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Gov. Kay Ivey announces mask mandate extension until March 5

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/gov-kay-ivey-announces-mask-mandate-extension-until-march-5/

January 21, 2021



Miranda Prescott, *News Editor*

In a press conference on Thursday, Governor Kay Ivey announced that the current mask mandate in the state would be extended until March 5.

There will be no changes made with this extension and the current ordinance was set to expire January 22.

“Wearing the mask is the one step we can all take to keep some balance in our daily lives and to stay healthy and safe.” Ivey said.

Ivey also encouraged Alabama residents to continue practicing personal responsibility and urged them to have patience. She thanked Alabamians for their willingness to receive the vaccine and for continuing to “keep on keeping on.”

Ivey also gave thanks for those who work within the Alabama Department of Public Health and said that they have worked tirelessly with little public recognition.

The ADPH said that there are approximately 432,536 cases of COVID-19 in the state thus far, with an average of over 2600 positive tests daily. Ivey said that this number is lower than the spike seen over the holiday season, but is a higher average than those around four months ago.

As for the vaccine itself, Dr. Scott Harris explained that there has been approximately 202,643 doses administered since the initial delivery of the first order of vaccines. Harris said that this is only 42 percent of the vaccines that the state has received, as the majority of supplies that are left at this time is second doses for those who have already received the first.

This number is 70,000 doses higher than reported by the federal agencies, though Harris said that the state is working with them to update that number and that vaccine locations are required to document the quantity of vaccines they have.

Harris also said that while there are 502 locations in the state approved for administering the vaccine, only a little over half of those locations actually house the vaccine at this time.

“Those with the vaccines in their facility will be required to administer the majority of the vaccines within a week of receiving them, otherwise they may be redistributed elsewhere to areas that need them more.” he said.

Harris also announced that the state has worked out a partnership with Walmart for their pharmacies to start administering the vaccines as well and that federal agencies are still in talks with other chain pharmacies about the vaccine as well.

It was also announced that an online portal will be available within the next few days for people who are eligible to receive the vaccine at this time to register online rather than over the phone. Harris said that the 165 phone lines are overwhelmed with calls, with over half of them coming from people who are not at this time eligible to receive the vaccine.

“If you are not eligible for the vaccine, do not call asking about it at this time.” said Harris.

Harris also said that the Biden administration has made a recommendation to increase the pool of eligibility and that it will be made as soon as production of the vaccine increases enough for the state to receive a larger amount.

President Emeritus Bill Meehan returns home after COVID-19 hospitalization

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/president-emeritus-bill-meehan-returns-home-after-covid-19-hospitalization/

January 21, 2021



Scott Young, *Editor in Chief*

After spending two weeks in the hospital battling COVID-19, former Jacksonville State University president Bill Meehan is returning home, the university announced on Tuesday.

“Dr. Meehan was strengthened by the outpouring of love and support he received from the JSU family and would like to share his appreciation for your kindness,” the university said on social media Tuesday. “He would like to express his deepest gratitude to the doctors, nurses and other health care workers who put their own health at risk providing him outstanding care.”

In a prior statement, Meehan said that he was “working hard with the help of my doctors, nurses, and technicians” and thanked the community for their “prayers and thoughtfulness.”

Meehan was a JSU biology professor prior to serving as the university’s president from 1999 to 2015. He received a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1972 and a master’s degree in biology four years later. He obtained his doctoral degree in higher education administration the same year he assumed the presidency.

The Board of Trustees named the stadium towers, Meehan Hall, after him upon his retirement.

Artists, entertainers learning to adapt in the COVID era

 jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/artists-entertainers-learning-to-adapt-in-the-covid-era/

January 21, 2021



Breanna Hill, *Features Editor*

Every aspect of life has been affected in some form or another by the ongoing pandemic. One of the biggest skills one can acquire is the ability to adapt, and continue to do so for however long it takes.

The entertainment industry is no different. Adaptation is key to continue on with life as normally as possible.

Though it may not seem like it, people in the entertainment industry are struggling with their day-to-day jobs just like most of us. Schedule changes and lulls have become the norm for the entertainment industry as of late.

Production of some of the most beloved series and movies are being halted until further notice because of these unforeseen circumstances, and though that's not the news we had all hoped for, it's unavoidable. Safety for those in the industry as well as the safety for the entire nation is priority.

At the beginning of 2020 when the pandemic picked up with no source for answers, these halts were in great numbers; now that vaccines are becoming available and the world has learned more about how to prevent the spread, the entertainment industry is adjusting

accordingly and finally getting back into the swing of things.

Shows and movies are beginning to be released on popular streaming platforms such as Netflix, Hulu and Disney+ to help occupy those stuck in quarantine. The power that entertainment has over the world is phenomenal, and it can really help get people through the trying times that they're facing.

Getting to this point of adapting took some practice, caution, and a few mistakes along the way. Robert Pattinson who is starring as Batman in "The Batman" set to release in 2022, ended up contracting COVID which caused production of the film to halt until further notice, pushing back the original date of the film's release.

The industry has been following the right protocols set forth by the states, which is all any of us can ask of those involved. Though there are not as many bright sides as there are dark sides to the ongoing pandemic, we can count the unbelievable album releases in the bright side category.

Music artists have faced the same daily struggles as the rest of the entertainment industry, and again, adaptation is key. Some artists have used this time to take a step back and focus on other priorities, while others are taking this time to express their creativity in extremely unique ways.

The first person that comes to mind when I think about the artists who have taken advantage of the unavoidable quarantine is Taylor Swift. She released not one, but two albums last year, at the height of the pandemic. Both albums have been incredibly successful and Swift proved being stuck at home might have been the best thing to happen in her career.

Other artists who have chosen to create music within the confines of their own homes include Morgan Wallen, Luke Combs, and Ariana Grande just to name a few. It's the literal definition "making the best of a bad situation".

I definitely have to give props to the entertainment industry for continuing on despite the obvious limitations. The projects, movies, shows and albums that have been released within the last year especially have helped more people than they probably know.

JSU biology encourages students to participate in national study

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/jsu-biology-encourages-students-to-participate-in-national-study/

January 21, 2021



Madison Bailey, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University’s Biology Department is participating in a national study of age-friendliness involving university campuses across the country.

Age-friendliness involves an inclusive community that supports and enables people of all ages to pursue opportunities, careers, and personal goals and dreams.

“Taking the Pulse of Age-Friendliness in Higher Education in the U.S. Today” is a collaborative study conducted by Ashley Turner, a JSU assistant professor of biology, Charlcie Vann, director of JSU’s office of diversity and inclusion and associates at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Jacksonville State is one of 31 institutions taking part in the national study and is also the only institution in Alabama to participate.

The study comes in the form of an online survey entitled “The Age-Friendly University Campus Climate Survey” that seeks to explore different perceptions of age-friendliness from students, faculty, staff and alumni of participating institutions.

“[Student] voices matter in helping us advance age inclusivity,” explained Dr. Turner. “JSU age-diverse students have unique experiences, perceptions, and opinions on the age-friendliness of the campus to share.”

The survey will provide a better understanding of attitudes and perspectives within each campus community regarding diverse ages of students as well as faculty and staff, according to Turner.

Turner said that the results of the online survey will aid JSU in identifying its age-friendly assets as well as gaps. She further explained how the results will also “help to refine what age-friendliness means in higher education and how we can broaden and deepen our efforts at JSU and nationally at other institutions.”

The analysis of the data collected from the survey will focus primarily on group summary data. All survey responses are completely anonymous and will contribute to valuable research associated with age-friendliness at institutions across the nation.

Turner encourages all members of the JSU campus community to participate in the online survey by visiting

https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_OD4WJgccsAWaYhn.

Joe Biden sworn in as the 46th president

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/joe-biden-sworn-in-as-the-46th-president/

January 21, 2021



Skylar Leathrum, *Correspondent*

On Jan. 20, Joe Biden was inaugurated as President of the United States. Kamala Harris, the first female, Asian and African American to serve as vice president, was also sworn in.

Both Harris and Biden were sworn in front of Capitol Hill in front of multiple members of Congress and the Supreme Court.

“Few people in our nation’s history have been more challenged or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we’re in now.” said Biden in his first address to the nation as president, “And so today at this time in this place, let’s start afresh, all of us. Let’s begin to listen to one another again. Hear one another, see one another, show respect to one another. Politics doesn’t have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path.”

The inaugural ceremony looked much different than most inaugurations for multiple reasons.

The biggest contributing factor being the COVID-19 virus which has shaped our lives for the past year. Social distancing and mask measures were implemented at the inauguration to prevent the spread of the virus.

Due to the Capitol riots at the Jan. 6 election certification, extra security measures were put in place ahead of the inauguration to protect Biden and those in attendance. These measures included 25,000 national guard members in the Capitol including some from Alabama, according to ABC 33/40.

A “green zone” of safety was placed by the Secret Service in which it was safe for Biden to travel.

To honor those unable to make it to the inauguration, a field of nearly 200,000 flags was placed on the National Mall. These represented U.S. citizens unable to attend due to COVID-19 and security concerns.

After electing to not attend the inauguration, former president Donald Trump’s farewell was held on Wednesday morning before the event. Trump boarded Air Force One and departed the White House for the last time as president, on his way to Maryland to hold a farewell rally. From there, he and first lady Melania Trump traveled to their residence in Palm Beach, Fla.

“As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together. We did what we came here to do, and so much more. ” said Trump, “This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck, a very important word.”

Another former president who elected not to attend was Jimmy Carter, citing health concerns. Former presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama were in attendance, as well as former Vice President Mice Pence.

Biden and Harris’s term expires in 2024, barring reelection in the 2024 election. Biden has said in his first days he will pass orders to help respond to the COVID-19 virus. This includes a mask mandate on federal property for at least the first 100 days of the Biden administration.

Gamecocks rally late to defeat Tennessee State

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/gamecocks-rally-late-to-defeat-tennessee-state/

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Thomas Ashworth, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State men’s basketball team snapped its two-game losing skid in a win over Tennessee State on Thursday.

Through a majority of the game, the Gamecocks were behind but managed to pull through for a 65-64 victory. Tennessee State led from the time Tennessee State guard Marcus Fitzgerald hit a 3-pointer on his first shot almost two minutes into the game all the way until the last five seconds of the game, aside from a one point lead during the second half.

“Give our kids credit,” JSU coach Ray Harper said. “We fought. We were down four... and we find a way to execute and finish it off.”

In the last six seconds of the game, Guard Darian Adams threw a pass to Brandon Huffman, who scored the winning points with 5.9 seconds left. Tennessee State tried to get a last second basket but came up short.

“When they came to me, I was focused on scoring,” Huffman said. “I kind of hung on it, making sure I put it in because it was a late-game situation.”

Brandon Huffman finished the game with a season-high 17 points and five rebounds. In the last three games for the Gamecocks, the North Carolina transfer has averaged 15.3 points and 10.3 rebounds a game.

Guard Darian Adams tied his career high with 21 points. Adams also accounted for a team-leading eight rebounds and two steals.

“He’s just a good basketball player,” Harper said. “He’s got a good feel. Early, he probably would’ve taken that shot, but he trusts Huffman. That says a lot. We were just going to get it in his hands and let him play. He read what was open and made the right play.”

With the postponement of the Gamecocks’ game against Southern Illinois, their next game will be against 5-6 Murray State in Murray, Ky at 7:30 p.m. today. The game will be broadcast live on WLJS 91.9 FM, JSU’s student-run radio station, and available to stream on ESPN+.

Cardio exercises to get your blood pumping

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/cardio-exercises-to-get-your-blood-pumping/

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Jamie Brock, *Correspondent*

Cardio exercises can not only be fun, but they are also some of the most effective exercises in weight loss and to live a longer, happier and healthier life.

While some people do not prefer cardio, getting your blood pumping with cardio can be a great way to get in a quick workout with or without weights. Some workouts could be either fast paced and quick, and others could be high intensity, but time consuming.

Let's take a look at some popular cardio workouts and their benefits:

Running

Running is one of the most popular cardio workouts with a great deal of options. Whether on a track, treadmill or just the road, sprinting is the quickest way to get your heart rate up and is great for improving your speed. Jogging can be used more for distance and time training.

Mountain climbing

Mountain climbers are a great stationary cardio workout. You start in a plank position and alternate bringing your legs up to your chest. Then, return to a plank position, kind of like running in place, but on the ground.

Burpees

Burpees are a more intense cardio workout and consist of several different moves. Starting in a standing position, jump up and then crouch down on the floor, jumping backwards into a plank position. Some people like to add a pushup before they jump back up.

Jumping jacks

Jumping jacks are one of the easier workouts and are as simple as jumping to bring your feet apart and your arms above your head, and then back into a standing position.

Meter sprints

Meter sprints consist of picking a certain distance set by meters, and running as fast as you can from start to stop. Repeating this three or four times is a great way to get your heart pumping and to break a sweat.

Running stairs

Running up and down stairs is a great way to incorporate cardio into muscle targeting, specifically quads and calves. Even walking up and down stairs for 10-15 minutes can be effective.

Swimming

Swimming can be a fun and easy way to workout in the water. Swimming laps in a pool works many muscles in your body and you can set your own time or lap limit.

Cycling

Riding a bicycle is a fun workout that involves cardio and the outdoors. You can take it easy and ride on flatland, or challenge yourself and go up and down hills. Like running, cycling can be used for either time or distance workouts.

Jumping rope

Jumping rope is a quick and easy cardio workout that consists only of yourself, and a rope. This exercise can also be used for time or speed training.

High intensity interval training

High intensity interval training is a cardio technique consisting of alternating between several workouts with little to no breaks in between each exercise, and repeating the whole process until it becomes tiring. Some great exercises to use for HIIT can be burpees, mountain climbers, squats, planks, pushups, or jumping rope. You can even incorporate weight lifting into HIIT for more effective workouts.

JSU submits request for 10,100 doses of Moderna vaccine

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/jsu-submits-request-for-10100-doses-of-moderna-vaccine/

January 21, 2021



Ally Morrison, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University has submitted a request to the state to receive 10,100 doses of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine, though “there is no indication at this time as to when we might receive it,” according to Jeff Ryan, JSU’s chief of program operations.

“It’s simply a case of high demand and low supply,” said Ryan by email on Tuesday.

Ryan explained that the university is registered with the Alabama Department of Public Health’s (ADPH) “ImmPRINT” system — or “Immunization Patient Registry with Integrated Technology” — and that the department has acknowledged their request. Vaccination providers in the state are required to enroll in the program to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

“Please keep in mind that tens of thousands of Alabamians in the highest priority groupings (front-line healthcare workers, long-term care residents, first responders, 75 years of age and older) have not received their vaccinations yet,” said Ryan. “As to when JSU teachers and staff will get their vaccinations, we do not know.”

Ryan assured that JSU's primary goal is to offer the vaccine to all JSU faculty, staff and students as soon as it is made available to the university. As to whether or not the university would require the vaccine, Ryan said, "We will not be requiring the COVID-19 vaccination."

"It's very likely that if we get our vaccine allocation from ADPH it will come to us in batches," said Ryan. "When and if that does occur, we will have to follow the ADPH COVID-19 vaccination plan that prioritizes all Alabamians based upon their relative risk for severe disease and death."

As to how the university plans to administer vaccinations, Ryan said, "If we are vaccinating a large percentage of our campus population, we intend to set up a large scale vaccination campaign as a drive-through operation and/or appointment system."

Ryan said that the university continues to implement and follow its COVID-19 procedures for rapid testing, reporting and contact tracing as the university's number of cases reported a "slight increase" since returning to campus.

As of today, the university is reporting 40 active cases of COVID-19 being monitored by the JSU COVID-19 task force, an increase of 19 cases since Jan. 5.

"Any JSU student or employee experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be tested at the Student Health Center during morning hours of operation," he said. "If positive, you will receive instructions for patient care, reporting to the Task Force, and isolation."

UPDATED: Ryan confirmed in a follow-up statement to The Chanticleer that COVID-19 vaccine would **not** be required. The story has been updated.

JSU women's basketball dominates Tennessee State with 70-41 win

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/jsu-womens-basketball-dominates-tennessee-state-with-70-41-win/

January 21, 2021



Stephen Duke, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State women's basketball team continued their red hot start with a big 70-41 win over the Tennessee State Tigers on Thursday.

The win was sparked by several upperclassmen making crucial impacts for the team.

Junior Yamia Johnson went off, scoring a season-high 29, which neared her career high of 32. She hit eight three-pointers and reeled in 10 rebounds, resulting in her first double-double.

Senior Jesse Day hit her first five shots. She was 4-of-4 from behind the three-point line and etched a new career-high of 15 points. Kiana Johnson also contributed 12 points in the game for her third straight double digit outing.

Johnson got the scoring going early and often for the Gamecocks with 12 points in the first quarter. By the end of the first, JSU held a 24-14 lead over the visiting Tigers. As the game progressed through the second quarter, the Gamecocks continued to execute at a high level, taking a 41-24 lead into the locker room.

The Gamecocks continued to pour it on in the third quarter, shooting at a high-level (73 percent) throughout the quarter. With the game pretty well decided, JSU began the fourth with a big 61-36 lead. After a very defensive fourth quarter, the Gamecocks came out with the 70-41 win over the winless Tigers.

Throughout the game, the Gamecocks played with several different lineups, which gave several players an opportunity to show what they're made of and what they can contribute to this team.

Junior Kennedy Gavin, a newcomer to the team, contributed a season-high six points alongside nine rebounds in the victory. Jacksonville native Kyra Williams got an opportunity to show her hometown what she is made of at the college ranks.

The Gamecocks have now won six consecutive home games and five consecutive overall, the longest in four years.

With the win, the Gamecocks sit at 7-2 (4-1 in OVC), which is their best start to a season since joining the Division I ranks back in 1995. The hot start to the season has the Gamecocks sitting at second place in the current OVC standings.

While the Gamecocks expected to play Belmont Saturday, that game was postponed as a result of COVID-19 protocols.

The Gamecocks instead continue their march toward a historic season for the program today when they travel to face off against Murray State in Murray, Ky. at 4:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on WLJS 91.9 FM, JSU's student-run radio station, and available to stream on ESPN+.

Netflix: Raising prices for newer content

 jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/netflix-raising-prices-for-newer-content/

January 21, 2021



Chandler Bentley, *Correspondent*

New year, new Netflix prices? Netflix has recently upped their prices due to new and upcoming material they have coming up throughout 2021.

The company announced this price change in October, and new subscribers started on those prices immediately. Existing subscribers got to wait a little while longer.

The price for the basic plan remains the same: \$8.99 per month. The same, however, cannot be said about the plans with HD quality and more available screens. The standard plan (2 screens + HD) has increased to \$13.99 per month from last year's price at \$12.99, and the premium plan (4 screens + Ultra HD) has increased to \$17.99 from \$15.99.

Throughout 2020, the pandemic forced millions of businesses to shut down — the movie theater business included. The theaters have not been widely available to the public for nearly a year now. Streaming services, however, were awarded a spike in sales and subscriptions from the pandemic. Millions turned their movie tickets in for a subscription to services such as Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, Prime Video, etc.

While theaters are still suffering, streaming services continue to thrive, and based off of the steady loyalty from Netflix customers, the price of the subscription doesn't make a huge difference.

So what new material is so worthy of yet another upcharge?

Netflix has promised an array of new original films and renewed original shows that aren't going anywhere. While Netflix lost shows like "Dexter" to CBS/Paramount+, "Gossip Girl" to HBO Max and "The Office" to Peacock (which was streamed 57 million minutes worth in 2020 alone according to Screen Rant), they have brand new seasons arriving for hit originals such as "Stranger Things," "Grace & Frankie," "Outer Banks" and "Cobra Kai."

In addition to the new seasons for their original shows, Netflix has promised new shows of all genres, featuring the likes of Ewan McGregor, Nicolas Cage, Colin Kaepernick, Jenna Coleman and more. There will even be two new series for helping you calm down and go to sleep.

And what about original films? Netflix has that covered. The service has promised a new movie every week.

This is a huge film drop with big names and familiar directors. This drop even includes the directorial debut of Lin-Manuel Miranda and Halle Berry.

Some big name actors and actresses to look for this year in their new films include Leonardo DiCaprio, Sandra Bullock, Zendaya, Dwayne Johnson, Idris Elba, Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Gal Gadot, and Octavia Spencer (to name just a few).

So, can Netflix pull yet another price increase off? Quite frankly, they can. Their sales have not dramatically dropped since the price change in October.

There was even a spike in sales in late December, almost matching their all-time peak in July. Though Netflix prices are higher than most other streaming services (depending on the plan), they still have the most subscribers by far according to Fox Business.

Streaming services have been criticized for raising their prices when they were supposed to be cheaper than cable. Each service is by far cheaper than cable television, but if customers subscribe to multiple services, they're paying just about the same.

With all considered, it's another win for Netflix while they come into the new year with more success than ever. However, the subscribers get more content than ever before, so they can actually enjoy promising and fresh entertainment to keep them happy with the service. In the end, it seems to be a win all around.

Calhoun County EMA director Micheal Barton sworn in as UPD chief

jsuchanticleer.com/2021/01/21/calhoun-county-ema-director-micheal-barton-sworn-in-as-upd-chief/

January 21, 2021



Luke Reed, *Correspondent*

Micheal Barton, the director of the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency, was sworn in as the chief of the university police and director of public safety on Tuesday.

“Investing in our future is important and helping our developing leaders to make safe choices is something that is always a priority,” said Barton when asked why he chose to apply for this position.

Barton, a graduate of JSU, earned his bachelor’s degree in emergency management, with a double minor in political science and sociology in the early 2000s.

While still at JSU, Barton gained experience in his field by becoming a resource officer for Etowah County. Barton said that being a resource office and having that experience was by far the “best job in law enforcement.”

Barton eventually moved on to other jobs, such as an investigator for the FBI. He also served Etowah County as sheriff assistant chief and chief deputy sheriff before becoming director of Calhoun County emergency management.

Barton is notable in the community for his role as EMA director in containing the spread of COVID-19 in the county and his ability to unify local government, health professionals and other valuable sources to prevent passengers of a coronavirus-quarantined ship from being housed at the Anniston FEMA center last February.

With COVID-19 infections on the rise, Barton explains that “safety is everyone’s responsibility.”

“It is not only the professionals that work to keep everyone safe during these times, but everyone must take part in safety,” he said.

Barton is succeeding former UPD chief Rob Schaffer, who ended his tour of duty in September after serving 25 years in law enforcement.

CORRECTION: Earlier, our story said Barton worked for the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office. Barton actually worked for Etowah County Sheriff’s Office