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Matt Reynolds/JSU

JSU's annual event "JSU in Lights" was held Tuesday evening.

CAMPUS

Holiday Spirit 'lights' up campus

JP Wood
Staff Writer

The student body came together on the steps of Bibb-Graves Tuesday night for to light up campus for the holiday season.

The annual 'JSU in Lights' event featured representatives from campus organizations, JSU cheerleaders, administrators, Cocky, and President Beehler. Hot Chocolate and Cider were on hand for the event, which also served as the SGA toy drive for children in need.

President Beehler and SGA President Kasey Gamble spoke to those on hand before flipping the switch and lighting up Bibb-Graves. "We're really celebrating how far we've

come since the tornado" said President Beehler. "We've really got a heck of a lot accomplished."

President Beehler also spoke of his gratitude for those students whose drive to attend JSU was unwavered. "We lost hardly any students at all," he said.

"JSU in Lights" is a special celebration of not only the holiday season approaching, but all that the school has done over the past eight months. A number of campus organizations were also present. Freshman Forum was recognized for having the most representation at the event. A Christmas tree stands in Bibb-Graves with ornaments representing numerous on campus organizations, from Greek Life to Freshman Forum to SGA.

in ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JSU Drama to host *The Flick*
Page 4

in VIEWPOINTS



'Tis the Season for giving back
Page 3

in SPORTS



Gamecocks move on in FCS Playoffs
Page 8

on CAMPUS

International House Presentation: South Korea Thursday, November 29, 11:00 a.m. International House

Come learn more about South Korea from one of our JSU students!

JSU Gaming Day Tuesday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. Houston Cole Library

Take a break and de-stress during finals week. Enjoy board games, card games, role playing games, video games, and an escape room!

It is completely free and snacks will be provided.

STATE

Protesters halt traffic on Highway 31 in response to Galleria shooting

Scott Young
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday evening, a shooting broke out in the Riverchase Galleria Mall in an altercation between two people that left two injured and one dead. Emantic Bradford Jr., 21, was shot and killed by Hoover Police while "fleeing the shooting scene while brandishing a handgun."

Initially, Hoover Police announced that Bradford was

responsible for the shooting of an 18-year old man and 12-year old girl.

"I'm just grateful for the rapid professional response of our police officers. They acted with such heroism," said Gregg Rector, a Hoover Police captain. "They acted appropriately and quickly, and you know, acted in a way that prevented something that could have been much worse than what we have here tonight. It's already a bad situation."

On Friday night, Hoover Police recanted their statement and said there was new evidence suggesting that Bradford was not the shooter.

"New evidence now suggests that while Mr. Bradford may have been involved in some aspect of the altercation, he likely did not fire the rounds that injured the 18-year-old victim," said Rector in the new statement. "This information indicates that there is at least

see GALLERIA page 2



Photo Courtesy of AL.com

Protesters halted traffic on Highway 31 near the Galleria after new evidence suggested Emantic Bradford Jr. was not responsible for Thursday night's shooting.



GALLERIA from Page 1

one gunman still at-large. We regret that our initial media release was not totally accurate, but new evidence indicates that it was not.”

Around 200 people gathered in the mall on the Saturday after the shooting to protest the death of a man they say was arbitrarily killed by police.

“He’s a good guy. He’s a military guy. And they did him wrong,” said Catherine Jewell, an aunt of Bradford, while attending the protest. “That’s his mother’s only child. They didn’t have to take him like that.”

Three days after the Galleria protest, a more significant gathering formed in a march on Highway 31 all the way to the Riverchase Galleria to demand answers for Bradford’s shooting death. The protestors are calling for the public release of video from the police body cameras and mall surveillance cameras, in addition to a full boycott of the Galleria Mall.

Hoover Police investigators have said that the surveillance has been handed over to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency to conduct a full investigation on the officer shooting of Bradford.

CAMPUS**On to JSU program fosters natural talent**

Severe Threats loves Star Wars. But while his name might be fitting for a character from a galaxy far, far away (and he is a Darth Vader fan) Threats, by all accounts, is a great guy with a truly special gift.

Threats (pronounced threets) doesn’t know the story behind his unique first name. What he does know a lot about is art. Since age 3, the Lineville native has been painting and drawing with the skill and vision of a lifetime artist.

“It’s just something I like to do,” said Threats, now 19. “I’ve been doing it for a long time.”

Thanks to the On to JSU program, Threats is getting formal training in a variety of mediums including ceramics, drawing, stage make-up and oil painting. That last one, which Threats is taking this semester, hasn’t been his favorite because he’s not as practiced with oils as with water colors and charcoal.

“I was kind of afraid of the oil class,” Threats said. “I tried to do a cat, but it didn’t come out right.”

“Severe is a perfectionist,” said Karen Carr, On to JSU program director. “Doing something he was immediately good at made him nervous. But he’s learning so fast – it’s really amazing.”

Learning and adjusting to new situations and new environments is the overarching goal of the On to JSU program. Now in its fourth year, On to JSU is funded by a five-year federal grant that allows students with intellectual disabilities to have a college experience while earning a state-recognized certificate from auditing classes based on their specific interests. For Threats, who is on the Autism spectrum,



Photo Courtesy JSU News

that meant art classes.

“He really has been painting since he was 3 years old,” Carr said. “I’ve seen some of it. You’d never think it came from someone so young. He’s really got a natural talent, a gift.”

That too is the purpose of the On to JSU program – proving, despite certain limitations, that everyone has a gift worth discovering and fostering.

“We want to show that everyone is important,” Carr said. “Everybody has something to offer.”

Threats is one of nine students enrolled in On to JSU. Each of the students live on campus, have mentors who shadow them in class and help with homework, attend social functions, and – in addition to their regular courses – take classes

through the special education department that focus on social, budgeting and employment skills.

“It’s all about teaching independence,” Carr said. “We want them to be able to live and work on their own someday.”

In terms of a career path, Threats seems well on his way. Several of his pieces can be found hanging in offices around campus. His vivid attention to detail has led to several commissioned works for some of JSU’s most treasured landmarks, including the Alumni House and the Merrill Building. But by far, Threats’ favorite muse is Cocky, the JSU mascot.

“Painting Cocky makes me happy,” Threats said. “It’s one of the things I do best.”

JSU News

COMMUNITY**Peter Pan to sprinkle pixie dust over Jacksonville Opera Theatre**

Take the second star to the right, straight on to the Oxford Performing Arts Center, for the Jacksonville Opera Theatre’s production of JM Barrie’s beloved classic, “Peter Pan,” on stage Jan. 4-10.

It’s a story we all know and love. Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars they’ll never forget.

This high-flying Tony Award winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years. Featuring the iconic songs “I’m Flying,” “I’ve Gotta Crow,” “I Won’t Grow Up” and “Never Never Land,” it’s the perfect show for the child in all of us who dreams of soaring high and never growing up.

But while this enchanting tale is familiar to audiences, the JSU production will contain a few surprises.

“One of the dangers with this show is that it has been done in so many ways, so many times,” said Carrie Colton, the JSU drama professor directing the production. “We are hoping to modernize it and find an edgier and more relatable Peter for 2019. The magic will be as original as the production.”

The cast is comprised of JSU students and members of the community broken down into three major groups: Pirates, played by character actors; Brave Warriors, played by strong



dancers including JSU Marching Ballerinas; and Lost Boys, played by local children.

“It’s a wonderful and diverse mix of individuals,” said Colton. “Peter Pan is such a complicated show with so many moving parts and on top of it all, we have to make the characters fly. Expect greatness, expect originality and expect to have a good time.”

Performance dates and times are:

Jan. 4, 7 p.m.

Jan. 5, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Jan. 6, 2 p.m.

Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

Ticket prices for regular performances range \$19-29 for adults, \$23 for OPAC Gold Circle members, and \$7 for JSU students and guests younger than age 18. Purchase tickets online.

School group performances will be held on Jan. 10 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Teachers can book online. The cost is \$5 per child,

but the Jacksonville Opera Theatre hopes to send 4,500 children to see the classic musical for free. A fundraiser is being held on Dec. 6 at Classic on Noble to purchase tickets for school groups. For \$35, guests will enjoy dinner, entertainment from the Peter Pan cast, a cash bar and auction. Purchase fundraiser tickets online. To make a donation, contact Nathan Wight, director of operatic activities, at nwight@jsu.edu.

Since 2003, the Jacksonville Opera Theatre has presented vibrant, professionally staged productions featuring musical talent from JSU’s David L. Walters Department of Music. All productions are conducted, directed and designed by university faculty and staff and star JSU music and drama students. Learn more about the Jacksonville Opera Theatre at www.jacksonvilleopera.org and more about its production of “Peter Pan” at www.ThePeterPan.com.



Viewpoints

'Tis the Season for giving back

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Students returned this week with full bellies and the knowledge that the only thing standing between another long holiday break is finals. This week, students are going to be pulling all-nighters and studying as much as possible for the upcoming exams. Once we're all out for the holidays it's easy to think of ourselves and our families, which is always a good thing, but it's also important to think of the people who aren't as fortunate as we are.

It is estimated that there are over 3,700 homeless people in Alabama alone. Think of how many of those people are children, and how many of them are young adults like you and I. These people have no idea where their next meal is coming from, much less have any way to celebrate for the holidays. With this thought in mind I've decided to share a few ways that we can help make someone's holiday season just a little bit better.

There is a program named Hands on Birmingham. There is always a need for volunteers, and you can help out at one of the community kitchens, assist with Red Cross, or even help with the angel tree distribution.

The community kitchen is always a good way to go. Volunteering here means serving lunch for those who are in need of a nice meal. The dates for this event include December 26th, December 31st, January 1st, and January 2nd from 10 am to 2 pm. To help out at this event it's important that you register. Registering can be done by contacting Kimberly Jeanty at this email address: kjeanty@the-communitykitchens.org

The Red Cross Association in Birmingham has decided to ask citizens to make homemade DIY Christmas cards for Veterans and men and women serving in the armed forces today. Ask anybody and everybody you know to take a little bit of time out of their day to make a sweet card, thanking them for their service and showing support. Cards will mean a lot to those who aren't able to be with their families for the holidays. Cards must be dropped off at the Red Cross location in Birmingham by December 9th. The address for the Red Cross Location is 114 22nd St S, Birmingham, AL 35233



Photo Credit: familyrecoveryspecialists.com

When it comes to volunteering for the angel tree distribution there are many things that you could help out with—ranging from assisting with parking, carrying and loading bags into the vehicles, and/or retrieving families gift bags. It should be noted that volunteers should not be under the age of 15.

Along with these three volunteering events there are several that Hands on Birmingham have organized. By going on their website: <https://www.handsonbirmingham.org/holiday-volunteering> you can see a full list of all the volunteering events going on this season.

Take some time to help out and volunteer during the long break we're given. The holiday season is all about giving and being thankful for what you have. Appreciate what you have and be grateful because I can guarantee you that someone would love to be in your shoes.

Appreciate the Arts

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Growing up, a number of us were exposed to school systems that had praised the athletic programs and barely supported the arts. The dwindling percentage of students joining these performing arts programs is truly heartbreaking. I was a tiny little sixth grader when I picked up a trumpet for the first time, and it completely changed my life. I began to appreciate music more, and art, and writing, and everything to do with the concept of expressing yourself through these activities.

Schools should not be letting these programs seem as if they aren't as important as the athletics. It should be equal. There should be shown support for the band members and the incredible artists who put as much effort into their passions as a football player or a soccer player does.

It takes talent and pure determination for all extracurricular activities which is why all of them should be supported in every way possible.

Next time you're at a football game instead of going to the bathroom during halftime stay and watch the halftime show. I can promise you the band worked incredibly hard to not only memorize the music that they play, but also to memorize all the steps and positions that they make out on the field in front of you—and watching



Photo Credit: everythingouthcity.com

it really does mean the world to them. Go to an art gallery every now and then, look at the art and think about how important it is. It's important enough that someone took the time to create one of their beautiful ideas and share it with the world.

Appreciate the arts.



Good luck to everybody on finals and happy holidays!



Arts & Entertainment

CAMPUS

JSU prepares for second drama production of the year

Sydney Spencer

A&E Reporter

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department is having another production before the end of fall semester. This play is called *The Flick* and will be directed by professor Carrie Colton. Carrie Colton is an acting, speech, and voice professor here at Jacksonville State. She usually focuses on musical theatre and Shakespeare, but decided to take on the job because it is pretty rare for her to get to work on something different and the story behind the play is very touching.

The Flick is a play that was written in 2012 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 2014. It is about three people in a failing movie theater who are talking about their lives and why society is failing. They also discuss why they themselves are not happy in their own different ways. It focuses on two men one of which is a young African American male who is acting while in college and an older white male who has made acting his career. Their different lives and backgrounds make them the best of friends and also the best of enemies. You watch their friendship grow and wither as the play goes along. The audience will experience a mix of emotions from laughter, to sadness, and back to happy.

With changing directors during production, the cast had to adjust and still be able to produce an up to par play by the first show. Colton says, "I didn't even cast this play...our previous director did."

She adds how when she initially took the job she had no idea where to start, but the cast knew the play better than



Courtesy of JSU Drama

she did, so she was able to direct along the way. The cast has only had two and a half weeks of rehearsal, but they have done a lot of character work and kept the raw emotion that the actors had already found.

Colton explains how "you are never going to see anything like this because it is not a common play that is done a lot or something they are going to make into a movie."

When asked how fun production has been she says she would give it an 8.5 because "fun is not the word I'd use."

The last day of rehearsals ended with everyone crying because the story has some moments that hit a little too close to home. The story does end with an uplifting message to balance out emotions. There are only two opportunities for this production to be seen and they are November 29th and 30th which is this Thursday and Friday at the Stone Center. It is ten dollars if you are a student and free if you are in a theater class at Jacksonville State.

Game Review

Pokemon goes to a new home

Sean Collier

A&E Writer

It is no secret that *Pokemon* has been a phenomenon for about as long as it was originally created. It has maintained its popularity for years and most likely will for many more. The community does tend to have issues with decisions made on the games and other things but it has still endured. Thanks to the release and popularity of *Pokemon GO*, people who had never played or gotten into *Pokemon* previously started playing. With this increase of interest, and the popularity of *Pokemon GO*, it was only a matter of time until the Pokemon Company made a game that would for all the fans including the newer ones. That is where *Pokemon Let's Go* comes in.

Pokemon Let's Go, on the surface, is a remake of the original *Pokemon Yellow*. Including the original generation of Pokemon in the Kanto region. However, this game is so much more than that. For starters, the game was released with two versions: *Pokemon Let's Go Pikachu* and *Pokemon Let's Go Eevee*. Each version has their respective "buddy" pokemon. They function as your starter, but they also do so much more. For instance, in previous games the player had to teach HM moves (fly, cut, surf, etc.) to progress through the games at certain points. This means instead of a pokemon having useful moves for combat, they'd have that move there. This created the whole notion of the certain pokemon only being used as utility. With *Pokemon*

Let's Go, that isn't the case. Instead, your buddy learns them as "secret techniques". They are added to a separate menu so they do not function as combat moves. The buddy pokemon also has the chance to learn moves exclusive to them. At various pokemon centers around the map, a ringmaster looking character can teach your buddy special moves. They are pretty strong moves also so it is worth doing. This somewhat makes up for the fact the buddy pokemon cannot be evolved. The buddy pokemon have increased stats, and with these special moves they are still very powerful even without their later evolved forms. On top of that, the game has such an emphasis on making a strong bond with your pokemon, and not just your buddy. When the player has a stronger bond with a pokemon, it can save it from taking damage or even get rid of the conditions that can be caused in combat like paralysis or poisoning.

Another new feature is the way that the player catches pokemon. In previous games, you had to weaken them to make it easier to catch them. In *Pokemon Let's Go*, catching pokemon is like catching them in *Pokemon GO*. There are the circles and hitting the center ups the chances of catching them and you can also use berries to help out. This definitely targets the *Pokemon Go* fans to get them interested, but it also fixes the idea of hurting pokemon to have them as your own. This isn't the only tie to *Pokemon GO*, the game also replaces the pokemon safari with the

Pokemon GO park. If you link your switch with your *Pokemon GO* account you can transfer the first generation pokemon you caught to *Pokemon Let's Go*. They will appear in the park, their stats will be adjusted to fit the game based on their original stats, and you'll have to catch them to add them to your party. This also includes all of the Alolan variants of first generation pokemon. This feature will not only pique the interest of *Pokemon GO* players, but it will also get people to continue or start playing *Pokemon GO*.

The story of *Pokemon Let's Go* is a true remake of *Pokemon Yellow*, but with some additions. Instead of Red and Blue being the new trainers, they are renowned. Characters that are used in the original Anime show more similarities to their personality in the show. Jessie and James look like the anime characters and even speak that way. Brock even talks about getting turned down by beautiful women. This brings a feeling of nostalgia to longtime fans of the show.

As far as the game goes, it is about as much as you should expect from a *Pokemon* game. It isn't super difficult and it makes it easy for a newer player to get started. The combat functions the same as the old games, just with some more polish. The graphics are beautiful on top of all the new features and additions, but it is still a pokemon game at its core. *Pokemon Let's Go* is the perfect game for fans, old or new. So let's go catch 'em all.



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Red Dead Redemption has more to say than you think

Taylor Mitchell
A&E Editor

So I had an interesting experience the other day. I have been playing Red Dead Redemption 2 (also known as Rootin Tootin Cowboy Shootin 2) over the Thanksgiving break and I have gotten to the third chapter of the game where the Van Der Linde gang is forced to move to the southern state of Lemoyne (fictionalized Louisiana) in order to escape the authorities. The gang doesn't have a very kind view of southerners, not surprising considering the game takes place in 1899. True to life many people still blamed the south for the Civil War at the time, and Dutch van der Linde holds a very personal grudge due to his father's death in the war. They have a point, as over the course of my travels in Lemoyne I have stopped a few attempted hate crimes, and discovered a gang of idiots that think the Civil War never really ended. Yet these hateful idiots that shot at my good buddy Lenny, while deserving of the justice that I wrought upon them, weren't really anything I didn't expect to find in this game, but something else I found certainly was.

Rockstar really surprised me with a character named Jeremiah Compson. The player meets Compson near the train station in Rhodes, I personally was on the way to pay a bounty, while he is sleeping on a bench while fall down drunk. Compson is an old man who spins a story of losing his job and subsequently his property to the bank without the ability to retrieve a few important mementos from his home before foreclosure. The game's protagonist Arthur Morgan, and myself the player for that matter, take pity on the poor old drunk and offer to go to the house and retrieve the items namely: His grandfather's pocket watch and pistol, and a ledger.

As I explored the house I found several notes that indicated Compson had worked for a local plantation and had been laid off sometime previously, and had even been told by his son that he would prefer if Compson does not come around his granddaughter anymore. Also in the house is a note about the death of a woman named Betsy which we will talk about a bit later. All this lead me to feel some sympathy for the man as he was apparently a victim of the horrible economy of the Reconstruction era south and later alcoholism. Those feelings changed horribly once I found the basement.

In the basement I found the ledger Compson wanted which listed the names and values of several slaves along with a few notes on how proud Compson was with his work. You see Compson wasn't a victim... he was a slave hunter. Nearby there is a diary written by a slave, likely Betsy the woman mentioned in the note early, indicating she would not survive the



Courtesy of IMBD.com

whipping that she was sentenced to due to her attempted escape. The discovery that I had pitied and helped a monster made me almost physically sick.

When the player returns to Compson, Arthur berates the man for his former profession and throws his things in a fire, something I fully supported. This sends Compson into a rant about how he is supposed to be a "gentleman" who simply took pride in his work and that the situation is unfair. Eventually, all Compson can do is cry on the ground.

I wanted to highlight this mission because I didn't expect this from my western game about being an outlaw. It's a side of the reconstruction era that is hard to talk about, you see men like Compson did lose their jobs, they did end up sleeping on benches. That doesn't make them less of monsters, but it is something that is interesting to see depicted at all.

The thing that struck me was it was men like Compson, "Gentlemen" who took pride in their work, that created many of the systems that have plagued race rela-

tions in the south for over a century at this point. There is a concept that has existed since the Civil War known as The Lost Cause of the Confederacy. The Lost Cause and those who support it seek to minimize the role slavery had in the outbreak of the Civil War, and to then emphasize the harm done to the South following the war as a consequence of Northern Aggression. If you have ever taken Dr. Paul Beezley's Beginning of Modern America or Southern History classes you have probably heard about this idea before and even if you haven't you have likely ran into this line of thinking before. Let's face it, as a southern white male I have had this narrative repeated to me more times than I care to admit and seeing it addressed in a video game by someone who clearly believes it is something that I find fascinating. It's important to acknowledge this kind of thinking in a historical context by understanding that people had a reason for the line of thought even if it is harmful and wrong. I believe that is the root of the depiction in the game. It acknowledges the thinking while clearly depicting why it is wrong. That is more than I had expected from Rockstar.

Courtesy of Game Informer



Left: the protagonist of Red Dead Redemption II, Arthur Morgan robs a bank in Rhodes, a town in the fictional state of Lemoyne.



Study Break

Trivia Answers: November 15th Edition!

1. In Aladdin, what is the name of Jasmine's pet tiger?

Answer: Rajah

2. The handsome prince in Snow White and the Seven Dwarves is probably the most mysterious out of all the Disney princes. What is his name?

Answer: Prince Florian

3. What is Simba's mother's name in The Lion King?

Answer: Sarabi

4. In Monsters Inc what is Boo's real name?

Answer: Mary

Harry Potter Trivia:



1. In the Harry Potter series, what is the name of Harry's pet owl?

- A. Hedwig
- B. Braum
- C. Hester

2. Which book was famously rejected by 12 publishers before finally being accepted by Bloomsbury?

- A. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
- B. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
- C. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone

3. Who directed the movie "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"?

- A. Chris Columbus
- B. Alfonso Cuarón
- C. David Yates

4. In what year was the first Harry Potter movie released?

- A. 1999
- B. 2000
- C. 2001

Riddle of the week...



An absentminded philosopher forgot to wind up the only clock in his house. He had no radio, television, telephone, internet, or any other means of ascertaining the time. He therefore decided to travel by foot to his friend's house, a few miles down a straight desert road. He stayed there for the night and when he came back home the following morning, he was able to set his clock to the correct time. Assuming the philosopher always walks at the same speed, how did he know the exact time upon his return? Note: this is not a trick question. The Philosopher did not bring anything to his friend's house, nor did he bring anything back with him on his trip home.



Sports

JSU FOOTBALL

Bill Burgess to be inducted into Alabama Sports Hall of Fame



BIRMINGHAM – Former Jacksonville State head football coach Bill Burgess will be inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame as part of its Class of 2019, the Hall of Fame announced on Tuesday.

Burgess will be joined by Tommie Agee, Willie Davenport, Luis Gonzalez, Bud Moore, Anonio Langham, Steve Savarese and Catherine Reddick Whitehill and become the newest members of the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

The class was selected by ballot through a statewide selection committee. The 51st Induction Banquet and Ceremony will be held in the Birmingham Ballroom, at

the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, on April 27, 2019. For more information please contact the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum at (205) 323-6665.

Burgess joins former Gamecocks Dieter Brock ('92), Don Salls ('92), Jodie Connell ('96), Rudy Abbott ('05), Charley Pell ('11), Eric Davis ('13), Todd Jones ('17) and Bill Jones ('18) in the ASHOF.

The honor adds to Burgess' list of Hall of Fame accolades. He was inducted into the Jacksonville State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003 and then into the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame in 2011. JSU again honored the former coach prior to the 2010

season when the University added his name to the football facility, which is now called Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium.

Burgess was head coach at Jacksonville State University from 1985-96 and led the Gamecocks to an overall record of 69-22-4 in eight seasons in Division II. He posted an incredible record of 56-8-1 from 1988-92 and made three Division II Championship Game appearances, winning the National Championship in 1992.

Burgess led Jax State to five Gulf South Conference crowns and five straight NCAA Division II playoff appearances and was a three-time

Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year selection, while also earning NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year honors in 1992.

He was a three-time Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year selection and was named the 1992 NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year. He coached the Gamecocks from 1985 through the 1996 season, posting a career record of 84-49-4, which are the second-most wins in school history.

JSU won the Gulf South Conference in 1988 with a 7-1 record, then the Gamecocks won the 1989 GSC title with a perfect 8-0 record and finished NCAA Runner-up. Jax State then finished

6-0 in 1991 and 5-0-1 in 1992 to win back-to-back GSC titles, capped with the 1992 National Championship in JSU's final game as a Division II member.

Born January 26, 1941 in Birmingham, AL. Burgess was a letterman at fullback for Auburn University in 1962. He began his coaching career as a football assistant at Banks High School in Birmingham before accepting the head coach position at Woodlawn High School in 1966. Following his time at Woodlawn he coached the Oxford Yellow Jackets to nine playoff appearances, four area titles, and four regional titles.

JSU Sportswire

JSU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks claim Cancun Challenge Mayan Division title

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico – The Jacksonville State men's basketball team turned in a win over North Florida Wednesday afternoon at the Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya, outlasting the Ospreys 83-78 to claim the Cancun Challenge Mayan Division Championship.

Senior Jason Burnell had one of the biggest games of his career, scoring a personal-best 23 points and reeling in 10 rebounds en route to his second double-double of the season and a Cancun Challenge All-Tournament nod.

Senior Jamall Gregory was named to the Cancun Challenge's All-Tournament Team and deemed the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The guard scored 16 points and was 5-for-5 from the free-throw line in the tournament's finale, bringing his two-day point total to 31 with eight steals.

"I thought we got better," head coach Ray Harper said. "Defensively, I thought we were okay and our press was good to us again, but we still have to be better. Like I told our kids, I thought we made some strides, and we have to get better when we get

home. That has to be our process every day. We have to get better."

Jacksonville State (2-3) led by as many as eight points early, building up its lead with the help of a 16-5 run that saw Ty Hudson score all six of his first-half points in the game's first seven minutes. The Gamecock defense kept North Florida (2-4) out of the paint through the first nine minutes, forcing eight of the Ospreys' 11 shots to be from beyond the arc. North Florida only hit three 3-pointers during the stretch.

UNF turned the tables in the last half of the first period, finding its rhythm from long range. JT Escobar led the attack, going 3-for-3 from beyond the arc, while the rest of the Osprey offense was 3-for-4 from 3-point range in the final 11 minutes of the half. In taking a 42-37 lead to the locker room, 27 of UNF's points scored came on the trey.

Following the break, Jacksonville State came back to the court and answered by scoring 15 of the half's first 19 points to take a 52-46 lead. Burnell was 5-for-10 with a 2-pointer and three free throws for 14 points, and Gregory added 12 points to his four from the first



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20 minutes.

Despite some late-game dramatics and fouls that put the lead in jeopardy, 81-78 with three seconds to play, Jacksonville State controlled the score from the 16:17 mark forward.

"Once we got down at the half, we were going to come after them the entire second half," head coach Ray Harper said. "Our offense struggled at times against their man, but we played well against the zone and did a good job of getting the ball to Burnell later in the game."

Along with Burnell and Gregory, Marlon Hunter finished in double-digits with 13 points and Hudson claimed 10. Senior Maurice Dunlap

was 4-for-4 from the charity stripe, hitting some big free throws down the line that put the game out of reach.

North Florida's Escobar led the Ospreys in scoring with 24 points. All 24 of his points came off 3-pointers (8-for-14). He had just one attempt within the arc.

The Cancun Challenge brings an end to a five-game away stretch to begin the season. The Gamecocks return to Alabama to play host to Carver College on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 11:30 a.m. The game is set to be played in Centre, Ala., at Cherokee Arena on the Gadsden State-Centre campus.

Season tickets and single-game tickets are now

available for purchase online at JSUGamecocksTickets.com, by phone at (256) 782-8499 and on campus at the JSU Ticket Office at Kennamer Hall. Children 18-years-old and under and JSU students are admitted free.

For more information on the JSU men's basketball team, follow the Gamecocks on Twitter (@JSU_MBB). For more on all Gamecocks sports teams, follow the official social media accounts of JSU Athletics on Twitter (@JSUGamecocks), Facebook (Facebook.com/JSUGamecocks), Instagram (@JSUGamecocks) and Snapchat (@JSUGamecocks).

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2018 JSU Football Schedule

North Carolina A&T LOSS

Mississippi Valley State WIN

Tennessee Tech WIN

Austin Peay WIN

Eastern Kentucky WIN

Eastern Illinois WIN

Southeast Missouri State LOSS

Murray State WIN

UT Martin WIN

Tennessee State WIN

Kennesaw State LOSS

NCAA FBS Playoffs

ROUND 1

Eastern Tennessee State University WIN

ROUND 2

@ University of Maine @ 11 a.m.



Sports

JSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Johnson's 27 helps lift JSU over Falcons

CENTRE – Freshman Yamia Johnson exploded for 27 points and the Jacksonville State women's basketball team cruised past a solid Division II opponent in Montevallo on Tuesday night at the Cherokee Arena.

Playing its first home game of the regular season – albeit off campus – the Gamecocks (3-3) posted its highest scoring output of the year in an 84-52 decision over the visiting Falcons (3-3). JSU shot 40 percent from the floor, draining 11 three-pointers for the fifth-most in a game in the past three seasons. Johnson, a 5-foot-11 guard from Lexington, S.C., contributed more than half of the triples going 6-of-10 from beyond the arc. Red-shirt-senior Destiney Elliott was 4-of-10 from deep to finish with 18 points.

Overall, four Gamecocks finished in double figures as

sophomore Taylor Hawks had 13 points to go along with season-best seven assists, while senior Rayven Pearson went for 10 points, 10 boards, two blocks and a steal. Johnson's breakout night blistered her previous career high of six points that came in JSU's last outing against Washington State. She finished a dominant 10-of-14 shooting, becoming the first Gamecock with double-digit baskets since Tyler Phelion on Jan. 17, 2017 against Austin Peay.

All 10 Gamecocks in action played more than 10 minutes, and helped JSU to force a season-best 27 turnovers, surpassing the 22 caused in the opener at Florida A&M.

A three-pointer by UM's Aaliyah Rice gave the Falcons a 5-4 lead two minutes into the game, before Taylor Hawks' layup on the other end handed the advantage back to JSU for the



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night. Elliott followed with three-straight treys to make it quickly a 15-8 margin. UM got it back to a 15-13 game, before JSU reeled off nine-straight to end the first period to break the contest open.

For the second consecutive quarter JSU scored in the 20's while holding UM to just 13 to take a 44-26 advantage into the locker room. After UM shot 33 percent in the first half, the visitors were limited to just 20 percent in the second as JSU extended its lead to as many as 37 in the final pe-

riod.

The Gamecocks won the battle in the post with a 33-16 advantage in points from the paint, and turned several long defensive rebounds into offensive runouts leading to a 19-0 difference in fast break points.

Jax State will return to the road on Sunday to face its third "Power Five" opponent of the young season with a visit to Oxford, Miss., and Ole Miss at 2 p.m. on Sunday. The game will stream on the SEC Network+ platform.

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JSU FOOTBALL

Gamecocks rally past ETSU to stay alive in FBS Playoffs

JACKSONVILLE – Shaq Davidson caught three touchdown passes from Zerrick Cooper and Marlon Bridges returned an interception for a touchdown as Jacksonville State rallied from a halftime deficit to knock off East Tennessee State 34-27 in the first round of the FCS playoffs.

Davidson, who missed the previous four games due to illness, snagged five passes, including touchdown catches of 37, five and 13 yards, as the Gamecocks (9-3) advanced in the postseason for the first time since 2015.

The Gamecocks' second-round foe will be No. 7 overall seed Maine (8-3), champion of the Colonial Athletic Association. Kickoff next Saturday at Alford Stadium in Orono, Maine, is scheduled for 11 a.m. CT and the game will be televised on ESPN3.

"The goal is to advance to the next round. That's what the playoffs are about," said a relieved Jacksonville State head coach John Grass. "I thought our guys really responded in the second half and played really well in the third quarter. The fourth quarter was a battle and they were hard to put away."

Trailing by 10 to begin the second half, Jacksonville State roared back with 24 straight points to build a 34-20 lead with 7:34 remaining. Marlon

Bridges' 32-yard interception return and Cade Stinnett's extra point gave the Gamecocks their largest lead of the evening.

The Buccaneers fought back again and closed the gap to 34-27 by marching 75 yards in just over two minutes following Bridges' pick-six.

East Tennessee State was moving toward a possible game-tying score when linebacker Zack Woodard came up with the biggest play of the game. Woodard knocked the ball loose as Bucs running back Quay Holmes was churning toward the goal line and Tre' Threat fell on the fumble for a touchback with 2:38 left on the clock.

"Give Jacksonville State credit for the way they competed and came back in the second half," said East Tennessee State head coach Randy Sanders. "They fought and battled. They had a couple of turnovers in the first half that we were able to take advantage of, but they didn't turn it over in the second half."

"The challenge was to score the most points in the 60 minutes they keep score and they were able to do that and we weren't."

Cooper completed 20-of-32 passes for 226 yards with all three touchdown throws going to Davidson. He became the first player in Jacksonville State history to surpass 3,000 passing yards in a season.

Cooper continues to rewrite the school record for most touchdown passes in a season with 30 in 12 games.

Jaalen Greene became the first Gamecock running back this season to rush for more than 100 yards with a game-high 121 on 15 attempts.

Stinnett added four extra points and field goals of 28 and 27 yards and moved past Bryce Callahan (1970-73) for sixth place on JSU's all-time scoring list with 241 career points.

Jacksonville State trailed 20-10 at halftime as the Buccaneers converted two interceptions into points.

Southern Conference co-champion ETSU (8-4) outgained the Gamecocks in the first two quarters, during which there were four lead changes. The Bucs jumped out to a 3-0 lead on a J.J. Jerman field goal after driving 77 yards in 11 plays on their initial possession.

After the teams exchanged punts, Jacksonville State took its first lead with an 80-yard drive that required only six plays. Three of the plays were Cooper passes to Davidson, the last a 37-yard completion for a touchdown with 2:05 remaining in the first. Cade Stinnett's extra point gave the Gamecocks a 7-3 lead.

The first of two interceptions thrown by Cooper in the first half gave

ETSU its second lead. Titus Tucker stepped in front of a pass at the Bucs 40 and returned the pick-six 60 yards down the sideline on the final play of the first quarter. The PAT gave ETSU a 10-7 advantage.

The Gamecocks answered with the first of two Stinnett field goals to draw even at 10-10 with 11:54 to go in the second quarter.

The Buccaneers built the lead to 10 points by intermission with a short touchdown pass and another Jerman field goal in the final 8:30 minutes. His field goal on the final play of the half capped off a time-consuming 14-play drive set up by the second interception thrown by Cooper.

Bridges was also JSU's leading tackler with nine stops, followed by Traco Williams and Jalen Choice with eight apiece.

Maine – picked to finish eighth in the CAA in the preseason – is making its eighth all-time FCS playoff appearance and first since 2013. The Black Bears are 4-0 at home this season and carry a four-game win streak into the matchup against Jacksonville State.

This will mark the fifth time an Ohio Valley Conference member has faced a CAA team in the FCS playoffs, the last coming when Towson beat Eastern Illinois 49-39 in the 2013 national quarterfinals.

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JSU BASEBALL

JSU fills needs with 2019 recruiting class



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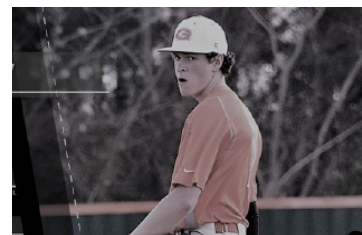
JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State baseball and head coach Jim Case announced on Wednesday a group of four signees that will fill the needs for the 2020 baseball season.

Case, along with assistant coaches Evan Bush and Mike Murphree, bolstered the future roster by adding high school signees. The JSU staff concentrated on in-state talent as all four newcomers are from the state of Alabama.

Austin Downey (Eclectic, Ala.), Colton Lewis (Vestavia Hills, Ala.), Camden Lovrich (Pike Road, Ala.) and Austin Young (Southside, Ala.) all returned official paperwork back to JSU during the NCAA signing period that began on Wednesday.

"We did not have a large class, so it was important that we signed the right guys and we feel very strongly that we did," said head coach Jim Case. "We like the fact that they are all from the state of Alabama and very close to Jacksonville. All of the guys are great students with great character and are great fits for the program."

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