On June 30, 2018, RMC Jacksonville closed down for good. Initially this was expected to have a large effect on the city, but the truth appears to be both much more counter-intuitive and positive.

The hospital was closed with Billy Grizzard, chair of the Healthcare Authority of the City of Anniston, citing that it was underutilized and high cost in a press release that announced the closure. Grizzard said, with this in mind, it was simply not responsible to keep the facility open due to high costs and it being underutilized. Immediately after the closure of the hospital, there were several concerns about response times and the ability of the city of Jacksonville to handle emergency situations without a hospital. Mayor Johnny Smith even stated that the city would look into its ability to deal with those kinds of situations.

Despite this, Jacksonville Fire Marshal Lee Batey states that there was not a significant impact on emergency response times as a result of the closure. The city’s first responders were able to continue providing emergency services effectively without the hospital.

The closing of RMC Jacksonville has provided the community with an opportunity for growth and change. It has forced the city to re-evaluate its healthcare system and find new ways to provide necessary services.

President Trump made an announcement on Friday that he would be supporting a concurrent resolution to fund government through February 15, backing down from his demand for a down payment on the border wall in exchange for reopening government.

Hours later, the President signed legislation to reopen government after a 35-day long shutdown, which ended how it started: no border wall funding, no agreement.

“ar if we don’t get a fair deal from Congress, the government will either shut down on February 15 again, or I will use the powers afforded to me to reopen,” Trump said.

Musical artist MovieMic was the MC for the event. He kept everyone moving and made sure the whole event was lighthearted and welcoming. MovieMic introduced the various organizations that came to the rally, including Family Links, an organization that works in mental health; Olivia’s House, a drug detox organization that is located in Birmingham; Active Minds, which works with suicide prevention; and Fresh Start Counseling, which is located in the Jacksonville square.

Gayle Sosinski was the main speaker, who shared her testimony and said “when you live...”
me under the laws and the Constitution of the United States to address this emergency," said President Trump in the Rose Garden announcing his concession to re-open government for three weeks.

Democrats in Congress, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in particular, have declared a victory by pushing the President and Congressional Republicans to support funding government.

We’re pleased that we could get a deal to reopen government now, so that we can have a discussion on how to secure our borders," said Speaker Pelosi after the President’s announcement. “House Democrats look forward to working in a bipartisan way to pass all of the bills to open government.”

Speaker Pelosi wrote in a statement during the shutdown that she would not allow the State of the Union address to take place in the House of Representatives until government reopens.

After the government reopened, Speaker Pelosi invited President Trump to hold his State of the Union address on February 5.

For the next three weeks, we need to see much discussion and debate within Congress and between the legislative and executive branch regarding border security and a wall between the United States and Mexico.

FLASHBACK to Page 1

January 31, 2019

The hospital was cited as being underutilized, but with high cost making it hard to justify its continued operations. As it happens, at that time JSU had needed space to house its nursing program which had recently been displaced due to damage from the tornado that hit the campus on March 9th. The deal, while useful for the university, affects the community in many ways and speaks to a larger trend countrywide.

The closure of rural hospitals has become somewhat of an epidemic especially in the southern United States. Of the 85 hospitals that have closed between January 2010 and January 2018, 56 were in southern states with the worst hit being Texas and Tennessee.

The reasons for this vary and mainly break down to economic, demographic or social issues putting pressure on hospitals. Things like changes in medicare and medicaid, high poverty rates, or even just having other hospitals close by can negatively affect a hospital and lead to closure. The economic issues themselves are likely the most harmful with changes to public health programs heavily affecting payment for medical services.

To compound on this, many privately insured patients tend to go to different hospitals that may be nicer or have different medical care, explains this can have an even greater effect in rural places like Jacksonville.

“In areas like Jacksonville, you don’t have taxis, you don’t have public transportation,” he remarks on the town. Dr. Shah explains that this affects people on medicare or medicare the most as they simply lack the funds to pay for care. Another issue especially affecting the elderly is the possibility of not being able to drive. He gives the example that with a hospital only five minutes away, a person will likely be able to get a ride with little issue, maybe from a neighbor or family member, but with the nearest hospital being six times further away, that becomes much harder.

In other situations, hospitals have been known to convert to a specialized facility instead of closing. This was done with RMC Jacksonville before it closed with it primarily dealing with drug detoxification and Psychiatric care for the elderly. Dr. Shah believes this is to be the better option when considering what to do with a hospital. “I’d love to have one,” Shah says. Shah says on the situation. In many cases this is the thought process that leads to the choice to specialize, the simple fact that there is still some money to be made and good to be done. In many cases this also allows for the continuation of emergency care which can be vital to communities. The issue being is this specialization seems to have not been able to help the RMC Jacksonville likely due to it then being unable to help most patients.

SHUTDOWN from Page 1

RANDOM FACT

Studies show that the effects can include things from limiting access to care for high-risk populations such as the elderly and those with low incomes. Dr. Fawad Shah of JSU, an expert in medical communication who has done several studies on access to care, explains this can be an even greater effect in rural places like Jacksonville.

“aroutes like Jacksonville, you don’t have taxis, you don’t have public transportation,” Keely Tibbitts/The Chanticleer

RALLY from Page 1

God, it’s your job to transform and live for others.” J. Alchemi shared her own music and testimony about her life. “Nobody is alone. Everybody struggles with something every day,” said J. Alchemi.

A rap duo called Brother’s Keep A Preformed their Christian-based raps for the room and ended the event with a prayer."
I want you to take a minute to think about your life. Think about what sort of person you aspire to be. Recall what sort of dreams you had for yourself. Now think even deeper. Are you happy? If not, what are some things you would change? Why are you not happy? Is it because you are not working towards furthering your happiness, but are instead being “practical” by considering things such as the job market, future salaries, and so on? I am sure that is the case. Yet I suspect that a great deal of us are not working towards furthering our happiness, but are instead being “practical” by considering things such as the job market, future salaries, and so on. People within a capitalistic system are raised to see making more money as a sort of virtue, and for many people how much wealth they are able to post ‘gram worthy images whenever we take a notion to, selfies to our friends no matter where they are in the world, we're able to send funny filter apps on an average day? Can you even count or recall how many times you find yourself scrolling through Instagram mindlessly throughout the day? Most people tend to pull out their smart phones to check for notifications. The problem is we don't just do this when we're not busy, we do it when we should be doing other things like homework or paying attention to the company of those around us. People within a capitalistic system are raised to see making more money as a sort of virtue, and for many people how much wealth they are able to post 'gram worthy images whenever we take a notion to, selfies to our friends no matter where they are in the world, we're able to send funny filter apps on an average day? Can you even count or recall how many times you find yourself scrolling through Instagram mindlessly throughout the day? Most people tend to pull out their smart phones to check for notifications. The problem is we don't just do this when we're not busy, we do it when we should be doing other things like homework or paying attention to the company of those around us.

How many times do you think you open your social media apps on an average day? Can you even count or recall how many times you find yourself scrolling through them mindlessly or sending a funny selfie through Snapchat? Yeah, I can’t tell you how many times I open those apps on a daily basis either. Social media has become a sort of the time, for many people it’s how much wealth they have today as a student. What are you studying? What made you decide to pursue the degree in the major you are striving for? Do your current aspirations line up with your dreams in any way? Hopefully, for my people, I am sure that is the case. Yet I suspect that a great deal of us are not working towards furthering our happiness, but are instead being “practical” by considering things such as the job market, future salaries, and so on. People within a capitalistic system are raised to see making more money as a sort of virtue, and for many people how much wealth they are able to post ‘gram worthy images whenever we take a notion to, selfies to our friends no matter where they are in the world, we're able to send funny filter apps on an average day? Can you even count or recall how many times you find yourself scrolling through Instagram mindlessly throughout the day? Most people tend to pull out their smart phones to check for notifications. The problem is we don't just do this when we're not busy, we do it when we should be doing other things like homework or paying attention to the company of those around us.

In capitalistic societies, consumers’ demand for goods and services largely dictates what certain jobs pay, and one’s income plays a large part in how people perceive them. Instead of pursing happiness, people are taught to be productive, like cogs in a machine. They are taught to pursue their passions, and to follow their dreams. As they get older, and the possibility of actually chasing a dream becomes more tangible, they are preached to about the virtues of college, and they go through a school curriculum that places a heavy emphasis on STEM subjects. By the time their education is over, people have seen enough of the world to understand that a real pursuit of one’s dreams is largely a fantasy, and they see that it is much more understandable to accept the reality of having to make more money. And money, after all, might be the most virtuous thing in our modern-day society, if we can even claim such a thing exists.

Wealthier people, regardless of how the came into that wealth, are generally treated with more respect than, say, a painter who is barely making it. A person with a degree in Chemical Engineering or Finance is generally seen as being more intelligent, or more impressive, than somebody with an English or a History degree. People are always looking for acceptance, and for ways to please others. Therefore, they feel pressure to be productive, and accumulate wealth largely because that is what is generally expected of them, and if they take some other route then they are not regarded the same. While it is impossible to force people to change, I would like for each individual who reads this to think about their own internal feelings regarding this issue. Do you treat everybody equally, regardless of their career choices? If you're walking to a job interview and you run into your doctor on the street, is there a difference in how you treat them, regardless of how subtle that treatment may be? I think nearly everybody, myself included, has had someone treat them differently in some way because of their career choices, and how could one not given the sort of society that we live in and the priorities it places on being productive?

There are no easy answers to this problem. After all, we cannot change the world we live in, and money is obviously very crucial to the sort of life one will want to live. And there is nothing wrong with being productive and making money, if that is what you want to do. I am not looking to demonize anybody, but to instead open doors for other people who do not necessarily wish to follow the status quo. But how does one go about finding a term solution to this problem will be the development of a more genuine human kindness and understanding, one that transcends our dollars-and-cents mentality we have developed. If people are more respectful, and more understanding of one another, then there may be less pressure to make money, and instead there will be more acceptance of people who decide to break away from our social constraints and chase their dreams. If people have more freedom to do so, I think this will lead to a greater happiness, and all of humanity will be better off because of it.
GAME FEATURE

Longtime fans are sure to enjoy: A first look at Kingdom Hearts 3

Taylor Mitchell
Art Editor

So it is finally here my dear friends, Kingdom Hearts 3 is finally here. We have been waiting a very long 6 years for this one, but it finally made it. Since I was lucky enough to pre-order it (first pre-order ever), I thought I might take some time to give you my first impressions. I say impressions, not a review, because I don’t know if I will ever actually finish this game. I know this is a big statement to make, but the feeling of feeling like a game that, at the very least, longtime fans are sure to enjoy.

A newcomer’s look at Star Wars: “It felt slow and meandering”

James King
A&E Writer

I like Star Wars, But I didn’t like Star Wars. Let me start out by saying that I like Star Wars as a franchise. I enjoyed the Clone Wars Movie and TV show, I enjoyed the amazing mini-series by Genndy Tartakovsky of Samurai Jack and Hotel Transylvania fame. I just had never seen the original Star Wars movie. In fact I haven’t seen most of the Star Wars movies. I know that in and of itself is a fact, one that I had wanted to correct for a long time. After buying the Blu-ray collection I finally set out to fix the gap in my cultural knowledge. My thoughts after finally sitting down and watching the movie classic Star Wars episode IV: A New Hope? I liked it. I was okay, I wasn’t blown away by it. Good, but not great. I was honestly kind of shocked.

Star Wars is considered one of the greatest movies ever made by many. While I did enjoy it, I saw it, felt slow and meandering. It felt well paced. I know some of this can’t be the movie’s fault as many scenes have been added on to it, but taking the movie as I have seen it, I don’t feel like the added scenes did anything to enhance the experience. Even more, the characters feel overly generic. The only place where the movie shined for me was in the design and the dialogue.

I liked how Star Wars never explained the world for the viewer. Instead, in many movies, it will make entire sections of their movies dedicated to explaining how the world or its mythology works. Star Wars doesn’t. Sure there’s the vague explanation of the Force, but the rest of the world feels lived in and real. The dialogue feels real too. Han Solo feels like a legitimate jerk, and Leia, while needing to be rescued, never feels like a damsel in distress.

The design of everything really sells the world as something real and lived in. Every alien feels unique like the evolved in some far off planet. Spaceships range from the humble pod ship to the new behemoths of technology. That isn’t to say all of the special effects and design were great, the version I watched had some poorly implemented CGI. A lot the characters couldn’t really match the graining feel of the footage, and it dragged down much of the CGI. Though there was something that surprised me about the movie and that’s how many scenes no one seems to talk about or pass over.

I felt that I had picked up the general story of Star Wars because it has been integrated into, parodied, and talked about at length so many times, to the point that it’s a movie that is impossible to avoid being spoiled on. We all know the story of the farm boy, who yearns for adventure in space and then gets dragged into fighting the evil empire and he triumphs because they never expected him to win the day. Though what NO one talks about is the little scenes that set the stage for the movie, Luke talking with his uncle, buying the droids, the little droid grayscale the Jawas have in their vehicle. Characters doing the kind of mundane things that you never see a character doing in modern movies. Some parodies or abridged versions I’ve even seen I’ve jumped straight to the action where the movie starts to gain momentum. The first third of the movie is almost completely skipped. I know they may not be the most interesting, but I do feel they help set the world up and the characters in an organic way.

I liked the movie, but I didn’t love it.
The Mule is stupid and Clint Eastwood should retire

Devin Carter
A&E Writer

What? You want more than that? Ok, here goes. And be warned: there are spoilers ahead.

I don’t hate Clint Eastwood. In fact, I have enjoyed a num-
ber of his films. And yet there is just something about him that
keeps me from loving him the way that so many people seem
to. Maybe it’s the not-so-great acting, or the constant growl-
ing, or simply the fact that Eastwood spoke in an attack-

As far as I was concerned, Eastwood was largely getting
better with age. Gran Torino was when the streak he had been
in was about to come undone, as Eastwood largely portrayed a
grumpy, racist old man who kinda-sorta changed his ways.
Many people love Gran Torino, and it’s a fun watch, just as
long as you don’t think belong the surface-level.

And then, for whatever reason, Eastwood got “patriotic”.
I could write enough for five reviews concerning the atroc-
ty that is American Sniper, and all of the lies and nonsensical
things that are presented in that waste of two hours. And then, with
the release of the critically underwhelming the 15:17 to Paris (which
was an Oscar winner), I think his attempt to flail at the
fame of “Merican ego-tism. Unlike American Sniper, nobody
saw nor cared about this film. But all eyes were on The Mule,
which has been touted as Eastwood’s swan song.

I went into The Mule basically expecting another Gran To-
rino, and at first I was pleasantly surprised. Instead of talk-
ing about the drug running and Eastwood becoming the most
successful drug runner in the cartel, and he

And then I reached minute 95, and the first (and most sig-
nificant) problem with this movie reared its head: stupid, lazy
writing. One of the most obvious signs of laziness in movies
is when the exposition is spoken aloud without the audience
actually hearing it (but even then, they never really give that as a rea-
son). And instead of a “get off my lawn” type of character, he actually
portrayed a more agreeable person. I was very happy with the
direction Eastwood had taken with this film.

The writing only got worse from here. Eastwood becomes
estranged from his daughter because he somehow forgot her
wedding, and years later has a shouting match with his ex-wife
because of his granddaughter’s desire to stay with him.

There is a masterpiece of stupidity that occurs around the
halfway point of this movie that I have to explain, and this re-
ally helps illustrate just how poorly written this film is. Brad-
ley Cooper’s character is hunting Eastwood, but doesn’t know
his identity. He does know, however, that he drives a black
pickup truck, and he finds out what hotel he is staying at for
the night. Anybody with a brain would simply go to the hotel
and run the plates on the trucks, or even get a fake movie war-
rant to search the inside of the trucks. Instead, Cooper ignores
the vehicles in the parking lot and instead picks out a touch-
looking man and stages an arrest on a random hunch that this
man is running drugs. And once again the stupid old man gets
away because the DEA agents are even more stupid than he is.

There is a great deal more I could say about the tragedy that
is The Mule. I could pick on its picking up and dropping plot-
lines, its loose ends, the logical inconsistencies and downright
stupidity of the characters, but this review is long enough as is.
I do want to bring up one final interesting aspect of this film.
There are multiple scenes where Eastwood’s character spouts
racial and bigoted comments about people based on their race
and sexual orientation. These outbursts are played for laughs,
and I’m not especially sensitive when it comes to words, but
I do want to bring up one final interesting aspect of this film.

I guess I should talk about the “running.” Eastwood gets
recruited to be a drug runner at his granddaughter’s afore-
mentioned party by somebody he does not even know (???) and
gets on three drug runs for armed gangs until he realizes
(gasp!) that he’s delivering drugs for a cartel. This is not just
a poorly written movie, but its lead character is a nutter. But
he continues to run drugs, because he needs money for very
important things, such as to reopen a dumpy restaurant he fre-
quently buys himself a new truck, and other selfish things like
that.

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I think these elements continuing to pop up in his films shows
that he is out of touch in his works, and that it is now for the
best that he calls it a career and retires from filmmaking. He’s
had a good run, and has a lot to be proud of. But if he ever
wants to try and make another movie, I think he should first
consult Obama and his other invisible chair friends, because
I don’t think that would be in his (or our) best interest.
Trivia Answers: January 24th Edition!

1. What late disc jockey was the voice of Shaggy in the cartoon, “Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?”
   Answer: Casey Kasem

2. What Star Trek: The Next Generation actor hosted the children’s show Reading Rainbow?
   Answer: LeVar Burton

3. In what city would you find the Wizard of Oz?
   Answer: The Emerald City

Music Trivia!

1. According to the lyrics of the hit Queen song Killer Queen, perfume came naturally from where?
   A. Paris
   B. London
   C. Tokyo

2. What song from the Disney film “Coco” won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Original Song?
   A. Everyone Knows
   B. Much Needed Advice
   C. Remember Me

3. Who sang the title song “Grease” in the 1978 musical motion picture?
   A. Frankie Valli
   B. Elton John
   C. Jim Morrison

A few sick puns...

I told my mom I was going to make a bike out of spaghetti, you should have seen her face when I rode straight pasta.

Police were called to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

RIP boiling water. You will be mist.

Riddle me this...

Alex was the strongest man in the world. He can lift up something that weighs 1000 kg easily. He can even pick up five women at once without any pain. But one day, there was a Weight Lifting Challenge Show. All the top 5 strongest man entered including Alex. The challenge is that they each have to lift up a really heavy object which weighs 1005 kg for five minutes. The winner is who didn’t drop it until it reached the time. If they all did it, the judges will decide to give first place to a person who can lift it up easily and stand still with no trouble looking. If Alex was the strongest man, he’ll probably come first. But he came second instead when the challenge was over. Why?
MOREHEAD, Ky. – The Ohio Valley Conference’s lead- ing scorer was held to just 12 points for Morehead State on Saturday against Jacksonville State’s women’s basketball team, but the Game- cocks just weren’t able to manufacture enough offense, fall- ing 66-55.

JSU (9-10, 6-2 OVC) dropped its first three meetings last season. MSU’s (15-6, 6-2 OVC) sweep the Eagles last game to MSU in all three meetings last season. MSU led by a dozen double-digits led by senior Miranda Crockett’s game-high 18 points. JSU finished with five total three-pointers, but four of them came late as JSU scrambled to cut the deficit to single digits in the final period after starting 1-for-14 from beyond the arc.

Redshirt-senior Dest- tiey Elliot led the Gamecocks with 17 points, while sopho- more Taylor Hawkins registered her ninth double-digit game of the season with 10 points. Senior Ray- ven Pearson cleaned up the glass with a game-high 13 re- bounds to move higher on JSU’s all- time list. The Hazel Green, Ala., nat- ively scored 13 in the third quarter with 726 th career re- bound. Now with

730, she stands just eight behind Dani- elle Vaughne (2009- 2013) for fourth all- time and second in JSU Division I era. Elliot’s layup with 3:15 remaining in the first quarter put MSU up by four, but three-pointer on the Eagle’s next posses- sion quickly brought JSU back to single digits.

MSU led 18-15 at the end of the opening period. Freshman Ju- tonyria Willis, who finished with eight points and six boards off the bench, made a couple of key baskets in the second to keep JSU in it once the lead was stretched to double figures. MSU led by a dozen at intermission, 36-24, and led by as many as 19 in the third quarter before JSU slowly started to chip away at the margin. Down 15 entering the fourth, Brianna Perry’s opening trey of the quarter pulled JSU with 12. The Eagles added four to lead 60-44 until an 11-3 run capped by Jaya Walker’s triple cut the deficit back to eight with 1:45 re- maining. The Game- cocks got a defensive stop on the follow- ing possession, but couldn’t control the rebound and sent MSU to the line with a foul where the Eagles would hang on for the win.

JSU returns to Pete Mathews Coliseum on Thursday, Jan. 31 for an 11:30 a.m. tip- off. JSU suffers 66-55 road setback to Morehead State.

JSU Sportswire

Softball fan day set for Feb. 3 in Coliseum

JACKSONVILLE – The Jackson- ville State softball team will host its annual Fan Day on Sun- day, Feb. 3 in Pete Mathews Coli- seum. The event will begin at 2 p.m. and admission is free for all fans.

The 10-time Ohio Valley Con- ference Champion and nine-time NCAA Regional Participant Gamecocks will be on hand for a day filled with free prizes and snacks. Free t-shirts will be among the many giveaways, while soda and popcorn will also be free to those in attendance. The event will be held in the Coliseum due to construction efforts to get Uni- versity Field ready for the season after the March tornado. Fans are encouraged to come out and meet and interact with the members of the 2019 JSU softball team, as well as its coaching staff. Also, all members of the Game- cocks’ roster will be available for autographs during the day. Cocky will also be in attendance.

Head coach Jana McGinnis is prepping her team for her 26th season in 2018, which begins on Feb. 8 at the Mercer Invitational in Macon, Ga. The Gamecocks open their home schedule on Feb. 23, when they host Southern Miss in a three-game series at Univer- sity Field.

Season tickets are on sale now on- line at www.jsugamecocksports. com/tickets and start at just $50 for the entire season. Also, JSU students and all fans ages 18 and under receive free admission to all JSU home softball games.

JSU Sportswire
JSU MEN’S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks welcome Morant, Murray State in Clash of OVC Titans

Thursday night. Jacksonville State against Murray State. Sole possession of first place in the Ohio Valley Conference standings on the line. That alone might be enough to make Thursday night’s game important, or at least most hyped, game on the floor of Pete Mathews Coliseum in Jacksonville state’s Division I history.

Now add a consensus projected top-5 NBA draft pick into the mix. That makes for the type of game that usually is reserved for the power-5 leagues. The “basketball schools.”

Yet the heralded Temetrius Jamel “Ja” Morant will bring his Murray State Racers, who are fresh off a 38-point demolishing of Tennessee State, into Jacksonville, Alabama to take on the Gamecocks Thursday night at 7:15 p.m.

Even with all the excitement surrounding the matchup, the Gamecocks are not letting the noise make them lose focus.

“We’re excited for the game, but that’s because it’s just another basketball game,” senior guard Jamall Gregory says.

Morant comes into the game putting up almost-unheard of numbers for a player his age. Numbers that certainly warrant the trove of NBA scouts and front office personnel that show up to most of his games, including at least three teams that will have representatives in Jacksonville Thursday night.

The sophomore stud puts up 24.1 points per game, which is good enough for ninth in the nation and first in the OVC.

The scoring numbers are formidable on their own, but pair that with Morant’s NCAA-best 10.5 assists per contest, which is almost three more than the 7.8 average from second-ranked Kai Toews out of UNC Wilmington, and you have a player that will have defensive pressure on him all night.

The Gamecocks seem happy flying under the radar.

“Morant’s going to give us some trouble,” Burdell said. “He’s a top-5 pick. At the end of the day, like coach Harper says, he’s going to hit some shots. We just can’t get frustrated, we’ve got to keep going at him and doing what we do.

One thing about this team is we have a bunch of dogs. Nobody is scared of him or anything, so we’re just going to go at him.”

Despite two wins over Belmont already under their belt and a chance to take sole possession of first place in the league on Thursday, the Gamecocks seem happy flying under the radar.

“Belmont and Murray State get all the attention, but we beat Belmont twice,” Burdell says. “I think we do have a little bit of a chip on our shoulder, but we’ve just got to stay within ourselves.

“We’re staying humble,” Gregory says. “We know what we’re doing here in Jacksonville.

It’ll all show when it’s time to hang hangriers.”

JSU TRACK AND FIELD

Cook, Rollins lead Gamecocks at Marshall meet

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – The Jacksonville State women’s track and field team had some of its best outings of the indoor season over the weekend at the Thundering Herd Invitational hosted at Marshall University.

Founded by the Ohio Valley Conference and the OVC, the meet was the first in a series of meets in the league that will run through the end of the month. The Gamecocks were the only OVC team to compete in the meet, which included 13 institutions from across the country.

Sophomore Ayanna Rollins and sophomore Adrianna Raggs scored for the Gamecocks in the 60-meter dash, with Rollins crossing the line first in 7.46 seconds and Raggs second in 7.54.

Raggs also qualified for the 3,000-meter steeplechase, a race she has yet to compete in at the collegiate level.

In the 800-meter run, Raggs finished fourth in 2:04.76, while Rollins was seventh in 2:06.04.

Senior Erica Edwards came home ninth in the event.

After taking fourth in her first 3,000-meter event at Samford, sophomore nathan McGrew finished seventh in 10,000-meter debut with a time of 34:56.10.

Senior Benny Polley was also a strong finisher in the 3000-meter steeplechase, placing third in 9:15.48.

In the 5,000-meter run, sophomore Dalana McEachrin was third in 18:21.57.

Freshman Ayanna Rollins and sophomore Adrianna Raggs scored for the Gamecocks Sports

Cook, Rollins lead Gamecocks at Marshall meet

Senior Brittany Cook had another strong meet in her jump events. The Mobile, Ala., native just missed the podium in the long jump with a fourth-place finish with a distance of 5.41 meters (17-09.0’). She then improved to fifth place in the triple jump with a distance of 11.67 meters (38-03.50’).

Senior Emily Burrows was 11th at 10.51 meters (34-05.75’). Junior Baylee Porch posted a fifth-place finish in the pentathlon with a cumulative point total of 3202, just 22 points out of fourth place. She placed second in the high jump and third in the shot put portions of the event.

“We are still a long ways away from being the solid team that we are capable of being,” said head coach Steve Ray. “But Chemutai, Madison, Ayanna and Adrianna, Naylee and Britt certainly did their parts this weekend.”

JSU is off this upcoming weekend and will return to Birmingham for the Samford Open on February 9.