One year ago. An EF-3 tornado. $100 million in damage. All but seven campus buildings affected. Three academic buildings that were complete losses. Two weeks of missed class. Thirty-nine homes in the surrounding communities that were condemned. 6,000 volunteers that flooded into the town in the next few days.

There are several statistics bouncing around Jacksonville, Alabama this week. One year ago, on March 19, 2018, the little college town that houses Jacksonville State University was slammed with a storm that altered many lives.

The statistic heard most often as those on campus and in the community look back on the events of that grim day? None of those altered lives were taken.

“The biggest blessing of the tornado event is that we lost no lives,” JSU president John Beelher said at a commemoration event on Tuesday. “We were blessed that it was spring break, and that no one was killed a year ago. The recent tornado in Lee County illustrates that it is far too easy to have loss of life.”

Hearing stories from survivors of the tornado in Jacksonville a year ago, it truly is amazing that such devastation didn’t result in a single death, like the Lee County tornado that claimed 23 lives just weeks ago.

Stories like Kate Mason’s, who rode out the tornado in the former Winn Place apartments while her roof was literally ripped from over her head.

Or Phany Gangbo’s, an International student whose first ever experience with a tornado was last year when her room in the International House was severely damaged while she stayed with her host family.

Or Paul Lindsay’s, a veteran who settled in Jacksonville for a peaceful life after serving two stints in Iraq, who had his left arm amputated after an iron pipe hit him during the storm.

Or Meagan Medders’s, an employee of the since demolished and rebuilt Dollar General on Highway 204, who had just gotten under a table in the break room of the store before the roof collapsed in on her.

All of those individuals told their stories in a candlelight ceremony Tuesday night, 365 days to the hour of that night that has left such lasting impact for each of them. These stories are echoed by the hundreds of students still on campus during spring break and the residents of a town hit hard. Those that were in Gamecock...
One year later, James Spann visits JSU to talk March 19 tornado, storm safety

Scott Young
Staff Reporter

James Spann, the ABC 33/40 meteorologist familiar to many Alabamians, visited the campus of Jacksonville State University on Monday almost a year after an EF-3 tornado devastated Jacksonville, and met with at- tendees and illustrate the impor- tance of staying weather aware.

Spann broadcasted live weather forecasts in between meeting with members of the Jacksonville community as they flied into the fifth floor of the Burgess-Snow stadium.

Although many in the com- munity were displaced by the tornadoes, the silver lining is that no lives were lost to the EF-3 tornado that impacted Jacksonville, Spann says. Build- ings can be rebuilt; trees can be replanted; but lives cannot be replaced.

“It seems like people in Cal- houn County were ready,” Spann said. “They planned ahead and had a way of hearing warnings. They knew where to go and got there when the warning was is- sued. This is the mindset we want for all Alabamians.”

So much damage, so much devastation, many buildings that were damaged and the repairs made to the many buildings that were dam- aged.

“We couldn’t have made the recovery happen if people didn’t come together to help us rebuild. We got knocked down and had to get back up and help build JSU because they love it here,” Beehler stated. “Typically when there is a natural disaster, a university will lose 5%-10% of enrollment.”

In the wake of devastation and disaster, “Every Alabama home and business needs a NOAA Weath- er Radio (NEVER rely on an outdoor siren), and everyone must know in advance where they are going during a tornado warning and have helmets for everyone in that safe place.”

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Yet JSU hasn’t. A small dip of enrollment in Fall 2018 was followed by an increase when saw Spring 2018 actually boost more students than the pre-tornado Spring 2018.

“A year later, JSU stands poised to re-bound from the March 19 disaster better than before.”

With repairs completed on all but three buildings, a new recreation center, and new- and-improved Merrill and Wallace Halls on the way in the next few years, JSU is put- ting the finishing touches on a remarkable recovery.

Although no one in Jacksonville will likely ever forget March 19, 2018, they are ready to put it in the past.

“In the wake of devastation and disaster, we all showed a true Gamecock spirit,” Beehler said on Tuesday. “We did not complain, we did not waver, we did not suc- cumb to defeat. With the help of God and many others, we will come out of this vic- torious. That Gamecock spirit is just going to carry us through, no matter what hits us.”
Chris Allen Brown, the Associate Editor of The Chanticleer at the time of the March 19 tornadoes last year, wrote this piece in the late night after walking through the damaged campus and community just after the storms.

Chris Allen Brown, JSU Graduate/Former Associate Editor

On March 12, 2019, former Catholic Church cardinal and Vatican chief financial officer, George Pell, was sentenced to serve six years in prison for the molestation of two young boys in 1996. It was outraged to hear this. The crimes for which he was convicted are, to me, among the most detestable acts a human being could do. And the fact that Pell held such a powerful and influential position made my anger even greater, since it looked like yet another example of power and influence winning over law and order.

I do not think that I have to spend any time convincing you or anybody else that Pell’s crimes were hideous, nor do I think people will need convincing that people with power have a much easier time avoiding punishment than those who are powerless. Other factors, like the fact that he will be eligible for parole after less than four years, and that the judge considered things like Pell’s age and influence when he hand- ed down the light sentence, makes this situation even more outrageous. I’m certain that many people who are reading this article are every bit as furious about the sentencing as I am.

And yet, while I was thinking about the entire situation, I was able to see a silver lining. And I would like to bring attention to my realization in the hope that others who feel similarly to myself can take at least a little amount of positivity away from all of this. This situation is undoubtedly yet another example of power winning over justice, but people like myself, who believe in the rule of law over all other things, can sometimes comfort from the fact that, despite the leniency, Pell was still given a prison sentence. And, although he may be able to walk free before some of us have graduated from college, he will still be listed as a sex offender for the rest of his life. In this situation, justice was still served, even though it may not have been to the degree it should have been.

But we can look back through history to find evil people who used their position to escape justice, and it is very likely that these instances will continue to happen until the end of time. It would not have been a shock to have seen Pell walk free, considering the position he once held. Hopefully, despite the light sentence, this case marks a turning point for how we deal with powerful people who break the law and commit horrendous acts. Maybe, just maybe, this will start a trend where we as a people can look world leaders in the face and show them that they are not above the law. I know this is not likely to happen in all situations, but hopefully we will start seeing less people walk away freely, and more people being served justice.

With that being said, I am absolutely NOT ok with this sentencing. I may even go so far as to call it, in and of itself, an injustice. But maybe it would be asking too much, at this point, to ignore the influence and power that these individuals hold. It certainly should not be taken into account when it comes to the crimes they have committed, and in rendering appropriate punishments. And hopefully we can get to the point where there is complete impartiality in our courts, whether that is in the United States, Australia, or anywhere else.

But let’s not look at this as a loss. A man who was one of the top-ranking officials of the largest Christian denomination in the world is in prison because he broke the law. In the past, he probably would have gone free. We should always look to further justice, and we should be critical of this sentencing. But this is still a victory for those who believe in the sanctity of the law, and it should be viewed as such.
One year later: #JSUstrong

Right: Damage outside Merrill Hall. The building, which was a complete loss, still sits awaiting demolition one year later. (Matt Reynolds/JSU)

Left: A view of damage to the Houston Cole Library. The Library is currently still undergoing repair. (Matt Reynolds/JSU)

Bottom Right: A view of the damaged Alumni House. The Alumni House was deemed a total loss and demolished. (Matt Reynolds/JSU)

Bottom Left: Squirrels play in a fallen tree. (Matt Reynolds/JSU)

Above left: (Top) JSU pep band sings “I Fly Away” at the anniversary event. (Bottom) SGA President Casey Gamble also gave remarks. (Taylor Mitchell/The Chanticleer), Above right: JSU President John Buehler gives remarks at an event commemorating the anniversary of the tornado. (Sydney Sorrels/The Chanticleer), Below: Damage in front of Ayers Hall. (Matt Reynolds/JSU)
Cold Pursuit warms the heart

Devin Carter
A&E Writer

I tend to avoid movies that are released in the first few months of the year, because they usually do not turn out to be very good. They are fine for turning one’s brain off and passing the time, I guess, but I usually find early-year releases to be boring and cheaply-made. After all, everybody knows that the real movie year does not kick off until April. These were the things I was thinking when I went to the movies recently. And I only got more pessimistic about my prospects when the person I was with decided to see Cold Pursuit, Liam Neeson’s 47th action movie. Bad movies are one thing, but bad action movies are another. They are usually boring, incredibly predictable, and always feel like they’re about 30 minutes too long. I expected no different this time.

But I was happily surprised. Not only was Cold Pursuit a fun time, but it was unlike any movie I’ve seen. The basic premise seems cookie-cutter enough: Neeson goes on a revenge tour after a loved one is killed. And the film throws the book of clichés in your face throughout, with some being appropriately used and others being entirely unnecessary. And yet, inexplicably, the unnecessary bits are what add the most to the movie’s charm, because it makes it stand out as a wonderful jumble of clichés and wasted screen time and poor decisions on the part of our characters.

If it sounds as if I haven’t given the movie any specific praise yet, then you would be right. Nothing in it is done particularly well. And yet it works, because the numerous flaws that are littered without are so zany, and so different, that you simply can’t help but like it. The antagonist is wonderfully over-the-top as a germophobic, health-crazed drug lord, and Neeson’s character, while not quite as interesting, still does things that help lead to scenarios you can’t help but be amused by.

The best part of the movie was also the worst. There are three major storylines in the film: Neeson’s revenge story, a story following two police officers, and a story involving a Native American gang. The latter of these two plots serve no real purpose to the overall story, and yet the characters were so over-the-top and delightful that the move was made better by their addition. The police officers, who get roped into Neeson’s story, made the film seem eerily similar to Fargo, which is one of the greatest movies ever made as far as I’m concerned. This movie is not Fargo. It’s poorly structured and littered with inconsistencies, clichés, and other problems. But it seems to capture some of the delight that is contained within Fargo and other movies like it. But whereas Fargo is an expertly-constructed comedic masterpiece, Cold Pursuit is a horrible mess that somehow manages to entertain. I cannot say that Cold Pursuit is a good movie. In fact, it has far more bad elements that good. But this is a movie that is greater than the sum of its parts, and it pulls off the feat of being a bad movie that works. And, in my opinion, it works for the right reasons. It’s not a garish flick that just happens to be entertaining- it is deliberately crafted to provide viewers with a memorable experience, and, for that, the filmmakers should get some credit. I do not know how fondly remembered this movie will be, or if it will be remembered at all, based on its box office numbers, but I do think it is a fun time that is worth a watch. You may be surprised, as I was, at just how much fun Liam Neeson’s 58th action move can be.
Everyday Life Hacks

1. You can restore a shirt to its normal size by putting it in a bowl filled with ice water and one cup of hair conditioner.

2. The best way to get rid of an itchy bug bite is to rub a glue stick on it.

3. Have a bunch of old dried up nail polish bottles? Add a drop or two of nail polish remover and shake it up. Good as new!

4. While washing your clothes, always turn the ones with designs on them inside out to prevent the designs from cracking.

5. Having trouble getting those annoying barcode stickers off something? Rubbing a cloth soaked in vinegar will instantly remove it including the glue it leaves behind.

Very Punny...

A courtroom artist was arrested today for an unknown reason... details are sketchy.

I’ve just written a song about tortillas - actually, it’s more of a rap.

This morning some clown opened the door for me. I thought to myself that’s a nice Jester.

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned: couldn’t concentrate.

A book just fell on my head. I’ve only got myself to blame.

Riddle of the week...

A man taking the census walks up to the apartment of a mathematician and asks him if he has any children and how old they are. The mathematician says “I have three daughters and the product of their ages is 72.” The man tells the mathematician that he needs more information, so the mathematician tells him “The sum of their ages is equal to our apartment number.” The man still needs more information so the mathematician tells him “My oldest daughter has her own bed and the other two share bunk beds.”

How old are his daughters?

United States Trivia!

1. CBGB, the former infamous New York music club, stands for what?

2. Which water sport is the official state individual sport of Hawaii?

3. Who was first U.S. president to be impeached?

4. Which city served as the capital of the United States from 1785 until 1790?

5. What inland U.S. state has the longest shoreline?

6. In 1863, which U.S. President declared that the last Thursday in November should be celebrated as Thanksgiving?

7. American Gothic, a 1930 portrait depicting a farmer and his daughter posing in front of their house, was painted by which artist?
UPCOMING EVENTS

Baseball
@ Murray St 3/22 - 3/24
vs Alabama State 3/27
vs Tennessee Tech 3/29-3/31
@ SEMO 4/5/4/7

Men's Tennis
@ EIU 3/22
@ Austin Peay 3/29
Vs Belmont 3/30

Women's Tennis
@ EIU 3/22
@ Austin Peay 3/29
Vs Murray State 3/30

Softball
@ Morehead State 3/22
@ EKU 3/24
@ UAB 3/27
vs SIUE 3/29
vs EIU 3/31

Beach Volleyball
@Mercer 3/29
@ North Alabama 3/30

JACKSONVILLE – After receiving invitations to participate in both the College Insider Tournament and College Basketball Invitational national tournaments, the Jacksonville State men's basketball team has withdrawn its name from postseason consideration.

"We were honored to receive invitations to participate in both the CIT and CBI," athletic director Greg Sitz said. "However, after speaking with head coach Ray Harper and the team, we felt it best to decline postseason opportunities."

Jacksonville State was a participant in the 2018 CBI, reaching the semifinals of the bracket before falling to eventual-champion North Texas. JSU has never participated in the CIT. It marks the third season in a row a head men's basketball coach Ray Harper has steered the Gamecocks to receive an invitation to participate in a postseason national tournament.

"I am very proud of our team for the season we had," Harper said. "We accomplished a lot this year and broke a few records along the way. We won 24 games at the Division-I level for the first time in program history, put JSU back on the map, not just a good team, but surely, get that respect."

Jacksonville State was selected third – its highest Division-I finish – in the Ohio Valley Conference regular season standings, reached at least the semifinals of the OVC Men's Basketball Championships for the third year in a row and set a new program record for consecutive conference tournament appearances since moving to the D-I level in 1995-96.

JSU Sportswire
JSU TENNIS

Women’s tennis tops Kennesaw State

KENNESAW, Ga. – The Jacksonville State women’s tennis team snapped a two-match losing streak Tuesday with a 5-2 non-conference win Tuesday at Kennesaw State.

The Gamecocks (7-2) took the doubles point to begin the match and claimed four singles matchups in a row to down the Owls (1-1) at the Betty Siouxie Courts at Kennesaw State.

Malin Buechner and Alba Conejero began the day with a 6-1 defeat of Juliana Castellanos and Kendal Nash at No. 1 doubles, and Harold Hamilton and Elena Tendero secured the point with a 6-3 win at No. 2 doubles.

KSL’s Laura Marmol took the second point at No. 2 singles over Alesxia Locat and Kendall Nash won the final point of the day in three sets over Conjeoro at No. 4, but the rest of the morning was dominated by the visitors.

Buechner at No. 3, Hamilton at No. 1, Tendoro at No. 5 and Cristina Moll Alles at No. 6 singles each took their matches in just two sets.

Following a phenomenal 7-2 start to the season, Jackson- State turns its attention to Ohio Valley Conference action next weekend with a road test in the league at Murray State. The series with the Racers will get started on Friday, March 22 at 3 p.m. Purdue dropped to 4-14 after the loss.

Junior Corley Woods continued to solid relief in relief as he squashed Purdue’s hopes of a run-producing sixth inning after loading the bases with no outs. Woods induced a pop up on the infield, recorded one of his two strikeouts and ended the threat with an inning-ending ground ball. Woods did not surrender a hit and worked around a leadoff walk in the seventh. After getting the first out of the ninth, JSU went to closer Christian Edwards to finish off the game. Edwards fanned both Boilermakers he faced to earn his second save of the season and fifth of the season.

For the series, the JSU pitchers posted 23 strikeouts and allowed just three earned runs over 18 innings. Purdue’s nine-run fifth inning on Saturday was the only inning in which JSU was touched for nine runs. Purdue’s nine-run fifth inning on Saturday was the only inning in which JSU was touched for nine runs.

Junior Corley Woods finished the day with a career-high eight strikeouts, including two in the seventh to cap off the game. Edwards was the lone Boilermaker to score the win.

JSU BASEBALL

Gamecocks silence Purdue for series win

JACKSONVILLE – The Jacksonville State baseball team picked up its second consecutive series win after blanking Big Ten foe Purdue for the second time during the three-game series on Sunday at Ryder Abbott Field at Jim Case Sta-

dium.

The Gamecocks (10-11) shutout the Boilermakers 4-0 on Friday with the arm of Carson Farmer and four extra base hits. On Sunday, it was the bullpen and a three-run second inning for Jax State. JSU will idle during the mid-week and return to Ohio Valley Conference action next weekend with a road test in the league at Murray State.

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JSU SOFTBALL

Chisolm’s Homers lift Gamecocks to series sweep of Dolphins

JACKSONVILLE – Anna Chisolm homered twice and drove in four runs to lead the Jacksonville State softball team to a 7-5 win and the series sweep of Jacksonville on Sunday at University Field.

The Gamecocks (16-6) extended their win streak to five games behind Chisolm’s explosive day at the plate, one that started with a three-run blast in the first inning that capped an 11-pitch at bat. The native of St. Louis, Mo., fouled off five-straight two-strike pitches before launching that 11thpitch well over the wall in center to put JSU up 3-0 early.

Chisolm scored the team’s next run in the fourth, when she led off the inning with a walk, stole second and scored on Jada Terry’s double into the right center gap. Her Taylor Beshears hit her team-leading ninth homer of the year in the fifth, Chisolm answered with her second long ball of the game to pull to within one of her team lead and give JSU a 7-2 lead.

The Dolphins (12-16) scored twice in the sixth and once in the seventh to cut the Game-

cocks lead to two, but the JSU pitching staff held on to preserve the win.

Faith Sims started the game and tossed the first three innings, striking out a run on one hit and a walk. She struck out six just a day after tying the school record for strikeouts in a game with 16 and wrapped up a week that saw her go 2-0 with 32 strikeouts in 17 and 1/3 innings.

Reagan Watkins (1-0) made her University Field debut in relief, allowing a run on two hits for the series win.

Freshman Lexi Androlevich didn’t allow a hit or an earned run in her inning of work, but a pair of errors behind her let two unearned runs cross. Alexus Jimmerson tossed the final inning, allowing a run on two hits and striking out one to earn her first save.

The Gamecocks will now turn their attention to Ohio Valley Conference play, beginning on Friday with a doubleheader at Morehead State.

JSU Sportswire