

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1934

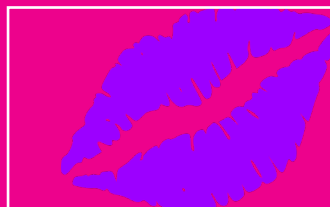
WEATHER: Sunny, High 56, Low 33

XOXO

Thursday, February 8, 2018

inSIDE

Animals in love,  
Pages 4 & 5



## inTHE NEWS

### Chinese Spring Festival

The International House will celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival on Feb. 9 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. JSU Chinese students will have a variety of performances and activities such as singing, poetry, dancing, presentation, games and dumplings. Admission is free to all.

### Mardi Gras Parade

The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi are sponsoring a Jacksonville Mardi Gras parade on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. on Trustee Circle.

### Second Saturday Space Safari

This month's planetarium show on the third floor of Martin Hall follows the adventures of a curious cat who stows away on a trip to the moon. Recommended for children in kindergarten – 3rd grade and cat lovers of all ages. First show at 4 p.m. Second show at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

### Foothills Piano Festival

The Foothills Piano Festival presents Dr. Margery Whatley in recital at 3 p.m. on Feb. 11 in the Mason Hall Performance Center.



# From BFFs to Mr. and Mrs. Active Minds hosts relationship workshop

Nick Adrian  
Staff Writer

This Tuesday, JSU's branch of the organization Active Minds held a Relationship Talk with husband and wife Fred and Rochelle Smith titled: "From BFF to Mr. and Mrs." The couple, who were once JSU students themselves, gave the story of how they met and offered advice on how not only to lead a good relationship, but a good marriage, as well.

While Rochelle Smith is the Director of the Office of Residence Life at JSU and Fred Smith is the director of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, they are also both pastors at the Bridge Christian Center in Alexandria, Ala. They first met while attending school

at JSU in gospel choir practice, but did not begin dating until Rochelle was in graduate school and Fred was out of school. They have now been married for fourteen years and came to give advice to students as they "transition from one day Mr. and Mrs."

Fred Smith made the point that relationships are one of the few important things in life that we are not tested on.

"You actually are tested to get a driver's license, but you're not tested before you get married," he said. "How do you prepare yourself for something that you're not tested on?" He went on to explain that this "test" does not come along until you are already married.

Mr. Smith gave two



Nick Adrian/The Chanticleer

**Rochelle Smith and her husband, Fred, speak at Active Minds' relationship workshop.**

ways for students (or young people, in general) to look at themselves and ask where they are in the process of choosing someone to spend the rest of their life with. The first was

to take a closer look at other relationships that we may model our own relationships after – whether they be the romantic relationships of our parents and couples on cam-

pus, or platonic relationships we share with our friends.

"Whether you like the model, or you don't like the model," he

**See MR. AND MRS., page 2**

## America's war on the Kissing Bug

Jennie Erin Smith  
The New Yorker

If Thomas Cropper, a public-health veterinarian at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio, Texas, thought about Chagas disease at all, he thought about it as a Central and South American problem.

Named after the Brazilian physician who described it, in 1909, Chagas is a classic—one might say egregious—example of a neglected tropical disease. It is caused by the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which is delivered to its host by kissing bugs, known formally as triatomines. The bugs are bloodsuckers—their nickname comes from their penchant for biting near the eyes or mouth—and they can swell to the size of grapes as they feed, causing them to defecate and leave the parasite behind to make

its way into the host's bloodstream. A gross and not particularly efficient mode of transmission, it's still good enough to have kept Chagas going since pre-Columbian times.

According to the World Health Organization's shifting estimates, between six and seven million people in Latin America are currently infected. If you're infected but don't have symptoms, you're likely to find out only after donating blood. If you do have symptoms, you're probably in trouble. About a third of Chagas patients develop a chronic form that leads to heart damage and failure.

Cropper specializes mainly in zoonoses—diseases transmissible from animals to humans—and in keeping service members away from them. Not long after he arrived at Lackland, in 2008,

he learned that a military working dog had developed heart problems while deployed in Kuwait. The dog was returned to Lackland, the home of the Department of Defense's canine school, and confirmed positive for Chagas. A study of all the working dogs on base, in fact, found that about eight per cent had antibodies against *T. cruzi*. Many never developed symptoms at all, but young pups would sometimes drop dead without warning. Cropper began asking about Chagas and what the risks might be for humans. "What else are these stupid bugs feeding on?" he wondered. This turned out to be a somewhat urgent question, because Lackland is where about thirty-five thousand Air Force and National Guard recruits are trained every

**See KISSING BUG, page 2**



Photograph via the Natural History Museum / Alamy

**Triatomines, also known as kissing bugs, are responsible for transmitting the parasite that causes Chagas disease.**

## Popping the question in the season of love

Katie Cline

Editor-in-Chief

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, boxes of chocolate and giant teddy bears are sure to be some of the most popular gifts, but a few lucky lovers may end up with something extra special: an engagement ring.

Holiday proposals in general are popular. Between November and February, the time of year known as "engagement season," there are several major holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day.

JSU alumna Ashlee Jones has firsthand experience with the joys of engagement season. Her boyfriend, Jesse Hall, proposed on Christmas Day 2017 with a Russian doll-style proposal. He gave Jones a large box that held progressively smaller boxes.

"A ring box was at the bottom with my engagement ring inside, and he asked me to marry him, and I told him, 'Well, duh!'" Jones said.

Jones and Hall met at JSU when they both had shifts at the radio station. This Valentine's Day will mark their seventh anniversary together.

"I do think that holiday engagements are cheesy," Jones admitted, "but I think it's different if the holiday has a certain significance for your relationship. Technically, Valentine's Day would have made more sense for us since it's our anniversary, but Christmas is my next favorite holiday, and he knew that, and since my family was there with us, it made the proposal even better."

When the couple gets married on

**See ENGAGEMENTS, page 2**

**VISIT [WWW.jsu.edu/chanticleer](http://WWW.jsu.edu/chanticleer) for the latest in JSU NEWS**



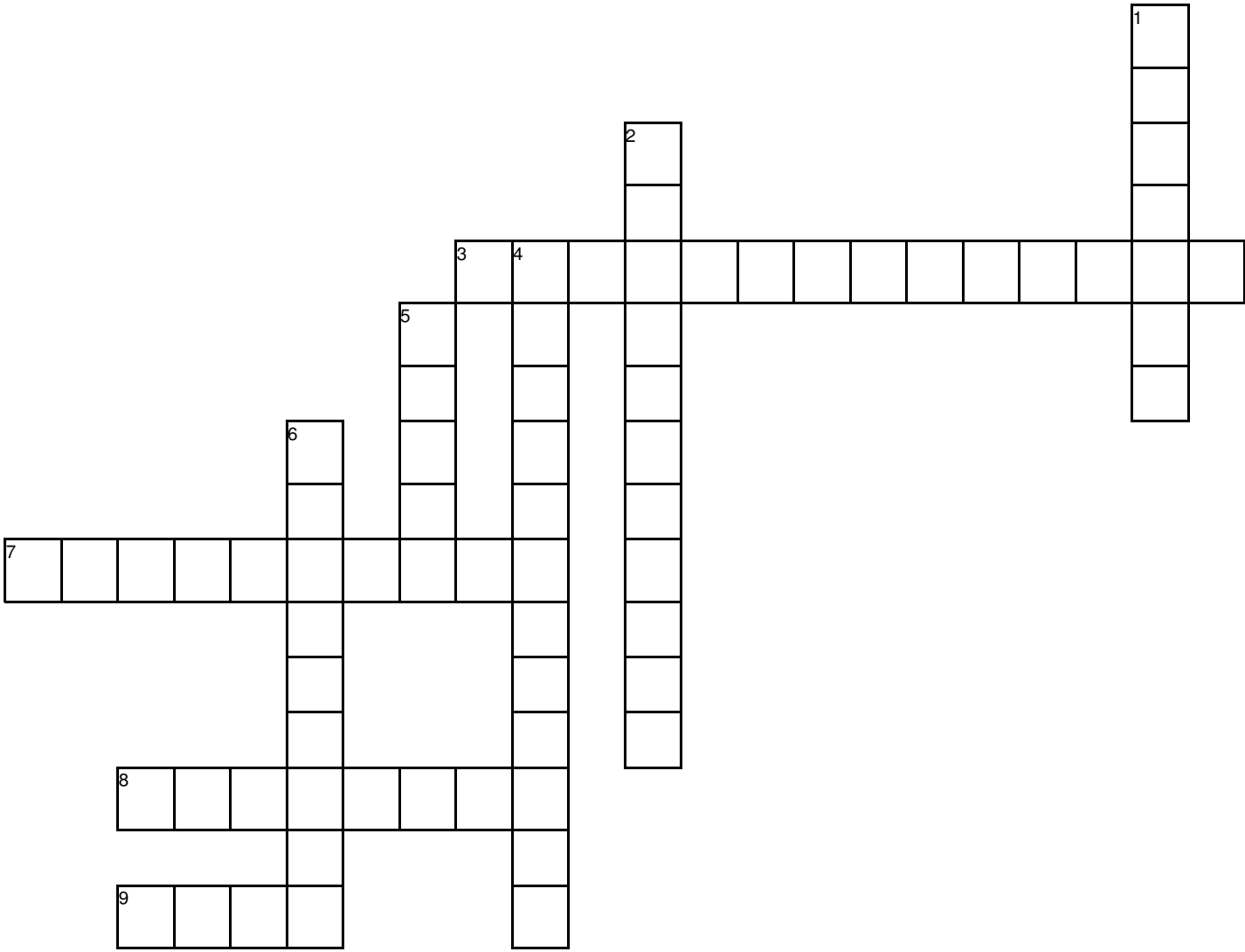




# Study Break

## Campus Crossword! Valentine’s Day Edition

### Valentine's Day



Across

3. This guy began selling mass-produced valentines in America in the 1840s
7. This state has the top two "best" cities to celebrate the holiday
8. This Pope declared February 14th as Valentine's Day
9. Besides the United States, how many countries celebrate Valentine's Day

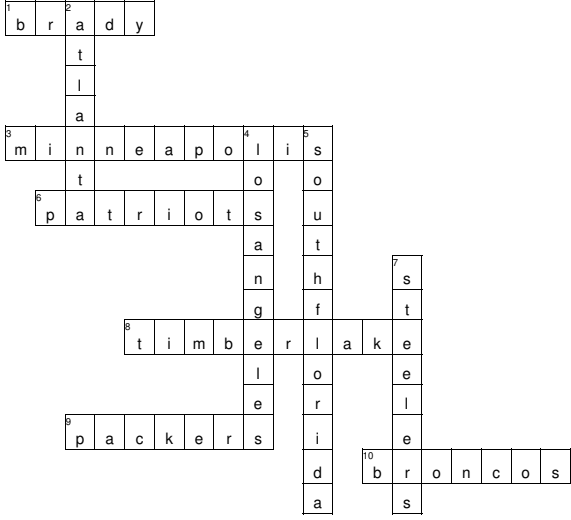
Down

1. The all-time highest grossing romantic movie
2. A writer hired by King Henry V to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois
4. This is the "best" city to celebrate Valentine's Day
5. This gender purchases nearly 85 percent of all valentines
6. 94 percent of Americans want this as a gift



Editor’s Hint: Google is still your friend, everyone!

Super Bowl Sunday



- Across
1. last year's MVP
3. host city in 2018
6. most Super Bowl appearances
8. halftime performer
9. won the first Super Bowl
10. most Super Bowl losses
- Down
2. host city in 2019
4. host city in 2021
5. host city in 2020
7. most Super Bowl wins

Last Week’s Solution!

Chris’ Random Fact:  
Alaska is the largest U.S. state. The Last Frontier is over twice as big as Texas.

# THIS MAYES IS CORNY!



... Puns from the collection of:  
Sports Editor Daniel Mayes #shootpunsnotguns

What do you call an officer in the British Army that has diarrhea? A Loo Tenant

If you have too many electrolytes, you are electro-heavy

A male couch is called a bulch

If you search the internet for an adhesive substance, you Glue-gle it

If you leave your Valentine’s chocolate sitting for too long, the nougat becomes old-gat



HEARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Unusual best friends “in like”  
and in love

True friendship and love knows no boundaries –  
not even those genetically coded into the animal kingdom.  
These adorable inter and cross-species pairings will melt any heart!

Bubbles & Bella



Barry Bland

Bubbles the elephant was rescued from ivory poachers and brought to a sanctuary in the U.S. Bella’s former owner was contracted to build Bubbles a swimming pool, and when he was done, he sadly left Bella behind. Luckily, B & B found each other out and have been inseparable ever since. Bella especially loves using her large friend’s head as a diving board.

Tinni & Sniffer



Torgeir Berge

This fox and dog duo met in the forests of Norway. Tinni, out for a walk with his owner one day, came upon a wild fox in the woods. Despite years of genetic differences and social training, these two recognized some common bond and forged a unique and instant friendship. Tinni’s owner documents their frolics and works to ban fox hunting and the fox-fur trade in Norway since meeting Sniffer.

All Ball & Koko



DC Gavette

This tale involves Koko, the gorilla famous for her wide vocabulary of hand signs and her desire to have a cat of her own. She asked for a Christmas kitten and was given a plush toy, which she was unhappy with. After persisting, she picked out her real cat. She chose and named All Ball and cared for him as if he were her own. She was gentle and loving, and was heartbroken when he passed. She has since adopted more cats to foster.

Baloo, Leo & Shere Khan



Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary

Lions and tigers and bears oh my! This BLT (that’s, uh, bear, lion and tiger) bonded at Noah’s Ark Animal Sanctuary in Georgia over 13 years ago after being rescued from a local drug dealer. Healing together in their first months at the sanctuary established an unbreakable bond and the three even share one enclosure together.

Sam & Koneko



Mike Holst/Daily Mail

This purrfect friendship comes courtesy of The Glasgow Zoo pairing up Koneko, an Akita pup, with Sam, a lion cub, in an experiment to monitor animal friendships across species. It turned out amazingly well, as these two became best buds and bonded for life.

Tabitha & Susie



Maurice Gray

At just hours old, poor Tabitha the piglet was abandoned by the side of the road. Luckily, she was found and taken in by an animal sanctuary where the owner’s 5-year-old boxer, Susie, immediately felt right in love and put her paw on her. Years later, they are still the best of friends and play together daily.

Sappy & Dakota



The Dodo

Horses and cats are commonly friends. Considering the sheer amount of barn cats on hand at each farm, it’s no surprise that the occasional warm-hearted horse and cuddly cat will pair up. Sappy the cat, upon coming to Dakota’s barn, developed an instant attraction and would take to lying by his towering friend as Dakota would graze. Dakota, in turn, has taken to this pint-sized pal and not only pets him with his nose, but waits for him at feeding time.

Billy & Lilly



Richard Austin

With names like that, these two were destined to become close! Lilly, the goat, was born a runt and the owner at Pennywell Farm Wildlife Center had to intervene and bottle-feed the baby. When Billy, the boxer, saw this tiny kid, his nurturing side took over and he began cleaning her and watching out for her. The two are now inseparable and even cuddle together at night.

\*This content was originally a part of a blog post made by Friend-shipCollar.com/blog.



# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Pun-a-licious

Daniel Mayes  
*Sports Editor*

What is love?  
Baby don't hurt me.  
Don't hurt me. No more.  
(Just Kidding).  
What is love?  
Love is... an open  
dooooooooooooor. (Just kid-  
ding again).  
But what is love?  
I suppose it has different  
meanings for everyone.  
And even in every individ-  
ual person, there is differ-  
ent meanings for the word  
as well. So to answer de-  
scribe what love means to  
me, here are some things I  
love:  
I love my family. I love  
my girlfriend. I love my  
pets. I love basketball.  
I love Star Wars. I love  
chicken wings. I love...  
Boring? Boring.  
So, how else can I talk  
about love? I know! I'll  
choose one random as  
heck thing and talk about  
why and how much I love  
it.  
I LOVE PUNS!  
As you may or may not  
be aware, there is a sec-  
tion of puns on page three  
of the Chanticleer. Yeah,

that's me. Hold your ap-  
plause till the end. Those  
who know me well know  
of my love of puns, includ-  
ing editor-in-chief Katie  
Cline, which was why I  
was offered the chance to  
have my puns appear in  
the newspaper in the first  
place (ever thankful). But  
why do I love puns?  
Well, there are several  
reasons. I love the intel-  
lect and cleverness that  
goes behind the best ones.  
Nothing is more satisfy-  
ing for me than hearing a  
well-crafted, thought out  
pun that makes some ob-  
scure connection between  
words that I've never  
thought of before. And  
I'm not saying that my  
puns are like that. Oh no,  
most of the time they are  
quite the opposite.  
See, another reason I  
love puns is the looks of  
mixed exasperation and  
horror and disgust and  
cringe that I get when  
I unleash an especially  
gnarly pun for my friends.  
Sure, I love to get laughs  
too, but nothing beats the  
looks on their faces when  
I tell them that I went to  
the clearance section of

a store but only found  
opaque ants. That look,  
it's like fuel for me. That  
and the audible groaning,  
the "You aren't allowed  
to ever speak again," and  
the "Daniel, you make my  
ears bleed." That's good  
stuff.  
I love when I think of  
one of those grotesquely  
hilarious puns and some  
random point throughout  
the day, and then I crack  
myself up to the point that  
I uncontrollably spasm  
with laughter for hours on  
end until I can find some-  
one to release my creation  
upon. Sometimes people  
ask me why I'm laughing  
so much. Most of the time  
they regret it by the time  
I get finished telling them  
about experts on large-  
mouth bass being called  
an o-fish-ionado.  
So there you have it.  
Possibly the most pro-  
found explanation of love  
ever. With me raving  
about puns.  
Sometimes I a-Mayes  
even myself.  
(I am grinning with  
delight as I imagine the  
pained cringe-faces on ev-  
eryone who reads this).

## Let's taco 'bout us, baby

Chris Allen Brown  
*Associate Editor*

Sorry Daniel, I didn't  
mean to steal your pun-  
under with my headline  
... or did I?  
Anyways, if you know  
me at all, especially my  
best friend's wife Leslie,  
you know I'm all about  
tacos. (You thought I was  
going to say sports, didn't  
you? It's OK, I don't  
blame you, but I write  
about that enough, so I  
figured I'd write about  
my favorite food since  
I'm always eating.)  
There is no wrong soft  
taco: shredded chicken,  
beef, steak, etc. It all  
sounds and tastes amaz-  
ing. In fact, I know I'm  
not the only person who  
loves tacos. I mean, there  
is even an entire day deci-

dated to tacos.  
Quick story time:  
growing up, I would go  
to Taco Bell and order ta-  
cos just to see how many  
I could eat at one sitting.  
As years passed, every  
time I'm really hungry, I  
still figure out how many  
I can eat. In fact, there  
have been many a Satur-  
day nights that one of my  
best friends, Matt, and I  
just sit at his house play-  
ing Mario Kart 64 and eat  
tacos. It's a lovely way to  
pass the time without get-  
ting into trouble.  
I will say, though, that  
when I eat at Mexican  
restaurants, I decide to  
order chimichangas rath-  
er than tacos.  
But back to the topic at  
hand ...  
there is just some-

thing magical about ta-  
cos. Maybe it's the way  
they're made or the taco  
sauce I pour on them, but  
they're amazing. Thank-  
fully, though, Taco Bell  
doesn't have a buy one,  
get one free promotion  
or else I would weight  
more than 250 pounds ...  
maybe that would get me  
a tryout on the football  
team.  
But really, it's OK to  
love eating a certain food,  
especially if it's tacos.  
You may think you're a  
terrible person by eating  
food to cover up your  
feelings of being alone  
this Valentine's Day, but,  
if you do, just think about  
how I'm writing about  
tacos rather than a girl-  
friend.  
Did that help?



# 4 for 4

## Chanticleer editors show 'feelings' this Valentine's Day

### Life and Liberty

Alissa Camplin  
*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

To the most wonderful  
little girl I've ever loved,  
I knew you would  
change my life the first  
time I saw you. It was  
a hot and muggy 4th of  
July and you walked up  
to me in the middle of  
my shift without a care in  
the world, despite your  
bleeding paw and the fact  
you were soaking wet.  
I was so smitten by  
your sweet and under-  
standing eyes and the  
most gentle disposition  
I had ever seen in a dog.  
I remember asking Face-  
book to help find your  
parents, only to have  
people respond that you  
had been wandering  
around JSU for over a  
year. I was heartbroken.  
How could anyone not  
want you? You were kind  
and considerate. Espe-  
cially now, I just had to  
accept the fact that I will  
NEVER understand how  
anyone could turn you  
down.  
I went digging. I found  
the owners that were sup-  
posed to keep you safe.  
I found the people that  
were responsible for you  
roaming the streets. And  
I decided that you would  
never, EVER have to do  
that again. I changed  
your name to Liberty  
in honor of 4th of July  
and promised you would  
eventually like scheduled  
feedings and pet insur-  
ance more than the "free-  
dom" you were finding in  
chaos. Sometimes I feel  
like we're still working  
on it, but it's getting bet-  
ter every day.  
I don't know exactly  
the moment I decided that  
you were coming home  
with me, but I know that  
by the end of my shift, I  
was calling you mine. I  
was telling random peo-  
ple in my checkout line  
that a pup had adopted  
me that day and how

excited I was to get you  
home and in my arms.  
Not all of it was roses  
and daisies. I had some  
things to work through.  
I wasn't in a pet friendly  
apartment and I had no  
knowledge of the Pyr-  
enees breed. Both of  
these issues ended up be-  
ing resolved with Google  
searches as I found a  
place that we could both  
call home and did so  
much research on your  
breed for hours on hours.  
After that, you quickly  
became my favorite part  
of the day.  
Thank you for being  
my go-to date to Lowes  
whenever I don't want  
to go alone. Thank you  
for cuddling my when  
you can sense my stress  
level is high. Thank you  
for being my most under-  
standing and most loyal  
companion. Thank you  
for letting me dress you  
up and take pictures of  
you to post on your Insta-  
gram. Also, thank you for  
never ever ever having  
an accident in the house.  
You're the best, Lib.  
My sweet Liberty has  
changed my entire life  
for the better. Every sec-  
ond since you picked me  
has been full of love and  
tenderness that I'm con-  
vinced only you could  
bring.

Happy Valentine's Day,  
Lib. I love you more than  
life itself.

Furever,  
Mom



## Love is the Cat's Meow

Katie Cline  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Love is the cat's  
meow. Yes, I mean that  
love is great. But I also  
mean that, literally, love  
is a cat's meow. Specifi-  
cally, my cats' meows.  
I have four cats: Tom-  
Tom, Albus, Nugget  
and Minnie. They're  
all former strays, and  
they're the biggest  
goofballs you've ever  
seen.  
TomTom is your  
typical "cat." He cares  
more about food than  
he does about you—  
unless he's sleeping on  
you, in which case you  
better not move. Some-  
times he brings dead  
things into the house  
and drops them on you.  
But he's also funny and  
sassy and doesn't let  
any cat, dog or human  
boss him around.  
Albus is our fat,  
sweet boy. He would  
rather sit in the sun and  
nap than get in a scuffle  
over food bowls. You  
can usually find him la-  
zily chewing on some-  
one's finger or playing  
with our kitten, Minnie.  
In "Harry Potter" terms,  
he's a Hufflepuff to the  
bone.  
Nugget, however, is  
100 per cent Slytherin.  
But, since TomTom  
doesn't take any of his  
bullying, he's resigned  
himself to harassing  
Albus about 35 per  
cent of the time. When  
the mood strikes him,  
though, he can turn into  
20 pounds of purrs and  
cuddles. He also has a  
disproportionately  
high-pitched meow.  
And then there's

Minnie, our newest ad-  
dition. I found her in  
the Merrill Hall parking  
lot while doing a paper  
route, and the end of  
her tail was broken off.  
She's a feisty little thing  
who loves her "Uncle  
Albus," sleeping on my  
dad's chest and copying  
everything TomTom  
does. (Minnie is a Gryf-  
findor, and TomTom is  
probably a Ravenclaw,  
for the record.)  
Despite what people  
say, I think cats show a  
more accurate impres-  
sion of love than, say,  
dogs do. Dogs love  
you no matter what.  
Every day, they run to  
the front door and lick  
your face and sleep in  
bed with you and act  
like you're the greatest  
thing to walk the plan-  
et. (I would know. We  
have two dogs, too.)  
Cats are different. A  
relationship with a cat  
requires work. They're  
not going to worship  
the ground you walk  
on. (Frankly, they ex-  
pect the opposite.) If  
you go days without

visiting, they will shun  
you. If you accidentally  
shut their tail in a door,  
they won't forget—for  
a few days.  
But when you come  
to be loved by a cat,  
you'll know it. You'll  
become a "purr"sonal  
pillow, but you'll gain a  
foot warmer, a comfort  
blanket, a furry baby  
doll and a best friend.  
They'll meet your car  
in the driveway and fol-  
low you out to the mail-  
box. They'll curl up in  
your lap as you read  
before bed, and they'll  
head-butt your chin if  
they see you crying.  
So, yes, a relationship  
with cat requires work,  
but isn't that how hu-  
man relationships are,  
too? Don't we hold  
grudges and don't want  
to be touched and get  
moody at times? Can't  
we be a little selfish and  
apathetic?  
Does that make us  
any less lovable?  
So, go put on your cat  
sweater and hug your  
favorite feline today. I  
already have mine on.





# SPORTS

## JSU Sports Upcoming Events

2/8

**Women’s Basketball  
vs. Tennessee Tech\***  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Pete Mathews Coliseum**

**Men’s Basketball  
vs. Tennessee Tech\***  
**8:00 p.m.**  
**Pete Mathews Coliseum**

Track and Field  
Dunamis Super Meet  
Emerson, GA

2/9

Softball  
River City Leadoff  
vs Army, at Jacksonville  
12:00 p.m. , 5:00 p.m.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

2/10

**Women’s Basketball  
vs. Tennessee State\***  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**Pete Mathews Coliseum**

**Men’s Basketball  
vs. Tennessee State\***  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Pete Mathews Coliseum**

Softball  
River City Leadoff  
vs UCONN, Army  
9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

**Bold = Home contest**

\* = OVC contest

OVC Men’s Basketball		
School	OVC	O/R
Belmont	11-1	19-6
Murray State	10-2	18-5
Austin Peay	9-3	14-10
<b>Jacksonville State</b>	<b>8-4</b>	<b>17-8</b>
Tennessee Tech	8-4	16-9
Tennessee State	7-5	12-11
Southeast Missouri	4-8	10-15
Eastern Illinois	4-8	8-15
SIUE	4-8	8-15
UT Martin	3-9	8-17
Eastern Kentucky	2-10	8-17
Morehead State	2-10	6-17

OVC Women’s Basketball		
School	OVC	O/R
Belmont	12-0	22-3
SIUE	10-2	13-10
Morehead State	8-4	17-8
<b>Jacksonville State</b>	<b>8-4</b>	<b>14-9</b>
UT Martin	8-4	12-12
Austin Peay	6-6	13-10
Southeast Missouri	6-6	11-13
Murray State	4-8	8-15
Eastern Kentucky	4-8	7-14
Tennessee State	3-9	5-16
Tennessee Tech	2-10	5-18
Eastern Illinois	1-11	2-21

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

## Gamecocks finish 1-1 on Illinois road trip

**Daniel Mayes**  
*Sports Editor*

In a two game road-trip in Illinois, the Gamecocks basketball squad managed to take one game to remain competitive in the OVC standings. Jacksonville State (17-8, 8-4 OVC) came back to take down Eastern Illinois 75-56 Feb. 1 before coming up short on another comeback attempt Saturday, Feb. 3 against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, 75-67.

In both road contests in The Prairie State, the Gamecocks fell behind by double digits in the first half, facing deficits of 10 and 17 against EIU and SIUE respectively. Against EIU, the deficit didn’t last long. After a 12-0 run by the Panthers made the score 18-8 halfway through the first, the Gamecocks outscored EIU 21-11 for the remainder of the half to take the lead 31-29 at the break. Jax State took control immediately in the second half, scoring the first



Matt Reynolds/JSU

**Jason Burnell averaged 14.5 points and 9.5 rebounds in the Gamecocks’ two-game Illinois road trip.**

11 points of the period and cruising to a 19-point win. Christian Cunningham put up 12 points and 10 rebounds to tally his second straight double-double, and Jason Burnell led the Gamecocks with 17 points against EIU. Saturday against SIUE, Jacksonville State came out flat again. The Cougars scored the first six points of the game, then quickly built up a double-digit lead. Jacksonville State trailed 33-16 at the 5:37

mark, before the offense finally came alive to get the Gamecocks back into the game. JSU outscored the Cougars 14-6 the rest of the half, cutting the deficit to eight at the break and making the score 38-30. Contributing to the Gamecocks’ struggles in the first was the quiet play of senior guard Malcolm Drumwright. Drumwright scored just two points in the opening period, making just one of his three shot attempts. Jamall Gregory and

Cam Martin led JSU with seven in the first half, and four straight points from Martin helped to key the Gamecock turnaround. Jax State cut the SIUE lead to as little as three in the second half, but the Cougars were able to stretch the lead back out and keep the Gamecocks at arm’s length the rest of the way, taking the game 75-67. Gregory led JSU scorers with 14, and Norbertas Giga and Jason Burnell both chipped in with 12. Burnell also added 10 rebounds to tally his first double-double in a Gamecock uniform. Jacksonville State now returns to Pete Mathews Coliseum for a two-game home stand. The Gamecocks take on Tennessee Tech Thursday, Feb. 8 for an 8 p.m. tipoff that is set to air on national TV on ESPNU. Then, JSU hosts Tennessee State on Feb. 10 for their penultimate home game of the season. The Gamecocks’ final home contest will be Thursday, Feb. 22 against OVC leader Belmont.

## Football takes home ‘solid’ recruiting class

**Daniel Mayes**  
*Sports Editor*

The first Wednesday of February marks national signing day, when high school football recruits are able to officially sign with universities to continue their academic and athletic careers. Although an early signing period was added for December this season, the Gamecocks did their recruiting damage on Wednesday. “We feel really, really good about this class,” JSU Head Coach John Grass said Wednesday. “I think it’s a really solid class when you look at it from top to bottom. Every one of them will be given a chance to come in and compete”

The gems of Jacksonville State’s freshman recruiting class may be the four three-star additions in Cagan Campbell, Ahmad Edwards, Cam McKinney, and Cameron Hill. Campbell, a cornerback that hails from Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa, fielded a handful of FBS offers, including South Alabama, but chose the Gamecocks. Edwards played wide receiver at Thompson High School in Alabaster, Alabama, where he caught a state-record

118 passes as a senior last season. McKinney, who joins Edwards out wide, hails from Carver High School in Birmingham. Hill, a new addition to the Gamecock “WarPig” offensive line that loses decorated seniors Dylan Cline and Justin Lea, played at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery. Also on offense, JSU signed lineman Deandre Butler from Opelika and a pair of running backs: Austin Kinsey, a 5’11”, 200 pound back from Clarke County High School, and Uriah West, an All-State performer from Douglasville, Georgia. The Gamecocks made most of their noise on signing day on the defensive side of the ball.

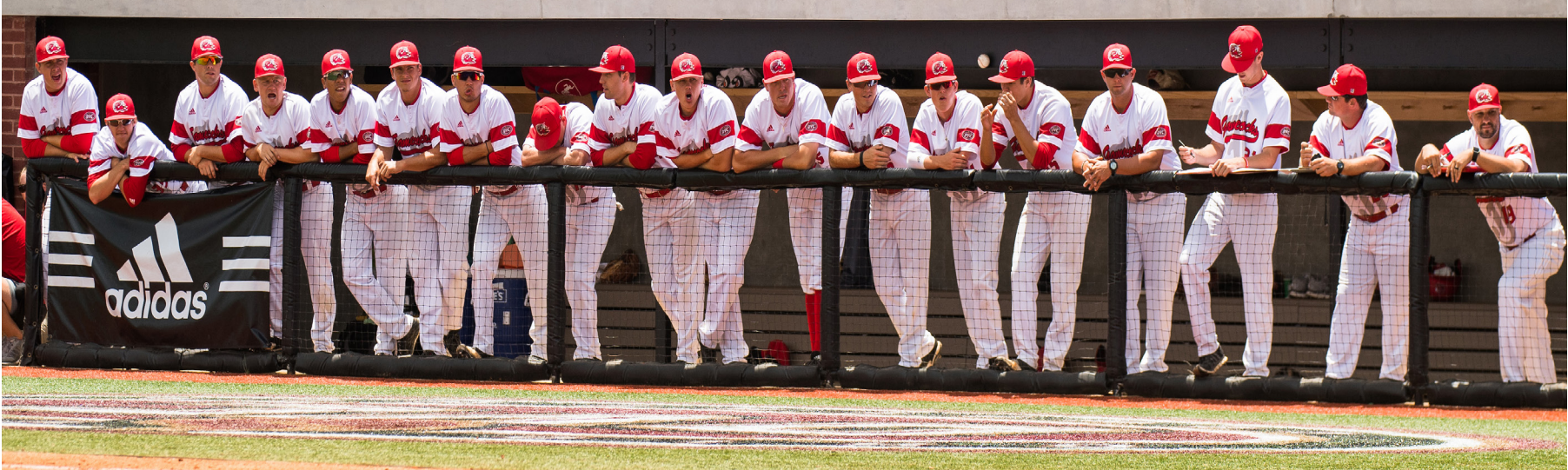
To go with Campbell in the defensive backfield, JSU added safeties Ja’Cobie Lofton, Marshall Clark and Myles Brown, who was a teammate of Edwards at Thompson. Also announcing their signing Wednesday were cornerbacks George Steele and Jamias Presley, who was the first Gamecock to sign his National Letter of Intent Wednesday. The Gamecocks add the signing class to their January early enrollees, a trio of transfers in Landon Rice, Zerrick Cooper, and Tre’ Threat. Rice arrived on JSU’s campus with controversy after spending a year at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Rice originally signed to play at Auburn, but was found “respon-

sible” for an alleged sexual assault incident in April 2016 and left the program. Cooper, a quarterback from Jonesboro, Georgia, spent two years at Clemson as a backup. He joins a quarterback competition with upcoming redshirt freshman Zion Webb and incumbent Bryant Horn, who is recovering from shoulder surgery. “We’ve got some competition at quarterback,” Coach Grass said. “[Cooper’s] got a great skill set. He’s going to make the position definitely better” Threat was a four-star recruit and Under Armour All-American at linebacker in 2016 who played sparingly at Auburn for the last two seasons.



JSU Sportswire





Matt Reynolds/JSU

JSU Baseball is gearing up for the start of the 2018 season.

# Gamecocks (finally) return home in 2018

**Grant Benefield**  
*Staff Sports Writer*

With the first official practice already in the books, hype for Jacksonville State baseball’s 2018 campaign is in full swing.

After playing their entire home schedule at Choccolocco Park in Oxford, AL, last season, the Gamecocks will be more than eager to return to campus. And the wait for the much-anticipated new stadium project is nearly complete, with Rudy Abbott Field set to open on April 3rd when the Gamecocks host the University of Alabama.

JSU defeated the Crimson Tide not once, but twice last season by scores of 2-1 and 11-8.

Speaking of last season, the Gamecocks finished 30-26 (17-13 OVC) and continued their OVC tournament attendance streak, making it for the



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**Artist rendering of the new renovations to Rudy Abbott Field, which are scheduled to be completed before the stadium’s reopening on April 3.**

14th consecutive year since the team’s move to the Ohio Valley Conference.

The team’s tournament appearance left last season on a sour note, however, as the Gamecocks were eliminated in their first two games, marking the first time JSU failed

to win a game in the OVC tournament since the 2013 season.

The Gamecocks lose seven lettermen from last season, including infielder Josh Bobo, who played in 52 games last season and averaged .249 with 22 RBIs and 27 runs scored.

JSU also loses two key pitchers in Joe McGuire and Justin Hoyt. McGuire earned 2017 OVC Pitcher of the Year honors, posting an 8-1 record in 12 starts and a 3.20 ERA with an opponent batting average of .209. Hoyt was stellar in the closer role last season, posting a .282

ERA with 9 saves in 25 appearances.

The Gamecocks will sport 18 returning lettermen and 15 newcomers in 2018, including senior infielder Clayton Daniel. Daniel earned his third-consecutive All-OVC honors and was the only Gamecock to start all 56 games last season.

Also returning is junior LHP Derrick Adams, who posted the largest workload of JSU pitchers last season with 85.2 innings pitched. Adams earned All-OVC honors, claiming a 7-3 record in 15 starts.

The Gamecocks will kick off their 2018 campaign on February 16th at Choccolocco Park with a 3-game series against Southern Illinois. The Gamecocks’ first 17 home games will be hosted at Choccolocco Park, until the inaugural game against Alabama on April 3rd.



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## Rifle finishes third at OVC Championships

MURRAY, Ky. – The Jacksonville State rifle team finished third in the overall standings at the 2018 Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championships after posting an air rifle mark of 2327 on Sunday.

The Gamecocks, who stood in second place on the team leaderboard after Saturday’s smallbore competition slipped to third after Morehead State posted a 2341 in air rifle to finish 11 points better than JSU in the final aggregate scoring. After registering a 2297 in smallbore and Sunday’s air rifle results, Jax State finished with an aggregate score of 4626. It marks the first time since JSU joined the OVC that it has not won the league title or finished second.

A trio of Gamecocks posted top-10 finishes, led by junior Trace Haynes. Haynes from Hazelhurst, Georgia, equaled his smallbore mark of 579 along with junior

Mekenna Richardson in air rifle. The duo posted scores of 579. Haynes finished eighth overall with an 1158, while Richardson claimed ninth. Junior David Sink rounded out the top-10 individual standings with an 1153. Sink paced the Gamecocks in Air Rifle with a 585.

Haynes and Sink were honored by the league with post-championship selections. Haynes was named to the Smallbore All-OVC Second Team, while Sink was tabbed to the Air Rifle All-OVC Second Team.

Freshman Sam Payne joined Haynes on the Smallbore All-OVC Second Team while also earning a spot on the Smallbore All-Newcomer Team.

The Gamecocks will travel to Oxford, Mississippi on Feb. 11 to face the Rebels on Ole Miss before returning to UM the following weekend for the NCAA Sectionals.

**JSU Sportswire**

## JSU takes down EIU, falls to SIUE

**Hannah Grant**  
*Staff Sports Writer*

The Gamecocks took home 1-1 record and a setback to third place in the Ohio Valley Conference standings from their trip to Illinois. The women’s team (14-9, 8-4 OVC) are staying afloat in the league race during their best start to a season since joining the league in 2004.

The Illinois series began on Thursday evening in Charleston, Illinois to face off Eastern Illinois. The Gamecocks snapped a road losing streak against the Panthers with their 59-50 win, the first in 11 years inside EIU’s Lantz Arena.

JSU started the game with a 16-2 lead and led for the first 18 minutes of action. The Panthers stormed back into the game however, using an 11-0 run in the final three minutes of the second quarter to erase the Gamecock lead and take a three-point advantage of their own, 28-25 at the halftime break.

Senior Rayven Pearson, who finished the game as a leading scorer with 13 points, helped the Gamecocks bounce back after the half, and JSU outscored the Panthers 13-7 in the third to regain the advantage.

Jax State outpaced EIU again in the fourth and left



Matt Reynolds/JSU

**Rayven Pearson’s 13 points helped JSU earn its first road win at EIU in 11 years**

Lantz Arena with a 59-50 win.

The victory marks win number 70 for Rick Pietri as Head Coach at JSU, making him just the third coach in school history to reach that total.

On Saturday evening, JSU took a trip to fight for the right to second place in OVC play against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

The Gamecocks found trouble in Edwardsville as they fell to the Cougars 41-65.

SIUE showed dominance in both offense and defense right from the tip, and the Cougars maintained a lead each in quarter. The Cougars held a huge lead over JSU to 29-9 three minutes into the second quarter and 32-17 at the half.

JSU inched their way back into the game, and a 10-0 run in the third quar-

ter left the Gamecocks only trailing 41-38. SIUE took advantage of the home court, however, outscoring JSU 24-3 in the final minutes to run away with the game. JSU made just 15-55 shots overall and 5-24 from beyond the arc.

Freshman Taylor Hawks added another consecutive double-digit scoring night with the team high 12 points, being the only JSU player to reach double-digits. Since entering OVC play, the Georgia native has averaged 9.6 points per game which is right under senior Tyler Phelion’s 10 points per game average. Kiana Johnson contributed 6 points and 6 rebounds.

JSU returns to their home court on Feb. 8 against Tennessee Tech at 11:30 a.m. for the annual Education Day game for local city school students.