Have you ever faced the dreaded walk to or from Stone Center and wished there was a way to move more quickly? Wanted to finally get out and explore more of the Ladiga Trail? Wanted to bring your bike to campus, but don’t want to deal with storage, upkeep, or the risk of getting it stolen? A new bike-sharing company coming to town might just be for you.

VeoRide, which is the first company of its kind to come to Alabama, allows users to use a bike by downloading an app, scanning a QR code on the bike, and then taking off. Users are charged 50 cents per 15 minutes on the bike, and monthly and yearly packages are also available for repeat users. The company launched their program, which will start in Anniston, Oxford and Jacksonville, with an event at the Jacksonville Train Depot on Friday, where the public and
NATION

Negotiations at impasse as shutdown enters fifth week

Scott Young
Staff Reporter

As of Wednesday, January 23, the United States Federal Government has been shutdown for 32 days, extending its record as the longest in U.S. history. The shutdown is a result of opposition from congressional Democrats to providing $5.7 billion to President Trump to fund a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

At the end of each year, Congress approves a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and whenever there is a delay in passage of a new budget, the government shuts down. What that means is several government offices that are deemed “nonessential” are closed until a budget is passed, leaving many federal workers furloughed or working without pay. Some departments such as Defense, Homeland Security, Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, Energy, and Veterans Affairs are not affected by the shutdown.

“Our southern border is a pipeline for vast quantities of illegal drugs, including meth, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl,” said President Trump, in his address to Congress. “The President has chosen fear. We want to start with the facts.

The fact is: On the very first day of this Congress, House Democrats passed Senate Republican legislation to re-open government and fund smart, effective border security solutions,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in response to the President’s address.

Last Saturday, President Trump proposed temporary protections for some undocumented immigrants in exchange for the $5.7 billion to fund a border wall, which the President called a “common-sense compromise.” The counteroffer was swiftly rejected by Democrats, with Speaker Pelosi deeming it a “non-starter” and “unacceptable,” as the offer does not permanently protect DACA recipients. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in a statement condemned the offer as “not a compromise but more hostage-taking”.

As the government remains shutdown, federal workers continue to struggle to make ends meet, routine small business loans have halted, and several areas of the government remain closed. With both parties digging their feet in the sand, an end to the government shutdown seems distant.

CAMPUS

JSU holds Day of Unity

Quadarius Whitson
Staff Reporter

In order to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jacksonville State University hosted its annual Day of Unity in Leone Cole Auditorium. JSU’s Day of Unity is used to showcase the strength and unity of student organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and even the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

According to participants, this event is an absolute necessity to show students the highlights of the different student organizations available to those who may not know much about them.

“This event is needed since JSU is such a diversified campus. Also, with JSU being the friendllest campus in the South, this event is a perfect demonstration of both. We’re re’o to a great event!” Donatas Freeman said.

This event also featured a live Jazz band, free food and a diversity banner which was used to display what inspires each person that attended.

Taking part in this event provided students with a plethora of different organizations to obtain information from and potentially join in the coming future.

officials from the three cities were given a demonstration of the new bikes. Trent Dickeson, a 2017 graduate of Jacksonville State and Fleet Coordinator for the Tri-City area says VeoRide will provide a great opportunity for students to get around campus more quickly, sightsee around the area, or find new places off campus.

“We bring the opportunity to transport between class. You can get to class more quickly, you don’t have to fight traffic and you can save a little bit of gas money hopefully if you ride a few times throughout the week,” Dickeson said. Later in the evening, you can ride to Stratus, Jefferison’s, Java Jolt, anywhere off campus that is somewhere to hang out. “

JSU President John Bechler says that, along with the university’s new rec center, VeoRide provides students with another option to get out and get active.

“I think the bike sharing is going to be even better for the students [than the rec center] in a lot of ways, because if they want to just get away and jump on the trail and see some great scenery, now they don’t have to own their own bike,” Bechler said. “It’s hard paying for all that tuition, books, and fees, you name it, so a lot of them don’t have their own bike. Now they can use an app and jump on a bike, and then they go.”

VeoRide bikes are located around campus, in strategic locations such as Stone center and the new RF, and on also be found around the community, especially along the Ladyg Traill. Users are free to ride the bikes outside of the area or between cities, as long as the bikes are returned inside the “geo-fence” of one of the towns, an area that will be specified in the app.
When a person thinks of Dungeons & Dragons, a mental image of a couple of poorly-adjusted shut-ins sitting around a table in a dimly lit basement playing out a Lair of the King’s Fan fiction might come to mind. But tabletop role-playing games require successful use of many adult social and problem-solving skills.

Some people might be unaware of what a tabletop role-playing game is. A tabletop role-playing game, Dungeons & Dragons in particular, involves the creation of a fictional persona by several people who then play a part in a fantasy story world crafted and narrated by a person taking on the role of the dungeon master, sometimes simply called the game master. The game master determines success and failure of actions taken by players’ personified characters rolled dice and in a simulated environment.

We can help to stop Marine Pollution

Pollution continues to be one of the biggest problems facing the world today, and it’s only getting worse as the years pass by. We tend to forget on several occasions that pollution not only affects us, but the precious marine life as well. More than 70 percent of the world’s coastal waters are polluted, which is doing considerably more harm because plastic is unable to biodegrade. Most people are unaware of what all can contribute to marine pollution, or how it all comes to be. Dumping waste into sewers and storm drains also contributes to marine pollution, but the biggest source of marine pollution, or how it all comes to be. Dumping waste into sewers and storm drains also contributes to marine pollution, or how it all comes to be. Dumping waste into sewers and storm drains also contributes to marine pollution, but the biggest source of marine pollution lies in the water that we drink, to protect the marine life, as well as our own lives. One of the most obvious benefits one gains, especially as a game master. The game master plays as arbiter of the game’s rules, setting boundaries and breaking them, as well as keeping their team of players on track, crafting the story world around them, setting story’s pace, and weaving the story into an enjoyable and interactive form. This is incredibly useful in gaining experience leading game projects, both academically and professionally. A game master must appreciate and challenge the skills of their story’s characters by delegating proper tasks to them in such a way that keeps them focused and makes them feel like a part of the group. In the process of play, the game master must often sets up some sort of obstacle, puzzle, or foe which players must bypass, solve, or defeat. Sometimes this comes in the form of a dangerous trap in a secluded ruin, a person that needs to be convinced to help the players, or a powerful monster, such as a dragon, that needs to be defeated. Sometimes a solution is straightforward, in the case of combating dangerous monsters, but often players must exercise caution and a perspective that allows them to take all in their options, or even invent new options creatively with the tools of their imaginary environment. An adventure in Dungeons & Dragons runs much like a complicated heist, wherein a person can see an objective, think creatively and realistically how to reach that objective, and mobilize as part of a group to reach it.

Players of the game quickly learn that together working and paying attention to the details of their fantastic environment allows them to succeed. A group of heroes on a quest to slay a dragon or retrieve treasures from a trap filled catacomb are not likely to succeed—or survive—if they refuse to play to their strengths or utilize their environment to an advantage.

Role-playing games like Dungeons & Dragons get people to make use of what they know to make an enjoyable, unique, cooperative, story-based adventure, all within a consequence free, simulated environment.

Ocean pollution is known to affect over 800 different marine species that reside in the oceans, mostly because they believe plastic is food that they’re able to consume. Ocean pollution not only contributes to the killing of the marine animals but also birds as well. Some people may think that dumping a water bottle in the ocean is no big deal, but the rate at which things decompose in the oceans is truly astounding. It takes approximately 80 years for Styrofoam to decompose. When it comes to aluminum that’ll 200 years, and plastic 400. We need to help preserve our oceans not only to protect the marine life, but our own lives as well. One of the simplest ways to help out is to pick up trash along the shorelines whenever you’re able to. If we all pitch in whenever we can our marine life will begin to feel safer, and have longer life spans.

Do you want to learn more? Visit: https://www.noaa.gov/resource-collections/ocean-pollution

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Brenna Hill
News Editor

PC: Easyyrollerdice.com
PC: swachhindia.ndtv.com

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FILM REVIEW

Taylor Mitchell
A&E Writer

I don’t often get to review anime when I write. I do a radio show about it, but it’s weirdly more niche than even the other nerdier stuff I write. I also find it hard to review entire television series, which is most of what mainstream anime consists of in the States. Theatrical anime film releases are rare to begin with, but ones that reach Alabama are even rarer. This brings us to Dragon Ball Super: Broly. When the movie was announced I was excited, but expected to have to see the movie quite a bit after release. I was delighted to hear it would get a wider release than usual, and even more delighted to see that local theaters were showing it. I was able to experience the film in just enough time to write this review in fact.

Dragon Ball Super: Broly is the first movie connected to the Dragon Ball Super manga and television series. It is also the 20th feature film in the overall Dragon Ball franchise created by Akira Toriyama. The film picks up right where the show ended, but with a prologue that sets up the films antagonists Paragus and his son Broly. They are members of the space parasitic life form named Sokuu and Vegeta, exiled by Vegeta’s father. Now, Paragus seeks revenge on Vegeta, and he teams up with longtime villain Frieza to do it. Long time fans of the series may recognize Black Goku and Vegeta, exiled by Paragus from the Saiyans years ago.

Broly may be maximum evil, but he is also the purest form of one of the Saiyans. Paragus, who is basically an evil father figure, used Broly as a teacher and advisor character to Aquaman. I felt that this really got Broly right and when he finally got to fight with Aquaman, it made a ton of sense. The film is a full-on battle between two of the best fighting and action heroes in the universe.

FILM REVIEW

James King
A&E Writer

Aquaman is the best DC movie since Wonder Woman. I have complicated feelings about the DC Extended Universe. Most of the DC extended universe movies are pale imitations of Marvel movies at best and others are bloated, dumb, and even downright boring at worst. It makes me sad because I grew up watching these characters in the DC animated universe from the earliest days of Batman: The Animated Series to Justice League Unlimited, and I knew I could tell some truly incredible epic storylines. That’s not to say that all of the DCEU movies are bad, Wonder Woman was a ton of fun to watch and really set the bar high for any female-led superhero franchises going forward. Marvel Studio’s Captain Marvel will have to make something truly great to compete with what may be the best female superhero movie of all time.

One thing that said, is Aquaman a movie worth your money and worth seeing on the big screen? I believe the answer is a big YES. Now, with that said this movie has some issues that might keep it from really striking a big chord with audiences as Wonder Woman did. This movie feels like a CGI fest from the very beginning to end. If that is a turn-off, I would avoid this movie as there are gargons of CGI at almost every point of the film. Not much of it looks real, but I feel as though that was the intent.

The story is simple, but the world-building is extensive. The first third of this movie is basically all set up. It is set in Atlantis where he’s from, what his conflict is, what his power set is, what the politics of Atlantis are like, who our villains are. After all that is set up, the movie truly begins and the story simply becomes our heroes need to get the magical item to stop the bad guy. This surprisingly works and the movie kicks into high gear until the spectacular final fight in Atlantis between all the factions of the underwater world.

It’s something I never knew I wanted and while the movie basically becomes an animated movie at that point, is pretty amazing to watch even on its own.

Jason Momoa was a pretty fun Aquaman who is loveably dumb for most of the movie and has really great chemistry with Amber Heard’s Mera. William Defoe even shows up as a teacher and advisor character to Aquaman. I felt that Ocean Master, played by Patrick Wilson, wasn’t that memorable of a villain and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II’s Black Manta was a bit one-note. Both villains have a need for revenge on Aquaman albeit for different reasons. Though any scene where the characters get to fight with Aquaman is pretty fun and there is a chase sequence in the middle of the movie that sets Black Manta up as a credible threat in future movies.

I went into this movie expecting it to be a dumb action movie in the vein of a transformers movie and I was pleasantly surprised. It has some minor problems, but it really nails the fun of the character and is generally a fun watch. I definitely wouldn’t mind going to more DC movies if they were this fun to watch.
The Academy unveiled its 2019 Oscar nominations early Tuesday morning, with the announcement taking place once again at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood. The show will air live on Sunday, Feb. 24, on ABC.

The 91st Academy Awards will be presented once again at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood. The show will air live Sunday, Feb. 24, on ABC.

Best Picture
- Black Panther
- Bohemian Rhapsody
- Green Book
- A Star Is Born
- Vice

Best Director
- Alfonso Cuarón (Roma)
- Yorgos Lanthimos (The Favourite)
- Spike Lee (BlacKkKlansman)
- Adam McKay (Vice)
- Pawel Pawlikowski (Cold War)

Best Actress
- Yalitza Aparicio (Roma)
- Glenn Close (The Wife)
- Lucy Davis (The Favourite)
- Lady Gaga (A Star Is Born)
- Melissa McCarthy (Can You Ever Forgive Me?)

Best Actor
- Christian Bale (Vice)
- Bradley Cooper (A Star Is Born)
- Willem Dafoe (At Eternity’s Gate)
- Rami Malek (Bohemian Rhapsody)
- Viggo Mortensen (Green Book)

Best Supporting Actor
- Mahershala Ali (Green Book)
- Adam Driver (BlacKkKlansman)
- Sam Elliott (A Star Is Born)
- Richard E. Grant (Can You Ever Forgive Me?)
- Sam Rockwell (Vice)

Best Original Screenplay
- The Favourite (Deborah Davis and Tony McNamara)
- First Reformed (Paul Schrader)
- Green Book (Nick Vallelonga, Brian Hayes Currie, Peter Farrelly)
- Roma (Alfonso Cuaron)
- Vice (Adam McKay)

Best Adapted Screenplay
- A Star Is Born (Eric Roth, Will Ferters & Bradley Cooper)
- The Ballad of Buster Scruggs (Joel Coen & Ethan Coen)
- BlacKkKlansman (Charlie Wachtel & David Rabinowitz and Kevin Willmott & Spike Lee)
- If Beale Street Could Talk (Barry Jenkins)
- Can You Ever Forgive Me? (Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty)

Best Cinematography
- The Favourite (Robbie Ryan)
- Never Look Away (Caleb Deschanel)
- Roma (Alfonso Cuaron)
- A Star Is Born (Matty Libatique)
- Cold War (Lukas Zall)

Best Original Score
- Black Panther (Ludwig Goransson)
- BlacKkKlansman (Terence Blanchard)
- If Beale Street Could Talk (Nicholas Britell)
- Isle of Dogs (Amandre Desplat)
- Mary Poppins Returns (Marc Shaiman)

Best Original Song
- Free Solo (Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin, Evan Hayes and Shannon Dill)
- ‘Halle County This Morning, This Evening’ (RaMell Ross, Jocelyn Barnes and Su Kim)
- ‘Minding the Gap’ (Bing Liu and Diane Quon)
- ‘On Fathers and Sons’ (Talik Derki, Armsgi Frisch, Eva Kemme and Tobias N. Siebert)
- ‘RBG’ (Betsy West and Julie Cohen)

Best Documentary Feature
- Free Solo
- If Beale Street Could Talk
- RBG
- Three Identical Strangers
- Won’t You Be My Neighbor?

Best Animated Feature
- Incredibles 2
- Mary and the Witch’s Flower
- Isle of Dogs
- Ralph Breaks the Internet
- The Star

Best Visual Effects
- Avengers: Infinity War
- Black Panther
- BlacKkKlansman
- First Man
- First Man
- Roma
- Solo: A Star Wars Story
- The Shape of Water
- The Vast of Moon

Best Animated Short Film
- Bao
- Animals
- Black Hole
- Drop
- Break

Best Live Action Short Film
- Gibran’s Gift
-_Login
- Return of the Eagle
- The Neighbors
- The Sleepwalkers

Best Foreign Language Film
- Roma
- A Star Is Born
- The Favourite
- Moonlight
- The Square

Best Adapted Screenplay
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Trivia Answers: January 17th Edition!

1. What was the first console video game that allowed the game to be saved?
   Answer: The Legend of Zelda

2. Nintendo is a consumer electronics and video game company founded in what country?
   Answer: Japan

3. The first person shooter video game Doom was first released in what year?
   Answer: 1993

4. In what year was the Nintendo 64 officially released?
   Answer: 1996

Television Trivia!

1. What late disc jockey was the voice of Shaggy in the cartoon, “Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?”
   A. Matthew Lillard
   B. Casey Kasem
   C. Billy West

2. What Star Trek: The Next Generation actor hosted the children’s show Reading Rainbow?
   A. Patrick Stewart
   B. Brent Spiner
   C. LeVar Burton

3. In what city would you find the Wizard of Oz?
   A. The Emerald City
   B. The Teal City
   C. The City of Oz

A few sick punz...

I got a new pair of gloves today, but they’re both ‘lefts’ which, on the one hand, is great, but on the other, it’s just not right.

What did E.T.‘s mother say to him when he got home? “Where on Earth have you been??”

I found a rock yesterday which measured 1760 yards in length. Must be some kind of milestone.

Riddle me this...

You have been poisoned by an evil scientist. He told you that the only antidote is the saliva of a gecko. He contains saliva of six different animals. A gecko, a lizard, a koala, a tapir, a giraffe, and a cow. He hasn’t labeled the test tubes containing the saliva of the animals. On the left is a table which four of the test tubes are on. On the right is a table which two of the test tubes are on. The lizard’s saliva is poisonous. The lizard and gecko test tubes are on the same table. The test tubes on the left are labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4. The gecko spit will not override the lizard poison. The lizard and gecko saliva are not right beside each other. You don’t know where the cow test tube is. You know that the cow saliva is in 2 or 3 however. You know that the lizard test tube is not to the right of the cow. You only have time to drink two test tubes, which side do you run toward and which test tubes do you drink?
**JSU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Pearson’s strong day not enough against hot-shooting Tech

JACKSONVILLE – Senior Rayven Pearson’s season-high 15 rebounds finished just three shy of the Hazel Green, Ala., native’s career mark, but wasn’t enough as the Jacksonville State women’s basketball team fell to Tennessee Tech, 66-49, on Saturday afternoon.

The Golden Eagles (14-3, 6-0 OVC) remain the only unbeaten team in Ohio Valley Conference play, running their win-streak to nine games overall. JSU (8-9, 2-4) dropped its third-straight conference game for the first time in two years.

Chloe Long gave JSU a 2-0 lead on the opening basket of the game, but a triple from TTU’s Jordan Brock on the ensuing possession pushed Tech back in front. Brock, the league’s leading scorer finished with a game-high 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting. TTU shot 64.3 percent in the opening quarter to grab a 22-11 advantage early.

The double-digit margin would largely stay the same throughout the contest with the visitors on top 41-26 at halftime. Pearson only led JSU on the glass with 15 boards, but notched her seventh double-double of the year with a team-high 13 points. Redshirt-senior Destiny Elliott had nine points, followed by Long with seven.

Tech led by as many as 17, but Pearson’s three-point play with 5:01 remaining in the fourth drew JSU within single digits, down 58-51. JSU within single digits, down 58-49. Unfortunately, the Gamecocks would go cold the rest of the way as Tech secured the 66-49 victory.

Junior Madison Rollins was the top scorer finishing with 18 points on 7-of-11 shooting, and a 574 in smallbore.

Sophomore Tylynn Van Patten rounded out the scoring for JSU with an 1160. Van Patten placed seventh on the individual leaderboard. Sophomore Sam Payne carded a 585 and a 576 in air rifle and a 578. Richardson placed fifth in smallbore.

**JSU Rifle**

Sink leads Jax State Rifle against Murray State

JACKSONVILLE – Senior David Sink paced the Jacksonville State rifle team against Ohio Valley Conference rival Murray State over the weekend at the Gamecock Rifle Range.

The Gamecocks, competing at home for the second consecutive weekend, turned in a 4647. The Racers of Murray State registered a 4689. JSU scored a 2345 in air rifle and a 2302 in smallbore.

The two squads will face off against each other for the second straight weekend in Murray, Kentucky on January 26. That outing will prep the two OVC programs for the 2019 OVC Rifle Conference championship that will be hosted by Jax State on February 2-3.

Sink was the top Gamecock finisher in both regiments as the Crompton, Maryland native tallied an aggregate score of 1166. Sink finished fourth in the individual standings.

JSU senior Meckena Richardson posted the best smallbore mark by the Gamecocks with a 578. Richardson placed seventh on the individual leaderboard. Sophomore Sam Payne carded a 585 in air rifle and a 574 in smallbore.

JSU Rifle & Field

**Track Field and Field continues early season progress at Samford**

BIRMINGHAM – In its second-straight weekend at the CrossPlex, the Jacksonville State track and field team saw its upperclassmen lead the way at the Samford Invite.

JSU’s times on top at the CrossPlex place the Gamecocks among the top teams in the Ohio Valley Conference rivalry. After posting JSU’s top mark in the opening weekend of the season, junior Madison Rollins returned with another strong performance to take third in the high jump with a height of 1.65 meters. Baylee Porch finished just outside the top 10 at 1.11m with a mark of 1.15 meters.

The Gamecocks first win of the indoor campaign came with senior Brittany Cook’s 11.75-meter triple jump distance. The 38-foot-6½ inch mark beat the runner-up by nine inches, and third place by more than a foot.

Sophomore Tylynn Register led the way for JSU in the long jump clearing 5.25 meters, while Mary Eagle posted the Gamecocks best throw marking finishing 10 inches behind in 14th with a time of 11:34.73.

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Gamecocks don’t let down against Tech to improve to 6-0 in OVC

JSU MEN’S BASKETBALL

Gamecock duo receives OVC, national honors

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

Jacksonville State’s duo of Jason Burnell and Ty Hudson received conference and national honors for their performances in two Gamecock wins last week.

Burnell was named Mid-Major National Player of the Week and Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week by the College Sports Madness, a website covering NCAA basketball.

JSU Sportswire

Gamecocks don’t let down against Tech to improve to 6-0 in OVC

Jacksonville State’s duo of Jason Burnell and Ty Hudson received conference and national honors for their performances in two Gamecock wins last week.

Burnell was named Mid-Major National Player of the Week and Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week by the College Sports Madness, a website covering NCAA basketball. Hudson scored a crucial, yet unheralded 18 points as the JSU 91-80 win over Belmont, as the point guard’s steady contributions were overshadowed by Burnell’s 30 and Gregory’s season-best 25.

The Clemson transfer followed his 30-point, 10-rebound game against TTU, tying Burnell for the team lead. Hudson scored averaged of 16.0 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.5 steals and 1.0 blocks per game in the two games.

Hudson was also OVC Newcomer of the Week with Studio-Guard Ty Hudson.

The Gamecock duo takes the road to Kentucky, where they’ll try to keep their win streak alive against Eastern Kentucky on Thursday and Morehead State the following Saturday. JSU will return home to Pete Mathews to play Murray State and top-5 projected NBA draft pick Ja Morant on Jan. 31.

JACKSONVILLE — The Jacksonville State basketball program released its updated schedule on Monday morning, showing 15 doubleheaders, including the season opener against Austin Peay on Jan. 31.

The Gamecocks will host Central Arkansas as well as first-time meetings with Minnesota Duluth and Tusculum College. JSU will then face Mercer again on March 29 in Macon, Ga., as both teams take one final tune-up before league action starts.

The Gamecocks’ first-ever conference dual will take place on Saturday, March 30 at North Alabama in a doubleheader with the Lions. With the ASUN’s rotating host scheduling, JSU will meet Central Arkansas as well as first-time meetings with Minnesota Duluth and Tusculum College. JSU will then face Mercer again on March 29 in Macon, Ga., as both teams take one final tune-up before league action starts.

Gamecocks don’t let down against Tech to improve to 6-0 in OVC

Jacksonville State claims back-to-back victories over Tech in the 2019 victory and a 6-0 start in OVC, setting the stage for their seventh straight win.

Start conference play and their sixth straight win to outpace Tech for jumping out to a hot start.

The Gamecocks came into the game with just a 6-12 record.

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