hall following the ceremony, which is free to attend. For more information, call (256) 782-8838 or email veterans@jsu.edu.

### Tuesday Talks

November's Tuesday Talk will be November 14 from 5-6 p.m. on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. This month's theme is Arts and Humanities and includes the areas of Drama, English, Art and Integrated Studies.

# “Cocky” for LGBTQ+

## Cocky Pride Parade brings campus and community together

Cassidy Smith  
Staff Writer

The rain couldn't stop the proud from celebrating the first annual Cockey Pride Parade on Wednesday, November 1. A crowd of over 70 attendees convened in the Theron Montgomery Building's lawn to celebrate their sexualities or to be an ally to those they love.

Many members of the LGBTQ+ community, whether they were students at JSU or Jacksonville community members, gathered for the event, which came to a head in the town square with a parade at 6 p.m. Many of the attendees held or wore flags, umbrellas, clothing, hats and posters portraying the rainbow, the symbol for gay rights and pride. Other attendees, at the request of the event planner, brought their dogs to march with them.

The event was hosted by JSU Students for Equality, a student organization on campus. Through promotional advertisement, like Facebook ads and flyers taped up in dorms and academic buildings, the organization was able to reach much of the student body to invite them to celebrate themselves.

“The Students for Equality are here for any historical minorities,” said Adrienne Swindle, the president of Students for Equality. “Women, African-American, anybody who has been historically oppressed is totally welcome. We are active for Women's History Month, Black History Month, LGBT History month; that's actually what this parade was organized to celebrate.”

She cited the comedy show and the women's discussion panel, both held earlier this semester, as two events that

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Grace Cockrell/The Chanticleer

A student-made poster at the Cockey Pride Parade on November 1 reads, “Too much blood has flown from the wrist of the children shamed for those they choose to kiss.”

## U.N. representative talks education and activism

Katie Cline  
Editor-in-Chief

RESULTS Jacksonville, a local chapter of the national non-profit RESULTS, hosted its first meeting on Friday, November 3. The headliner was guest speaker Selmawit Adugna Bekele, an education and gender activist and Ethiopian

United Nations representative.

RESULTS is a non-partisan organization that “focuses on changing the system that puts people in positions of poverty by advocating to local and national government for changes,” according to Amanda Beals, RESULTS' grassroots expansion officer. One of the group's primary

concerns is providing universal access to education for children in developing countries.

“I got to achieve what I wanted to achieve because of my education,” Bekele, who has degrees in both economic development and gender studies, said.

Bekele was born

See U.N., page 2



RESULTS Jacksonville/Facebook

U.N. representative Selmawit Adugna Bekele spoke at the inaugural meeting of RESULTS Jacksonville on Friday, November 3 on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library.

## JSU celebrates Native American heritage

Nick Adrian  
Staff Writer

November is Native American Heritage Month and JSU is helping to commemorate it.

On Tuesday, November 7, the JSU SGA hosted a Native American Cultural Celebration in the TMB Auditorium, welcoming members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Alex Alvarez served as the main speaker along with dancers from the Pow Wow Club.

Pow Wow is a style of dance which now serves as a “modern, contemporary look at Native American culture,” Alvarez says. “The dances, the steps, the regalia that you see today have notes of history, have notes of ancestry, but also combine themselves with modern identification, modern materials, (and) modern culture.”

Alvarez identified the difference between the two types of Pow

Wow dances. The first, the Social Dance Pow Wow, was described as being traditionally used in ceremonies, family gatherings and other various events of that nature. The second, the Competition Pow Wow, is a dance used in events similar to the rodeo circuit where instead of top bull riders competing from place to place, the top dancers compete.

Alvarez started the night with a “Grand Entry,” showcasing all of his dancers performing their various styles at once. He pointed out that while the four dancers with him were male, Pow Wows often featured women with their own various styles of dance.

The dances showcased took roots from Creek as well as Chipewewa tribes. They ranged from styles of Northern Traditional,

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U.N. from page 1

in raised in the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa and moved to the United States four years ago. A majority of Ethiopians live below the poverty line, meaning they make less than \$1.25 per day, and cannot afford schooling for their children. Bekele's family was fortunate in that she and her siblings were able to attend school.

"Both of my parents are educated, and

they really prioritized our education," Bekele said. "I had a neighbor who got polio. He never got the vaccine. He's paralyzed now. But, because my mother is a nurse, I got the vaccine. The only thing that kept me from being a statistic was her education."

After graduating college in Ethiopia, Bekele began teaching primary school, where she saw firsthand the

hardships facing impoverished families: many of her students could not afford the pencils, paper and other school supplies necessary for their education. Young female students particularly struggled.

According to Bekele, there are 263 million children around the world who do not attend school, and many of them are girls. Girls who are not in school

are more susceptible to contracting HIV/AIDS, being victims of street violence, human trafficking, child marriage and teen pregnancy and are more likely to die in childbirth and before the age of five. In South Sudan, a girl is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to finish secondary school.

Bekele is currently the U.N. representative for the Moremi Initiative, a Ghana-based, pan-African organization that meets with local African leaders to work together to prevent child marriage and other issues that affect children's ability to go to school.

One program that Bekele and RESULTS work closely with is the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which pairs developing countries and donor countries together with the goal of improving access to education. The member country, like Ethiopia or Kenya, devotes 20% of it

national budget to education. If more funds are needed, the donor country, such as the U.S., the U.K., or Australia, "fill in the gaps."

Programs for each country are tailored based on the country's needs, Bekele explained. In Ethiopia, where the lack of physical school buildings and supplies are the main concern, GPE works to build schools and provide students with a sufficient environment. In Kenya, many girls cannot attend school while they are on their periods, because they do not have access to sanitary pads and menstrual supplies, so the GPE allocates funds for providing those materials. Other countries have instituted meal programs to combat malnutrition, which Bekele says is a factor that keeps many children out of school.

The GPE is currently active in 65 countries and hopes to expand to over 80 countries in the next year.

"I am closer to the

issues than any of the experts out there," Bekele said when asked about why she got involved in her career of activism and politics, "[and] big passion makes more progress than facts and numbers."

JSU's RESULTS chapter formed in August 2017. It is now one of three chapters in the state; the other two are in Birmingham in Huntsville. Membership is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. Sociology professor Dr. Tina Deshotels is the faculty sponsor for the group; Allie Mosey serves as the community representative, and Kristen Carlisle serves as the campus representative. For more information on RESULTS, visit results.org, and for information on joining JSU's chapter, contact Deshotels at tdeshotels@jsu.edu or Carlisle at kcarlisle@stu.jsu.edu or see the group's Facebook page: RESULTS Jacksonville.



Photographer Name/Affiliation

U.N. representative Selmawit Bekele (left) and RESULTS grassroots expansion officer Amanda Beals (right) speak to the media following their presentation. Kristen Carlisle (center) is RESULTS Jacksonville's campus representative.

Pride Parade from page 1

successfully showcased a minority group.

Swindle invites any and all students of any minority group, whether it be LGBT, racial or gender minority, to come to the Students for Equality meetings that occur every other Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Brewer Hall room 100.

According to their JSU organization page: "JSU Students for Equality is committed to diversity and inclusion through providing resources and advocacy for students from historically marginalized populations. Our goal

is to help retain and recruit these students while enhancing their experiences through programming, workshops, support groups, education and social events."

The organization will next be hosting "Pet the Stress Away" during finals week, providing a way for students to de-stress with dogs from the League for Animal Welfare.

The Students for Equality organization can be contacted through Facebook (JSU Students for Equality) or by emailing jsustudentsforequality@gmail.com.



Grace Cockrell/The Chanticleer

Participants in the first annual Cocky Pride Parade brought posters, banners and flags to show support for LGBTQ+ students, faculty, staff and community members. Pictured above is a rainbow flag, which has become a symbol for the gay community.

CULTURE from page 1



JSU SGA/Instagram

SGA Officers Breon Moore (VP of Organizational Affairs), Miranda Fairel (Director of Publicity) and Kasey Gamble (VP of Student Activities) (left) and Ranger Rumrill (President), Hayden Clay (VP of Student Senate) and Debbie Taylor, the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Life, pose with a few of the Native American dancers at SGA's Native American Cultural Celebration on Tuesday, November 7.

a contemporary evolution of dance deeply rooted in the practices of warrior societies; Men's Grass, a dance whose regalia generally features no feathers; and the Chicken Dance, one of the old-

est forms of Native American dancing.

The different dances are identified through the various types of regalia worn. The accessories on the dancer's outfits range from eagle feathers to

pheasant feathers and from long beads to otter skins.

After showcasing the dances, Alvarez went on to talk about various instruments in Native American culture. He played two

kinds of flutes, the Cedar and River Canyon.

"Flutes were mainly a form of entertainment," he said as he prepared his instruments, adding their use in ceremonies and courtship. He then

demonstrated various types of rattles.

Alvarez went on to show a popular Native American game that served as the inspiration for what we know now as lacrosse. The game, histori-

cally called the "Little Brother of War," is played by one opponent tossing the ball with two wooden sticks and the other catching it with the sticks, never using their hands. However, some games could range from a hundred to a thousand men from opposing villages or tribes playing.

Along with showcasing the various forms of Native American dances, instruments and games, Alvarez touched on history, ancestry, stereotypes and how the culture is treated today: "It's tough to talk about, but at the same time, I want you all to walk away with a better understanding of my ancestors."

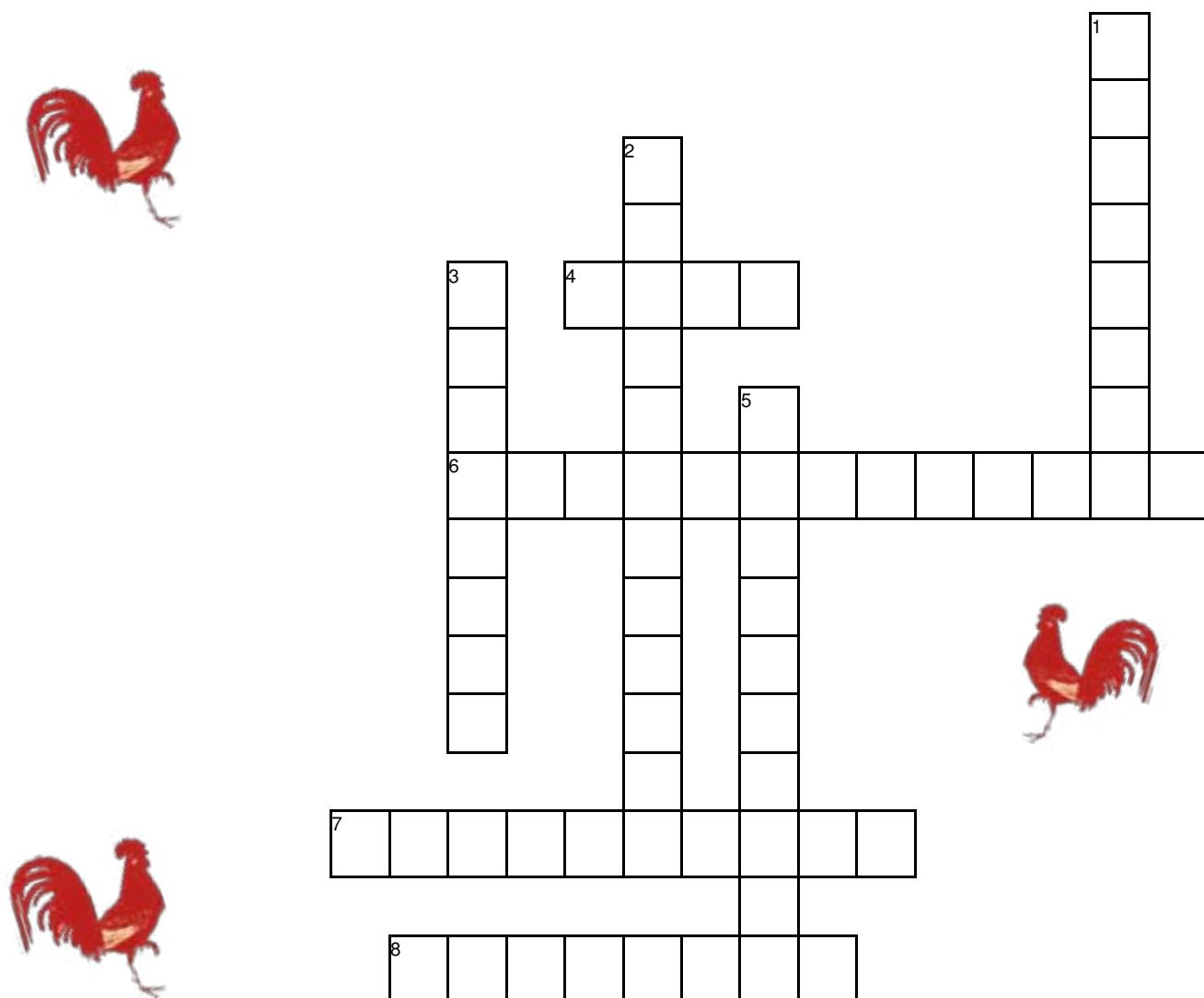
And after such an educational night, it is safe to say that everyone in the audience did.



# STUDY BREAK

## Campus Crossword Week 10

### JSU Sports



**Across**

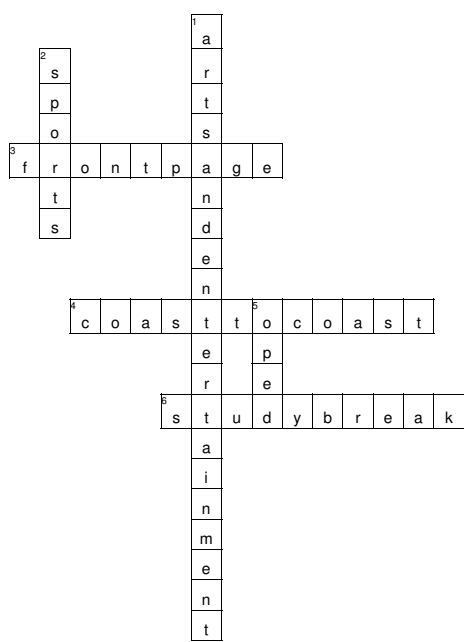
- 4. Fore!!!
- 6. Sprints, hurdles, pole vaults, discus, shot put, hammerthrow!
- 7. Set, bump, spike!
- 8. Played with a pigskin, currently on a 30-game OVC win streak

**Down**

- 1. Played with a small white ball, homerun!
- 2. Run, run, run offered for men and women
- 3. Played with a slightly smaller highlighter green or yellow ball, homerun!
- 5. Played with a large orange ball, offered for men and women

Editor's Hint: Check JSUGamecocksports.com for help!

**Chanty Newspaper Sections**



**Across**

- 3. Where you find the flag, headlines, and main events
- 4. Where you find the latest from around the country
- 6. Where you can find the crossword and Daniel's puns

**Down**

- 1. Where you find all the latest in pop culture and campus events
- 2. Where you find all the latest in Gamecock athletic events
- 5. Where you find the opinions of people

**WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!**

**Have an idea for a crossword puzzle?  
Want Daniel to hear your puns?  
Want to write for our Op-Ed section?**

**Send us an email at chantynewstips@gmail.com!  
Tell us what you want to write in the subject line.**

**Last Week's Solution!**

# THIS MAYES IS CORNY!

*Corny Puns from the collection of:  
Staff Writer Daniel Mayes #shootpunsnotguns*



I have a One Direction album on cassette tape. Unfortunately, you can only listen to it once, the tape can't rewind.

At JSU, I want to major in the study of the screaming sound someone makes when they see a mouse. It's called Eek-ology.

What are the most aggressive shades of purple? Violets.

When I asked why I was being arrested for collapsing to the ground, the police officer said I'd committed a fell-on-knee.

The base of operations for the clown in it is called headpennies.

# COAST TO COAST

## Democratic candidate Doug Jones packs out Anniston meet and greet

**JoAnna Mitchell**  
Staff Reporter

“All across the state, excitement is building for this race. There is just an excitement brewing for change,” said Democrat Doug Jones, opening his speech to a cheering crowd at Classic Too on Noble Street in downtown Anniston this Tuesday, November 7th.

“It’s not about me. It’s not about Roy Moore,” said Jones, referring to his controversial Republican opponent.

“It’s about you. It’s about every man, woman, and child in Alabama who wants to see this state go forward, not backward.”

With the whole nation turning its eye to the upcoming December 12th election to fill Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ vacant senate seat, Doug Jones has been putting in a good deal of footwork. Travelling across the state to meet citizens, Mr. Jones has learned a lot about what issues are important to the every-day Alabamian. He has gained valuable insight into what the citizens of Alabama are hoping to get out of our next representative.

“My experience with the people in this state is that we have so much more in common than we do that divides us.” Mr. Jones believes that the most important issue to most Alabamians is healthcare. “People want

good healthcare,” Jones said, eliciting a round of applause.

“The Affordable Care Act was never meant to be the end of the discussion. It was supposed to be a work in progress, but we have to find ways to make it better,” Jones acknowledged that work needs to be done to help bring down insurance premiums while continuing to provide healthcare to Alabama’s struggling citizens.

“We’ve got to continue to make sure that people talk about healthcare, that we quit playing political football with your health.”

Jones believes that another issue important to Alabama is building up the state’s manufacturing job opportunities. “We have an opportunity to help put this state’s best foot forward,” said Jones. “To bring in jobs, to expand jobs, and to do it in a way that saves the planet and is environmentally friendly, but also lifts

the wages of the people in this state, and while we lift those wages, to make sure that women get the same pay.”

Jones wants to help



SeekingHustice.com

“The people of this state are saying ‘no more’ to the divisiveness, ‘no more’ to treating people like 2nd class citizens. The bottom line is the people of this state are saying No Moore!”

After his speech, Jones personally met with nearly everyone at the rally and ended the event with a brief meeting with the press.

“I think to just throw cold water on it. Just tamp everything down with the rhetoric and make sure people start talking to one another and reach across the aisle and reach within my own party to find the things work-

ing with healthcare and examine those things that are not working so that we can find the common ground and ways to fix a broken healthcare system. I think we can do that with honor and civility. I think that is the only way we can fix this broken healthcare system.” Jones said in response to being asked what he felt he

could do in the senate to put an end to the multiple failed attempts at repealing the ACA.

After being asked what he would say to millennials, a voting age group with notoriously low voter turnout, to get them to the polls, Jones said

“You’re not always going to be young. Sooner or later you will be my age and you will need to worry about Medicare. You’re going to need to worry about social security. You’re going to need to make sure that your children are educated and that there are hospitals in the community. I would also tell them to look at the elections that we’ve had the last two or three cycles. Elections have consequences. They have short term consequences, and they have long term consequences. I would tell them to examine the issues, really study. Millennials do that every day. They look at the issues that affect them every day and they make decisions, whether it’s their jobs, family, or education. They need to look at the electoral process in the same way. A vote is an investment in the future. As much as they need to save money for retirement now, they need to be investing by voting.”

For more information on Doug Jones and his platform visit [dougjonesforsenate.com](http://dougjonesforsenate.com).

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Here come the queens

**Alissa Camplin**  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last Thursday night, Leone Cole sparkled and shined as the queens came out to play. The Student Secular Alliance, College Democrats and Students for Equality presented the second annual Cockey Queens Drag Show, and it was an incredible hit filled with raised awareness for LGBT youth.

There were fourteen performances of seven queens

throughout the night, with each one being packed full of energy and impeccable performance. Queens included Nikolalia, Milky Juicy, Jackie Cox, Kendra Gyny, Victoria A. Jewele, Mindi Michelle and host Kandi Kane.

The show’s performers consisted all age and experience levels, including some performing in their first drag show to seasoned veterans.

The queens worked for tips, which went to the main cause of the night, Magic

City Acceptance Center of Birmingham. The Magic City Acceptance Center (MCAC) provides a safe, supportive and affirming space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) people and their allies ages 13-24 in Birmingham, Alabama, according to their website.

The show raised \$650 for their cause. If anyone is interested in donating, please visit their website at <http://magiccityacceptancecenter.org/>.

If anyone is interested in joining the Student Secular Alliance, they meet in Martin Hall room 202 on Monday evenings at 6:30. If anyone is interested in Students for Equality, they meet in Brewer Hall room 100 every other Wednesday from 7:00-8:30. Follow @JSUDems on Instagram for information about their meeting times.



Patrick Yim / Student Photography Corp

Queen Milky Juicy posing on stage.



# COAST TO COAST

## 26 people dead after Texas church shooting

**Jennifer Calfas and Mahita Gajanan** *TIME MEGAZINE Special to the Chanticleer*

At least 26 people were killed and 20 others injured Sunday when a gunman opened fire at a church in a small town southeast of San Antonio in what has become one of the largest mass shootings in modern U.S. history.

The attack occurred at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, a small community located in Wilson County about 30 miles away from San Antonio. The gunman, identified as 26-year-old Devin Kelley, is now deceased. It remains unclear how he died, but the Associated Press reported Monday that he was struck by three gunshot wounds, including one self-inflicted to the head, and two—one in the leg, one in the torso—from an armed citizen.

With their ages ranging from just 18 months to 77 years old, the victims had gathered at the First Baptist Church on Sunday morning for regular services before the attack began. The 14-year-old daughter of the church's pastor, as well as eight members of the same family that span three generations, were among the victims. The small town's church regularly posts videos of its services on YouTube and recently hosted a Halloween festival, where members of the community celebrated the holiday with candy, costumes and games.

Multiple victims with gunshot wounds were being treated at hospitals in the area, and 10 of them are in critical condition, officials said Monday.

"We can not put into words the pain and grief we all feel," said President Donald Trump on Sunday in a press conference from Japan, his first stop on a trip to multiple Asian countries.

Officials said they believe the attack stemmed from a domestic issue after they discovered Kelley had sent his mother-in-law threatening messages. His mother-in-law attended the First Baptist Church, but was not there at the time of the shooting.

This latest mass shooting in the United States comes just a month after a gunman opened fire on a crowd at a concert in Las Vegas, killing 58 people. It is considered the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Who are the victims of the Texas church shooting?

The 26 people who were killed and 20 others who were injured represent a large swath of the church's community — and have a wide-spanning age range from 18 months old to 77 years old.

The church's pastor Frank Pomeroy and his wife Sherri, who were both out of town when the tragedy occurred,

shared details about the close-knit community and mourned all those who were lost, including their 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle.

"We were a very close family," Sherri said. "We ate together, we laughed together, we cried together and we worshiped together. Now most of our church family is gone, and our building is probably beyond repair, and the few of us that are left behind lost tragically yesterday."

"Please don't forget Sutherland Springs," she said.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) official Freeman Martin said during a press conference Sunday that 23 people were found dead inside the church, and two people were found outside the building. One person died after being transferred to a local hospital.

Martin said about 20 people have been transported to local hospitals. Injuries sustained from the gunfire range from minor to severe, Martin said. On Monday, officials said 10 people were in critical condition.

Eight members of the Holcombe family, including a pregnant woman and three of her children, as well as Joann Ward and her two young daughters were among those who died as a result of the attack.

Who was the suspected Texas church shooter?

Authorities identified 26-year-old Devin Kelley — a 26-year-old who once served in the Air Force with a history of domestic violence — as the suspected church shooter. Kelley died in the aftermath of the shooting, officials said, though his cause of death is unclear.

On Monday, Freeman Martin, regional director for the Texas Department of Public Safety said Kelley had sent his mother-in-law — who attended the church but was not at the service on Sunday — threatening messages.

"It's a senseless crime, but we can tell you that there was a domestic situation within this family," Martin said.

"This was not racially motivated, it wasn't over religious beliefs, there was a domestic situation going on within the family and the in-laws," Martin added.

Wearing black tactical gear and a ballistic vest, Kelley, described as a white male, was seen around 11:20 a.m. CST on Sunday at a gas station in Sutherland Springs. He crossed the street to First Baptist Church, and began firing with a Ruger AR assault rifle from outside after exiting his vehicle. He then moved to the right side of the church and fired, before entering the church and shooting more.

The AP reported Monday that law enforcement collected hun-

dreds of shell casings from the church, including 15 magazines with 30 rounds each.

Kelley served in the Air Force from 2010 until he was court-martialed and discharged in 2012 for allegedly assaulting his wife and child, AP reported. Kelley, who was stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, served a one-year detention sentence following his discharge, according to Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek.

On Monday, the Air Force issued a statement saying that Kelley's domestic violence offense was not entered into the National Criminal Information Center database by the Holloman Air Force Base Office of Special Investigation, according to the Texas Tribune.

The Air Force Inspector General "in collaboration" with the Defense Department Inspector General will conduct a "complete review of the Kelley case and relevant policies and procedures," the statement says, adding that the Air Force will also conduct a "comprehensive review" of service records to ensure other cases have been reported correctly.

Officials said an address listed online to Kelley is located in the San Antonio suburb of New Braunfels, about 35 miles from Sutherland Springs.

Where did the Texas church shooting happen?

The shooting occurred at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. The small community is located in Wilson County, Texas, about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio.

The small church regularly posted videos on YouTube of its Sunday services, where a number of members of the congregation gathered for services lasting more than an hour long. Services appeared to have been attended by young children and families, and also featured a number of songs.

Local who gave chase: I was just doing "right thing"

The DPS official Martin said that an armed local citizen confronted Kelley, who was dressed in black "tactical type gear," as the gunman left the scene. The gunman later crashed his vehicle near the county line, where he was found dead, after two locals gave chase. It is unclear if he died of a self-inflicted wound or was shot by the citizen who confronted him.

In an interview with local ABC-affiliate KSAT, local resident Johnnie Langendorff said he was driving past the church and witnessed the gunman exchanging fire with a member of the community, who asked for help and climbed into Langendorff's truck.

The two pursued the gunman at high speed, as police were going in the opposite direction,

toward the church, AP reported.

"[The gunman] eventually lost control on his own, and went off in a ditch. The gentleman that was with me got out, and rested his rifle on my hood, and kept it aimed at him, telling him to 'Get out, get out'. There was no movement ... So he might have been unconscious from the crash, something like that, I'm not sure," Langendorff said.

Police arrived several minutes later. Multiple weapons were found inside Kelley's vehicle.

"He just hurt so many people, and he just affected so many peoples' lives. Why wouldn't you want to take him down?" Langendorff told KSAT. "I was strictly just acting on what's the right thing to do."

How did politicians react to the Texas church shooting?

After offering condolences to the families and community impacted by the tragedy, President Donald Trump said the shooting was the result of a "mental health problem" — not that deriving from lax gun laws.

"We have a lot of mental health problems in our country, as do other countries," Trump said on Monday. "But this isn't a guns situation."

Trump also called the attack "a horrible act of evil," and Vice President Mike Pence announced he and his wife, Second Lady Karen Pence, would visit Sutherland Springs on Tuesday.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who said the attack was the largest of its kind in the state's history, traveled to Sutherland Springs to be with the community.

"Our prayers are with all who were harmed by this evil act," Abbott tweeted on Sunday. "Our thanks to law enforcement for their response."

Varied responses from politicians echoed those seen after similar mass shootings that have occurred in the U.S. in recent years, where lone shooters have targeted communities at churches, concerts and schools.

In the immediate aftermath to the shooting on Sunday, politicians shared their condolences and prayers with the victims of the shooting, and some, including Democratic senators, called for stricter gun control legislation.

Texas politicians were among the first lawmakers to respond to the incident, sharing their condolences and thoughts on Twitter.

Sens. Kamala Harris, Richard Blumenthal, Bob Casey Michael Bennet were among the lawmakers who quickly shared demands for gun reform in the aftermath.



# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## 'A Life I Love':

### Open letters to my family during National Adoption Awareness Month

**Alissa Camplin**

*Arts and  
Entertainment Editor*

I like to believe that I lead a fairly normal life.

I go to school full time to get a degree that I may not get a well-paying job for. I spend my Tuesday nights at Loco Mex for tacos and margaritas. I have an incredible dog named Liberty that I am obsessed with. I also am loved and supported by my family wholeheartedly and their light is guidance for most things I do.

The only difference? At the start of my life, my family had the chance to choose me.

I am adopted, and both of my birth parents are dead.

My "story" is sad, but-- in turn-- my life is so, so, so happy.

To my birth mother:

I'm sorry for the time I spent angry at you. For the times I assumed I was too much weight on your life, amidst your other decisions of drugs and alcohol. You never asked for me to be born. But to be fair, I didn't ask for it either. I didn't ask for my hair color to be the same. I didn't ask to carry around the weight of wondering what I did wrong so much that my own mother couldn't find the drive to keep me.

I also didn't ask how you felt. How your heart must have ached to hug me for the last time before going home to an empty life and an empty house. I've learned that you couldn't rationalize anything outside of your need for the next "fix." You did what you had to, so



Photo courtesy of Alissa Camplin

#### Alissa with her birth mother Elva

for that, I say thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to have a second chance.

A life I would be proud of.

A life I love.

I think about you in the small moments of my life more than anything. During my morning coffee, I wonder how you liked yours and try to find a connection. Were you like me and a "tons of sugar and creamer" kind of person, or did you prefer the dark and bitter taste of the real deal? Are these telling of our personalities? Did you like to dance? I love to dance. I'll find myself jazzing around in my kitchen while James Taylor plays and think for a moment that you're twirling beside me. Are we alike? Did you like to read and did you like to cook? Did sweet gestures make you tear up? What was your favorite color? Mine is glitter. Would you find my sense of humor funny?

Do I make you proud? This is the question that I will forever come back to.

I live my life on the daily hoping that I do.

To my adoptive father:

There isn't a moment in my life I remember you being anything less than a superhero. Acts of service isn't your love language, but you knew it was mine. I will never forget mornings where I woke up to random breakfasts of toast and jelly or days you would leave me an extra dollar with my lunch for a dessert. You are the sweetest soul I have ever met, Dad.

I am in awe of the things that you do for me and the family you lead. You work tirelessly to ensure



Photo courtesy of Alissa Camplin

#### Alissa and her parents

I have everything I need to live comfortably and happily. Remember the time I had to call you because my car had died in the Sonic parking lot and I didn't have pants on? You came from Gadsden at 10 o'clock at night when you had to be up for work the next morning to change



Photo courtesy of Alissa Camplin

#### Alissa with her parents Norman (left), and Cris (right)

my battery and to take me to my apartment to grab shorts. I'll never forget the look of disapproval on your face or the laugh that came soon after. Or the two hours and three trips to WalMart it took for us to figure out how to change the battery.

You were my first best friend and I have never been more proud of a title than I am to be your daughter. Thank you for teaching me to be fearless in my pursuit of what I want.

I owe everything I am to you.

To my adoptive mother:

I'm sorry for the

a trait that I learned from you. I am safe in who I am entirely because you always allowed me to be and accepted nothing less. I am safe because you love me fiercely enough that your voice could cause the trees outside to shake, but gently enough to lead me home for a date at Chili's and a shop-

Thank you for never telling me no when I wanted to dance. Or play softball. Or swim. Or take karate. Thank you for allowing me to grow up in an environment when I could be anything I wanted to be, even if that meant a ballerina MLB'er that swam to first base and got her black belt on the way



Photo courtesy of Alissa Camplin

#### Alissa's birth mother, Elva

ping trip to Birmingham.

Thank you for taking care of my baby body when I couldn't breathe on my own or when I would have another withdrawal episode. Thank you for letting me sleep on your chest until way past acceptable.

there. "The world is your oyster" is what you tell me constantly, but you gave above and beyond to ensure I had the whole sea.

Thank you for saving me when I didn't know I needed it.

Adoption saves lives. It saved Alissa's.  
If you are interested in adoption please visit:  
[adoptionnetwork.com](http://adoptionnetwork.com)  
[childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov) or  
[davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org)



# SPORTS

## Gamecock Side Bar Upcoming Jacksonville State Gamecock Action

<b>11/10</b>	<b>-Women's Basketball vs. Brewton-Parker "The Pete"</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
	-Volleyball at Belmont* Nashville, Tenn.	6 p.m.
	OVC Digital Network	
<b>11/11</b>	<b>-Men's Basketball vs. Tennessee Wesleyan "The Pete"</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
	OVC Digital Network WLJS, WVOK	
<b>11/11</b>	<b>-Rifle vs. Morehead State Gamecock Rifle Range</b>	
	-Volleyball at Tennessee State* Nashville, Tenn.	1 p.m.
	-Football at UT Martin Martin, Tenn.	2 p.m.
	OVC Digital Network JSU Radio Network	
<b>11/12</b>	<b>-Women's Basketball vs. Florida State "The Pete"</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>11/13</b>	<b>-Men's Basketball at Richmond Richmond, Va.</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
	WLJS, WVOK	
<b>11/15</b>	<b>-Men's Basketball at Buffalo Buffalo, N.Y.</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
	ESPN3 WLJS, WVOK	
	<b>-Women's Basketball vs. Stillman "The Pete"</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>11/16</b>	<b>-OVC Volleyball Championship – First Round</b>	
	<b>-Football vs. Tennessee State "The Pete"</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
	TV24, OVC Digital Network JSU Radio Network	

**BOLD = Home Event \* = OVC Event**

OVC Football Standings		
School	OVC	O/R
<b>Jacksonville State</b>	<b>5-0</b>	<b>7-1</b>
Austin Peay	4-1	5-4
Eastern Illinois	4-2	5-4
Eastern Kentucky	3-3	3-5
UT Martin	2-3	4-4
SEMO	2-3	2-6
Murray State	1-3	2-6
Tennessee State	1-4	4-4
Tennessee Tech	1-4	1-7

OVC Volleyball Standings		
School	OVC	O/R
Austin Peay	11-1	23-4
SIUE	9-3	19-5
Eastern Kentucky	9-3	11-15
Murray State	8-4	16-8
Belmont	7-4	12-13
<b>Jacksonville State</b>	<b>6-6</b>	<b>20-11</b>
Eastern Illinois	6-6	12-12
UT Martin	5-7	11-14
SEMO	5-7	10-16
Morehead State	3-9	12-13
Tennessee State	3-10	7-20
Tennessee Tech	1-11	3-21

The FCS Playoff Committee will release their second poll of the 2017 season tonight (Nov. 9) during halftime of Georgia Southern at Appalachian State (6:30 p.m. C.T.) matchup on ESPNU.

Standings and Polls do not reflect changes made on or after Wednesday

## Lea named scholar athlete

**BRENTWOOD, Tenn.** – The honors continue to roll in for Justin Lea.

On Tuesday, the senior offensive lineman was named one of the six recipients of the prestigious Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete Award. The announcement by the OVC comes just a week after he was named by the National Football Foundation as one of 13 finalists for the William V. Campbell Trophy.

The OVC Scholar-Athlete Award is the highest individual honor that can be earned by OVC student-athletes, and is given annually to three men and three women student-athletes for their accomplishments in both the

classroom and athletic arena, and because of their leadership qualities.

The six winners were selected from a group of 21 finalists by a vote of OVC Faculty Athletics Representatives. Honorees and must have performed athletically with distinction, earned at least a 3.25 grade point average and conducted themselves in a manner which has brought credit to the student-athlete, his or her institution, intercollegiate athletics and the OVC. The award is based on academic and athletic criteria/accomplishments achieved during the 2016-17 school year.

The 2017-18



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Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete winners are: Allyson Dunn of Tennessee Tech (football), Justin Lea of Jacksonville State (football), Joseph Martin of UT Martin (rifle), Sally McCabe of Belmont (basketball), Josh Poplar of Tennessee Tech (football) and Kristen Stucker of Austin Peay (volleyball).

Lea is the third male student-athlete from JSU to receive the award,

joining former football players Josh Cain (2009-10) and Dalton Screws (2015-16) on the prestigious list. Five female winners have come from JSU: Jennifer Brenneman (volleyball, 2003-04), Shanelle Howell (golf, 2005-06), Lesley Binning (track and field, 2008-09), Chelsea Pelletier (soccer, 2010-11) and Lauren Harkins (volleyball, 2011-12).

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## Monroe named All-OVC Second Team

**MURRAY, Ky.** –

After leading the Jacksonville State soccer team with seven goals during the 2017 season, junior Danielle Monroe earned All-Ohio Valley Conference Second Team honors, announced by the league on Thursday evening at the annual championship banquet prior to the start of the OVC Championship semifinals.

Monroe, a forward from Villa



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Rica, Ga., collected seven goals throughout the season, including a pair of goals against conference opponents.

One of many highlights by Monroe that stood out

during the 2017 campaign was her game-winning goal in the final moments to lift the Gamecocks past Austin Peay on September 29.

She also was key in JSU's other scoring plays with an assist. Monroe's other scoring play was against Eastern Illinois. She ranks fifth in the OVC in total goals.

She joins current teammates Claire Petersen and Cheyenne Carden with

postseason accolades from the past three seasons.

Petersen was tabbed to the All-OVC Second Team in 2015 and Carden earned a spot on the OVC's All-Newcomer Team as a freshman in 2016.

Under fifth-year head coach Neil Macdonald, JSU has been represented on at least one of the league's postseason squads in each of his five seasons at JSU.

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## Thomas earns fifth OVC player honor

Jacksonville State running back Roc Thomas garnered his fifth Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week honor Sunday, as announced by the league office.

The Oxford, Ala., native was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Week follow-



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ing the Gamecocks' OVC-record 30th-straight league vic-

tory Saturday.

The senior rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries during Jacksonville State's 59-23 win over Murray State at Burgess-Snow Field.

Thomas led JSU's best rushing performance of the

season, 323 yards on the ground, with his fourth 100-yard game of the season.

He averaged 8.1 yards per carry, scoring on touchdown runs of four and nine yards, and had a game-long 61-yard carry in the third quarter.

**-JSU Sportswire**

## Three Gamecocks reach third round of ITF

**NICEVILLE, Fla.** –

Three Gamecocks advanced to the third round of qualifying for the ITF Futures USA tournament over the weekend.

The four-day tournament concluded Monday with Pablo Caffarena, Paolo Cucalon and Jordi Blanchar each earning two wins in the qualifying draw.

"Our guys competed with some

of the best tennis players in the world this weekend," head coach Andres Amores said. "This is a great way to wrap up our fall schedule. It gives us a lot of momentum moving forward into the spring."

Cucalon topped Germany's Royi Lasowski (6-2, 6-1) and Czechoslovakia's Michal Franek (walkover) to reach the third round.

Alexander

forced to square off against teammate Joaquin Vallejo (6-4, 3-6, 6-4) in the first round and defeated American Rohit Navelkar (7-5, 6-3) to earn a spot in the third round.

Blanchar shut out American Parrish Preston (6-0, 6-0) to cruise to the second round, and downed USA's Joseph Corse (6-4, 6-4) to reach the third round of competition.

Alexander

Vishnevskiy picked up a first-round victory, while Guillermo Agost and Andres Gomez went head-to-head in the first round. Agost won bragging rights (6-1, 6-3), but was defeated in the second round.

The Gamecocks return to action in January to begin their regular season. The spring schedule is set to be announced soon.

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## Gamecocks ranked in national polls

### FCS Championship Committee Top-10

1. James Madison
2. North Dakota State
3. Jacksonville State
4. Central Arkansas
5. South Dakota
6. Sam Houston State
7. Elon
8. Wofford
9. Northern Arizona
10. South Dakota State

### STATS FCS Poll

1. James Madison
2. Jacksonville State
3. Central Arkansas
4. Sam Houston State
5. North Dakota State
6. South Dakota State
7. Elon
8. Wofford
9. North Carolina A&T
10. South Dakota
11. Western Illinois
12. Stony Brook
13. Grambling State
14. Weber State
15. Southern Utah
16. Samford
17. Illinois State
18. New Hampshire
19. Eastern Washington
20. McNeese
21. Furman
22. Western Carolina
23. Kennesaw State
24. Northern Arizona
25. Northern Iowa

### FCS Coaches' Poll

1. James Madison
2. Jacksonville State
3. Central Arkansas
4. Sam Houston State
5. South Dakota State
6. North Dakota State
7. North Carolina A&T
8. Wofford
9. Elon
10. South Dakota
11. Grambling State
12. Weber State
13. Western Illinois
14. Samford
15. Stony Brook
16. New Hampshire
17. Nicholls
18. McNeese
19. Southern Utah
20. Illinois State
21. Eastern Washington
22. Monmouth
23. Kennesaw State
24. Northern Arizona
25. Western Carolina

### NCAA Rifle Poll (CRCA)

1. West Virginia
2. TCU
3. Murray State
4. Alaska
5. Kentucky
6. Ohio State
7. Air Force
8. Nebraska
9. Ole Miss
10. Memphis
- T-11. Army
- T-11. NC State
13. Navy
14. Nevada
15. Jacksonville State
16. Akron
17. Morehead State
18. Texas-Martin
19. UTEP
20. The Citadel





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**Christian Cunningham led the Gamecocks with 11 point in Jacksonville State's 78-41 victory over Delta State inside Pete Mathews Coliseum. Cunningham also recorded nine rebounds, five blocks and two steals.**

## JSU takes down Delta State in exhibition contest

**Daniel Mayes**  
*Chanty Sports Reporter*

In their first action since taking the court at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis during the NCAA tournament, the Jacksonville State Men's basketball team had a great exhibition outing.

After falling in a quick 6-0 hole to begin the game, Jacksonville State had no problem in demolishing their Division II exhibition opponent Delta State 78-41 on Thursday, November 2.

The Statesmen hit on their first two shots, both of which came from behind the three-point arc, before Christian Cunningham made the first bucket for JSU on a lay-in after a steal.

Cunningham was the star of the night for JSU, as the junior forward led the Gamecocks with 11 points on 4-4 shooting and stuffed the stat sheet with nine rebounds, two steals and five blocks, four of which occurred in the first half.

Jacksonville State erased the 6-0 start with a dozen straight points in just under three minutes to make the score 12-6.

The Gamecocks never looked back, cruising to a lead that grew as large as 41 points in the second half.

The Gamecocks held the Statesmen, who were ranked 25 in the preseason Division II poll, to just 27% shooting and forced 23 turnovers. Jacksonville State Coach Ray Harper

played a lot of players a lot of minutes, and every Gamecock that saw action scored.

JSU's offense was led by a balanced scoring effort, with six different Gamecocks scoring between 8 and 11 points.

Those players included newcomers Jason Burnell, Jamall Gregory and Cam Martin, who, along with Maurice Dunlap and Marlon Hunter, took the court in a Jacksonville State uniform for the first time.

The Gamecocks officially tipoff year two of the Ray Harper Era of Jacksonville State Hoops on Friday, November 10 when JSU takes on Tennessee Wesleyan.

The game is set for 7 p.m. at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

## Women's Basketball impresses at preseason game against Alabama-Huntsville

**Grant Benefield**  
*Chanty Sports Reporter*

In a final tune-up before kicking off their regular season on November 10, Jacksonville State women's basketball defeated Alabama-Huntsville 63-47 at home on Sunday.

Despite having to replace three of last year's starters and welcome seven new faces to the team, the Gamecocks exercised superb ball control against the Chargers, taking 72 shots to UAH's 42 and surrendering just nine turnovers to the Chargers' 23.

UAH led the Gamecocks 14-13 after the first period, but JSU took the lead in the second and didn't look back, outscoring the Chargers 17-11, 20-12, and 13-10 across the final three periods.

JSU's two returning starters, senior forwards Cocoa Phelion and Tasha Magruder, had solid days contributing four points each in their 24 and 22 minutes played, respectively. Phelion also added seven rebounds, two blocks, and two steals.

But it was newcomer Brianna Perry who led the way for the Gamecocks on Sunday. In 12 minutes of playing time, the junior guard from Mesquite, TX, went 3-13 from the field, including one 3-point basket, for 13 points. She also collected 6 rebounds and 4 assists.

Gamecocks Chloe Long and Kiana Johnson also contributed to the Jax State offense, scoring 8 points each. Long also grabbed 5 boards and dished 2 assists.

For UAH, Chandler Elder led the team with 18 points on 6-11 shooting from the field. She also added 4 rebounds and 2 steals.

With the promising exhibition performance under their belt, The Gamecocks look primed to improve on last year's performance in 2017-18. Last year, Jax State went 13-15 overall and 6-10 in OVC play, just missing out on an OVC tournament appearance.

This will be head coach Rick Pietri's fifth season at the helm of the women's basketball team, and he has already become the fourth winningest coach in the program's history, and the second winningest coach since the team moved to Division I in 1995. Pietri also won 2013-14 OVC Coach of the Year honors.

The Gamecocks will open their regular season schedule on November 10th as they host Brewton-Parker at 5:30 p.m.

## JSU wins five-set thriller over Morehead State

Jacksonville State's volleyball team reversed the tables on Morehead State Saturday night in a thrilling five-set win that avenged an earlier five-set loss to the Eagles.

Four Gamecocks donned the red and white for the final time at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Saturday, and they proved they wouldn't go out without a fight. The win improved JSU to 22-11 overall and 8-6 in the OVC where they now own sole possession of fifth-place in the league standings with one weekend remaining.

"I could not be more proud of this team right now," head coach Terry Gamble said.

A night after surpassing 1,500 career kills, Allyson Zuhlke blasted 21 more and hit .318 to lead the JSU attack. Senior classmate Charis Ludtke followed her with 11 kills to go along with seven digs and a pair of service aces. The offense distribution was even between senior Jennifer Hart and sophomore Rachel Perucki who each dished 22 assists. On a night when the veterans shined, senior libero Hannah Kirk led the team with 20 digs.

Mackenzie Rombach posted a team-high five blocks for the defense that at times carried the Gamecocks who hit above .120 in just one of five sets.

Kaylee Frear added eight kills and three blocks.

Jax State let a 21-16 advantage slip away in the opening set, falling 25-23. But the Gamecocks responded with a 25-23 set win in the second after Zuhlke notched three kills following a 21-21 tie.

JSU gained momentum in the third when it finished on an 8-2 run to pull away late for the 25-20 win. The fourth set was even at 14, before MSU used a 4-0 run to grab a late advantage, which the Gamecocks could not come back from. JSU fought back to within two at 24-22, but were forced to play a fifth set for the seventh time in 14 OVC matches.

The decisive fifth started point-for-point, before JSU's 3-0 run from a 6-6 deadlock gave the Gamecocks a slim cushion after the changeover. MSU cut the deficit to one on three separate occasions with the last time at 12-11, before kills from Ludtke and Rombach all but sealed the match.

JSU will conclude the regular season next weekend in Nashville, Tenn., with matches against Belmont and Tennessee State. From there, JSU will see how the OVC shakes out and determine its opening opponent in the OVC tournament.

-JSU Sportswire



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**Jacksonville State's Jamari Hester (ABOVE) caught two of Bryant Horn's three touchdown passes in the Gamecocks' 59-23 victory over Murray State on Saturday. Hester recorded 35 yards on four catches in JSU's 30th-straight Ohio Valley Conference win.**

## Gamecocks race past Murray State

**Daniel Mayes**  
*Chanty Sports Reporter*

After a bit of a rocky start that led to Jacksonville State trailing after the first quarter, the Gamecocks recovered to blow out Murray State 59-23 for their 30th consecutive Ohio Valley Conference victory on Saturday.

The story of the game, as has become usual for Jacksonville State, was their dominant defense.

The Gamecocks held the Racers to just 153 yards of total offense and -3 rushing yards, which was a school-record low for JSU.

In this game however, the Jacksonville State offense

proved to be just as dominant.

JSU marched right down the field in five plays on their opening drive, and Bryant Horn ran it in for a touchdown.

"I thought we played really well outside of turnovers," Jacksonville State head coach John Grass said. "We've got to clean those up. But other than that, you have to be pleased."

Those turnovers led to the Gamecocks' early deficit of 13-7.

On the Gamecocks' next drive, Horn was picked off, and Murray State immediately converted the opportunity into points with a touchdown pass from Shuler Bentley to Jordon Gandy to tie the game at 7-7.

Then, Sean Rodriguez returned a JSU fumble 47 yards to make the score 13-7.

After that, the JSU offense came alive.

Horn, who got most of the playing time on the day at quarterback, threw three first half touchdown passes, a career high.

Horn found Demontez Terry for a 45-yard bomb early in the second quarter, then completed two touchdowns to Jamari Hester, with one coming just eight seconds before halftime, making the score 28-13 at the break.

Please visit [thechanticleer.wordpress.com/sports](http://thechanticleer.wordpress.com/sports) for the rest of the article.