The Chanticleer December 5, 2019

Jacksonville, AL

JSU's Student-Published Newspaper Since 1934

CAMPUS



Photo courtesy of Matt Reynolds/JSU

Pictured above, SGA President Ulises Herrera poses with beloved mascot Cocky at the annual JSU in Lights event on Dec. 2. Each December, JSU's president will open their home to students. faculty, staff and more, to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

JSU in Lights draws crowd, collects toys

Madison Bailey

Correspondent

Jacksonville State University held its annual JSU in Lights celebration at the president's house on Monday, December 2.

JSU in Lights is a tradition that is unique to JSU. Faculty, board members, students and members of the community all come together to enjoy refreshments, get to know one another and witness the lighting of the Christmas lights across campus.

Sammie Criss, a JSU Ambassador, has a great appreciation for the JSU in Lights tradition.

"JSU in Lights is one of the many ways JSU feels like home," said Criss. "Christmas is always a really special holiday for me at home, so getting to incorporate those feelings and traditions into my college life is such a special and unique opportunity that I definitely don't take for granted."

This unique tradition also includes a toy drive organized by the Student

Government Association. People are encouraged to bring unwrapped toys to the event, which are then given to children in need.

Many people attended the event and brought unwrapped toys for the SGA toy drive, and there was even an appearance from Cocky himself.

This year, JSU in Lights was hosted by Dr. Don Killingsworth, the acting president of the university, on the first floor of the president's home.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE PHOTOS.



INSIDE

Dr. McClung's

JSU deanship PAGE 2

Op-Ed: You're

PAGE 2

Society PAGE 2 Weekly Crime Log PAGE 3

VeoRide pedals out of Jacksonville

PAGE 3

Communication

professor to retire

PAGE 3

JSU in Lights

Photos

PAGE 4

The Last Jedi -

Most diverse?

Top Christmas movies to binge

NEWS JSU denies claims in sexual assault lawsuit

Ashleigh Crouch

Correspondent In October, a woman filed a lawsuit against JSU claiming that the university interfered with

ing at JSU.

sponse states that Harper disclosed why he resigned from WKU, and that it was unrelated to Hunter. The response also states that Harper denied knowledge of the cause of Hunter's dismissal from WKU. JSU's response to the October lawsuit also claims that the 2017 assault victim met with former Title IX coordinator Jai Ingraham after the incident, and the woman chose not to file a complaint of sexual assault against Hunter. The plaintiff in the lawsuit also claimed that university police officers were placed on admin-

2016. Just after Hunter istrative leave for comleft WKU, his former plaining that university coach Ray Harper re- officials interfered with signed and began work- an investigation into against him. claims of sexual assault The university's re- against Hunter. Both Monk, released a state-Shawn Giddy, former police chief, and Carl Preuninger, a UPD investigator were placed on administrative leave in February 2018. Giddy was ultimately terminated, and Preuninger returned to his position with UPD in July 2018. Giddy filed a federal complaint claiming that the university unfairly retaliated against him because of the investigation. Both Giddy's attorney and the plaintiff in the October lawsuit have claimed that university officials intervened with the investigation in order to have an October 2017 grand jury indictment

against Hunter overturned before more legal action could be taken

JSU's counsel, Sam

an investigation involving her alleged sexual assault by former JSU basketball player Marlon Hunter in 2017.

On Tuesday, November 26, the university denied these claims, as well as claims that the university failed to notify the mother of the assault victim in a timely manner, and that Hunter was not thoroughly investigated before being allowed to enroll in JSU.

Hunter, who was suspended from the men's basketball team at Western Kentucky later withdrew from the university amidst claims of sexual misconduct in March

BE MERRY AND BRIGHT.

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS!

From the Chanticleer staff, we hope you

all have a safe and happy holiday season.

See you all in the new year!

ment on November 27. "It is the policy and practice of JSU to make no public statement about ongoing litigation whether brought by or against it. No further comment will be forthcoming at this time."

The woman's attorney, Roger Appell, declined to comment. JSU filed a motion to dismiss three of five counts of Title IX violations alleged by this lawsuit, including negligent hiring, negligent failure to supervise, and negligent failure to train, claiming that the suit does not identify any acts of wrongdoing on the part of JSU employees.





Hot Take: Where is the JSU Football program heading? PAGE 8



News

FEATURE From West Virginia to Alabama *McClung's journey, ideas for deanship*

Bonae Barrs

Correspondent

Dr. Steven Mc-Clung grew up in West Virginia, in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains. Now, as the newly hired Dean of the School of Business and Industry at Jacksonville State University, he is preparing to settle in at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

"It looks exactly like Jacksonville and reminds me of that area," said McClung. "My wife, Kathy, grew up in Cheshire, CT and it looks like Jacksonville too. So, in a way, it's a very familiar setting for us."

McClung has a background in broadcast advertising, and began his academic career with on-camera duties and eventually moving to sales.

McClung earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall University and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. He worked at the Col-



Dr. Steven McClung

lege of Communication and Information at Florida State University for nine years and the Stetson School of Business at Mercer University for 10 years and is currently a marketing professor.

McClung wants to look at strengthening career services and networking possibilities for the School of Business and Industry.

"Eventually, we may look at curriculum adjustments that will better suit the needs of industry and trends in the job markets for our majors," said McClung.

McClung is entering the role of dean with the challenge of working with university officials to construct a new School of Business and Industry complex after the March 2018 tornadoes damaged Merrill Hall beyond repair. Since the tornadoes, the school has been housed in the old Kitty Stone Elementary School building.

"This is probably the most interesting facet of the job," said McClung. "I've never moved an entire school from one building to another, so we'll probably have to play it by ear and see what comes up."

He plans on meeting with as many people as possible during the spring semester to assess the needs of students concerns when it comes to the issue of the lack of digital media technology.

"The good news is that all three programs in SBI have recently gone, or are currently going through the accreditation process," said McClung. "So, academically, we're in great shape."

Student Op-Ed: You're never really ready

Kaitlin Fleming

As I prepare for my last semester at Jacksonville State University, I keep coming back to two thoughts: "I am so ready" and "I am so not ready."

I have spent a total of three years at this university, and I imagine it is like this for students preparing to graduate from universities all over the world, but spending this much time at one place creates a sense of belonging.

Despite the horrible downs I have had while here, being in one place has gifted me a sense of security, albeit, a false sense of security, but security nonetheless. Now, I have registered for my final classes and find myself swirling around in a vortex of uncertainty.

I have an advantage though. I have just been hired for a fulltime position in my field of study and I am five months out from graduating. That isn't all that common – especially in journalism. In a few days, I will be working at the Anniston Star, which is not something I ever thought I would say.

Even with this added security, the thought of actually being finished with college is overwhelming. I know what I will be doing. I know that I will have a job, a schedule, something to look forward to, etc. But there is still a fear here, which makes me wonder, is one ever really ready?

Will I miss my professors? Yes, some. Will I miss the atmosphere? No. Will I miss forced socialization? No. Will I miss the never-ending expenses of college? No. Will I miss finals, midterms, assignments, group projects, quizzes, 8 a.m. classes, outdated textbooks, etc.? No.

So, what's the hang up? The fear of the unknown or, maybe, the finality of getting the degree that has been a struggle to complete. This is year five for me in college. I began my collegiate journey at Gadsden State Community College and enrolled at JSU after graduating with my two-year degree. degree and I deserve it.

I feel that this isn't actually happening and I am waiting for the punchline. I suppose I am just in disbelief.

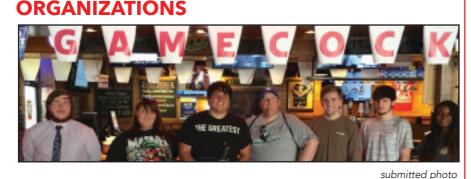
Going into my final semester I am excited and nervous. It is also a little bittersweet. All the people I began this journey with have graduated by now and it seems like I am the last of that group. I have spent the last year being a little more than bitter that I was still here and they weren't. I am happy for them being finished but I have been resentful that it wasn't me.

I also haven't had time to enjoy the last year of college. I used to go to every home football game for the Gamecocks, but this year I didn't. I haven't been to many functions or events. I haven't had a single meal in the Caf this year and with my new apartment, I can't hear the Southerners practice all that often. When I leave my late Monday/Wednesday class I can hear the music and it does make me stop and smile, even if it is just for a second.

My journey at JSU has been unbelievable. My family has undergone a lot of stress and sickness while I have been here and I have had my own personal health struggles. Not to mention the tornado, financial aid debacles, tuition and fees increase, alleged rapes and alleged cover-ups, presidential scandals – the list goes on.

I have loved so much of JSU and I have hated so much as well. I am grateful to be finishing my degree and I am a little sad for it to be over. Maybe it is vanity, but I feel that I haven't done the absolute best I could, so I feel a little regret. I do deserve this degree though and I will gladly take it from the hands of Dr. Killingsworth in May.

This turtle is ready to get off the fence post.



Pictured above, members of Tocqueville pose for a photo.

Organizations of JSU Tocqueville Society

Organization name: Tocqueville Soceity.

How many members does your organization have?

We currenty have 8, sometimes 9 members.

When are your meetings held?

Every other Friday.

How can students get involved with the organization? Just show up to a meeting.

What does the organization stand for?

We wish to get members thinking about topics in the philosophical, cultural, and political spheres over the comfort of an open environment. What type of activities does the organization partake in?

We have standard meetings and certain days we watch films related to our topic of the semester.

What is your next upcoming event?

The Friday after next, we will meet at Struts at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the reading supplied by our administrator, Dr. Gross.

Organizations of JSU is a questionnaire designed for student organizations to spread the word about themselves. If your organization would like to take part in this questionnaire, please email bhill1@stu.jsu.edu. I have worked hard for this

9

Editor's note: Kaitlin Fleming is the current Editor in Chief of the Chanticleer Newspaper. This piece is hers and hers alone and does not reflect the views of the Chanticleer. This is an opinion editorial.

LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! CHECK US OUT JSUCHANTICLEER AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT JSUCHANTICLEER.COM

THE CHANTICLEER NEWSPAPER

JSU's student operated newspaper since 1934

The staff at *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to edit and change any submissions for any reason. We are not responsible for the opinions inside the paper; we simply print the opinions of others. Opinion pieces will be clearly labeled as opinion and news will be labeled as news.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact us by email at chantynewstips@gmail.com or by phone at 256-782-5701. You may also contact our adviser Mr. Mike Stedham by email at mstedham@jsu.edu or by phone at 256-782-5713.

> **Editor in Chief** Kaitlin Fleming

News Editor Scott Young

Arts & Entertainment Editor Breanna Hill

> Sports Editor Josie Howell

Adviser Mike Stedham

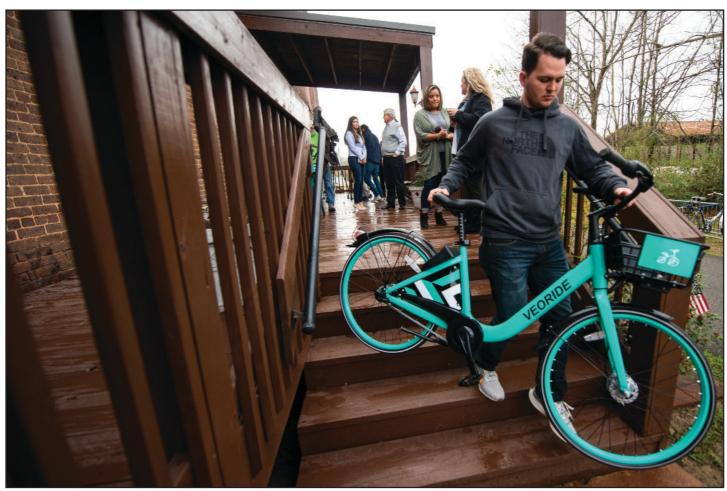
Volume: LXXXV Issue: 22 Date: December 5, 2019

3

December 5, 2019



NEWS



Matt Reynolds/JSU

VeoRide Fleet Coordinator Trent Dickeson, pictured right, carries a VeoRide bicycle at the Jacksonville Train Depot during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the bike share program.

VeoRide pedals out of Jacksonville

Scott Young

News Editor

۲

The bike share service Veo-Ride will be pulling its bikes from Calhoun County, including Jacksonville, Anniston and Oxford, according to a spokesman for the company. VeoRide has operated in Calhoun County since January 2019.

Trent Dickeson, the fleet coordinator for VeoRide, said that the change of plans was strictly a business decision and that the decision is not reflective of the "ongoing outstanding leadership and support [VeoRide] received in the region."

"VeoRide has greatly enjoyed

residents of the tri-cities of Jacksonville, Anniston and Oxford and students of Jacksonville State University throughout 2019," said Dickeson.

Dickeson said that in 2020, the corporate focus is shifting toward a concentration on multi-modal fleets that include e-bikes and e-scooters in regional areas.

"This regional effort in Calhoun County is a notable example of how visionary leaders in municipalities and universities can come together in engaging and successful partnership to provide exciting new opportunities to enhance daily life in their respective communities," City Council on Monday, November 25, Johnny Smith, the mayor of Jacksonville, announced that Veo-Ride would be leaving the city and JSU.

"I thought it was a great thing for our city, and I hate to see them go," said Smith. "When students come back from Christmas break, they'll be gone."

According to Smith, the company maintained 70 to 75 bicycles in the city and burned 270 million calories.

VeoRide debuted in Calhoun County earlier this year as the first regional bikeshare in Alabama featuring 180 specialty designed



Campus Crime Log

December 3, 2019, Automobile Accident, The Pointe Parking Lot

December 3, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Colonial Arms

December 2, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Curtiss Hall

December 2, 2019, Criminal Mischief and Theft of Property, Meehan Hall

December 2, 2019, Theft of Property, Meehan Hall

December 1, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Curtiss Hall

November 30, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, The Pointe

November 25, 2019, Information Report, Theron Montgomery Building

November 24, 2019, Information Report, Curtiss Hall

November 24, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct,

providing shared bicycling as a said Dickeson. great transportation option for In a meeting o

d Dickeson. bikes, located all around campus In a meeting of the Jacksonville and along the Ladiga Trail.

NEWS

Communication professor, former department head, to retire

Scott Young

News Editor

Dr. Kingsley O. Harbor, a professor of communication at Jacksonville State University, announced his plans to retire after 17 years of working for the department. His retirement will take effect at the end of 2019.

"When one reaches one's point of diminishing return, then it is time to reconsider options," said Harbor. "Additionally, the time gained during retirement will allow me to improve the quality of my health."

Harbor has been teaching at colleges for 27 years, previously working full-time at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

"My favorite memories of teaching are exemplified by my students' successes," said Harbor. "Their stories of their sucthat it is all worth it to be a teacher and even a department head, where one has the opportunity to change lives positively."

Harbor earned his first degree in telecommunication engineering from the P&T Technical School in Osohodi-Isolo, Nigeria. Later, he obtained a bachelor's degree in electronics engineering technology from the University of Houston, a master's degree in mass communication from Southern University and a doctorate in journalism from Southern Illinois University.

In 2002, he was hired as a professor of communication for JSU and served as the department head from 2002 to 2019.

"I plan to relax and get a good rest before anything else," said Harbor. "Other activities will follow later, and certainly, I will be doing some writings—research articles

cesses give me the feeling and book work."

Dr. Patrick McGrail, an associate professor and head of the Department of Communication, said that Harbor's experience and expertise has been very valuable to him.

"Dr. Harbor hired me as an assistant professor back in 2008, and put me in charge of broadcasting," said McGrail. "Dr. Harbor is a generous, quiet, contemplative man whose main area of expertise is international ethics. He also has a strong quantitative bent, and is very good at methodology and research."

Mike Stedham, a parttime instructor for the Department of Communication, said that he was a part of the hiring committee that hired Harbor in 2002.

"Dr. Harbor has been chair of our department for most of the time I have been at JSU, and I have always found him to be a pleasure to work with,"



Courtesy of JSU

Dr. Kingsley O. Harbor, pictured above, has been a JSU communication professor since 2002.

said Stedham. "His guidance and organization led to the department's national accreditation, and he has spent countless hours working making sure we live up to the best standards of our profession. He has devoted himself to this department and its students, and we have been enriched by his service."

The Department of Communication plans to hold a retirement celebration for Harbor on Monday, December 16 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in room 180 of Self Hall.

Have an emergency?
November 19, 2019, Possession of a Con- trolled Substance and Possession of Marijuana, Crow Hall Parking Lot
November 19, 2019, Harassment, Mee- han Hall Parking Lot
November 19, 2019, Duty Upon Strik- ing an Unattended Vehicle, Logan Hall Parking Lot
November 20, 2019, Information Report, Dixon Hall
November 21, 2019, Automobile Acident, Tredaway Avenue
November 21, 2019, Information Report, Salls Hall
November 21, 2019, Possession of Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia, The Pointe
November 21, 2019, Automobile Acci- dent, Stephenson Gym Parking Lot
November 23, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, The Pointe
Dixon Hall

Dial (256) 782-5050 or 911

۲



۲

December 5, 2019



4

News

Annual JSU in Lights

The annual JSU in Lights held on Monday, Dec. 2 drew a large crowd to the President's Home to signal the start of the holiday season.















REVIEW

The Last Jedi - The "most diverse" Star Wars film

James King

Correspondent

Star Wars: The Last Jedi is the most divisive film in the main canon of the franchise. To say that it split the fan base would almost be an understatement. Ever since this movie came out fans have been arguing whether it's the best or the worst the franchise has put out. Now personally I do have my problems with it, but I feel that it's a bit overzealous to say that this is a bad movie by any metric. Though, I feel that this movie is all about subverting your expectations as a Star Wars fan, taking what you know about the franchise and flipping it on its head. Now in order to

talk about this mov- movie as everything mutiny to happen ie, I need to spoil it so if you haven't seen the movie and have somehow remained spoiler free (and want to remain so) let me just say I think the movie is one of the better movies in the franchise and that you can stop reading here and go watch it and judge for yourself. Now that that is said and done, I can see how this movie is divisive. Luke has gone from a wideeved optimistic kid who wanted to be Jedi and turned into a sour old nihilistic man who wants nothing to do with Rey, the Jedi, or the rebels. The rebel forces are on their last legs and about to be snuffed out by the Empire. There is a sense of dread that looms over the

our heroes try to do backfires horribly in their faces.

The side characters seem to be what is most problematic for people, but I didn't have much issue with them except for one. The codecracker DJ adds a little bit of grey to the Star Wars movies, challenges the heroes perception of good, and bad and adds to the tension to the movie by betraying the heroes. Rose Tico keeps Finn from running, is set up as a love interest for Finn and her story helps develop that. The character of Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo is the character I take issue with. For a character that is a capable veteran of the war, she allows the most avoidable

under her watch by not sharing her plan and at the end of it all, treats the munity like a minor inconvenience, it. I can forgive some of the questionable logic of the space scenes, but I can't forgive questionable logic and characterization.

There is a little bit of bad CGI and some bad fight choreography, but nothing too distracting. Other then the space chase, I enjoyed the rest of the movie. I wouldn't call it as good as the force awakens, but it's a far cry from something like the Phantom Menace. It subverts what you expect changing characters or changing how things normally play out in Star Wars. Things



Pictured above is a movie poster for the film Star Wars: The Last Jedi.

like

Rey's parentage or the death of Snoke didn't hit me as it did for some, they were some of the best parts of

the movie because they did something I want from more movies, to give me something I don't see coming.

HOT TAKE





Twenty year old Christmas movies, such as How the Grinch Stole Christmas and more 'recent' movies, such as A Christmas Carol are perfect movies to binge.

Top Christmas movies to binge this winter season

Breanna Hill A&E Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year again, and what better way to celebrate it than binging a whole bunch of Christmas movies? There are countless movies that can get you in the holly jolly spirit, but I'm going to give you my top five movies in hopes of you either check them out for the first time, or rewatch them and admire some of my favorite parts.

First off we have my all time favorite 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' which was released almost twenty years ago in 2000. This movie is not just one of my favorite movies to watch around this time of year, I could literally watch it anytime of the year, anywhere. My mind has definitely labeled it as a classic. It stars Jim Carrey, and to me, he is one of the funniest actors in the industry. It's as if the character was made especially for him. The rest of the cast is incredible as well. I couldn't imagine anybody else playing any of the characters. The movie manages to incorporate

an important message that needs to be shared around the world quite a bit. The message is all about how presents aren't what the holidays should be about, it should be about spending and enjoying time with your loved ones.

Next we move on to an even older movie called 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' which made its debut in 1989. I wasn't too keen on giving this movie even the slightest bit of attention until about five years ago when my dad coaxed the family into watching it on Christmas Eve, and I'm glad he did. It is a hilarious movie that I never would have discovered all by myself. It has since then become a staple in our household. There are some major quoteable moments from the movie surrounding hilarious situations, much like 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. Along with being ridiculously funny and somewhat inappropriate at times, it manages to show the heartfelt moments that sum up the holidays. If you need yet another reason to give this oldie a chance.

just know that it is a perfect depiction of what could go wrong during the holidays dealing with extended family, shopping and decorating

Third on the list would have to be 'Elf' starring Will Ferrell, released in 2003. Much like Jim Carrey, Will Ferrell remains high up on my list of wellrespected comedic actors in the industry today. I appreciate his ability to make his characters come to life in every project he partakes in. It's incredible what he managed to do as Buddy in this hit movie. I guess I have a thing for comedic Christmas movies; it seems to be a trend. This movie, though it has its serious moments, can be a bit comedic at times. One of the best things about this movie in my opinion is how Buddy has to, or at least tries to, adapt to a completely different world in hopes of meeting his father and created a long awaited father-son bond. I love the fact that it touches on a seemingly serious subject but manages to keep the film from being focused on that issue solely. It's an

incredible film, and it was directed beautifully.

Next to last we have 'Home Alone' released back in 1990. Again, this is a comedic film that captured my heart early on in my childhood. I believe that this is one of my favorite Christmas movies because I could relate to Kevin at the time, dealing with being the middle child. I rooted for him the whole movie just because of that reason, and because I thought it was pretty cool how he was able to hurt the two men who intruded into his house. It's wildly hilarious and that's always a captivating feature in films for me. Macaulay Culkin goes on to be casted as the protagonist Kevin in the sequel, and another three films are made after the first two, but with other actors and actresses. I definitely recommend checking at least the first one out. I've only seen the first two, maybe because Macaulay was able to portray Kevin so well. Check it out.

The final one that made the cut is an animated Christmas movie titled 'A Christmas Carol', released in 2009. I love animated movies, especially ones that are very well done. Also Jim Carrey is a voice actor for the main character as well as twenty-two other voices in the movie. That's right, twenty-two. This movie is actually not all that funny. It deals more with the sentimental, and dark life aspects of a crabby old man voiced by Jim Carrey himself. The animation is phenomenal, and I'd tell you to watch the movie based on that aspect alone. Though it deals with serious subjects such as illness and poverty, it ends happily and reminds viewers to respect, honor and cherish your loved ones while you still can. I vote that it's one of the best animated movies I've ever seen.

There you have it. Those are my top five Christmas movies that I've been binging since Thanksgiving break began. I'll probably watch all of them two or three more times once the semester is over. I highly recommend everyone to give each of these a try over the break. No way that disappointment will be an issue.



Entertainment



Alexandra O'Neal/The Chanticleer

Members of the Jacksonville community gathered in front of game booths at the innagural Foothills Fall Festival on November 21. Hundreds of people attended the event and experienced food vendors, game booths, rides and more.

Foothills Fall Festival fun for family, friends

Alexandra O'Neal

Correspondent

Despite a few sprinkles, the inaugural Foothills Fall Festival was a fun event for families and friends in the Jacksonville community.

The Pete Mathews Coliseum parking lot was transformed into a one-night festival on Thursday, November 21 and hundreds of residents flocked to the event, nearly overflowing the Coliseum parking lot.

The festival was packed with great food, local vendors and free activities. Except for concessions, the festival was entirely free of charge. Even the carnival-style games, which had prizes for lucky winners, were free.

The festival was a joint-initiative between the City of Jacksonville and Jacksonville State University to bring the campus and the community together to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

attendees, there was a carrousel, a bouncy house, a slide and kidfriendly rides. For animal lovers, there was a petting zoo that had an adorable kangaroo, and a tent full of reptiles and amphibians.

For foodies, there was a huge selection of carnival foods for sale, including cotton candy and funnel cakes. Beer was even sold at the Struts tent for those of age. For those on the hunt for Christmas gifts, there was an entire row of tents filled with local vendors, selling everything from screenprinted shirts to apple butter.

After sunset, the festival lit up with flashing color-changing lights from the various rides. The Ferris wheel, which was a crowd favorite, cast its glow on everything around. As children ran around with oversized stuffed animals, couples rode the Ferris wheel, and friends shared funnel cakes, it was a beautiful picture of community.

When the festival began to close down for the night, the sky erupted with fireworks and end-



Alexandra O'Neal/The Chanticleer

Hundreds of people attended the Foothills Fall Festival and experienced food vendors, game booths, rides and more on November 21.

The festival was also a way for the City of Jacksonville and JSU to give back to the community. In addition to making the festival accessible to everyone regardless of age or income, 100 percent of the proceeds from vendor fees and alcohol sales were donated to the JSU Food assistance to individuals in need Bank and Jacksonville Christian

Outreach Center.

The JSU food pantry, operated entirely on donations, is located in the Sparkman Hall basement and provides food and hygiene products to students in need. The Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center also provides in the Jacksonville area.

Organizers of the festival made sure to include something for everyone. For the younger

ed the event with an impressive show.

HOT TAKE The Irishman - Possibly best film of the year?

Devin Carter

Correspondent

It's once again that time of the year when the Oscar heavyweights emerge, and audiences can go to theaters with several truly great movies to choose from. Fortunately for many, what will undoubtedly be seen as one of the best films of the year, Martin Scorsese's The Irishman, can be watched in the comfort of their homes. For the second year in a row, Netflix has produced one of the best films of the year, and should be very optimistic about its chances as the awards season approaches.

Many have probably never heard of Martin Scorsese before, and that is a shame. He is one of very few people who could stake a claim for the greatest film director of the last half-century, and I would certainly give him that title myself. He has done for social ethics in cinema what Hitchcock did for suspense, and several of his movies are considered to be among the greatest ever made. Like Hitchcock, Scorsese has a gift for bringing out the worst and best of his subjects, from the animalistic Jake LaMotta in Raging Bull to the lonely and psychopathic Travis Bickle in Taxi Driver. He has managed, time and time again, to expose moral hypocrisies within both our society and within ourselves, and he does so by bringing out the worst in supposedly good people, as well as the best in his more contemptible characters. These are not always enjoyable experiences- sometimes, his movies can leave you feeling physically uncomfortable. But I would argue that he

depicts a side of humanity that is essential for us to see in order to fully appreciate what is really means to be human, and his films about reprehensible people and the worlds they inhabit have only served to enrich cinema in the same way that a great war film or crime novel does.

The Irishman is an addition to Scorsese's highly-acclaimed array of mobster movies, and manages to stand out thanks to the scope of its story and the sorts of people we are asked to associate ourselves with. More so than any other film by Scorsese, with the possible exception of The Aviator, we are presented with famous figures of the past, and we are able to see how their public personas clash with the dark realities of their mob connections. From the Kennedy's and their underworld connections to the famous union leader Jimmy Hoffa, Scorsese has filled this movie with recognizable people and depicts events that are still felt in the public conscience. Examples include the depictions of the 1960 election being handed to Kennedy thanks to his crime connections, as well as the President's assassination and the crime world's response.

But the heart of the movie lies with Jimmy Hoffa, the eccentric union leader who went missing in 1975. Played by Al Pacino in an incredible performance, we see his relationship with the protagonist, Frank Sheeran (played by Robert de Niro in another superb outing), develop into what may have been the sincerest bond of Sheeran's life- at least until one day when he has to make a major decision concerning

their friendship.

With a runtime of nearly three and a half hours, The Irishman is a very long film, and it often feels its length. However, it is filled with memorable scenes and terrific performances from its cast. Most of the events are seen through the eyes of Sheeran, with his rise through the ranks of the mob, his relationships with top bosses, and the impact these events have on his relationship with his family, being focal points.

In this capacity, the film has mixed results. While everything comes together impressively, and while the movie lacks any blatant flaws, it never seems to rise to the levels of greatness that several other films by Scorsese realize. While there are undoubtedly several universally felt elements within the film, these seem too bogged down by the bloated story, making it less accessible to those who are not already familiar or interested in films about organized crime.

Even so, it would be impossible to call The Irishman anything but a success. It may not be among the greatest films ever made, or even among the greatest by its director, but it still succeeds in what it wants to accomplish, and it reaches that success through a combination of several impressive and effective elements. I cannot say for certain that it is the greatest film of the year, but it will almost undoubtedly be right in the thick of the Oscar race across several different categories, and could see itself taking home multiple awards that will be well-deserved.





VOLLEYBALL



The JSU Volleyball team in a hurdle before their home game against TTU that ended in a Gamecock win.

JSU volleyball comes to a close

Sadie Appleton

Correspondent

Coming off of their historic regular season and being crowned the Ohio Valley Conference champions, the Gamecock volleyball squad moved on in the post season to compete in the OVC tournament.

Being regular season conference champions, Jacksonville State was automatically slotted in the quarterfinal match where they faced off against Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This was the second straight time the two teams had met in the opening round of the OVC tournament. It would also be the second consecutive year that JSU would move on with a 3-0 clean sweep.

The Cougars had previously defeated the Gamecocks in the regular season and looked to do this once more and spoil the fun for JSU, who had the home court advantage. However, JSU would prove to be firing on all cylinders and while the match was one of the closest of the season, they took home the sweep against SIUE. The largest lead held throughout the match was a mere two points with JSU at 12-10 and then later at 21-19. SIUE fought off match points three times by evening the score at 25-24, 28-27, and 29-28. Each time the Gamecocks seemed to get an edge, the Cougars quickly responded, as did JSU.

All tied up at 30-30, Jax State gained an opportunity to end the marathon of a frame following a SIUE error. An ace from freshman Erin Carmichael put the Pete Mathews Coliseum crowd on its feet and sealed the set win at 32-30. It was JSU's season high extended rally since another 32-30 frame against New Orleans early in the season.

In the following frame, Jacksonville State utilized the momentum from the impressive first set to help JSU seal the win. A 7-1 scoring run in the midst of the set brought them to a 20-12 lead and eventually to a decisive 25-16 victory. point at 24-23. A decisive block by Anderson and Frear wrapped up the clean sweep and sent JSU on to the next round.

Junior Kaylie Milton proved to be a team asset as she posted a team high of 14 kills on a .333 attack percentage. Following Milton, seniors Kaylie Frear and Anderson had nine and seven kills, respectively. The 2019 OVC Setter of the Year, Lexie Libs, orchestrated the offense with 38 assists in the match.

Moving forward in the tournament, Jacksonville State once again faced Morehead State in the semifinal round of the OVC tournament. In their previous meeting, JSU barely edged out MSU to earn the regular season title. Unfortunately, this meeting was much different as the Eagles swept the Gamecocks, ending their historic season. It was the first time Jax State had been defeated by Morehead State this season. The Eagles began the match and gained a quick lead. After trailing at 11-6, JSU took a timeout to regather. The Gamecocks came back to narrow the gap twice at 14-13 and 18-17. However, it turned out to be not enough as MSU took the

frame 25-20. Mirroring the previous set, the Eagles came out again to a 11-6 lead. JSU fought back and got within a one-point gap several times. At 22-17, the Gamecocks led a 3-0 scoring drive that was sparked by a kill by Schmidt. While Jax State fought off back-to-back match points until Morehead State sealed the set at 25-23.

The Gamecocks shot off to its best start of the match at 7-4 in the final set thanks in part to kills from Frear and Anderson. MSU returned to take the lead at 11-10 after a 3-0 scoring run. A block by Schmidt and Kindermann evened the slate at 11-11. The Eagles quickly responded after taking the lead following a missed serve and held the lead until the end of the frame at 25-20. The loss to Morehead State ended Jacksonville State's tournament championship hopes and closed out their victorious season. While the season ended in an unfortunate way, there was plenty to be celebrated for the Gamecocks. It was the first time in ten years that the squad won a regular season championship and had double the number of wins than losses.

Initiating the match, the first set saw strong efforts on both sides.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jax State trailed the majority of the final set. Following a 7-7 tie, the Gamecocks wouldn't have a lead until senior Sadie Anderson drove home a kill that led to a JSU match

Men's basketball falls short to George Mason

Josie Howell

Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State Men's basketball team fell short in Tuesday's game against George Mason with a final score of 60-67. In this matchup, GMU outscored the Gamecocks in the paint and at the three-point line with Jax State shooting 26 percent at the three-point line compared to George Mason's 33 percent. Meanwhile, the Gamecocks had a total of 35 rebounds in this matchup compared to GMU's 45 rebounds.

Sophomore guard De'Torrion Ware led the Gamecocks with 19 points, followed by Derrick Cook who also scored double digit points with 11 points total for the Gamecocks. This was both Cook's and Ware's highest scoring game of the season so far.

The Gamecocks found themselves in the lead for the first 10 minutes of the game with as much as a four-point lead over the Patriots. GMU then gained their first lead of the game after two successful free throws and turned the matchup into a back and forth until the end of the first half. Jax State eventually took the lead going into half-time by one point with a score of 29-28.

Coming back onto the court for the second half, GMU came back stronger than they were in the first half. Two minutes into the second half, the Patriots made a successful jump shot that gave them a lead over the Gamecocks that they would keep for the rest of the game. Jacksonville State continued to trail close behind with no more than a 9-point difference between the two teams.

The Gamecocks never lost hope and continued to try and take the game back until the clock ran out. With 5 minutes left in the game, the Patriots were only up by one point. Eventually, the game came to a close with the final score of 60-67 bringing the Gamecocks to a 2-5 record for the season so far.

"I think we're showing signs of improvement. The difference in the game tonight was George Mason's ability to rebound the ball offen-



Courtesy of JSU

Sophomore Guard De'torrion Ware dribbling the ball down the court for the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks.

sively in the second half. We didn't give them many second chances in the first, but we didn't defend well in the second," said head coach Ray Harper.

The Gamecocks will continue to play on the road this Saturday, Dec. 7 against Alabama A&M in Normal, Alabama. Tip off start at 4 p.m. Jax State will then play at home at the Pete Mathews Coliseum on Wednesday. Dec. 11 against Troy University. Tip off will begin at 7:30 p.m. Both games can be streamed on the ESPN plus app or listened to live on 91.9 WLJS or 97.9 WVOK.





FOOTBALL



Courtesy of JSU

Quarterback Zerrick Cooper ready to have the ball snapped to him in the 2019 game against UNA that ended in a win for the Gamecocks

Four Gamecocks to play in FCS bowl

Josie Howell

Sports Editor

Jacksonville State Gamecocks, Daniel Byrd, Josh Brady, Jalen Choice and Christian Wafford have recently been picked to play in the 2019 FCS bowl. This matchup is an annual post-season game for FCS senior all-star players. These athletes will have an opprotunity to play in front of scouts for the NFL and Canadian Football League.

Byrd, senior wide-receiver, has been with the Gamecocks since 2015 when he sat out as a redshirt freshman. Since then, Byrd has emerged as an integral part of the JSU football team. In his first year playing on the field in 2016, Byrd started out as a cornerback but later became a widereceiver in the 2017 season where he appeared in all 12 games.

Byrd's talent emerged in 2018 where he started in 11 out of 12 games. He was third on his team in receptions with 392 yards total. During the 2019 season, Byrd once again brought in over 300 yards for the Gamecocks, his longest receiving catch being 40 yards against Tennessee Tech. His college career has ended with a total of 64 catches for 715 yards along with two touchdown passes.

Brady, senior long snapper, has been with the Gamecocks since his freshman year in 2016. As a true freshman, he appeared in 11 games, including in the play-off game against Youngstown State. In 2017, Brady snapped the ball over 130 times for the Gamecocks and was named a preseason All American. He was then given the same award in 2018.

Wafford, senior linebacker, came to Jacksonville State as a freshman in 2016 where he started his career as a safety for the Gamecocks and appeared in six games as a true freshman. In 2017, Wafford transitioned to the sam linebacker position where he recorded 29 tackles, 17 being solo, and recorded 5 tackles for loss, bringing in 30 negative yards defensively.

In 2018, Wafford appeared in all 13 games in the nickel position in 11 of them. He brought in 48 tackles, 26 being solo, and recorded 38 tackles for loss along with two sacks and one interception. Wafford ended his career with over 100 tackles and 18.5 tackles for loss.

Meanwhile, with well over 80 tackles for the

2019 season, Choice has undoubtedly led his team this year defensively. The senior linebacker came to Jacksonville State in 2015 and played in his first game in 2016 against North Alabama. He finished his first season with 13 tackles.

Choice, senior linebacker, began to show out on the field as a junior in the 2018 season where he started in 12 games and appeared in all 13 games. Choice then led his team in tackles for the first time with 88 tackles total and 12 tackles for loss. At the end of the 2018 season, he was named Second Team All- OVC Defense. Choice has finished his career with a total of 192 tackles and 21.5 tackles for loss.

"[This last game] is very bittersweet. I love the game of football and hope to keep playing after this game at the next level," said Choice. "My teammates have helped me become the player I am through practice. Without them none of this would be possible."

The FCS bowl game will be played at Stetson's Spec Martin Stadium in DeLand, Fla. this Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. Kick off will begin at 12:30 p.m. Fans can stream the game online on FloFootball.com.

FOOTBALL Hot Take: Where is the JSU football program headed?

Garrett Sanders

Correspondent

Coming into the 2019 FCS College Football season, the Jacksonville State Gamecocks had very high expectations for the year. The Gamecocks were ranked in the Top 10 in the AP Preseason FCS Poll and were heavy favorites to win the OVC. With 15 combined returning starters on both sides of the ball, the potential was limitless for JSU.

However, the season started in the worst possible way for the Gamecocks. After a head scratching decision to release a controversial hype video on opening day, it got rocky. JSU would lose their first game of the year to an unranked Southeastern Louisiana team.

The Gamecocks knew that despite taking a loss on opening day, the season was still not lost from their grasp. JSU would go on and win their next three games. This included what most would have thought to be a signature win against number four Eastern Washington for John Grass. Little did everyone know that for the rest of the season after those three games, Grass's job security would be the hottest topic in Jacksonville.

Now, let's not get carried away with this. The topic of John Grass's job security was a discussion that has been brought up numerous times prior up to that point. With the inconsistent and continual disappointments of being eliminated early in FCS Playoff contention year to year, Gamecock fans everywhere were getting fed up with it. The difference between then and now is that fans everywhere were in denial. Now? The true colors are coming out.

With a very poor finish to the 2019 season losing their last three games of the season, Grass Is going to have some tough questions to answer. And depending on how he responds to those questions, it might cause him his job at Jacksonville State. Don't believe me? Let's take a flashback to 2017.

The Tennessee Titans were a team that had high hopes in 2017. They had a lot of talent heading into the season and were considered a dangerous team to make a run for the Playoffs. The Titans head coach, Mike Mularkey, was coming off a winning season in 2a016, something the Titans had not accomplished since 2011. Needless to say, Mularkey was a coach who limited his team's potential.

The Titans ended up in 2017 making the Playoffs. Not only that, the Titans won a Playoff game in Kansas City despite trailing at halftime 21-3. However, the Titans ended their season in the AFC Divisional round against the New England Patriots. But what if I told you that the Titans fired Mike Mularkey a few days later because of how he responded to a question about his coaching staff.

Mike Mularkey and John Grass have two very similar situations. Both of them were loyal to their coaching staff despite it causing their teams huge amounts of potential. Both of them also have had successful tenures at their positions coaching. However, the one thing that Mularkey has done that Grass has not done yet is address whether if he will retain his coaching staff.

Grass has been a very loyal coach to his crew, but that loyalty to his staff could be the



Courtesy of JSL

Coach John Grass on the sideline in the 2019 regular season game against Murray State.

difference in whether or not Greg Seitz will pull the plug. Fans in Jacksonville are getting impatient and want to see the Gamecocks compete for championships.

The Titans let go of Mike Mularkey due to loyalty on his staff. Limiting the team's potential was something the Titans could not afford, even if it meant firing their head coach who had been successful.

Grass has a decision to make. Limit his team's potential by being loyal to his coaches and take a risk of getting the boot, or make a change to his staff that will ignite a spark come next season. Either way, it will tell us a lot about the future of where JSU's Football program is heading